



# *The Moreton Grange Golf Society*

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2006

Welcome to the September issue of the Newsletter.

## **Society Match Day**

The Fifth fixture of the summer saw us travel to an old favourite course of Aldersey Green on the 27<sup>th</sup> August 2006. In total 18 players turned out, which was a good response during the holiday season.

Following a some what delayed start whilst we let the Course Club members break the course in, tread the mole hills down, upset the bunkers, trample the tees and indent the greens, we set off down the first fairway. Aldersey is not an easy course (unless you play it day in and day out), and this was reflected in the reasonably high scores that were achieved (high in total number of times in the round that the little white ball had to be hit that is). Through out the day there were more than several occasions when the gentle plop of 'ball in water' or resounding twunk of 'ball on wood' could be heard echoing around the course, generally closely followed by a curse or swish as a club flew through the air. It was a good job that prior to starting the rounds our illustrious Treasurer had offered all who wanted numerous free balls. In view of this kind gesture it is only fair that we mention his **BIRDIE** on the 5<sup>th</sup>, a Par 5, several times at random during this newsletter.

The results were not as close as they usually are, with a huge gap between the top and bottom net scores. It was thought at one time that a certain member (mentioning no names) had got lost half way round the course and actually ended up playing 24 holes in total; this rumour was later dashed at around the same time as Dave Evans was seen tearing up his score card and vowing never to (attempt to) play golf again.

At the other end of the scale Peter Smythe narrowly beat Tom Rogers and Graham Butterworth home, this had the added effect (due to the Grange Nobling system) of moving Tom's handicap closer perhaps to how well he's been playing, and moving poor old Graham's Handicap ever closer to that elusive scratch position).

Anyway, following a very enjoyable day of golf on what proved to be a challenging course the final results of the match were:

'Medal';-	Peter Smythe (75 net)
Stapleford Winner;-	Peter Smythe (33 points)
Longest Drive;-	Graham Butterworth
Nearest the Pin;-	Rob Reyner
Match day Pairs;-	Dave O'Rorke & Peter Smythe (38 points)



## Summer Season pairs Comp

As the Season progresses, whilst there is no change at the top, Messrs. Hayhurst / Conner, the following pack is moving around quite a bit. O'Rorke / Smythe are now in full chase (only 1 point behind) (Peter's **Birdie** doesn't help as Hoylake's 5<sup>th</sup> is a par 4) with McNay / Crawford dropping back a bit, but just ahead of Vaughan / Taylor.

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.
- that the final result is determined on your end of season handicaps (including any nobling) so there's still all to play for. (Peter and Pete – Club with no Balls suggests you stop winning the Stapleford or you'll suffer in the pairs)



## Society Summer Handicaps

As the end of the Season approaches, the Handicap Secretary is rumoured to have been seen at the local coal merchants stocking up on fuel for his computer in preparation for the extensive and complication calculations and iterations that he will have to perform to calculate your new handicaps. It is however predicted that, given the reduced levels of CO2 allowed under the new G8 Treaty to emanate from the combination of cigarettes and coal burning machines from any individual, that the computer will be ditched and the handicaps will ~~be picked at random / guesstimated / proportional to the number of times you beat him /~~ decided after a few pints of Guinness in a cloudy corner of the Grange. (Remember Peter's **BIRDIE** Mr Handicap Secretary)

## Summer Knockout Tournament

Aldersey Green saw the semi finals of the tournament played. We are now down to the last two, after what were a couple of very close matches, and the surprises keep emerging. Dave 'Iron Lung' O'Rorke continued his steady march towards the final with a '2 and 1' victory over Carl 'well at least I beat Ralph' Hayhurst. Alan 'can I at least have a bye in the final' Bennett also had a '2 and 1' victory over Alan 'I got further than you Nigel' Harding. The fact that both of these matches were only settled on the 17<sup>th</sup> green gives an idea of how close they were, and the other semi-finalists should be proud of their achievement (and of the fact that they went much further than most other members)

The 2 players go forward to the Final, which is due to be played on the last Society day of the Summer season at Eaton on the 27<sup>th</sup> August 2006. The talk on the ground is that few (including at least 1 of the 2 in question) would have put money at the beginning of the season on the final being between two players such as it is, however this probably a reflection on the fact that the Society Handicap system being operated is about right (and also that there's been some amazing pieces of luck encountered along the way).

## Golf Insurance

When you stride off down the fairway after that opening tee shot (or in the case of some of the Societies members struggle off through the rough to the right or wade thru the water on the left or step forward to take your second shot from the ladies Tee area) do you ever give a thought to Insurance. Probably not. Well, perhaps you should. Given the erratic nature of the game of golf, and the relative high value of the equipment involved (well, relatively high value if you've only got second hand equipment handed down to you by Noah) and the relative dangers involved (we all know some one whose been hit by a stray or well launched ball) it would be a prudent to consider taking out an insurance package to cover you. The Golf club where you are playing will not cover you, and in fact may even help to claim against you if its part of their property that you've

damaged. So be warned, get your insurance as soon as possible. Or of course you could always avoid the need for expensive insurance by never parking your car in a car park adjacent to a course when our illustrious Captain is playing. You have been warned.

## **The Monthly Golfing Joke**

### **Here's Your Tee Time**

There was a guy who was an avid golfer. He played golf every chance he got; in the rain, in the cold, he even used black balls to play when there was snow on the ground. His wife joked, half in jest, that she was a golf widow and she really wouldn't miss her husband all that much if he died before her, for he was never around anyhow.

One night he was in bed asleep after having played 36-holes of golf that day. He was tired but he dreamed of replaying the whole round, hole by hole by hole. Suddenly his dream was interrupted by the appearance of an angel. He was instantly awake.

The angel, with a full set of wings and wearing a long flowing white robe, stood at the foot of his bed. "Peter" the angel said, for the man's name was Ralph. "Yes, what is it? You are an angel, aren't you?" Peter asked. "Of course I'm an angel. You don't think I'd normally walk around in this silly costume, do you? In fact, I'm your guardian angel," the angel replied.

"Does that mean I get three wishes?" Peter asked. "No, I'm not that kind of guardian angel," the heavenly being answered. "As you know, Peter, you're getting on in years and although I can't grant wishes for you, I can answer questions you might have about the hereafter. You do believe in the hereafter, don't you, Peter?"

"Oh yes and (with long term memory loss kicking in), I've been good with maybe the possible exception of having played too much golf in my lifetime," Peter replied. "Playing golf is like going fishing," replied the angel. "There is no such thing as playing too much golf or going fishing too often. Do you have any questions about heaven?". "As a matter of fact, I do," answered Peter. "I've often wondered if there are any golf courses in heaven. Can you answer that question for me?"

"Gee, Peter, no one has ever asked me that question before. I'll have to go back and check on it. Go back to sleep and I'll be back in about 20 minutes." With that, the angel disappeared. Peter rubbed his eyes and opened them again. The angel was gone and Peter wondered if he had just had a weird dream after a bad pint in the Grange. He rolled over on his side and was soon snoring softly again.

True to his word, the angel reappeared within 20 minutes. "Peter," the angel called. Peter woke up to see the angel again standing at the foot of his bed. "Oh, you're back.". "Yes, Peter, I'm back and I have the answer to your question. But before I tell you, I have to advise that the answer is in two parts, good news and bad news. Which do you want first, the good news or the bad news?"

"Oh dear, I suppose give me the good news first," responded Peter. "Okay, the good news is there are golf courses in heaven. All the courses have been designed by Bobby Jones (who ?), Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus. There are no greens fees and electric carts are provided at no charge. You have the choice of any brand of clubs you desire. Each course has 36-holes. The greens are always freshly mowed, the sand traps freshly raked, the roughs aren't too high and you never lose a ball in the water for the balls float. When you hit a ball into the woods they always ricochet back into the middle of the fairway. And on every par three hole you will score a hole-in-one. Yes, you will have a wonderful time playing golf in heaven."

"Oh, that sounds wonderful. With all that good news what could the bad news possibly be?" Peter wondered aloud.

"The bad news is you have a nine o'clock tee time tomorrow morning."

## **The Golf Academy - An Ongoing Teach-in**

### **This Month - Treating the Ball (not quite the R&A Way)**

#### **The Every Players Misplaced Ball**

If a player successfully finds his ball in extremely deep grass, a dense thicket, or some other absurdly overgrown portion of the course where visibility is severely limited, and then departs momentarily to retrieve a club with which to strike it, and upon his return discovers that he is unable to relocate his ball, the original ball is still deemed to have been found, but subsequently misplaced, and another ball may be dropped without penalty as close as possible to the place where the first ball vanished, but under no circumstances should it be permitted to come to rest in a lie so obscured from view as to run the risk of a second disappearance.

#### **The Graham Ball**

If a player hits his ball into the fairway of an **adjacent hole** and is then unable to find it, but during his search he encounters other golfers playing that same hole in close proximity to the place where he believes his own ball came to rest, he may assume that one of them absconded with it, and he may drop another ball, without penalty, even if he receives explicit assurances from one or more members of the suspect playing group that they did not in fact pick up his ball, provided he can later cite some evidence, no matter how flimsy, of incriminating behaviour on their part, such as their failure to make eye contact, the preoccupied or reticent manner in which they responded to inquiries, or their excessive eagerness to proceed with their play, on which to base a reasonable presumption of their guilt

#### **The Dave 'Unbelievable' Ball Position Ball**

If upon locating his ball a player discovers that it has come to rest in a patently absurd lie or outrageously unplayable position under circumstances in which he is not otherwise entitled to claim relief, he may rectify the grossly inequitable playing condition, without penalty, by tapping, kicking, or throwing his ball to the nearest playable lie, provided he clearly states that if he is required to play his ball as it lies, he is likely to exhibit behaviour not in the best interests of golf.

#### **The Alan 'Hiding from Player' Ball**

If a player cannot find a ball that has been hit in plain sight into a reasonably playable area of the course where there is an accumulation of dead leaves, seasonal debris, grass clippings, or other forms of incidental camouflage in which a furtive ball could improperly conceal itself, the ball shall be deemed to be hiding, but not lost, and another ball may be dropped without penalty as close as possible to the place where the original ball is believed to be lurking.

#### **The Other Dave Ball**

An opponent's ball can be declared missing after 60 seconds of searching by only 1 player, however one of your own balls can only be declared missing after 20 minutes, and then only if all 4 players have been looking for it.

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

## **Rule(s) of the Month - Lifting. Dropping & Placing the Ball**

Rule 20-2(a) A ball to be dropped under the Rules must be dropped by the player himself. He must stand erect, hold the ball at shoulder height and arm's length and drop it.

*(in other words that means drop the ball Dave, not the arm/hand which are holding the ball)*

If a ball is dropped by any other person, or in any other manner and the error is not corrected the player incurs a penalty of one stroke.

*In other words you can't choose some one more inept than you to drop the ball, blame them for the error, but continue playing anyway.*

20-2(b) When a ball is to be dropped as near as possible to a specific spot, it must be dropped not nearer the hole .....

*In other words you can't launch it towards the green from halfway down the fairway*

20-2(c) A dropped ball must be re-dropped without penalty if it;-

- rolls into and comes to rest in a hazard,
- rolls out of and comes to rest outside a hazard  
*in other words, if its in a hazard it stays in it*
- rolls onto and comes to rest on a putting green  
*oh come on, there must be some way of gaining improvement in your lie*
- and numerous other conditions

Note: if a ball when dropped or re-dropped comes to rest and subsequently moves, the ball must be played as it lies, unless some other provisions of any other rule apply.

*in other words, drop the ball properly, wait for it to come to a stop, distract your opponent and then nonchalantly kick it towards the green and state out loudly " did you feel that passing tornado"*

## **APPOINTEMENT OF SOCIETY OFFICIALS**

With the AGM due to be held on the 19<sup>th</sup> October 2006 it would be prudent to remind all members that this will be the time to make your vote count, and have your say in who runs the Society and how it is run. The Officers of the Society are elected by the members of the Society, and at present consist of the following;-

Chairman;-	Ralph 'motormouth' Vaughan
Captain;-	Nigel 'me me ' 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

Apart from the fact that you can't vote on the Captain (it is who it is), or the Vice Captain (the Captain decides this, if you want this position start being very nice to Neil) all the other positions are up for grabs. If you would like to nominate some one for any (or all) of the above positions please let the Secretary know as soon as possible. By electing a new official it shouldn't be regarded as a failure of the existing official, as its only fair that we all get the opportunity to sit in Dave Evan's front room in comfort. The Fixtures Secretary In Waiting is a new position, as it was decided that this position needs to be a season up front.

Don't be shy of stepping forward, most officials would love the opportunity to stand down and join the rank and file where from they can hurl abuse at the elected officials in relative security (after all, do you know any one who voted us into the Common market, but we're still there).

## **Next Society Day Out**

The next Society match is at Northrop on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September, and the one after that is at Eaton on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October, tee time to be declared. Please contact Society Fixtures Secretary, Andy Harvey (07768 271 822) to guarantee a tee.