

# *The Moreton Grange Golf Society*

NEWSLETTER MAY 2006

Welcome to the April issue of the Newsletter. Apologies from the Committee (now there's a phrase that you won't often hear said out loud, or even at all) for the lapse in publishing these in recent times, but this is down to a number of reasons, all of which we are unable to go into in detail due to the Official Secrets Act, (however in 20 years time you will be able to read that there just hasn't been anything of note to report on).

## **Annual General Meeting**

The Society's Annual General meeting was held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2006 in the pleasant surroundings of the Grange Public House. Unfortunately we had been double booked with Serious Steve so there was initially 'no room at the Inn' and it looked like the meeting would have to be held in the Men's Room; time for a round of drinks whilst we considered the situation. Luckily, upon seeing our predicament (and responding to our glares of "how can you two people take up a whole large table when us 7 people are squashed around this bar stool"), two delightful patrons of the Grange gave up their table to us and the meeting could begin in earnest, after another round of drinks.

In no time at all at all all the existing officers and members of the Committee were duly proposed and seconded and returned to ~~POWER~~ the roles that they have been carrying out so effectively to date. This was largely due to the fact that no other ~~see~~ members of the Society turned up so there wasn't a great deal of choice again, for the second year running. The following is a summary of your illustrious leaders, and other assorted rascals so that at least you will know who to complain to;-

Chairman;-	Ralph 'motormouth' Vaughan
Captain;-	Nigel 'lose your head' Hall
Secretary;-	Alan 'don't cross your legs' Bennett
Treasurer;-	Peter 'Moneybags' Smythe
Handicap Secretary;-	Dave 'can't add up' O'Rorke
Fixtures Secretary;-	Andy 'Awayday' Harvey
Admin Clerk;-	Dave 'Villa' Evans
Promotions Secretary;-	Gordon 'give us a pound' Evans
Vice Captain;-	Neil 'why did I join this crowd' McNay

There followed various discussions, not all of which were strictly related to the Ancient game of Golf, during which the way the Society is going to be run in the new season was totally overhauled. Unfortunately, due to the part taking of a few more rounds of drinks, no one can remember what was agreed, so, although it was going to be good, we're going to muddle along as we have previously. See separate minutes from AGM if your really interested.

## Society Summer Handicaps

Following a complete and thorough review of the scores during the winter season the Handicap Secretary has calculated via a complex mathematical and statistical process, the new handicaps for the Summer Season. When these were presented to the members it has to be said that there were several mutterings of 'needs a new calculator', 'some one take his slasher off him' and 'the old fool is going senile, best to have him put out to pasture'. I say, ignore them Dave, you've got it just right; I'm on a 38 and the £20's in the post.

Just in case you were thinking of questioning your Handicap, don't. The official Society process of questioning the accuracy of your handicap is to go and see the Handicap Secretary (now that's novel) and have a long and detailed discussion re your scores, age, and waist size, after which the Handicap Secretary will tell you to 'sod off before I take more points off you'. The un-official Society process is to wait till he goes to the bar and then get the rubber / tipex out and manually adjust it.

## Society Match Day

The dawn of the first fixture of the summer season came along on the 30<sup>th</sup> April, and we all set off for Clay Farm Gold Club near Wrexham. I say set off, unfortunately not all the players arrived, and come the agreed assembly time there were Moreton Grange Society Members spread all over the welsh country side at various different courses; Dave Evans would have been proud of us.

Eventually, thanks to the wonders of mobile phone technology, we all arrived safely, and partaked in some lovely bacon butties and 30 odd practice balls in the driving range (have you ever noticed how all those glorious drives only ever manifest themselves on the driving range). During this time our Chairman was heard to mutter "that if we were going to continue organising days at such out of the way courses as this, then it would be a good idea in future to provide a map and directions so people knew where they were going". At this point he was tactfully reminded that he had been given a map with the route clearly marked, and it wasn't the Society's fault if he'd lost it whilst negotiating his way from the bedroom to the bathroom of his obviously ginormous house. In future perhaps we should brand the map onto his torso on an inconvenient body part.

All in all there were 21 brave souls who enjoyed a full days golf. Various positive comments were made about the course, and several negative comments about the speed of the greens. If I was some one else I could produce a shot by shot account of every ones round, whilst at the same time noting all the out of the way bunkers, putts that lipped out and how the best laid plans for a shot didn't always come to fruition; suffice to say that if several members had played with Pinnacles instead of Topflites, used 6 irons instead of 5 irons on the fairways and persuaded the little hamster inside the ball to lean left and not right during the 'hang time' then it wouldn't have made the slightest difference to the results.

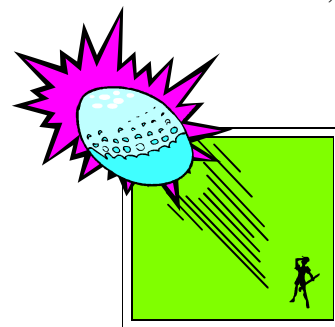
Anyway, following a very enjoyable day of golf the final results of the match were:

Medal Winner;-	Graham Butterworth (72 net, but see below)
Stapleford Winner;-	Graham Butterworth (33 points)
Longest Drive;-	Graham Butterworth
Nearest the Pin;-	Ian Taylor
Match day Pairs;-	Carl Hayhurst & Pete Conner



## Awarding of Trophies

The Committee have decided this year that there is to be no Medal Trophy this season, as invariably the Medal winner is the same as the Stapleford winner and, following the other rule that you can only win one trophy per match, some one who came second would go home with a 'Winner' trophy for in fact coming second. (So what I hear you say, you can always keep quiet at home and be the big 'winner'). It was decided to keep the Stapleford Trophy in preference to the Medal as this more accurately represents the achievements of the average golfer, ie you can have some stunning holes, some average holes, some really appalling holes, and even lose a ball or two, and still be in with a chance of picking up some silver ware. The Medal Trophy on the other hand, is really only achievable by those ~~monotonous robots who hit every ball with boring accuracy and repetitive arm action~~ (no personal slurs intended of course) quality players with really low handicaps and constant fine golfing techniques.



Of course when you come to the Longest Drive and Nearest the Pin awards its even more complicated, but more about that later.

## Nobbling of Handicaps

Having accurately set the Handicaps for the Summer season, it was decided that we should continue the 'nobbling' system of Handicap adjustment. In this way it is hoped that we don't get the same person winning week after week with boring monotony. For those of you who are interested, and perhaps have the ability to follow all this, here goes;-

The winner of the Stapleford Competition loses 3 points off their Handicap for the next Society match. If the player doesn't come 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> at that match they gain a point back for the following match, and so on for the following matches. However if they do get placed in a match then their Handicap Adjustment stays static for the next match, less what ever 'nobbling' points they gain for being placed. Equally second place loses 2 points, and third place loses 1 point. God, I wish I hadn't started this one now. If your confused, then ask one of the Committee members; if your not confused, please explain it to me as I am.

Suffice to say that Graham is now playing off a Handicap of 3, and it is predicted by the 'Great Golf Swinger' that within 2 matches he will be playing off -3, and still creaming through the field.

## Summer Knockout Tournament

The match day at Clay saw the initial matches for the Summer Knockout tournament, and after some fine gold and not too few amazing fight backs, Carl Hayhurst, Graham Butterworth and Dave O'Rorke went through to the next round. It needs to be remembered that your match needs to be played at Henlle Park at the very latest, so contact your opponent and arrange a date and time when your both available. It has to be said that those who are drawn against Mr A Bye need to book up quickly as he has a load of matches to play by the closing date.

## Golf Academy – An Ongoing Teach-in

### This Month – The Handicap Increasing Method



Every player has that game where everything seems to go wrong, you know what it's like, you forget your golf shoes, your favourite tee breaks on the first hole, the ball won't go where you want it to go, you've forgotten your oxtail and pepper broth, and you get stuck going out last with the noisy dwarf. Anyway, here's how to take advantage of such a rare occasion. Just after you've hit a really bad shot, throw your club on the drive, swear like a trooper, stamp your feet and really let everyone around you know that things ain't going to plan. The true professional will then end his tantrum by swearing on his caddies life that if the 'old fart the Handicap Secretary doesn't increase his handicap then there's no justice in the world'. It's best to play this card several times during your round, and then hopefully by the end of the game all in sundry will be convinced your game has gone down the pan, your handicap will be increased, and then winning the next game will be a piece of p!!s.

No charge for these gems from the Grange Golf Academy.

### Rule of the Month – Out of Bounds

*Rule 27-1;- If a ball is lost or is out of bounds, the player must play a ball, under penalty of one stroke, as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was last played.*

If one suspects that one's ball may be lost, or out of bounds, the Rule 27-2 comes into play

*Rule 27-2;- If a ball may be lost(outside a water hazard) or may be out of bounds, to save time the player may play another ball provisionally in accordance with Rule 27-1. The player must inform his opponent etc that he intends to play a provisional ball (the sole reason for this is to prevent your opponent moving forward and then getting struck on the head by your provisional, always a good move)*

In conclusion, if your playing with the Treasurer, always hit a provisional ball as the silly old duffer has the attention span of a goldfish and won't read all the local rules, thus leading to you lose the hole, or throw in your card, when some helpful other member of the Grange Society enquires why your playing an out of bounds ball.

The next Society match is at Henlle Park on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May. Please contact Society Fixtures Secretary, Andy Harvey (07768 271 822) to guarantee a tee.

**Membership Forms available from the bar at the Grange – New Members Welcome**