

CASTLE VIEWS
... keeping the membership informed
Summer 2011

CAPTAINS CORNER

I am fresh back from my refereeing duties at The Brabazon and The Carris trophies, English Golf Union's blue riband events. Competitors came from far and wide - Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and just about every European country and the 'icing on the cake' was that the course record at Burnham was broken on two occasions – firstly by a player from Portugal who scored a gross 67 on Day 2 and then by Ben Stow from Rushmore Golf Club who carded a 64 on Day 4. Great performances, especially off of the Championship tees!

I saw Ashley Mansell on a number of occasions and, as always he was a credit to Clevedon Golf Club.

Looking ahead, there are a number of exciting events in store so please make a note in your diaries:

- *SATURDAY 16th JULY – Summer Jazz Bar-BQ. A chance to listen to the cool tones of the Clifton Jazz Band and enjoy a sumptuous Bar-BQ. Family and friends are welcome too with tickets available from the office.*
- *MONDAY 29th AUGUST – Captain's Bank Holiday Mixed competition.*
- *SUNDAY & MONDAY 18th and 19th SEPTEMBER – Mixed Away trip to Patshull Park Golf and Country Club. A list will go up in the foyer at the beginning of August.*
- *FRIDAY 14th OCTOBER – the resumption of the monthly quiz nights when Mike Macdonald and David Hintz will be your question masters.*
- *SATURDAY 29th OCTOBER – a Murder Mystery evening in the dining room with entertainment by the Langford troupe.*
- *FRIDAY 25th NOVEMBER – our own Alan Drew will be entertaining us with 60's music and the evening will include a 'back-to-school' style meal.*

Hopefully I will see you all there.

Paul Middleton- Captain 2011

AROUND THE COURSE

The first thing I must do is thank our new Course Manager Steve and his team Del, Dave, Chris and Wayne for the work they have done over the winter months which I believe has much improved our course and shows the potential that will be possible as we develop our course improvement ideas. It is our intention, firstly to be playing off grass tees all the year round as well as the greens and although this might not be possible this winter, grass tees will certainly be in the majority.

We will be publishing a Policy Document in the autumn which will outline our ideas for developing the course and its infrastructure. It will not be a detailed document describing the length of the grass on greens and tees and the rough etc. but will describe on a hole-by-hole basis any developments we can foresee e.g. enlarging the first and second tees towards the hedge. The document will have a five year window and the intention is to review this every year removing completed projects and replacing with new. It will cover the course, paths, irrigation, buildings, in fact anything that has a direct bearing on the course and how it is maintained. Priorities will remain the greens as always and we have already seen some progress with a smooth putting surface this year although we have had some problems with the weather and lack of water.

As mentioned above the main focus on development outside the actual course will be on the construction of a barn extension providing storage for equipment that will be lost when the landlord reclaims the stone barn that is visible from the 17th tee. This extension will be the same profile as the existing one in the green keepers' area extended approximately 25 metres providing suitable storage and accommodation for our greens staff including toilets, shower, an office, eating facility and a drying room. We must also look seriously at our irrigation and how to reinstate our reservoir. If we do this we should be self sufficient in water in a normal year and reduce the cost of using town's water (we try not to use town's water at present unless it is the last possible resort). These developments are unfortunately relatively expensive and we will not proceed with any project until the all required finance is in place.

It is my wish in my last year as Course Director to set in place a system that is simple and robust that can be easily updated year-on-year, to provide a development programme for Clevedon Golf Club that is fully funded, bringing out the full potential of our Club and making our course the course to join and play in Somerset.

Martin Reid - (Course Director)

MEMBERSHIP AND MARKETING

Having been awarded GolfMark coaching status under the English Golf Union, thanks to the great efforts of Tony Brown, the Club is able to apply for a £500 grant towards membership recruitment and retention.

This will go towards continuing our 'special introductory membership' scheme which last year recruited 65 members and 41 of them converted to full members in 2011. So far this year we have signed up 43 members under the scheme, which is a very pleasing start. Prospective members are being attracted by the quality of the course and the friendliness of the Club. An introductory day for the ladies resulted in five signing up under the full membership scheme with a further 7 beginners taking part in group sessions.

Thanks to you all for your continued support and tolerance of all these new members. Please help them with rules, etiquette and speed of play. They are keen to learn and be part of the Club.

OPEN WEEK - 8th to 13th AUGUST

The Club is running 3 events this year:

- *a mixed Bowmaker on Monday 8th*
- *a ladies 4 xBBB Stableford on Wednesday 10th*
- *and an 'any-combination' Bowmaker on Saturday 13th.*

Please give these events your support and try to invite golfers from other Clubs to partner you and so make the week a financial success. Details and entry forms are displayed on the main notice board in the foyer.

David Fife – Director (Membership and Marketing)

COMPETITIONS & HANDICAPS

Well, here we are in mid-season already!

The 'knock-out' competitions are in full swing, only a few glitches but we are learning.

Hugh Wilson is doing a magnificent job as Course Ranger for week-end competitions. His light-handed approach is obviously appreciated, going by the complimentary comments that I have received. Suffice to say that, despite the windy conditions, an average of less than four hours for a medal round was achieved again in June.

Looking forward, David Fife and Jim Cunning are exploring ways to improve access for newer members to enter week-end competitions. Alongside their plans a trial of mixing slots of personal booking times with blocks of drawn partner periods will be carried out later in the year.

It is proposed that support for Ashley Mansell in his bid to turn Professional should be shown by Club members, taking part in a Club competition in the autumn of this year.

Enjoy your summer golf

Bernard Maltby – Director (Competitions & Handicaps)

HOUSE MATTERS

Firstly, I would like to thank Dennis Milsom for taking over the chair of Director (House) when I was taken ill on Christmas Eve in Northampton with pneumonia. I am now getting back to being involved in the Club, although not fully recovered. I wish Dennis a speedy recovery from his knee replacement operation. Dennis has a lot of good ideas which he has put into action whilst I was away so we will continue to work closely together. I am sure we all welcome Bar and Restaurant Manager Tony Coles. I believe we now have a team to move forward and my aim is to get the Club bar and restaurant up to a consistently high standard for members to be proud of and therefore support it.

I was very disappointed in the lack of support for the Father's Day luncheon. Steve, our chef and kitchen manager had prepared a special menu. Our aim is to have the restaurant open every Sunday for carveries and roasts but we do need support from our members.

Martyn Mills – Director (House)

LADIES

It seems incredible that we are half way through the year already.

Our Ladies section is extremely busy with Wednesday games, Alliance matches and Ladies' Opens. Our diaries are full to overflowing but long may that last!

Our Ladies Open Bowmaker on 1st June was extremely well supported. We had thirty two teams entering, twenty of which were in the visitor's category. The first four winning teams were all completely made up of visitors, with the overall winners coming from The Bristol Golf Club with 86 points.

Twenty three of our ladies enjoyed a fun week-end away at Tewkesbury Park Hotel and Golf Club. (3rd – 5th June). We played three rounds of golf and a thoroughly good time was had by all.

I am delighted to be able to report that Ruth Steele qualified to play in the Volvo EWGA Regional Medal Final – South West Region, held at St. Mellion GC on 27th April. I am even more delighted to inform you that out of the 93 ladies playing Ruth came in joint 6th place (8th overall) with a net score of 69. She was subsequently selected to play in the Grand Medal Final which draws from 35 English counties.

Vonnie Rendall and Heather Bleach got through to the quarter finals of the Bristol and District Handicap Foursomes competition and played Mendip Spring at Bristol & Clifton on Sunday 19th June. Sadly, after a very close match they were beaten on the 19th hole, but we congratulate them on doing so well in the competition.

Our ladies have also got through to the semi-finals of the Rogers Cup, a Somerset Ladies County Golf Association competition having beaten Weston-super-Mare 5 & 2 at Wheathill.

Finally, I am sure we all extend a warm welcome to the seven new lady members who have joined the Club this year. We wish them all success and hope they enjoy our Club as much as we do.

Sue Bamford -Ladies Captain

SENIORS SAY

The 2011 season for the Seniors' Section of Clevedon Golf Club is, so far, going smoothly.

The Seniors' matches have been generously supported by the members, and with even more Seniors than last year offering themselves for selection, it has proved a tough task to give everyone at least a couple of games.

At the time of writing well over 60 different players have been given the chance to wear 'the yellow shirt'!

We have met with varying success playing away as one would expect, but we have chalked up two significant wins over two clubs; Filton -our first match, and Long Ashton very recently.

So far we have not lost at home!

My 'Awayday' to Cumberwell Park Golf Club on May 23rd proved an enjoyable occasion. The weather threatened but managed only to wet the final few three-balls of the 54 members who participated. Strangely, and there must be a lesson here somewhere, those that got the wettest won the prizes!

Our own Seniors' Open was well supported and we had over 150 players on the day thanks to the efforts of Alan Alvis, our Clevedon Seniors' Opens Secretary. Clearly, the news that our course has been so much improved of late is being spread by word of mouth to the many clubs who were represented.

So, the Seniors' Section goes from strength to strength. We are always pleased to hear of more Club members wishing to join us and avail themselves of an opportunity to participate in our competitions and matches. For my part, it was the best decision I made since joining the Club in deciding to 'face reality' and become 'Senior'!

Bob Latham – Seniors' Captain

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