



The Moreton Grange Golf Society

Newsletter - August 2007

Welcome to the August issue of the Newsletter.

Society Match Day

The fourth Society Day of the Summer 2007 Season saw 22 members of the Society travel way down south to the Hawkstone Park course near, well near to the Equator it seemed. The Society have not visited this particular course before, but it proved to be well worth the trip. The weather was great, though the early start did mean that the course was slightly damp, however once the sun came out it dried out beautifully.

A very scenic course, with a few surprises round the corners and over the hills. The 4th hole was a classic, a reasonable drive left you with a reasonable second shot for a chip on, though if you were short your ball disappeared 15' down into the ravine which you couldn't see was there. Needless to say the small guy with the motorised mouth chipped up and up and up and out from a bad lie to within a few feet of the pin.

The back nine was particularly hilly, with most holes being blind, leaving your good drives etc at the mercy of finding the ball once you'd trekked over the hills.



As you are all aware the competition on the day was held for the Bob Hitchmough Trophy, donated by one of his friends.

The Days overall winner was Ian 'Call that a Handicap' Taylor on a grand total of 40 points, not too closely followed by Nigel Hall on 34 points and Ralph Vaughan on 33 points.

Other results from the Day were;-

The Longest Drive was driven by
Graham 'Rule 19'd' Coupe
and

The nearest Nearest-the-Pin ball was positioned yet again by Steve 'Mr Accuracy' Crayford

The best Front nine score was won by Steve Crayford, and the best back Nine by Ralph Vaughan. The Random Card Draw was won by Neil McNay, probably something to do with the card being picked by a waiter rather than the Waitress with the big boobies.

Summers Pairs Competition.



Now over half way through the season the positioning has not completely changed. Heading the list continue to be Andy Harvey / Steve Crayford and Alan Bennett / Dave Evans, now with 61 points, closely followed by Pete Conner / Peter McNay in second with 57 points. Last years winners Graham Coupe / Gary Cooper are sitting comfortably in third place with 55 points, along with Ian Taylor / Graham Almond. The partnerships of Ralph Vaughan / Peter Smythe and Neil McNay / Carl Hayhurst and James Arathoon / Steve Dickinson drop to 4th, but with 54 points they are still in close contention.

With only three matches to go all players should continue to go for those those low scores, remember just a few good holes can make all the difference. And if you feel your Partner could put in that little bit extra (like actually turning up) then now is the time to tell them.

Society Web Site

In keeping with the society tradition of being at the cutting edge of technology we now have a web site of our very own. By accessing this you can view results of matches, progress of Knockout Competitions, etc and more importantly leave messages (bulletins)for other Society members to view. To date the uptake of use has been limited (is there anyone else out there apart from Ian and Tom) but hopefully this will grow. The site is a bit limited in its use, however it should hopefully form a springboard for future developments.

To access the web site please go to the following address

<http://www.societygolfing.co.uk>

the Log In is [moretongrange](#)

and the password is [trembling](#)

Give it a try, and leave a message

Summer KnockOut

This month saw all the Quarter Final matches played on the Society Day, and the tradition of close results was continued, apart from the Ian Taylor / Graham Coupe match where the Rule 19'ing of Graham was too much to overcome on the day.

To summarise, the Quarter Finals results were as follows:-

Pete Conner beat Graham Almond 2 & 1

Alan Bennett beat Ralph Vaughan 1 & 0

Ian Taylor beat Graham Coupe 4 & 3

Peter Smythe beat Peter McNay 1 & 0

The semi finals, which are due to be played at the next Society match at Denbigh Golf Course or other venue/date by mutual arrangement, consist of

Pete Conner v Alan Bennett and Peter Smythe v Ian Taylor.

Society Summer Handicaps

The talk of the month has been that we actually now have a true Handicapped Handicap Secretary dealing with the handicaps. Following a shuffling for position around a table of that other sport played with horizontal clubs and numbered balls (pool) Dave O'Rorke came up against a fellow golfer. Unfortunately given the relative size and weight of the two gentlemen in question, (nothing to do of course with the relative state of alcohol levels in the body), Dave came off worst and busted his collar bone. Witness statements regarding the actual events are a bit thin on the ground; needless to say Gordon 'GBH' Evans has not been since.

Since then Dave has paraded around with his arm in a sling, hoping to solicit loads of sympathy from fellow drinkers, however despite encouragement to continue playing golf left handed, and thus actually have a chance of playing at his assigned handicap, he has declined.

The opportunity has been taken during the month to Rule 19 a Society member, with Graham Coupe being the ~~unfortunate victim~~ member to have his handicap ~~altered for no particular reason~~ reduced to reflect his playing ability. Whether this is the start of the silly season, we will have to wait and see.

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. This month, several terms to be found around the green of each hole;-

Green;- roughly circular expanse of tightly mown and smoothly rolled grass that is approximately three putts wide and four putts long.

Reading the green;- putting surfaces are seldom level, and golfers must study them closely to learn which way they break. Even the friendliest looking green will have some tricks up its sleeve, and many are downright sneaky. Thus, the message from any given green can range from "aim three balls outside the left edge" to "You'll be lucky to get down in four, and those are the ugliest pants that I've ever seen".

Chip & Run;- a low approach shot in which a ball is hit in the air about one-third of the way to the pin and then permitted to roll the remaining twelve-thirds of the distance to the hole.

Chip shot- a delicate run-upshot with a flat trajectory that gets a player into position for one or more missed putts.

Dying putt;- a putt that did not sink but came to rest right at the hole, as opposed to a putt that ran way by and still has a long and challenging life ahead of it full of many hard knocks and ups and downs.

Cup;-the metal or plastic cylinder fitted into the hole in the green. Strictly speaking it is only the liner of the hole, but in everyday usage players will often say "cup" when they mean "hole", much as they frequently say "just in bounds" when they mean "out of bounds", "oh here it is" when they mean "I can't find it", and "five" when they mean "seven".

Flagstick;- long, flexible metal pole with striped markings along its length and a numbered flag at its top which would have marked the position of the hole if the previous playing group hadn't left it lying on the green.

Gimme;- a putt so short there's no way you would have missed the damn thing if the stingy S.O.B. you're playing with had been enough of a sportsman to concede it.

The Monthly Golfing Joke's

These are from a book called Discussions On a Golf Course, and are things people actually said word for word, taken down and now published by Club With No Balls - who had the torment of staying calm and not laughing while these exchanges were actually taking place. Some of these are excellent –

>> Q: Are you sexually active?

>> A: No, I just lie there.

>>

>> Q: What is your date of birth?

>> A: July 15th.

>> Q: What year?

>> A: Every year.

>>

>> Q: What gear were you in at the moment of the vehicle impact?

>> A: Gucci sweats and Reeboks.

>>

>> Q: This myasthenia gravis, does it affect your memory at all?

>> A: Yes.

>> Q: And in what ways does it affect your memory?

>> A: I forget.

>>Q: You forget. Can you give us an example of something that you've forgotten?

>>

>> Q: How old is your son, the one living with you?

>> A: Thirty-eight or thirty-five, I can't remember which.

>> Q: How long has he lived with you?

>> A: Forty-five years.

>>

In the following joke the names have been changed to protect the guilty

>> Q: What was the first thing your husband said to you when he woke up that morning?

>> A: He said, "Where am I, Patsy?"

>> Q: And why did that upset you?

>> A: My name is Rose.

>>

>> Q: Do you know if your daughter has ever been involved in voodoo or the occult?

>> A: We both do.

>> Q: Voodoo?

>> A: We do.

>> Q: You do?

>> A: Yes, voodoo.

The Golf Academy - An Ongoing Teach-in - Getting Your Score Right.

We've all done it, we've had a decent round, made a par, not been '3 off the tee' at all and thus retired to the 19th hole reasonably sure that we'll do well in the competition for that day. Then a couple of pints later we're sitting there, hearing that so-and-so has won / come second or third etc with a score which we are sure was remarkably similar to ours. We then take our opportunity later on to dispute the score recorded for us, only to be shown the summary sheet showing a different score to what you believe you got. Even worse, your fellow member (the great big one with the short fuse whose card you marked) comes up growling that you got their score wrong, and have cost them the match etc. **How does this happen ?**

When you set off at the first hole you should swap score cards with a fellow player. You then proceed around the course marking their card with their score, and you don't see your card again, **with your score marked on it**, till the end.

First point;- **your score is taken as the score marked on your card by some one else, not the score you've marked down on the side of the card your marking.**

Second point; **your fellow competitors score is taken as being what you give them, and not what they write down on the side of your card – and as they are bigger and more agitateable than you you better get it right.**

How to prevent ?

Easy. When you set off assume that every one with a score card and pencil in their hand (including yourself) has the mathematical ability of a backward 1 year old with dyslexia. And what would you do if this situation arose (apart from wondering why they were going round the course in 20 shots less than you) – you'd check their arithmetic. This can be easily done by:-

- a) after each hole agreeing what score you each got on that hole
- b) writing the score down straight away, before you tee off on the next hole (but not when your still stood on the green obviously)
- c) after the first 9 holes (known in the trade as the Front Nine or 'why do I put myself thru this misery every week holes') add yours and your competitors score up, agree it, and then record it on the card.
- d) after the second 9 holes (known in the trade as the Back Nine or 'why oh why do I put myself thru this misery every week holes') add yours and your competitors score up, agree it, and then record it on the card.
- e) Add the Front Nine and Back Nine scores together, agree the overall total, and then write them on the cards. **(This is particularly useful as we use it as a check that the individual scores have been entered correctly onto the computer)**
- f) Then, and only then, sign both cards as marker and Player respectively.



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

Rule(s) of the Month - Marking Your Card

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Following on from the above it would be useful to remind ourselves exactly where we stand when handing our cards in for assessment.

Stroke Play;-

Rule 6-6(a);- After each hole the marker shall check the score with the competitor and record it. On completion of the round the marker must sign the score card and hand it to the competitor. Remember at this stage the score on your card may not be right – just because you verbally agreed the score doesn't mean it was written down right.

Rule 6.6(b);- After completion of the round the competitor should check his score for each hole and settle any doubtful points with the committee (in practice this is with the marker). He must ensure that the marker has signed the score card, sign the score card himself, and return it to the Committee (ie the shortish going bald guy with the laptop) as soon as possible.

*Penalty for breach of Rule 6.6(b) – **Disqualification** and the waste of the best round of your life.*

Rule 6.6(c);- no alteration may be made on a score card after the competitor has returned it to the Committee. Ie once its gone its gone, so check it first.

Rule 6.6(d);- The competitor is responsible for the correctness of the score recorded for each hole on his score card. If he returns a score for any hole lower than actually taken he is disqualified. If he returns a score for any hole higher than actually taken, the score as returned stands. Though how the Committee would find this out is debatable – ie always play with people you trust, and who won't grass you up.

Note1;- the Committee is responsible for the addition of the scores and application of the handicap recorded on the score card – ie you tell the Committee what you got on each hole, they work out your Nett score.

Stapleford Play

Can't find any specific rules but common sense tells you the above applies, apart from -

Rule 33.5;- In Stapleford competitions the Committee is responsible for applying the handicap recorded on the score card and determining the result of each hole, and the overall result or points total.

Basically if you agree your scores as you go, and add them up at the end of the round, and then sign the card, there should be no problems.

Next Society Day Out

The next Society match, the Fifth of the Summer Season, is at is at Denbeigh Golf Course, on the 19th August 2007, 1030 tee off, arrive 0930 for bacon butties, meal included, £48 all in, Stapleford Competition format

The following Society match, the Sixth of the Summer Season, is at Northrop Golf Course, on the 30th September 2007, 1100 tee off, arrive 1000 for bacon butties, meal included, £50 all in, Stapleford Competition format for the Charter Cup