



# The Moreton Grange Golf Society

Newsletter - April 2008

Welcome to the April issue of the Newsletter. Due to problems with the printing press and other commitments the Newsletter has not been monthly, however given that a lot of the information is available on the website I guess its no great loss.

## February Society Match Day

The second Society Day of 2008 saw 16 members return travel to the windy coast of North Wales, this time returning to Prestatyn Golf Club. Needless to say the weather was a repeat of last years visit, The day started off as usual for Wales - pissing down and bloody freezing. However to be fair, after about 7 holes it stopped raining, the wind dropped to an acceptable 60mph and people started to enjoy the scenery – which is a shame really as they should have been concentrating on their golf instead.



Dave Iron Lung found the going tough and parted his 4 ball on about the 14th retiring to the warmth of the clubhouse and the liquids corner – some people have no stamina.



Pete Smythe, although hindered by a severe hang over and no glasses ( being led around the course on string attached to Ralph's trolley) turned in a respectable 32 points. The wind also dropped enough for Andy Langlely to pull off a television shot on the 17th after his drive ended up outside the course on a local residents grass verge, he took his lob wedge to return to the course with all the other players.

As he had to work Sunday night our Captain was elected to drive the wounded back to the local watering hole to partake in gossip Pool and some chip butty's kindly supplied by our friendly Landlady and Society President. I guess by this that if he wasn't working the Captain would have got pissed at Prestatyn and every one would have had to catch the train home.



The Format for the Day was a Ryder Cup competition, with Teams carefully selected by the order they drove through the gate. After all the golfers had returned to the club house and been accounted for, the results for Prestatyn are as follows.

Winning team, captained by Mr Steve Crayford	8
Runners up team, captained by Mr Ian Taylor's	8

Won on the last pair playing the 18<sup>th</sup>, I guess by a count back.

Other results for the Day

Lowest (I think you mean highest Tom) Staple ford score James Arathoon 36 points ( 24 of these scored on the front 9 ? )

Runners up Graham Almond (34) and Peter Smythe (33)

The Longest Drive was driven by Steve Crayford, and  
The nearest Nearest-the-Pin ball was positioned by James Arathoon  
Random Card draw Carl Hayhurst

Two's not won £32 carried over to Clay's in March.

Actually it seems we liked the course and club house so much that we left quite a big tip to the employees, strangely enough to the sum of £32.

## March Society Match Day

The last Society Day of the Winter 2007 / 2008 season saw 16 members return travel to inland Wales to the pleasant courses at Clays Golf Club. Surprisingly all members managed to get to the same course, last time having been spread over three separate courses – thanks goodness for the wonders of Sat Nav and post codes.

The course conditions on the 9 hole par 3 course reflected the recent weather, with wellies really being the order of the day. Despite being a 'upper the hill, downer the hill' course the conditions under foot were very wet, and caused a few problems for most of us. The balls wouldn't run, the greens were slow and all in all a good test of a golfers skill, which was why we all struggled.

Anyway, following a lovely soup and sandwiches we tackled the 18 hole course, and the conditions were much better. Again this is a rather tight course, and given the wayward drives of many tee shots you soon had golfers coming up your fairway towards you from both sides, making it difficult to decide whose turn it was and who had right of way.

Of particular note, our Secretary achieved a very nice 5 on a Par 4, unfortunately they were all wood shots;- 4 consecutive hits on trees of varying sizes and thicknesses, and when he had run out of trees to aim at, he then went for (and got) the boundary hedge row.



The Format for the Day was a Stapleford Competition on both the 9 hole course and the 18 hole course. After all the golfers had returned to the club house and been accounted for, the results for Prestatyn are as follows.



### 9 hole Par 3 Course

Won by Peter McNay with 21 points

At this time we must take time out to mention that for all of ½ hr or so our Chairman knew the pleasure and warm glow of satisfaction that comes with being a winner. However ~~when some one explained to the Treasurer how to score a 9 hole Par 3 course~~ on a recount he was knocked back a number of places to let Peter (and several others) through. Don't worry Dave, their will still be some people out there who still think you won it (they being the ones in hospital having fainted from shock).

### **18 hole (bigger Pars) course**

Won by Carl Hayhurst with 39 points, closely followed (well they were all in the same set of buggies) by Ian Taylor on 38 and Neil McNay on 35.

Other results from the Day were:-

The Longest Drive was driven by Neil McNay,  
and  
The nearest Nearest-the-Pin ball was positioned by Ian Taylor  
and  
Random Card draw won by Steve Dickinson  
and  
Two's won by Steve Dickinson.

It was noted by the observant ones amongst us that the way to improve your golf is to go by buggy; with all the main prizes being won by the leading posse who charged around in electric mode. Whether its something to do with not getting tired out lugging a buggy, or the driving about relaxes you, or what (it can't of course be that they were the better golfers on the day) it certainly works – you heard it hear first.

### **Summer Singles Knockout Competition**

During the interval time was taken out to do the draw for the first round of the summer season singles knockout competition. There were some particularly interesting selections made, with a repeat grudge match for Messrs Alan (can we play at Arrowe Park again) Harding and Neil (no we bloody can't) McNay and also Messrs Ralph (Oh my God, I don't belieeeeeve it) Vaughan and Alan (third time good or bad lucky) Bennett. For full details of the Draw please visit the web site, but remember;-

- a) you must play your match at, or before, the April Society Day,
- b) there will be no byes after the first round,

### **Partners for the Summer Season**

Whilst there is no Pairs competition for the Winter Season it will resume with the Summer Season. ~~Again you get to choose your partner,~~ Too late, you get who you've got now if you haven't already chosen, that's teach you for not speaking up sooner – you've got our Chairman (hang on – that's me),

Pairs announced to date or chosen are:-

Tom Rogers & Nigel Hall,  
Graham Almond & Ian Taylor  
Ralph Vaughan & Peter Smythe

Steve Crayford and Steve Dickinson,  
Peter McNay and Peter Ainsworth,  
Andy Harvey and Gary Cooper,  
James Arathoon and Alan Harding

Neil McNay and Carl Hayhurst,  
Dave Evans & Alan Bennett,  
Dave O'Rorke and Graham Coupe (this could be the first that Graham knows of this),  
Tony and Paul Anderson,  
Dave Worrton and Andy Langley,  
Pete Conner and Gordon Evans,

### **Society Web Site**

Just a quick reminder that we have a Website which hopefully is a lot more dynamic and up to date. By visiting the site you can find:-

- a) Information regarding the next Society Day,
- b) Information regarding future golf days,
- c) A copy of the Society Diary,

- d) The Roll of Honour for past years
- e) Details re all the courses we are, or have, attended,
- f) Results from Competitions, both this years and the last two years,
- g) Access old copies of the newsletter,
- h) Look at numerous photos of persons pretending to be golfers,

To access the site you need to go to the following address;-

[www.grangegolfer.co.uk](http://www.grangegolfer.co.uk)

You cannot get to it by using Google or other search engine, though I will have a look at this when I get a chance and see what I can do to get it so. Give it a try, and we would welcome your comments and thoughts on how it can be improved or added to. At the moment some of the web pages aren't up and running but are being worked on.

In particular we would welcome any contributions that you may have, for example;-

- 1) reports on Golf Days, things which have happened to you on the way around the course,
- 2) comments on the golf courses,
- 3) Captains Page (Tom – this is yours)
- 4) Photos from golfing event
- 5) Articles from press etc related to golfing
- 6) Anything else you'd like to see in it

I will get around to adding a page where you can do this, but in the meantime just email me, using either word documents, spreadsheets, photos or PDF versions. Remember its your website – so please help make it how you would like it to be

## The Monthly Golfing Jokes -

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Following a night out with a few friends, a man brought them back to show off his new flat. After the grand tour, the visitors were rather perplexed by the large gong taking pride of place in the lounge. "What's that big brass gong for?" one of the guests asked. "Why, that's my Speaking Clock" the man replied. "How does it work?" "I'll show you", the man said, giving the gong an ear-shattering blow with an unpadding hammer. Suddenly, a voice from the other side of the wall screamed, "For \*\*\*\* sake, you b\*stard, it's twenty to two in the \*\*\*\*ing morning!!"

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Mick was in court for a double murder and the judge said, "You are charged with beating your wife to death with a spanner." A voice at the back of the courtroom yelled out, "You b\*stard!"

The judge continued, "You are also charged with beating your mother-in-Law to death with a spanner." Again, the voice at the back of the courtroom yelled out, "You \*\*\*\*ing b\*stard!!!"

The judge stopped, looked at the man in the back of the courtroom, and said, "Paddy, I can understand your anger and frustration at this crime, but will not have any more of these outbursts from you or I shall charge you with contempt! Now what is the problem?"

Paddy, at the back of the court stood up and responded, "For fifteen years I lived next door to that b\*stard. And every time I asked to borrow a \*\*\*\*ing spanner, he said he didn't have one!"

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A man walks into a bar and asks for a beer. After drinking it, he looks in his shirt pocket and asks for another beer. After drinking that one, he looks in his shirt pocket again and asks for another beer.

This happens about another seven times before the bartender asks him, "Why do you keep looking in your pocket?" The man replies, "I have a picture of my wife in there. When she looks good enough, I'll go home."

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A young couple wanted to join the church, the pastor told them, 'We have A special requirement for new member couples. You must abstain from sex For one whole month.' The couple agreed, but after two-and-a-half weeks returned to the Church.

When the Pastor ushered them into his office, the wife was crying and The husband was obviously very depressed. 'You are back so soon... Is there a problem?' the pastor inquired.

'We are terribly ashamed to admit that we did not manage to abstain from Sex for the required month.' The young man replied sadly. The pastor asked him what happened.

'Well, the first week was difficult... However, we managed to abstain through sheer willpower. The second week was terrible, but with the use Of prayer, we managed to abstain. However, the third Week was unbearable. We tried cold showers, Prayer, reading from the Bible...anything to keep our minds off Carnal Thoughts. One afternoon my Wife reached for a can of paint and dropped it. When she bent over to Pick it up, I was overcome with lust and I just had my way with her right then and there. It was lustful, loud, passionate sex. It lasted for over an hour and when we were done we were both drenched in sweat,' Admitted the man, shamefacedly.

The pastor lowered his head and said sternly, 'You understand this means you will not be welcome in our church.'

'We know.' said the young man, hanging his head, 'We're not welcome at Homebase either.'

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Following the last Society event the following rules etc are very topical.

### The Golf Academy – An Ongoing Teach-in

#### Got wet feet – is it a Water Hazard or Casual Water

“Casual Water” is any temporary accumulation of water on the course that is visible before or after the player takes his stance and is not in a *water hazard*. Snow and natural ice (looking forward to the Winter season already), other than frost, are either *casual water* or *loose impediments*, at the option of the player. Manufactured ice is an *obstruction* (especially when the ice bucket is in the way of reaching for your drink at the bar). Dew and frost are not *casual water*.

A ball is in *casual water* when it lies in or any part of it touches the *casual water*.



A Water Hazard is any sea (North Wales coast here we come), lake, pond, river, ditch, surface drainage ditch or any other open water course (**whether or not containing water**) and anything of a similar nature on the course. Stakes and / or lines defining the *water hazard* must be yellow. A *Lateral Water* hazard is marked by Red stakes etc. (not much help all this if your colour blind I know)

Rule 26 Water Hazards;- if a ball is in or is lost in a water hazard (whether the ball lies in the water or not), the player may, under penalty of one stroke, either play another shot from where he played the last one, or drop a ball behind the water hazard.

There is nothing to stop you playing your ball out of a water hazard, and as such not incurring a one shot penalty, however how many fish do you know who play golf.

Of course, if the ball lies in casual water then the player can just pick the ball up and drop it where its not wet (and no nearer the hole) without a penalty of one stroke (i.e. **there is a significant advantage in water being casual and not permanent**)

In other words,

Rule a;- if your ball drops into water, make sure your first to it, lift out all of the yellow / red stakes in order to make your ball 'not in the water hazard', go on at length about how this is the wettest month on record since records began (and as such all the water hazards are full to over flowing) and then drop your ball clear of the *casual* water without penalty of one stroke.

Rule b; If you don't look the look of your lie, release all the stored water you've got about your trolley and / or your person, saturating the ground in the process, declare that you (and your balls) are in casual water and then take relief by dropping your ball some where with a much better lie.

In conclusion, if your playing on the driest day of the year, your chances of finding Casual Water are slim, so drink lots of water before leaving the club house, and also stock up with flasks and flasks of the wet stuff prior to leaving the club house.

I hope this clears up any confusion....

## Rule of the Month – Water in Bunker' s

It's a matter of fact that quite often you will come across your ball somewhere on the course during a game of golf and will say " it will be jolly difficult to play that ball from there" or words to that effect. Never fear, there are of course rules to help you.

Generally you must '*play the ball as it lies*', unless its (amongst other things);-

- a) in a water hazard,
- b) its deemed to be unplayable,
- c) it's in Ground Under Repair (abnormal ground)

Unfortunately under (a) and (b) you can gain relief, but at the cost of an additional stroke. So, lets hope you can gain relief under (c), as that won't cost you a stroke. So what's Abnormal Ground?

The Rules describe it as '*any casual water, ground under repair, or hole, cast or runway on the course made by a burrowing animal, reptile or bird*'. Lets concentrate on the first two.

'*Ground Under Repair*' is easy, its generally marked in great big white letters on the ground, and the limits marked with a white line. So unless your blind, or dyslexic I suppose, it should be obvious. The way to create this if you don't like the lie of your ball is easy, take a white spray marker can with you on your golf, hide it down your trousers and if you don't like your lie, then casually spray the ground whilst saying loudly 'look at that spotted eagle up there in the sky'. Remember to say it loudly as the can gives out paint with a hissing sound; it will also help if you fart as the paint generally smells. So that's that one sorted.

That brings us to '*casual water*'. This is simply any water that shouldn't be there, i.e. is not marked by red or yellow stakes. Again, this one's easy to create, take copious amounts of water with you on your golf, hide a piece of hose pipe down your trousers and if you don't like your lie, then casually pour the water down the hose pipe on to the ground whilst saying loudly 'look at that spotted eagle up there in the sky'. Remember to say it loudly as the water tends to give out a trickling sound; it won't necessarily help if you fart but it all adds to the effect. So that's that one sorted as well.

So, your in a Bunker with water in it, so what can you do,



- (i) If your ball is in a bunker then it can be *dropped as in (i) above, except that the nearest point of relief must be in the bunker, and the ball must be dropped in the bunker.* **If the bunker is full of water, or to play the ball you would still have to stand in water, then tough, you must still drop the ball in the bunker (unless you want to drop a shot – see below),** but *in a position which affords maximum available relief from the condition.*
- (ii) If the bunker is full of water, then you are allowed to drop your ball, ***under penalty of one stroke,*** *outside the bunker keeping the point where the ball lay directly between the hole and the spot on which the ball is dropped, with no limit to how far behind the bunker the ball may be dropped.*

So that's that sorted, if you don't like your lie, create your own abnormal ground and then get relief as above. However, because those Masters on High are an untrusting lot, there are of course **Exceptions** to the above. A player may not take relief if:-

### **Next Society Day Out**

In future details on Society Days will be accessible via the web site, however suffice to say that its at Mersey Valley Golf Course on the 27<sup>th</sup> April 2008. This is much more reliable and up to date, and there are many other useful links / items that cannot be passed across in the Newsletter.