

# *The Moreton Grange Golf Society*

## **Newsletter - May 2007**

Welcome to the May issue of the Newsletter.

### **Society Match Day**

The first official Society Day of the Summer 2007 Season saw 22 members of the Society travel out again towards the North West of the North West Area to the Hurlston (note Peter that's Hurlston not Huriston) Hall (note Peter that's Hall not Park) course near Ormskirk on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2007. It must be something about the courses East of the Mersey but they can be tricky to find. Our Vice Captain Buck Rogers decided to travel with Ex Captain Me-Me Hall and what a pair they made. Why they needed to take the scenic route via Preston is beyond most people, but at least it made for a nice trip out in the motor as well as a good round of golf.

We were honoured with our very own Starter, however unfortunately he was straight out of C&A and as such had high dress codes. Faded short socks were strictly taboo, as Gordon found when instructed to remove or cover his short socks. As these were the only ones he had he had also to remove his shorts, and replace them with long trousers.

Hurlston was a very nice, if not challenging, course with plenty of water around, requiring 'thinking & place the ball' golf rather than 'hit it hard and hope for the best' golf. Unfortunately for some of us the latter is the only type of golf we know.



This being the Summer Season we have restarted the Stapleford Competition format again, and it was quite close at the top. Both Graham Almond and Graham Coupe returned to the clubhouse with 36 points, with Graham 'A' winning on a count back. New member James Arathoon was a very close 3<sup>rd</sup> with 35 points, and 4 other members had 30 points or more. Needless

to say the Societies run of luck with cameras continued, with Nigel 'David Bailey he's not' Hall being left in charge of Tom's camera, unfortunately the many shots that were taken of the winners collecting trophies and the like have somehow got lost within the camera, so yet again 'see left for the photo. Peter was heard to mutter later on, at least we know where my pictures are, even if we can't get them out.



The winner of the gleaming trophy is now presently trying to explain to his dearly beloved what he was doing at Huriston Park when all his mates that he was supposedly spending the Day with were at Hurlston Hall.

Other results from the Day were;-

The Longest Drive was driven by Steve Crayford, and  
The nearest Nearest-the-Pin ball was positioned by Carl Hayhurst.

## 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](mailto:alan.bennett@edmund-nuttall.co.uk)

## Partners for the Summer Season

With the first match of the Summer season came the first outing for the new Pairs. For those players who chose their Partner it was a chance to see if they'd made the right choice; for those players who had had their partner thrust upon them (so as to speak) it was a chance to see whether they should bother turning up for the rest of the season.

Whilst of course it is very early in the Season to speculate as to the eventual winners, and even then the result is based on the end of season handicaps, after the first match the pairings of Ian Taylor / Graham Almond and Neil McNay / Carl Hayhurst are top with 39 points, with James Arathoon / Steve Dickinson a close second with 38 points, and last years winners Graham 'Slash Him' Coupe / Gary 'Nice to see you Back' Cooper sitting comfortably in third place with 37 points.

## Summer KnockOut

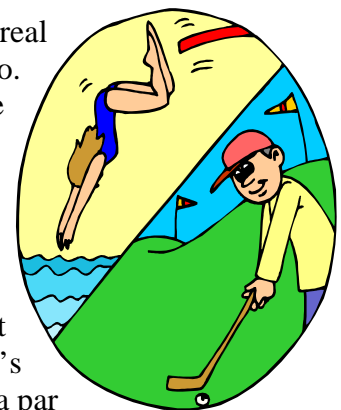
Many members took advantage of the day to play their Knockout matches, with 7 matches being played. By and large were all very close run things, and the winners now have a rest bite, not having to complete the next round until the end of June. The results of the matches are as per the attached sheet, and it should be noted that the remaining matches are to be played by the end of May 2007.

The Society works on the basis that you should play your match if at all possible, and as such it is hoped that all members will make an effort to contact their opponent and play a match some time before the deadline. If you've never heard of your opponent then a bye looks likely, however contact any of the Committee members who may have a number for them etc.

## Computer Golf

One of our members (no, we won't mention his name Julie) has decided that real golf is still too much of a challenge, and that virtual golf is the way to go. Having installed the state of the art system in his front room, he then made the mistake of inviting all in sundry round before he'd mastered the art of the game (come to think of it, if we had to wait until then we'd probably never go round again).

Unfortunately the ever lasting memory of being 15 off the tee and still hitting the ball into the water will stay with some for ever. Then to add insult to misery, the other female golfer of the family (we all remember Julie's prowess on the Kings & Queens day, wandered in, took the controls, and got a par straight off on the same hole. Golf obviously runs in the genes in that family, therefore the Master of the House probably better start getting in touch with his feminine side and it will all come together.



Don't worry dad, I'll get your ball back.

## Society Summer Handicaps

As noted last month the Handicap Committee sat and decided your fate for the coming season. After long deliberation and review of individuals performance over the Winter Season some numbers were picked out of a hat and assigned to names. Surprisingly enough this resulted in most of the right numbers being assigned to most of the right people. However, in the unlikely event that you believe that you have been assigned some one else's handicap then you know what to do;-



- a) Approach the Handicap Secretary, adopting a non confrontational stance,
- b) Mutter (quite loudly) that your not happy with your handicap,
- c) Stand patiently whilst you are ignored,
- d) Mutter (more loudly) that your not happy with your handicap,
- e) Cover your ears to avoid learning new swear words,
- f) Retire back to the bar muttering 'That was a waste of time'.

Seriously though, the Handicap's have been decided upon using sound long established golfing methods, ~~(a group of aged golfers sat round a few pints picking numbers out of the air)~~ and will be reviewed on a monthly basis depending upon your performance at each Society Day.

It's fair to say that the system does at the moment appear to be working, in that the leaders of last Sundays Society Day actually played only just below their Society Handicap, and the nobbling brought them back to exactly what they played. Nearly all of those chanting 'slash them, slash them' played above (and in some cases well above) their Handicap's, which probably lead to the result we got.

## Nobbling

In an effort to increase the number of Players winning something this season the Nobbling System has been retained. The basic principles are

- 1) if you win a Society Day (on Stapleford) your Handicap gets Nobbled (ie reduced) by 2 points,
- 2) if you come second its gets Nobbled by 1 point.
- 3) You get the points back one at a time if you don't come first or second on the next Society Day.

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## 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.

Now we all think we know our way around a Golf course, but do we. There follows a few guidelines for those who are a bit uncertain.

**Golf Course;-** a place where people who are cooped up in the office all week go to get a chance to lie and cheat outdoors.

**Front Nine;**- the first half of an 18 hole golf course. A golfer who, by the end of the 9<sup>th</sup> hole, has shot within a few strokes of par for 18 is entitled to skip the second half of the course and head directly for the 19<sup>th</sup> hole.

**Back Nine;**- the second nine holes of an 18 hole golf course, a name derived from the fact that by the time you get there, your back aches, your slice is back, play is backed up, and your opponent is about to win all their money back.

**Rough;**- unmown, naturally wild area bordering the fairway, and sometime separating the fairway from the tee. There are three basic types of rough;- low rough, a narrow strip of 6" high grass where the ball may be easily playable, high or deep rough, where the ball may be lost and, even if found, may be obstructed or otherwise unplayable, and US Open rough, where the ball may be eaten or stolen and used as an object of worship by primitive people.

**Water Hazard;**- any boggle ub waddub border burbled byb reb orb yellob markglubs stakebles fromble whidg idg uz legalble, bub ofteb inadvisabubble, tub tryb tub higgie thub ballablub

**Pro Shop;**- the only place on a golf course where players fervently hope they won't end up breaking a hundred.

**Practice Tee;**- mysterious place found on most golf courses where for some reason players who are incapable of hitting 97 shots in under 5 hours can easily hit 100 balls in less than 5 minutes, and usually far more accurately.

**Out of Bounds;**- beyond the boundary markers. A shot hit O.B. may not be played, but exceptions are often made for a ball that ends up J.A.L.O.B. (just a little out of bounds), or I.T.O.W.Y.C.K.I.B. (in the open where you can kick it back in bounds) or W.O.B.I. S.B.Y.B.I.L.L.N.O.H. (way out of bounds in someone's back yard, but it looks like no ones home)

**Bunker;**- a hazard consisting of an area of ground along a fairway or adjacent to a green from which the soil has been removed and replaced with something designed to trap golfers. If such a hazard occupies more than 2,000 square feet and traps golfers permanently it is referred to as a Condominium.

## The Monthly Golfing Joke's

### Amazing golf ball

Two friends went out to play golf and were about to tee off, when one fellow noticed that his partner had but one golf ball. "Don't you have at least one other golf ball?" he asked. The other guy replied that no, he only needed the one.

"Are you sure?" the friend persisted. "What happens if you lose that ball?" The other guy replied, "This is a very special golf ball. I won't lose it so I don't need another one."

"Well," the friend asked, "what happens if you miss your shot and the ball goes in the lake?" "That's okay," he replied, "This special golf ball floats. I'll be able to retrieve it."

"Well what happens if you hit it into the trees and it gets lost among the bushes and shrubs?" The other guy replied, "That's okay too. You see, this special golf ball has a homing beacon. I'll be able to get it back - no problem."

Exasperated, the friend asks, "Okay. Let's say our game goes late, the sun goes down, and you hit your ball into a sand trap. What are you going to do then?" "No problem." says the other guy, "You see, this ball is florescent. I'll be able to see it in the dark."

Finally satisfied that he needs only the one golf ball, the friend asks, "Hey, where did you get a golf ball like that anyway?" The other guy replies, "I found it."

## The Golf Academy - An Ongoing Teach-in - The Laws of Golf

- LAW 1: No matter how bad your last shot was, the worst is yet to come. This law does not expire on the 18th hole, since it has the supernatural tendency to extend over the course of a tournament, a summer and, eventually, a lifetime.
- LAW 2: Your best round of golf will be followed almost immediately by your worst round ever. The probability of the latter increases with the number of people you tell about the former.
- LAW 3: Brand new golf balls are water-magnetic. Though this cannot be proven in the lab, it is a known fact that the more expensive the golf ball, the greater its attraction to water.
- LAW 4: Golf balls never bounce off of trees back into play. If one does, the tree is breaking a law of the universe and should be cut down.
- LAW 5: No matter what causes a golfer to muff a shot, all his playing partners must solemnly chant "You looked up," or invoke the wrath of the universe.
- LAW 6: The higher a golfer's handicap, the more qualified he deems himself as an instructor.
- LAW 7: Every par-three hole in the world has a secret desire to humiliate golfers. The shorter the hole, the greater its desire.
- LAW 8: Topping a 3-iron is the most painful torture known to man.
- LAW 9: Palm trees eat golf balls.
- LAW 10: Sand is alive. If it isn't, how do you explain the way it works against you?
- LAW 11: Golf carts always run out of juice at the farthest point from the clubhouse.
- LAW 12: A golfer hitting into your group will always be bigger than anyone in your group. Likewise, a group you accidentally hit into will consist of a football player, a professional wrestler, a convicted murderer and an IRS agent -- or some similar combination.
- LAW 13: All 3-woods are demon-possessed.
- LAW 14: Golf balls from the same "sleeve" tend to follow one another, particularly out of bounds or into the water (see Law 3).
- LAW 15: A severe slice is a thing of awesome power and beauty.

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

### Rule(s) of the Month - Playing The Wrong Ball

Nowadays it appears that every supplier makes balls with different characteristics, ie ones that 'Go Dead Straight' or 'Spin like a Top' or 'Soft Feel' or 'Hard Feel' or 'Doesn't like water' or 'Avoids bunkers' or 'likes small dark holes' etc etc. It would therefore seem sensible, and more beneficial to your game, to be able to use the most suitable ball at different stages of your game. Unfortunately the Masters Upon High have put the kibosh on that, in that the general principle is covered by

*Rule 15-1;- A player must hole out with the ball played from the teeing ground unless the ball is lost, out of bounds, or the player substitutes another ball.*

Now this on its own would prove a mighty challenge to those of us who like to lose our balls at regular intervals around the course, so there are rules under which we can substitute a replacement ball, though I would imagine that this is only if you've lost the original one, or are playing a Provisional Ball which subsequently becomes the Ball in play, ie under a penalty of a stroke.

So, we've decided which of our own balls to play with, but there are usually 3 other golfers playing with us, and any number of discarded balls lying about the course, so you need to take care to always play your ball. Don't just stroll up the fairway, spot a white ball well positioned on the best approach to the

green and hit it – make sure its yours. Needless to say there are rules governing how to identify your ball (they think of every thing don't they)

*Rule 12.2;- The responsibility for playing the proper ball rests with the player* (ie don't listen to the voices, check for yourself). *Each player should put an identification mark on his ball* (marker pens at the ready).

So now you've marked your ball, hit it, and are now looking for it further down the course. Needless to say there are rules governing how far you can go in looking for a ball.

*Rule 12-1;- In searching for the ball, anywhere on the course, the player may touch or bend long grass, rushes, bushes or the like, but only to the extent necessary to find and identify it, provided that this does not improve the lie of the ball, the area of his intended stance or swing or his line of play.* Ie you can't go trampling down all the long grass so your ball is more likely to get out. *A player is not necessarily entitled to see his ball when making a stroke.*

In a hazard you can unearth the ball etc to identify it, but must rebury it afterwards so that the lie is exactly the same as it was. There is no penalty providing the above is complied with.

So now you've found a ball on the course which you believe to be yours. You *may lift the ball without penalty to identify it*, but only if you let your opponent know you are going to do it first. *The ball must not be cleaned beyond the extent necessary for identification*, and the ball must be replaced where you found it, and in the same condition as you found it. You cannot lift the ball to identify it if it is in a hazard *(so how do you know its yours)*

Now if, despite all of the above, you do play the wrong ball then the penalties are as follows;-

*Rule 15.3 (a) Match Play;- If a player makes a stroke at the wrong ball that is not in a hazard, he loses the hole. There is no penalty if a player makes a stroke at a wrong ball in a hazard* (ah, that's explains the above) . If both players play the wrong ball, ie each others, then the first to make a stroke at the wrong ball loses the holes (so long as the ball was not in the hazard.)

*Rule 15.3(b) Stroke Play;- If a player makes a stroke at the wrong ball that is not in a hazard, he incurs a penalty of two strokes. There is no penalty if a player makes a stroke at a wrong ball in a hazard.* You can play out the hole with the wrong ball, ie you don't notice it, but if you don't notice it before starting the next hole then you are disqualified.

To summarise,

- 1) Don't just assume the ball your about to hit is yours, check first,
- 2) You mustn't improve your lie or playing area when looking for your ball.
- 3) Do not pick the ball up to check before letting your fellow team mates know your going to do it,
- 4) You cannot pick a ball up when its in a Hazard
- 5) You must replace, and / or re-cover, the ball as you found it, after identifying it.
- 6) Don't assume your fellow team mates have played their balls so the one left is yours, check first.

## Next Society Day Out

The next Society match, the Second of the Summer Season, is at Prior Hayes Golf Course on the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2007, 1140 tee off, arrive 1040 for bacon butties etc, back to the Stapleford Competition format.

The following Society match, the Third of the Summer Season, is at High Legh Park Golf Course, Knutsford, on the 24<sup>th</sup> June 2007 times t.b.a. bacon butties, meal included, £42 all in, Stapleford Competition format.