

The Moreton Grange Golf Society

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2006

Welcome to the June issue of the Newsletter.

Society Match Day

The Second fixture of the summer season came along on the 28th May at Henlle Park. Having learnt from last time; several members decided to travel in convoy so as to get to the right course at a reasonable hour. However the only slight flaw with this impeccable logic was that the leader of the convoy didn't actually know where he was going. This situation was soon resolved when they noticed the smoke signals emanating from a fellow members car and followed these to the destination. In any event all 16 members did arrive on time, Dave Evans, also having learnt from past experience, decided that getting a lift is the surest way of finding your way there and back. There was also a very late arrival in the form of Jimmy 'Jet Setter' Heron who, having been unable to persuade the pilot of the aircraft to land on the 1st fairway, had to rush across Wales to just about make the tee time.

During the match there were several incidents which, whilst on their own merit are un-worthy of note, have made their way into the newsletter due to the total lack of any thing better to mention.

Andy Harvey brought new meaning to the phrase 'I got a Birdie' on the 9th, when he used the back of a sun bathing goose to keep his ball out of the pond. This not only aroused the goose, but distanced him from his fellow players ("you can go and look for your own ball mate, no way we're going near that thing now" was the cry) and also got the course official interested as well (not sure if you should have got a penalty stroke for that one Andy).

The longest drive was won by Steve Lawton, who, whilst not actually getting that far (only joking Steve, cracking shot), was accurate enough to hit the narrow fairway. Most players decided to sample the really long grass on the right of the fairway and then gave up first shot distance to second and third shot misery in the rough.

The Nearest the Pin had new meaning as it was the Club Captains Charity hole; miss the green and pay the fine (how many who missed paid the fine?). This was won by Peter Smythe, who was actually more made up in saving his 20p fine than he was in beating the other players to the trophy.

Given the hilly nature of the course there are several 'blind' fairways, where the safety of players is assisted by the provision of warning bells. The basis idea for those novices amongst us, is that when your group are clear of the fairway you ring the bell, thus telling the following group that its clear to take their shots. Of course this system falls down completely when either;-

- the following group are totally deaf and thus can't hear the bell, (ie they ignore the system)
- the leading group forget to ring the bell and thus leave the following group stood on the tee waiting forever, (ie they ignore the system)
- some joker rings the bell at random anyway thus confusing all

It must have been the Welsh air but several members took the opportunity to try out new golfing implements. One member (names have been withheld to protect the plain daft) brought along a 6' long putter which apart from being mistaken for the flag on several occasions took a lot of getting used to; alright, by the 17th green he was putting down in only 3, but had already spent many a happy hour on other greens knocking the ball around too and fro and too and fro.

Another member brought along a mini set of golf clubs which, when initially packed away fitted neatly into a motorbike saddle bag (very handy I hear you say), but upon exposure to the Welsh climate expand to a full size set. Whilst this was a novel idea, the impact and any possible subsequent benefit, was lost when he had to break every club in half after his round to get them back in the saddle bag.

It was also refreshing that at long last one player threw his set of custom made blades away and returned to his trusty set of user friendly normal clubs, much to the relief of his Pairs partner, and much to the chagrin of his knockout tournament opponent. It is rumoured that there is now a local Primary School which boasts a set of perfectly sized golf clubs for their sports lessons

The Henlle course brought back fond memories for many a member, and was in good condition. Unfortunately we had to a man forgotten how longish and hillyish the course was and so by the end were well pleased to get to the 19th hole for sustenance. Unfortunately, due to an over sight on the part of the Club we were double booked and thus had to retire to the Grange for a few pints and a meal.

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

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|---------------------|---|
| 'Medal';- | Alan Bennett (78 net) |
| Stapleford Winner;- | Ralph Vaughan (31 points) |
| Longest Drive;- | Steve Lawton |
| Nearest the Pin;- | Peter Smythe |
| Match day Pairs;- | Dave Evans & Graham Almond (36 points) |
| | Neil McNay & Steve Crawford (36 points) |



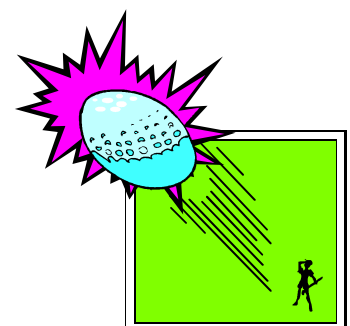
Summer Season pairs Comp

The Competition continues in full flow, with not a lot to choose between many pairs. Remember the idea is to get a lower score on any particular hole than the Minimum Score which is given on your score card for each match. Suffice to say that some pairs are doing extremely well despite only one member of the pair actually having played to date; such is the luck of the Draw.

Also remember that the final result is determined on your end of season handicaps (including any nobling) so there's still all to play for.

Awarding of Trophies

As previously informed the Committee have decided this year that there are to be no Medal Trophies this season, as historically the same player won both. In true 'Sods Law' tradition, this month different persons 'won' each trophy, but such is life. It was also possibly a coincidence that the number of 'No Scores' recorded across the field increased significantly – symptomatic of no medal play (ie why waste your time looking for a ball or walking back to play another shot if your not going to score points on the hole anyway)



It was also decided by the Committee that in future who ever won the Longest Drive and Nearest the Pin collected the trophies. This is believed to be a much fairer way of running the event, and we await the first time when the same player wipes the board and wins every trophy in sight.

Society Summer Handicaps

There is a rumour doing the rounds that following the first three Summer Society Days, players handicaps will be re-visited on the basis of the scores achieved to date. Whilst this rumour has yet to be verified and ratified by the Committee it is strongly recommended (by some one who doesn't know any different) that if you really want to win one of the Treasured Society Trophies, that you put in a really crap couple of cards, get given a high Handicap, and then play out of your skin the next time out and cream the field.

Nobbling of Handicaps

Having accurately set the Handicaps for the Summer season, it was decided that we should continue the 'nobbling' system of Handicap. However it has yet to be decided which Handicap you will play off when taking part in the Knockout Tournament; ie should it be your start of season handicap or your 'Nobbled' handicap for that week. The Committee is due to make a ruling on this matter at the next Committee meeting;- watch this space.

Summer Knockout Tournament

Henle saw the last day for the 1st round games to be played, and many players took advantage of dragging out the inevitable by waiting till then to play their match. Upon completion of the days golf there were not many surprises as generally the matches went with form. Mr A Bye was totally over whelmed by the number of matches he had to play, and subsequently won none of them. Many players got through on a nod and a wink; in fact some of them didn't even need to turn up. One of the favourites was so worried about his opponent that he ditched his new set of expensive but difficult to handle clubs and resorted to his old but trusty standard clubs to ensure a close victory (actually he won by 18 and 17 but we won't mention that). 16 players now go forward to the 2nd round; these matches must be played on or before the next Society day at Chirk on the 25th June.

The Golf Academy - An Ongoing Teach-in

This Month - The Locating of the Lost ball Method

When playing a round of golf, always have a bag full of matching balls. In the unlikely event that you hit a ball in to the rough then;-

- a) make sure you get to the area first,
- b) walk around a lot muttering and shaking your head,
- c) as you are looking for your ball accidentally knock over your trolley which results in balls being dropped accidentally. Pick up all balls bar one, and claim loudly "what luck, I've just found my ball".
- d) Alternatively, a less dramatic method once you've tried the above trick a few times, is to resort to the old favourite of cutting a hole in your trouser pocket, keep a few balls in there and then drop one out at a preferable lie location; brings new meaning to the old saying "are you just pleased to see me, or do you always play with your balls in your pockets"



No charge for these gems from the Moreton Grange Golf Academy.

Rule of the Month – Water Hazard

“Casual Water” is any temporary accumulation of water on the *course* that is visible before or after the player takes his *stance* and is not in a *water hazard*. Snow and natural ice (looking forward to the Winter season already), other than frost, are either *casual water* or *loose impediments*, at the option of the player. Manufactured ice is an *obstruction* (especially when the ice bucket is in the way of reaching for your drink at the bar). Dew and frost are not *casual water*. A ball is in *casual water* when it lies in or any part of it touches the *casual water*.



A Water Hazard is any sea (North Wales coast here we come), lake, pond, river, ditch, surface drainage ditch or any other open water course (**whether or not containing water**) and anything of a similar nature on the course. Stakes and / or lines defining the *water hazard* must be yellow. A *Lateral Water hazard* is marked by Red stakes etc. (not much help all this if your colour blind I know)

Rule 26 Water Hazards;- if a ball is in or is lost in a water hazard (whether the ball lies in the water or not), the player may, under penalty of one stroke, either play another shot from where he played the last one, or drop a ball behind the water hazard.

Of course, if the ball lies in casual water then the player can just pick the ball up and drop it where its not wet (and no nearer the hole) without a penalty of one stroke (ie there is a significant advantage in water being casual and not permanent)

In other words,

Rule a;- if your ball drops into water, make sure your first to it, lift out all of the yellow / red stakes in order to make your ball ‘not in the water hazard’, go on at length about how this is the wettest month on record since records began (and as such all the water hazards are full to over flowing) and then drop your ball clear of the *casual* water without penalty of one stroke.

Rule b; If you don’t look the look of your lie, release all the stored water you’ve got about your trolley and / or your person, saturating the ground in the process, declare that you (and your balls) are in casual water and then take relief by dropping your ball some where with a much better lie.

In conclusion, if your playing on the driest day of the year, your chances of finding Casual Water are slim, so stock up with flasks and flasks of the wet stuff prior to leaving the club house.

Next Society Day Out

The next Society match is at Chirk on Sunday 25th June. Please contact Society Fixtures Secretary, Andy Harvey (07768 271 822) to guarantee a tee. Of course if your reading this on the 25th then your already either there (so you don’t need a tee time) or your not there, in which case you won’t be reading this.

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