

The Moreton Grange Golf Society

Newsletter - February 2007

Welcome to the February issue of the Newsletter.

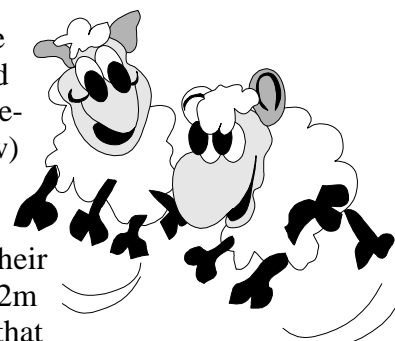
Society Match Day

The first official Society Day of the New Year took place at Holywell on Sunday 28th January 2007. There was a good turn out and the Captains chosen competition format was a Pairs Stapleford Competition; whether this was a good choice was not in question, though his selection of partner perhaps was.



As some sort of compensation, the Captain had to go at the front as 'Follow The Leader' around the complicated sequence of holes. It is reported that the sequence of holes followed was to start at the 1st then to the 9th, 10th ongoing to the 18th, then we played the 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, then back onto the 1st and finally the 9th. This is thought to be some strange Welsh Winter Golf Custom, the origins of which are unclear but undoubtedly are Back In Time when golf was played in very deep snow drifts or dense fogs, and as such it was not possible to see the tees in numerical sequence.

On the subject of Strange Welsh Golf Traditions, it appears that a large number of the greenkeepers employed at some course's have 4 legs and white woolly jumpers to keep them warm. They are reportedly 'very-late-to-bed' personalities (no real licensing hours in deepest Wales you know) as they are often seen meandering about the course during the days play, so hung over they are oblivious to calls of "would you mind dreadfully getting out of the f!cking way of my putt" or similar. The variability in their grass cutting methods is also open to debate; nothing to beat the flat 1.2m wide mechanical machine really. No doubt many a golfer has blamed that awkward bounce or wayward putt on the lie of the nibbled grass finish.



There follows a number of 'on the spot' stand-in reporter reviews of the days play, the source of which is unsure but no doubt word perfect.

"Neil McNay and partner (nice to know we all recognise each other) had many encounters with roaming sheep, Dog walkers, Cattle, and Cars running along roads which dissected the course. Of course, every one else would have had similar delights, but unfortunately managed to keep all their shots in bounds, and as such away from surrounding neighbourhood."

"On the first tee, a daunting par 4 with a road running half way through it, most struggled to reach the road on their drive, Dave 'Abacus' O'Rourke took a number of shots to reach the road leaving 200yds to the pin but still managed to get it in for 5; his answer to this was he had a good long putt shot????."

"Carl 'Go For It' Hayhurst drove his drive on another dog (or is it sheep in Wales) leg par 4 across yet another road, He did however gain at least 100 yds from his drive due to his ball hitting a car and being carried along the road under the car, much to the disgust of the little old lady who was driving it." Nigel 'Me-Me' Hall was particularly proud of this achievement by one of his fellow golfers, having only managed to hit stationary cars himself previously.

“Andy Harvey playing with and Carl myself (we would prefer it if you kept the personal details to yourselves – too much information) requested relief (and was politely refused) for one of his shots on a par 3. It was a genuine request as his ball had landed, and was sitting proud (understandably refusing to bury itself in it) on a heap of cattle shiteeeee, Of course, after much debate and checking the rules of play his request was granted”. See Rule of the Month below.



Anyway, after an exciting and enjoyable Days Competition the Pairs Winners were Graham Coupe and Neil McNay. Nice move that Neil, the Captain pairing up (completely at random we know) with the most improved and continually improving player who will no doubt have his handicap slashed by Dave ‘Slasher’ O’Rorke upon commencement of the Summer Season. Very close runners up were Gary Cooper and Peter Smyth, with only 1 point in it. The Wooden spoon was won by the one and only Nigel Hall,

To finish the day off there was a nice chicken dinner, however there was little or no explanation as to why the Club House’s speciality of leg of lamb was not available; perhaps they hadn’t been able to catch one that day)

Partners for the Summer Season

The partners are starting to line up ready for the next season; those declared to date are;-

Ralph Vaughan & Peter Smythe

Pete Conner & Peter McNay

Tom Rogers & Nigel Hall

Ian Taylor & Graham Almond

Remember, get your names to the Secretary as soon as possible.

The Dictionary of Golf

In an attempt to widen the golf knowledge base of the average member of the Society beyond that picked up from certain very loud and vocal elder members of the Society there is a new addition to the Newsletter; namely the Dictionary of Golf.

Advice;- any counsel or suggestion made by one golfer to another about the choice of club, method of play or means of executing a shot, which contains no more than 5 errors of fact, contradictory statements or harmful recommendations is considered to be *Advice*. 6 or more pieces of such misinformation or misinstruction shall constitute a formal golf lesson.

Advice is ~~always~~ often given by Age Players

Age Golfers;- accomplished golfers who have recorded either of two exceptional golfing achievements; playing a round of 18 holes at the end of which they had a score identical to their age, or playing a round of 18 holes during all of which they acted their age.

Age Golfers never need a caddy, and almost certainly are caddies themselves.

Caddy;- individual employed by players who are unable to select the wrong club, misread putts or lose balls without assistance.



Hazard;- an obstacle on the course, either a bunker or a water hazard. It is against the rules for a player to "ground" his club in the hazard, by allowing the head of their club to touch the surface of the hazard before making their stroke. However, prior to taking a shot, the player is permitted to hang his head, bury his head in his hands, and, if it does not unduly delay the match, lightly and repeatedly and repeatedly pound his, or her, head against a tree.

Obstruction;- golfers may move their ball away from or remove any artificial obstacles not part of the course such as torn or crushed hats and other discarded articles of clothing halved golf balls, discarded golf clubs, demobilised golf carts and overturned and burning electric buggies.

The Monthly Golfing Joke's

The 4 Sons

Four gentlemen go out to play golf one sunny morning. One is detained in the clubhouse, and the other three are discussing their children while walking to the first tee. "My son," says one, 'Has made quite a name for himself in the home building industry. He began as a carpenter, but now owns his own design and construction firm. He's so successful in fact, in the last year he was able to give a good friend a brand new home as a gift."

The second man, not to be outdone, allows how his son began his career as a car salesman, but now owns a multi-line dealership. "He's so successful, in fact, in the last six months he gave a friend two brand new cars as a gift."

The third man's son has worked his way up through a stock brokerage firm and in the last few weeks has given a good friend a large stock portfolio as a gift.

As the fourth man arrives at the first tee box, another tells him that they have been discussing their progeny and asks what line his son is in. "To tell the truth, I'm not very pleased with how my son has turned out", he replies. "For fifteen years, he's been a hairdresser, and I've just recently discovered he's a practising homosexual. But, on the bright side, he must be very good at what he does because his last three boyfriends have given him a brand new house, two cars and a big pile of stock certificates."

The Golf Academy - An Ongoing Teach-in -Playing With Animals

Now it's a well known acting belief that you should never perform with either children or animals (and the legal profession are generally against this also). However, on your average golf game it is not uncommon to come across animals within the courses boundaries, and I'm not talking here about your fellow golfers.

The general guideline is leave well alone, however tempting it is to aim at them. There is no truth in the rumour that you get 50 points for a sitting animal and more if its moving. It is also very rare that an animals natural instinct is to run towards the hole when being chased by a swiftly moving golf ball, and as such they are very unlikely to improve the carry of your shot. And finally, contrary to the beliefs of the average Club House Cook, there is very little protein in golf kill, and the meat-to-fur ratio makes it far too long winded to pluck and stuff.



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

Rule(s) of the Month - Taking Relief

When you find your ball, the basic rule to be followed is;-

Rule 13.1 The ball must be played as it lies, except as otherwise provided under the Rules (of Golf, and not 'in some ones head')

However does the ball always have to be played as found. Consider for example the rare situation of say, where your ball is found lying on a Cow pat. Now, under *Rule 28* you could

deem the ball unplayable (and you are the sole judge as to whether the ball is unplayable or not, and no one else. If you deem the ball unplayable you can, under penalty of one stroke, either,

- a) play a ball from the place from which the original ball was played, or*
- b) drop a ball within two club lengths but no nearer the hole, or*
- c) drop a ball on a line directly back from where the ball lays, in line with the hole.*

Now you could definitely play the ball off the cow pat (it may be a bit messy if you aim slightly low, and make sure the cow has actually finished and moved away first before taking your shot) so it would be stretching it a bit to say its unplayable, and in any event you would drop a shot.

However, there are occasions when you can move your ball without penalty, mainly if there is an obstruction, but would a Cow Pat constitute an Obstruction under the Rules ?



We must refer to Section II of the RoG, ie Definitions

A Hazard is any bunker or water hazard, so if the cow pat was extremely fresh and runny it probably could be considered to be a hazard (but if you put your foot in it, it definitely would be).

An obstruction is anything artificial except any construction declared by the Committee to be an integral part of the course. A cow pat couldn't be said to be artificial, its pretty real and smelly, and if the cattle had free range of the course then the Committee would probably deem piles of sh!!eeee to be an every day occurrence and therefore integral to the ambience of the courses environment. However, they have not written this in to the local rules, so a cow pat can be correctly deemed to be an Obstruction.

An obstruction is a movable obstruction if it may be moved without unreasonable effort (moving a smelly fresh cow pat would require UNREASONABLE effort), *without unduly delaying play*, (where is the nearest shovel kept), *and without causing damage* (playing partners would be damaged by the resulting odour). *Otherwise it is an immovable obstruction.*

It seems therefore that the cow pat would be considered unmoveable. So what now?

Rule 24-2(a);- Interference by an immovable obstruction occurs when a ball lies in or on the obstruction, or when the obstruction interferes with the players stance or the area of his intended swing.

Rule 24-2(b)(i);- ... the player must lift the ball (he may clean it also if he really wants to) and drop it without penalty within one club length and not nearer the hole.

And so you have it, you can gain relief from a cow pat, and we haven't even considered the situation where the ball may be considered lost within an immovable obstruction.

Next Society Day Out

The next Society match is at Prestatyn, on the 25th February 2007, 1000 tee off, arrive 0900 for bacon butties etc, meal included, £35 all in, format will be a Texas Scramble Competition, Pairs to be decided by the Vice Captain.

The following Society match is at Mossock Hall, Ormskirk on the 25th March 2007, 1100 tee off, arrive 1000 for bacon butties etc, meal included, £33.50 all in, format to be decided by Captain.