

The Moreton Grange Golf Society

Newsletter - March 2007

Welcome to the March issue of the Newsletter.

Society Match Day

The third official Society Day of the Winter Season saw the Society return to the Prestatyn course. For this reason, Sunday 25th May 2007 saw Society members from all over Wirral driving down the M53 towards the rain clouds. The rain and clouds got lower the closer we got to the course, and indeed were so low over the hills surrounding the town that they are rumoured to have interfered with in car Tom-Tom systems, thus rendering them useless, and, given the low cloud and resulting poor visibility, ensured that some people got totally lost, subsequently going home via Shrewsbury following a red car.



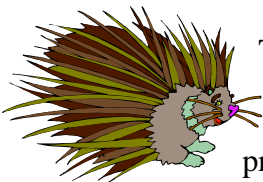
Team A

Anyway, those that did arrive were blown from the car park to the clubhouse to take part in Bacon Butties and coffee, whilst mulling over the sense in booking seaside courses in the middle of winter. To make the day more interesting the Vice Captain had chosen a Ryder Cup Format, and thus the two teams you can see here were selected. However, once out on the course (which took some time whilst we picked, re-picked and shuffled the playing order of the Ryder Cup around) the benefits some became clear as courses near the seaside are usually founded on sandy ground, and as such, despite the weather, conditions under foot were very good.

On this occasion we decided to follow the course around in numerical order, though some members (well only one actually) tried their best to thwart this aim and set about trying to demolish the tee signs with their tee shots, and thus confuse the following players. Unfortunately for Steve, they make signs out of strong stuff in Wales, and his ball ricocheted off to the left, nearly decapitating a duck. Nice try Steve, but next time try a hacksaw.

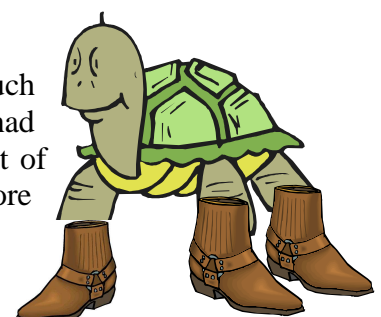


Team B



Talking of animals, it was very useful that the course seemed to have been infested with hibernating hedgehogs, strangely enough at most tee's. The 'less-animal-caring' amongst us took advantage of this strange phenomem and proceeded to wipe their shoes clean at every occasion.

It was strange really but the last couple of groups were enjoying their golf so much that it was as if time itself had stood still. Before they knew it nearly 4 ½ hrs had passed, and you know, they said they hadn't really noticed it, having spent a lot of their time admiring the view of the Welsh hills and seaside from the Tee's before hitting their balls down the only recently golfer cleared fairways.



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. Well, actually there doesn't as there haven't been many, maybe there will be more contributions next month. Remember, the more we can put in to print the more we can shame the shameless (and in the process make the Newsletter more representative of what we actually do).



Anyway, after an exciting and enjoyable Days Competition the Winners of the Ryder Cup were Team A, (see left) who won a close competition by one point. The Longest Drive was driven by Pete McNay, and the nearest Nearest-the-Pin ball was positioned by Dave Worrn.



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 Summer Season starts very soon, ie at the end of April.

The Dictionary of Golf

In an attempt to continue 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, we continue with the Dictionary of Golf.

Relief;- unusual situation when, thanks to the rules of Golf, a player is actually able to improve his lie without counting a penalty stroke while another player is watching.

Penalty Stroke;- one or more strokes added to a golfer's score as punishment for conspicuous, excessive, brazen, or shameless displays of dishonesty, fair play, and sportsmanship completely at odds with the spirit of the game of golf.

Provisional Ball;- a second "back-up" drive knocked deep into the woods just in case the first ball yanked into the high rough can't be found.

Buried Lie;- descriptive term for a ball sitting so deeply in the rough that it is almost impossible to get a shoe on it.

Impossible Lie;- the position of a ball that is both completely obstructed by an immovable object and continuously observed by an incorruptible player.

Lost Ball;- an opponents missing ball after 10 seconds of searching, or one of yours after 15 minutes of searching.

The Monthly Golfing Joke's

You Never Know Who You'll Meet On a Golf Course

A golfer came to a 434yard par 4 hole. He took out his driver and hit his ball as hard as he could. The ball sailed on the wind higher and further than any previous shot he had hit in the last thirty years. It landed 50 yards short of the green and bounced on the hard fairway over a bunker and rolled towards the pin and into the hole. The golfer could not believe it and said "I would give up half my sex life to be able to repeat that shot."

A voice said "Alright it's a deal, half your sex life."

The golfer teed his ball and repeated his shot with the same result.

The voice then asked "How often do you have sex?"

The golfer replied "About twelve times a year."

"That's not very often" said the voice.

The golfer said "I don't know. It's not bad for a priest with a very small parish."

Old and young golfer

A young man who was an avid golfer found himself with a few hours to spare one afternoon. He figured if he hurried, and played very fast, he could get in nine holes before he had to head home.

Just as he was about to tee off, an old gentleman shuffled onto the tee and asked if he could accompany the young man. Not being able to say no, he allowed the old gent to join him. To his surprise the old man played fairly quickly. He didn't hit the ball far, but plodded along consistently and didn't waste much time.

Finally, they reached the 9th fairway and the young man found himself with a tough shot. There was a large pine tree right in front of his ball - directly between his ball and the green. After several minutes of debating how to hit the shot, the old man finally said, "You know, when I was your age I'd hit the ball right over that tree."

With that challenge placed before him, the youngster swung hard, hit the ball up, right smack into the top of the tree trunk and it thudded back on the ground not a foot from where it had originally lay. The old man leaned back on his golf bag and said, "Of course, when I was your age, that pine tree was only three feet tall."

The Golf Academy - An Ongoing Teach-in - Never Listen to the Voices

We've all experienced it, we're lining up a shot and it comes into our head, "use a 6 iron" (with me its use a putter not a driver when our on the green), or your on the fairway and it comes "lets cream this ball from here to beyond", and we listen. Where the voice comes from we never know (though sometimes it seems to emanate from a cloud of cigarette smoke) but we stop and listen and invariably act on it, usually with not exactly the outcome we envisaged. And then we drop our head, aim the offending club in the direction of our golf bag and mutter "I knew I should have stuck with my first club"



Now believe it or not the Rules of Golf actually (sort of) cover this very situation, ie listening to the voices.

Rule 8-1;- During a stipulated round a player must not;-

- (a) give advice to anyone in the competition playing on the course other than his partner, or
- (b) ask for advice from anyone other than his partner or either of their caddies.

So there you are, the voice cannot give you advice, and your not allowed to ask for the advice,

so don't listen to the voices, go with your Gut Instinct.

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

Rule(s) of the Month - Teeing Ground



There are Rules of Golf to cover your play right from the start of your round. Now this can be a bit of a nuisance for most players, as all they want to do is get rid of their ball down the fairway as quickly and straight as possible, especially when they have an audience of fellow golfers who will take great delight in pointing out that your tee shot has just hooked, or shanked, or not even got past the ladies tee. With all the pressure of this, the last thing you want is for some smart arse to point out that you just about to do something wrong just before you take your swing. Also, its very annoying when you've just hit the drive of your life to be told "sorry, doesn't count, you just broke Rule 36(a)clause(3)Item d". So here goes.



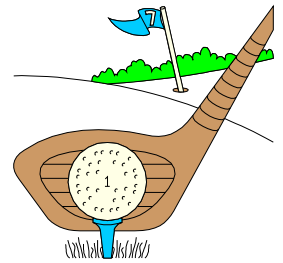
Whilst a player may stand outside the teeing ground when making his tee shot, however his ball, or at least part of it, must be within the teeing ground. The teeing ground is defined as:-

The starting place for the hole to be played. It is a rectangular area two club lengths in depth, the front and sides of which are defined by the outer limits of the two tee-markers.

Rule 11.1;- When the Players ball is to be teed ... it must be placed on :-

- The surface of the teeing ground, including an irregularity of the surfaceor,
- A tee placed in or on the surface of the teeing ground or
- Sand or other natural substance placed on the surface of the teeing ground.

ie you don't need to use a tee just because it looks good, but lets face it, the ball usually goes further if you use one (well it does for me but then that's not saying much for some one who's only just discovered the rule that you are allowed to hit your first shot past the ladies tee)



Rule 11.3;- If a ball, when not in play, falls off a tee or is knocked off the tee by the player addressing it, it may be re-teed without penalty.

ie ignore the shouts of "that's 1" coming from the direction of your fellow golfers.

If you are unfortunate to play, and be seen to play, a ball from outside the teeing area then the following applies

Rule 11.4(a);- Match Play – the ball must be replayed from within the teeing ground but without penalty.

Rule 11.4(b);- Stroke Play – the ball must be replayed from within the teeing ground, under a penalty of two strokes.

There are rules about not noticing that a ball was played from outside the teeing ground until you are playing shots further down the fairway etc, but lets face it, if neither you or your opponents have seen it at the time the chances of them remembering later on are very low, and if they do (usually just after you've beaten them on the hole), then just tell them to shut the f!!k up and stop being so picky.

Rule 11.5;- If you play your tee shot from so far out of the teeing ground that your playing off the wrong teeing ground then Rule 11.4 applies, though in practice you deserve to lose the hole

Next Society Day Out

The next Society match, the Last of the Winter Season is at Mossock Hall, Ormskirk on the 25th March 2007, 1200 tee off, arrive 1100 for bacon butties etc, meal included, £33.50 all in, format to be decided by Captain.

This is followed by the First Society Day of the Summer Season, which is at Huriston Park, Ormskirk on the 29th April 2007, 0930 tee off, arrive 0830 for bacon butties etc, meal included, £54.50 all in, probably back to the Stapleford Competition format, but to be decided.