

The Moreton Grange Golf Society

Newsletter - April 2007

Welcome to the April issue of the Newsletter.

Society Match Day

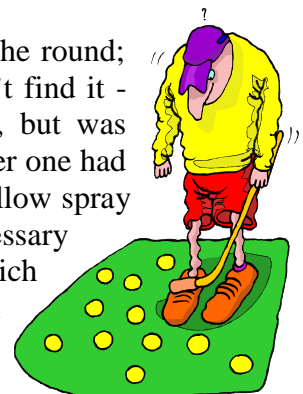
The fourth official Society Day of the Winter Season saw the 18 members of the Society travel out towards the North West of the North West Area to the Mossock Hall course near Ormskirk on Sunday 25th March 2007. The novelty of having to travel through the tunnel was nearly too much for some people (will they let me back thru?), and the Vice Captains statement that “the golf course is well sign posted off the M58” also proved to be a bit optimistic. Anyway, despite these problems, the people who made it were impressed by the course. The clubhouse was very smart, so smart in fact that you had to take your golf shoes off to go to the toilet. This proved a bit of a challenge for our Treasurer who, unaware of this novel rule, had left it nearly too late to decide to answer the call of nature, and if it wasn't for his Velcro fastening golf shoes, may have been delayed a little too long.

The Competition of the day was ‘**Yellow Ball**’, which has a number of rules, but essentially each team was given a **Yellow Ball** at the start of the round, and had to get round the golf course and still produce the **Yellow ball** at the end. However, it wasn't quite as easy as just putting the ball in your pocket and carrying it around. No, it had to be played, and also it had to be played by every member of the Team in succession. Lose the ball on the way round, and your Team was out, or at least at an extreme disadvantage if you've lost it on the first hole. It was generally quite easy to tell whose turn it was to play the **Yellow Ball**; they were the one sweating buckets and hitting half swing shots with high irons to ensure that the ball didn't get lost on their go. However, there were notable exceptions to this reaction, apart from those who just didn't understand the Competition anyway.



Steve Crawford was determined to lead by example (being put in charge of his team) and therefore decided to take a mighty Driver to the Yellow off the first tee and send the ball flying over the tree's, around the water and safely onto the narrow fairway on the other side, neatly avoiding the rough as it landed. Despite the best of intentions, the swing wasn't quite as smooth as planned and unluckily (or luckily if you were his team mates) the ball only went a short distance sideways and was easily found. How other golfers faired on their own tee shots is not recorded in detail.

Two Teams didn't quite manage to produce their **Yellow Ball** at the end of the round; not that the ball was lost of course, it was just in a place where they couldn't find it - Lad's, it's the same thing. One Team in particular started with 4 players, but was apparently observed part way round with only 3, the rumour being that the other one had disappeared to the Pro Shop to beg, steal or borrow a yellow ball (or some yellow spray paint). Luckily the Captain had foreseen such an eventuality and made the necessary arrangements to prevent such actions bearing fruit (or another yellow ball), which was particularly annoying for him, as it's also rumoured that it was his Team Member looking for a replacement ball.,

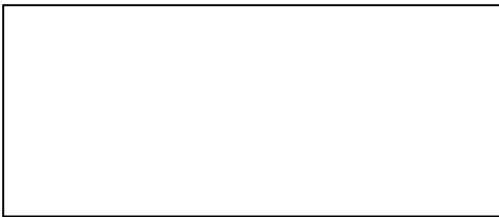


Now which one did Neil
give me

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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).

The course was in good condition, though a few of the greens could do with being rolled a little flatter. There was just enough bunkers (with real soft sand in as well) to make it challenging without being a seaside, and just enough water hazards (with real water in – of course) to make it potentially frustrating without being annoying.



After all the Teams had returned, and their balls inspected for colour and markings (as we said earlier, a very smart and particular clubhouse) the Winners of the Golden Nugget Trophy was Team A, (see left – if we ever get a photo out of the camera) who won a close competition by one point. The full results were as follows;-



| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1 st Place;- Ralph Vaughan, Ian Taylor, Steve Lawton | 30 points |
| 2 nd Place;-Nigel Hall, Peter Smythe, Carl Hayhurst | 29 points |
| 3 rd Place;- Tom Rogers, James Arathoon, Steve Dickinson, Alan Bennett | 24 points |
| 4 th place;- Neil McNay, Pete McNay, Andy Harvey, Dave Goodwin | 22 points (and lost ball) |
| 5 th Place;- Steve Crayford, Graham Coupe, Ian Grieson, Dave Evans | 19 points (and lost ball) |

Needless to say, with Stapleford Scores like those I've decided to play with a yellow ball every week, there so much more accurate than those white ones I usually play with that only give you much lower scores.

Other results from the Day were;-

The Longest Drive was driven by Nigel Hall, and

The nearest Nearest-the-Pin ball was positioned by Neil McNay
(with Nigel Hall a very very close second he asked me to advise you all).

E mail addresses

In order to try and ensure that you get as much useless information as possible, such as this newsletter and Minutes of the Committee meetings please can we take advantage of that new medium, e-mail. As e-mail addresses are notoriously difficult to remember (after all, which sad bast!!ds send e-mails to themselves) in order to streamline this process please send an e-mail to the following address

alan.bennett@edmund-nuttall.co.uk

Partners for the Summer Season

The partners are now well lined up ready for the next season (mainly under threat of being put with some one if you didn't make your own mind up); those declared to date are;-

Ralph Vaughan & Peter Smythe

Pete Conner & Peter McNay

Tom Rogers & Nigel Hall

Ian Taylor & Graham Almond

Graham Coupe & Gary Cooper (Defending Champions)

Andy Harvey & Steve Crayford

Alan Bennett & Dave Evans

Steve Lawton & Dave Goodwin

Neil McNay & Carl Hayhurst

James Arathoon & Steve Dickinson

Dave O'Rorke & Dave Worrton

Graham Butterworth & Ian Twining

Gordon Evans & Ian Grierson

Alan Harding & Rob Rayner

Please see below for the rules for the Pairs Competition, suffice to say at this stage that the more Society Days you and your partner turn up to, the more opportunity you will have of getting that overall low eclectic scorecard.

Summer Season Prizes to Go For

As well as the monthly Society Trophies that are awarded to those lucky B!!!!d's who happen to play their best golf on a Society day (and not on a range hitting day like the rest of use), we thought it would be a good idea to remind you of all the other Society trophies that are available at the end of the Summer Season, just in case you thought you could have a chance of picking one of these up instead.

1) **CMP Cup**

To be a Texas Scramble Day, the 4 members of the winning team to be awarded mini cups and names on trophy which the Society would retain. This will be a winter season trophy.

2) **Charter Cup**

The Charter Cup is to be for an Invitation Day, based on Medal Play and with any number of guests invited. To be played at the end of September at the Northrop course. The winning person to be awarded mini Trophy and name on Cup which the Society would retain.

3) **Challenge Cup**

The Challenge Cup is to be for match against an opposing team, more than likely the Anchor Golf Society. The winning Team Name will go on the trophy which the Society will retain (we turn it around in the display case if we don't win that season) To be played pm on Sat 13th October 2007 possibly at Bidston Golf course,

4) **SAZ Trophy**

The winner of the Summer Season Knockout Tournament. The Draw has been made and is as per the attached. The rounds have to be played by the latest date given, though can be played any time before hand as agreed between each pair of opponents. Matches played on your un-nobled Society Handicap.

5) **Summer Pairs Trophy**

Each Pairs eclectic round, consisting of the lowest score for each hole achieved by the Pair over all of the Summer Season Society Days, is applied to the Hoylake course at the end of the season, using the end of season playing Handicaps for the players. The highest Stapleford Pairs score win the trophy. (A bit random on the grounds that not actually played on Hoylake course, and pair can play sh!!e with just a few good holes over the season and still win – but this goes for us all)

6) **Best Golfer**

A measure of performance over the whole season. Average of best 5 Net scores over summer season based on non hobbled handicap. Then deduct one shot for each 'Nearest The Pin' and 'Longest Drive' Trophy won. Winner is the person with the best Net Score averaged over the whole season. To qualify, a player must have taken part in at least 5 matches over the 7 match Summer Season, and be able to play golf (which rules out most of the Society I hear some one mutter from the back).

7) **Players Player**

This would be voted on at the end of the last Society Day by all Society members by secret ballot, (so start buying those innocent rounds at the bar to drum up support for your good self).

8) **Most Improved Player.**

The winner to be decided by the Captain and the Vice Captain. (a bit difficult to fix this one, so must go to some one who really deserves it)

9) **Rob Hitchmough Memorial Trophy**

To be played for on the Society day at Hawkstone Park, 29th September 2007.

So there you have it, plenty of opportunities for you to clap other members enthusiastically at the Summer Season Awards Evening as they collect those awards that you only just missed out on.

Society Summer Handicaps

As agreed at some Committee meeting a while ago we have all been playing the Winter Season off Winter handicaps that have remained as assigned at the start of the season. However, all good things must come to an end, and at the end of the Winter season they have been reviewed in light of each individual's performance over the previous seasons matches, and the intention is to assign new Handicaps for the Summer season. In light of this new announcement 'Club with No Balls' had no bright ideas on how to play over the rest of the Winter Season (ops' too late anyway) to ensure the best tactical handicap is achieved, however he would predict that there is likely to be a lot of fun / arguing / heated discussions over several pints when the new handicaps are announced. The Handicap Committee is due to sit soon, and as this consists of a number of Upright (most of the time) Honest (goes without saying) members of the Society any bribery friendly gestures (e.g. an expensive round of drinks) may be appreciated whilst they deliberate over your handicap movement.



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.

People You May Meet on a Golf Course

Amateur;- a golfer who is happy if, after paying £55 for green fees, £20 for buggie rental, £25 in the Pro-Shop and £10 at the HalfWay Snack Wagon, he ends up winning a £5 place prize.

Professional;- a golfer who believes that if you are going to have a miserable time on the Golf Course that you might as well get paid for it.

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

Foursome;- four golfers playing a round together.

Threesome;- three golfers playing around together

Two-some;- two golfers playing around with each other

One-some;- a sad old git playing around with themselves

Gruesome;- four golfers playing around slowly

Quarrelsome;- husband and wife playing around together

Meddlesome;- a group of golfers who give advice whilst watching another group tee off

Loathsome;- a couple of young golfers playing a fast sub-par round

or you may meet off the Golf Course

Golf Widow;- non playing wife of a golfer. Just for the record, judges have consistently ruled that although golf is a form of “mental cruelty” it is not grounds for divorce since the sufferings are experienced exclusively by the player and not by the one abandoned as the result of such play.

The Monthly Golfing Joke's

Holy golf

Moses, Jesus, and some old man were playing golf, par three, with the green on the other side of a water trap. Moses goes first. Chips it up and it lands ten feet in from the green. He curses as the ball sinks to the bottom. Walking up to the water hole, he spreads his arms wide, the water parts, and he hits the ball onto the green. Moses then steps up onto the green, and the water returns downward.

Jesus is next. He chips the ball up and it lands on the green, but rolls into the water. He doesn't curse out loud, but he thinks it! He walks up to the water hole and carefully begins to walk on the water until he reaches his ball, reaches in and throws it onto the green.

Finally it was the old man's turn. He chips it up and it lands right in the middle of water trap. Just as the ball begins to sink, a frog swims over and eats it. Then a fish swims over and eats the frog. It swims to the top of the hole and a hawk dives out of the sky and picks up the fish in its talons.

As the hawk flies away, a lightning bolt comes out of the sky and hits the hawk, causing it to explode, with the ball dropping right in the hole. Jesus turns to the old man and says, "Nice shot, Dave!" to which Dave replies “Local Knowledge”.

The Golf Academy – An Ongoing Teach-in – Avoiding Slow Play

There are many ways in which Golf should be played to enable all Players who go out onto a course on any given day the opportunity to get round before it goes too dark to see their sliced drives or hooked approach shots. The following R&A Rules should be observed;-

Section 1 – Etiquette; Behaviour on the Course (ok, these are only guide lines but keep them in mind)

Pace of Play

Play at Good Pace and Keep Up;-

Players should play at a good pace.

It is a group's responsibility to keep up with the Group in front (and not just ahead of the Group behind).

If it loses a hole and is delaying the group behind, it should invite the group behind to play through, irrespective of the number of players in that Group. Note the requirement to invite through; this invite is usually preceded by a few balls from the group behind whistling past your ears with friendly hand gestures etc as the impatient b!!!!s behind you remind you of this guideline.

Be ready to Play

Players should be ready to play as soon as it is their turn to play. (this includes not standing around pouring out cups of oxo whilst commenting on the pepper content and offering around pork pies).

When playing on or near the putting green they should leave their bags or carts (or buggy if your really rich) *in such a position as will enable quick movement off the green and towards the next tee.* (its also a good idea to put the brake on your buggy, so as to not waste time chasing it to stop it rolling backwards into the nearest water or sand hazard)

When the play of a hole has been completed, players should immediately leave the putting green. And not hang about marking their card whilst trying to reconcile their score for that hole by replaying and counting each shot in their head.

Lost Ball

If a player believes his ball may be lost outside a water hazard or is out of bounds, to save time, he should play a provisional ball. Contrary to popular belief, golf balls are not psychic and do not communicate with each other. If you hit a provisional ball then your first ball will not automatically roll out of sight, bury itself, or roll over the out of bounds line in disgust at your lack of trust in your ability to find it. If the first ball is out or lost, its out or lost, if its findable or in –its findable or in, irrespective of what you do with another ball; therefore take a Provisional Ball, you can always pick it up when you find your first one.

Players searching for a ball should signal the players in the group behind them to play through as soon as it becomes apparent that the ball will not be easily found. This does not include 1 millisecond after you've hit the ball, at least wait until you get to somewhere where you believe the ball to be. *They should not search for 5 minutes before doing so.* That's 5 mins 'British Summer Time', not 5 mins 'I'm going to find this ball whatever it takes' time.

Having allowed the group behind to play through, they should not continue play until that group has passed and is out of range. Ie, if you suddenly find your ball you can't muscle your way in front again, for a start you have to be invited through, and no amount of sending balls whistling past the ears of the group in front will encourage them in any way, shape or form to invite you though. If it didn't work for them with you, it won't work for you with them.

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

Rule(s) of the Month - Avoiding Slow Play

There are actually Rules of Golf to ensure quickish play, but to be fair there's not many of them

Section II (Lost ball);-A ball is deemed lost if it is not found or identified Within 5 minutes after having begun to search for it. That's 5 mins 'British Summer Time', not 5 mins 'I'm going to find this ball whatever it takes' time. Yes, I know this is a repeat but its amazing how many people don't know which 5 mins to use as a reference.

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 your not sure then apply Rule 27.2(a) for Gods sake.

Rule 27.2(a);- 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 Egg Run

What does it take to get an avid golfer to miss out on their Sunday morning game – the question asked by golfing widows for many a year. Well now we have the answer, the opportunity to dress up as a chicken.

Quote from the newspaper;- *It was the biggest Wirral Egg Run yet - with more than 8,000 bikers eggcelling themselves in an eggstraordinary display. There were bikes of all ages, shapes and sizes driven by people dressed as chickens, rabbits or the rather more traditional leathers in the 25th annual Wirral Egg Run. The bikers set off at 11am, taking over an hour to leave the New Brighton sea front due to the amount of people taking part. Before setting off on the run Debbie Green, Jellybean appeal's fundraising manager, said: "It's great that the event is legal this year and the turnout was fantastic. When I looked on the website on Saturday night, around 5,000 people had*



Is this our Treasurer in his true vocation.

signed up, so to see that figure exceeded was fantastic. "I'd like to thank everyone involved. There's a real community feel to this event which, I'm sure, will help to raise a lot of money for Jellybean. Thanks to everyone who took part."

We can report that at least three of our Members decided to take the day off Golf (very painful) and do their bit for charity instead, taking part with much enthusiasm on recently well serviced bike. Neil (Captain – leading from the front), Peter (Treasurer – egg carrier) and Carl (mechanic) spent the morning moving slowly across North Wirral whilst gunning their engines at every opportunity, with flurry of horns as well when passing the Gold Course in an attempt to put less charitable members off their game of golf.

Anyway, a good day was had by all, **well done** lads for taking the time out for Charity.

Next Society Day Out

The next Society match, the First of the Summer Season, is at Hurlston 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.

This should be followed by the Societies Scottish weekend away which surprisingly enough is a weekend in Scotland playing golf. This is provisionally booked for the 2nd and 3rd June, but to be confirmed.

PS;- Actually the Old Man in the Joke was really God, but he seemed an ideal replacement.

The Draw for the Summer Knockout is given below, the matches are to be played by the end of May on a date to be agreed between the individual players.

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| | | | |
|---------|-------------------------|--|--|
| | 1st Round | | |
| Play By | End of May | | |
| | M.Jones v G.Almond | | |
| | A.Harvey v D.Worron | | |
| | P.Conner v M.Belliss | | |
| | S.Galt v S.Lawton | | |
| | S.Crawford v T.Rogers | | |
| | D.O'Rorke v R.Vaughan | | |
| | A.Bennett v C.Hayhurst | | |
| | N.McNay v G.Butterworth | | |
| | I.Twining v I.Taylor | | |
| | Bye v D.Evans | | |
| | N.Hall v S.Dickinson | | |
| | G.Coupe v T.Anderson | | |
| | Bye v G.Cooper | | |
| | J.Arathoon v P.McNay | | |
| | P.Smythe v S.Hudson | | |
| | G.Evans v A.Harding | | |