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This issue contains the reports from the Captains and chairs of the various committees (including a contribution from the new chair of the House Committee and an article concerning the availability of a new coffee product, submitted by the chair of Bar and Catering), and the Secretary's update.

If you have an item of interest or a suggestion for inclusion in the eBulletin please let me know by email at mpgmagwin21@sky.com.

Mike Gould
Editor

Forthcoming Events:

Bridge Club

Tuesday 7 February & 13 March

Sunday Lunch Club

**Sundays 5 February,
18 March (Mothering Sunday)**

Pub Quiz & Curry Night

Friday 17 February

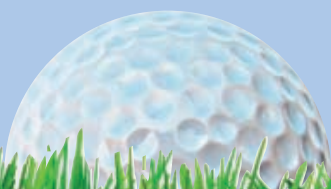
ABBA-Fused

Saturday 25 February

Club Quiz

Saturday 10 March

For further details of above events see following pages and noticeboards





As we reach the last few days of January, there can be no complaints about the weather. It may not have been perfect but the conditions have probably been as good as we could have hoped for in January. It has meant that the winter competitions have all been making good progress. I always speak about the weather with a hint of trepidation for I don't wish to stir the weather gremlins into action. At the moment, it looks as if colder weather is on its way for February but, say it quietly, let's hope for no snow!

Our annual programme of matches begins in February with the visit of the Hampshire County team on Sunday 12th. Last year, the fixture was played on the wettest of days and we will hope for better weather this year. It's a formidable challenge for the Alresford Team against some of the best amateur men in the county. Before that, however, on Saturday 4th, we have a home match against Alton in the Mail on Sunday knock-out competition and we wish James Stewart and his team the very best of luck in this first round tie.

I already commented on the social scene at the turn of the year and activity has continued through the month. It was a pleasure for me to be asked as a guest to join an excellent turnout of 23 past Captains of the Club; a most enjoyable evening. On a less formal note, we saw the return of the first of three monthly Fun Pub Quiz Nights run by Robbie and Sheena. Good competition played in a fun spirit. Our team enjoyed a credible performance but fell short of Kit Neilsen's team, which is not really a disgrace! Kit, incidentally, will also be running his own, very popular Club Quiz Night in March, so there will be plenty of challenge for the eggheads in the Club!

Finally, I enjoyed a splendid evening at the Burns Supper, very capably organised and presented by vice-captain, George Clelland. As Captain, I was given a year off from any of the speaking tasks and I was able to sit back and enjoy the proceedings. Roy Terry delivered the main event of the evening with an excellent Immortal Memory, the tribute to Burns. He was followed by immediate past Captain, Ian Swann, delivering the Toast to The Lassies as a true Yorkshireman, with Ladies' Captain, Fiona Corkhill, responding. Fiona revealed her Scottish family background on the Isle of Lewis. Between them, they delighted those present with their subtlety and wit, with Fiona, as is always the tradition, just coming out on top!

I would like to keep you informed about two decisions which have been agreed recently. The first, following a proposal from the Bar & Catering Committee to the Mancom, is a decision to conduct a trial during 2012 to accept society bookings on Sundays. We have regularly been approached by societies for bookings on Sundays but this concept has always been rejected on the basis of possible course congestion. Currently, however, the numbers playing on regular Sundays are very low and it is felt that there might be sufficient spare capacity to consider this. We could expect the immediate advantages of income from green fees and the benefit of additional spend in the clubhouse, where occupancy on Sundays is also at an all-time low. It is proposed that, in the first place, a trial of up to four societies during the year might be considered to test



John McIlree
Club Captain

the idea. It is stressed that Sundays chosen for this trial would carefully be selected to avoid days when a competition or other event was taking place, to avoid days when the clubhouse might already be busy such as Mothering Sunday, to restrict the starting times to at least the current times for visitors on a Sunday (1030 winter, 1100 summer), to keep members well informed in advance and to limit the numbers in any society booking.

The decision has been taken promptly to avoid missing the opportunity to trial this concept whilst also measuring the potential extra income. As the trial proceeds and evidence is generated, the Captain's Committee will concurrently assess the situation to develop a proposal later in the year.

The second decision concerns the Club Roll-up. There has always been some confusion in certain quarters about the Wednesday Roll-up which has been described since its first entry in the eBulletin as the Club Roll-up in which all members are invited to play. A request for clarification having been received, the Captain's Committee considered this and decided that it was a Club and not just a Men's Roll-up. The Equality Act now influences things and an inclusive roll up demonstrates good practice whether or not ladies choose to enter.

I really want to be writing about members playing golf and gaining the maximum enjoyment from the game. During the last two months, however, incidents of slow play and poor etiquette have been referred to me and it is one of my duties as Captain to remind members of the importance of etiquette. The current R&A Rules of Golf provides guidance on the manner in which the game of golf should be played and refers to the overriding principle that consideration should be shown to others on the course at all times. The Club Diary also refers to the etiquette expected at Alresford.

In general, players are expected to play at a good pace and keep up. Any group losing a clear hole must invite groups to come through irrespective of the numbers in the group. Any group delaying the group behind should consider how best they can allow them through at the first reasonable opportunity. It is in both groups' interest to do so.

The winter period with limited light seems to throw up particular incidents when four-balls and foursomes abound on the course and the cases reported to me recently fitted this pattern. It is obvious that a foursome will always play at a higher pace than a four-ball and, even if the course is busy, there is no justification for not planning to let a foursome, or a two-ball, come through. To tell a group that "you're daft to be playing a foursome at this time of year" is unacceptable.

Club Captain contd.



Let us all please aim to show consideration to other players. I'm of the persuasion that courtesy on the course has a knock-on effect which results in more enjoyment for all. And surely that's why we play the game!

I would rather not finish this piece in "grumpy" mode so I would like to encourage you all to be thinking of good

weather ahead and the chance to compete in the summer knock-outs. It's not only a chance to go all the way to winning a Board competition but also a great way to meet other members in the club. Again, you will need to register in the Professional's shop; don't miss out!

Enjoy your golf!

ladies' section



Fiona Corkhill
Ladies' Captain

Although January has been a quiet month the mild weather has been a bonus with a record entry for the stableford competition. Many ladies have also been taking advantage of the weather to fit in their 9 hole winter league matches which have become very popular.

We played the second round of the Winter Triple at Lee-on-the-Solent on a lovely sunny day but were unable to match the high scores of the home team so now lie in second place with the final round to play at Corhampton on 20 February.

Malcolm's group coaching sessions on Thursday mornings have been oversubscribed with extra sessions provided to cater for all those who were interested. The rules morning on 9 February is also proving very popular so do come along and join us for what will be a very informative and enjoyable morning. Check in the Pro Shop if you are interested in any of these sessions as they will be repeated before the Easter break.

Lynne Cowser and Angela Peel are planning ahead for the Stoneham Cup season with the first practice match being the Club Triumvirate on 26 February.

Please use the availability forms on the website or in the changing room if you are interested in being considered for the team.

The Ladies Committee has been planning ahead for the busy golfing season. The Ladies section of the website is now being managed by Casie McDonald-Wood where you will find the availability forms for both the friendly matches and the Stoneham Cup matches. Monthly event sheets are being prepared and will be posted soon. Please check them as they will indicate which committee members are responsible for computer duty, running roll ups or being available on medal or stableford days to make sure everyone who wants to play has a game. As we enter the competition season all draws will be posted both on the website and the noticeboard.

Tuesday and Saturday roll ups continue as usual so do come along and join them. They are a great way of meeting and playing with new people.

Finally the great tidy up of the changing room has been completed thanks to a mammoth effort by the committee.





ROLL-UPS

Pete Dowse (Vets Vice-Captain) plus Ed Fox and Alan Pike, instituted changes to Wednesday Roll-ups effective from 1 February. The "bagman" will be present from 0730. The principle of playing in 3 balls will generally be adhered to. When there are 6 balls in the bag two 3 balls will be drawn to begin play at 0745. Subsequent draws will be at 10 minute intervals or sooner if 6 balls are in the bag. The last roll-up tee time is 0900. If singles competitions are being played the bagman may allow pairs to play after the first six ball draw. Single Medal and Stableford competitions will be played more frequently. These may be used for handicap assessment as long as the player has signed in at the Pro Shop. When an Over 60's or Club Midweek competition is held on a Wednesday the same card can be used for the roll-up as long as the roll-up fee has been paid to the bagman. **The roll-up rises to £1 as of Wednesday 1 February. This will enable more prizes to be awarded down the results list. There will also be a sleeve of golf balls to all who score 2s. There are to be no conceded putts in any roll-up.** The Lottery will run from 7 March to 31 October. Weekly results and monthly summaries will be published on the noticeboard.

My thanks to Pete, Ed and Alan. They hope to encourage more vets to play regularly and enter qualifying competitions, and for some to embrace the random draw concept more readily. On the day, the bagman is key to a successful roll-up. This requires a shared commitment from everyone who plays, so be prepared for Pete to approach you.

CAPTAIN v VICE-CAPTAIN

This is our first big event in 2012. **Scheduled for Wednesday 14 March NOT 7 as in the diary.** This was changed because Greens Maintenance is now happening during the week commencing Monday 5 (the Over 60's Stableford has also been moved, now on Monday 12). Sign up sheet to be posted on Monday 6 February.

VETS MATCHES

The busy match season begins with two at home on Wednesdays in March. On 21 against Rowlands Castle and on 28 against Corhampton. The sign up sheets will be posted on Monday 6 February.



Roger Corkhill
Vets' Captain

There are two subtle introductions this year which should make it easier for all concerned: 1) please give your email address and mobile number; 2) a reserve list will be added to the selected players list.

As well as myself and Pete Dowse there will be other Vets from our Committee acting as Match Captains.

The Captains Tankard is awarded to the player who has the best record in at least 5 home and 5 away matches. Points are awarded for won and halved matches. In 2011 this was won by John Dillon.

April will be an extremely busy month. In addition to the diary entries we have **two additional matches home and away against Dunwood Manor, home on Wednesday 4 at 1300 and away on 24 also at 1300.** These are "farewell" matches because Dunwood Manor ceases to be a golf club on 1 May 2012. We have had a great association with their members and thoroughly enjoyed playing their course. We wish them well wherever they choose to move to.

VETS CHAMPIONSHIP & OVER 70'S CHAMPIONSHIP

Andrew Frearson has published details. Important dates are: Entry lists on 14 February. Draws on 23 March. To be included in either or both draws the entry fee has to be paid in advance.

GOLF GUARD INSURANCE

Dennis Jones (Treasurer) published a notice on 1 January regarding Golf Guard Insurance, which affects those of you who currently hold insurance through the Vets Section. **As of 1 January 2012 the Vets Section will not be collecting on behalf of Golf Guard. Please make your own arrangements for future insurance if required. Apologies for any inconvenience.**





There is not a lot happening on the competition front at the moment, as far as stroke play competitions go. However, there are still a few winter league matches to be completed before the deadline of 6 March. A number of teams have been unable to complete their matches due to injury and we will take this into account when the points score is totalled before the knockout phase.

The main activity for our committee in January was the Annual Review which we performed last week. I shall be contacting the members who are affected shortly.

At this stage I think it would be useful to show some of the statements made by James Crampton who is in charge of handicapping for the E.G.U.:

“A CONGU handicap identifies the ability of a player under competition play conditions and not their ability when playing ‘social golf’. Social scores are not applicable in the adjustment of a handicap and is contrary to the CONGU UHS.”

“It is preferable that members submit at least seven scores per year to provide enough statistical information on their playing ability.”

He then gave some examples of whether or not an adjustment should be made:

“If an 8 handicapper has done 25 qualifiers and also wins the singles match play competition he should not be cut as qualifying results override good performances in match play. If, however, a 20 handicapper who has done only two qualifiers wins the singles match play competition, he should be cut as the match play event was won off a high handicap which is not expected statistically.”

“If a 15 handicapper who has been diagnosed with arthritis requests an increase in handicap then the request should possibly be granted, but this does not apply to a temporary illness or injury.”

At Alresford, we initially looked at the playing records of those members who had been flagged up by the software in Club 2000 as perhaps meriting a handicap adjustment. If they have played less than seven qualifiers the report says that any adjustment should be done with caution as one needs at least seven scores to provide enough statistical information on their playing ability.

Following this, we looked at the playing records of those members who had asked us to look at their handicaps with regard to a possible adjustment. Any adjustment we made was based on their playing record, i.e. performance in qualifying competitions.

The CSS was introduced in 1989 and at that time the buffer zone was SSS + 2 for all categories. Later, although the buffer zone was changed to reflect the different categories (1 above SSS for Cat 1, 2 above for Cat 2 etc) the use of SSS + 2 to determine CSS was retained. However, an analysis of scores has indicated that using SSS + Buffer Zone would improve the precision of the CSS calculation. So this year the calculation of CSS has been changed to that model. In general, there will be minimal change in men's competitions but Ladies fields should see some lower CSS's and there would be fewer "Reduction Only" competitions.

Incidentally scores from members with an inactive handicap are not included in the calculation of a CSS.

Peter Spreadbury
Match Secretary

a look at rules

supplied by **Celia Batten**

email: celia@celiabatten.vispa.com



Decision 16-1d/5

Rubbing ball on putting green for cleaning purposes

Question: May a player clean his ball by rubbing it on the putting green?

Answer below





Course Maintenance

The strong winds during early January resulted in several trees losing branches. The most noticeable casualty was a large oak on the left of the 9th hole fairway losing a major limb. Close inspection of the point of fracture revealed a large honey-bee comb in an old cavity at the base of the branch.

Unfortunately the comb was damaged and none of the honey recovered!

Due to the cold weather affecting the winter programme the green staff have focussed on surgery/pruning of several of the trees which had begun to affect play. The cherry tree on the right of the 6th hole has been trimmed back as it was restricting use of the whole width of the tee. On the 17th hole, the copse in the rough at the bottom of the hill has been cleaned out and should make finding a ball easier. The trees around the 16th hole will receive some attention also.

Winter Programme

Progress with the winter work programme has been adversely affected by the recent cold weather and a review of the outstanding work will be undertaken at the next Green Committee meeting as it is unlikely that all the work planned can be completed.

Fortunately the 7th & 17th hole tees have been completed and it is hoped that the 16th tee will be finished by the end of February.

The work done on the 7th tee has resulted in a much bigger tee and once some tree pruning has been completed, will open a new line to the fairway from the right of the tee area, appreciably changing the initial visual aspect of the hole.

Laurie Clark

Chairman of Greens

news from bar and catering committee



Fresh, ground decaffeinated coffee

In response to members' requests, decaffeinated coffee is now available from the Rijo₄₂ quality coffee machine behind the bar. The coffee is pure Colombian decaffeinated coffee, mainly from the Cauca area which is the southern most coffee growing region in the country. The beans are 100% Arabica beans and packed within 24 hours of roasting. During this time, the coffee is air cooled and allowed to naturally release carbon dioxide (called gassing off), after which packing in one-way valved bags allows the coffee to displace oxygen with its own CO₂ meaning that the coffee can be kept sealed fresh for up to a year.

A decaffeinated coffee option is available in Americano, Cappuccino, Latte Macchiato and Espresso coffees. All are large 10oz servings utilising fresh, steamed and frothed, semi-skimmed milk and priced at £1.60 less 20% members' discount.



Terry Glynn

Chair of Bar & Catering





New Members

Welcome to the following new members who have all joined the club starting in January: Andrew Skirton (7 day) , Nick Austin, Jonathan Buckland, Robert Fowler, Elizabeth Johnson, James and Caroline Carr (Social Extra) and Henry Glanfield (Junior). We hope that your time at the club will be a long and enjoyable one.

May I remind all members that we are welcoming new membership enquiries for all categories. If you know any friends or acquaintances who are thinking of joining a club or changing clubs, please do your best to sell them the benefits of Alresford.

Membership packs are available from the office which detail the benefits and prices (including new payment options). We would be delighted to show any prospective members around the club and arrange a round of golf for them.

Roll Up

Fancy a game in the week? All members are welcome to come along to the 'club roll-up' on Wednesday mornings. The usual start time is 11am during the summer and 10.30am during the winter months all timings subject to any advanced tee reservations.

FEBRUARY

Wednesday 8 Feb - 10.30am

Wednesday 15 Feb - 10.30am

Wednesday 22 Feb - 10.30am

Wednesday 29 Feb - 10.30am

MARCH

Wednesday 7 Mar - 10.30am

Don't You Want Me (Baby)?

There are currently numerous unclaimed raffle prizes from the Christmas Draw Night still in the Office awaiting collection by their winners.

Would the following members please collect or make arrangements to collect their prizes asap: David Voy, Henry Jane, Mark Broadbent, Ann Bishton, Edward Jane, Rob Cragg, Eric Hughes, Alan Wood.

Friday Night Pub Quiz & Curry

Next Quiz Night is on Friday 17 February, Quiz starts at 7.30pm. See Social Noticeboard for details

Sunday Lunch Club

Will be available on Sunday 5 February and Sunday 18 March (Mothering Sunday). Come along either as a large or small table and with members or guests.

Please note change to Friday Bar opening times

Over the Winter/Spring period the Clubhouse (and Bar) will close on Fridays as per the normal weekday times, unless there is an event or pre-booked function. Below is the list of dates when the bar will be closed earlier: Friday 3 February, Friday 10 February, Friday 24 February and Friday 2 March. Members should check the club website or bar for any changes to these dates.

Members guest green fees special offer

Due to the continued success of this scheme, we will offer the GUEST GREEN FEE DISCOUNT OFFER again in 2012. Over the course of the season bring either 6 guests for £105 or 10 guests for £175. These will be available ONLY from the Secretary in advance (not the pro shop). Please be aware that all 'visits' must be used by 31 December 2012. No refund or extension will be given on unused 'visits'. Normal restrictions apply.

Practice Range Balls

Don't make the first shot of the day from the 1st tee. Take 5 minutes to warm up.

Coming soon

a new smaller basket of 12 balls, ideal to hit before teeing off !

Available from the pro-shop when you sign in for your competition.

We are also aware that there are a number of range baskets and balls resident in members cars.

Please do not store balls and baskets – these are the property of the club and should not be removed from the range. If 25 balls are too many to hit in one go, utilise the new smaller baskets when they become available.

Do not reduce the stock available for others.





After all the Christmas and New Year's Eve functions, January is a quiet month for the Social Committee – just the Bridge Club which, as always, was most enjoyable. We meet again on 7 February and 13 March ready to play at 7pm when players of all standards are most welcome.

ABBA-Fused

The ticket sales for ABBA – Fused on 25 February are almost sold out. If you are coming please ensure that the office knows what your food choices are. I have also put up a list on the Social Committee noticeboard in case the office is closed. ABBA style dress is optional, otherwise it is smart casual. The Committee decided that the food was incidental and needed to be served quickly with no crockery to be cleared; that was how we decided on burgers with garnish in boxes. Sadly, chips could not be provided for 120 people!

Looking ahead

We have the Club Quiz on 10 March when Kit Nielson will again be starring as the Quiz Master and the St George's Pub Night is on 28 April. There are also Fun Pub Quiz nights arranged by Sheena on 17 February and 30 March, and Club Sunday Lunches on 5 February and 18 March.

Feedback is always welcome -
d.meadwell@btopenworld.com

Regards to all

Don Meadwell

House committee



Greetings to you all from the new Chair of the House Committee. For those who do not know, apart from me (John Dillon), the Committee consists of Sarah Thorne, Tom Middleton, Eddie Martin, George Groom, Trevor Nice and David Maskery.

One of our main areas of responsibility is to ensure that the fabric of the Club is maintained in good order, so that means just about everything with the exception of the Course itself (pewh that's a relief!). This naturally covers a large range of issues, but those that impact most immediately on members are cleaning, maintenance and repair. We operate a rolling programme of planned maintenance, but, there are occasions when odd things require attention outside that system. Before any remedial action can be taken, however, the fault needs to be identified and, as the Committee only has seven pairs of eyes things can get missed from time to time. I therefore invite you, as members, to assist us in that regard, by letting me know by email if you see something that you think needs to be brought to our attention.

Part of our remit also covers matters such as Club

ambience, and, you will have noticed that we have moved all the coffee tables together, to try and create a "lounge" area within the bar. We have noted that the current layout obstructs part of the bar, which will be rectified. It is, however, only a trial (the tables have not been nailed to the floor-yet!) so I look forward to receiving constructive comments, either positive or negative, on this and any other schemes or ideas that we action in the future.

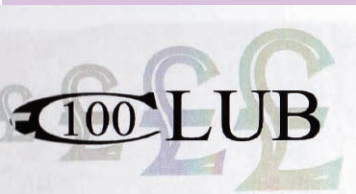
You will also be pleased to learn that we are taking steps to try and identify the intermittent fault in the PA system, be it an equipment issue or operator error and, to repair the lighting on one side of the steps between the Clubhouse and car park, which failed during the recent heavy rain.

On a general note, I hope that you will be patient while I get up to speed with the job and, if you have any comments, suggestions or ideas at any time, please let me know so that the Committee can consider them and, where appropriate, take the necessary action.

John Dillon

Chair: House Committee
john.dillon@talktalk.net





The winners of the 100 Club draw in January were:

£100 - Elizabeth Hesse	£32 - Ray Fisher
£50 - John Allen	£32 - Keith Monkhouse
£32 - Keith Turner	£32 - Terry Ellis

Congratulations to the winners. The next draw will take place on Monday 6 February 2012.

New Shoe Cleaner

The new shoe cleaner has now been installed. Thank you to all 100 Club members whose continued support has enabled us to fund the speedy replacement of the old machine.

Not a member of the 100 Club?

If you're not a member of the 100 Club, you can become one for as little as £1 per month. Shares in the 100 Club are purchased for £1 per month and there is no limit on the number of shares which can be held. In general, most members have between 1 and 5 shares and pay by monthly direct debit, though it's also possible to pay quarterly or annually. Each share is allocated a number which is entered in the monthly draw. The top prize is £100, with a second prize of £50 and four other prizes of £32. For more information contact George Clelland on 01962735008 or george.clelland@btinternet.com or call in to the Secretary's office.

rule answer



Answer: Yes, provided the act is not for the purpose of testing the surface of the putting green. It is recommended that a ball be cleaned in other ways to eliminate any question as to the player's intentions.



Getting in touch: Aldersford Golf Club

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