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**Mothering Sunday
Lunch**

10 March

**See Secretary's
page for details**

As the golfing season gets in to full swing, this issue contains all the information you will need to plan your next month or so!!

If you have an anecdote you would like to share, an item of interest, photograph or a suggestion for inclusion in the eBulletin please submit by email at mpgmagwin21@sky.com.

Mike Gould
Editor

Don't forget to support

The Club Quiz

**Kit Neilson's 35th year as
Quizmaster**

Saturday 16 March

See Social noticeboard for details





Over the past few weeks the main topic of conversation, apart from golf, seems to have been about warmth, either in the form of how far south is one going in search of the sun, or how many layers does it take to keep out the cold without looking like Michelin Man. It has certainly been cold, but it has seemed as though many members have taken the opportunity whenever there's been some blue sky potential to get out onto the course. We are extremely fortunate that we have a free draining course and an excellent green staff led by Steve Privett who have kept the course open and in great condition for the time of year.

After last year's cancellation due to the frozen conditions, I'm pleased to report that this year's match with the Hampshire County Golf Union Men's 1st team took place in dry but cold conditions with the County team winning 9-1 in a 4BBB match played off scratch. This is a long standing opening fixture for the County and they very much enjoy coming to play at Alresford. In early March it will be the turn of the County U-18 team to visit Alresford. I realised how seriously they take these fixtures when the County Junior Manager revealed to me last week that the highest handicap in the team of 12 he's selected is 5.

On the last Sunday of the month, the Team Challenge between the County 7's, Gales Hockley and Stoneham Cup squads was played. This is a three-way match play competition with 12 players from each squad; it's a format where you have to keep your wits about you as you could be losing against one of your playing partners but winning against the other at the same time. Last year the match was played in short sleeves, but this time,



wearing many layers, we started with 18 temporary greens each with a dusting of snow. However, after about an hour we were able to change over to the normal greens, though none of the layers of clothing came off. A solid performance from the Gales Hockley team allowed them to retain the trophy

which was presented by myself to the winning captain, David Pain. The County 7's took second place with the Ladies Stoneham Cup team in third. Win, lose or draw, everyone who took part appeared to very much enjoy both the golf and the company.

A large Alresford contingent attended the annual Hampshire PGA Dinner held, this year, at Basingstoke GC where, once again, we had the largest representation of any club. We should take pride in the fact that Alresford Golf Club has for many years strongly supported professional golf in the County not only by supporting events such as



George Clelland
Club Captain

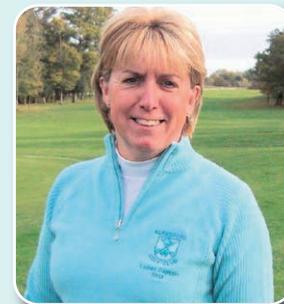
this but also and more significantly providing office bearers and members of the Hampshire Alliance and Hampshire Patrons. My thanks to Malcolm for organising the logistics to get us there and back, and for ensuring we had good tables.

In the 2nd round of the Mail on Sunday Classic competition both our Men's and Ladies' teams have been drawn to play away with the Men at Stoneham and the Ladies at Alton. Good luck to both teams. In the Daily Mail Foursomes, our Men's pair is Stuart Binfield and Kevin Lane who have been drawn to play at home against Petersfield, and our Ladies pair is Claire Gould and Lyn Travers who are drawn away to Hindhead. Good luck to each of them in their coming matches.

The month of March sees the start of the regular monthly medal and Stableford competitions and the friendly matches for the Men, Ladies and Vets. Jane and Pete will have more information on what's happening in their respective sections in their own reports. The Men's friendly matches are open to 7-day members (primarily because most matches are played at weekends) who have an active CONGU handicap. For those of you who haven't played in the friendlies before, the matches are as much a social as they are a competitive occasion and so participating is a good way to meet and play with different people and at other clubs. The Men start with an away match against Alton at the end of March. Alton is a tricky little course with some quirky holes, so a good golfing challenge. The sign-up sheet for the Alton match and for the others throughout the season is on the Team noticeboard opposite the match computer.

Also, now that you must all be getting ready for the main playing season can I remind you of the Captain and Pro Challenge for the Captains' Charity. This is a challenge to any pair - men, ladies or mixed - to take on myself and Phil Bryden in a round of 4BBB match play. At stake is a minimum donation of £10 per head to the Charity to be paid by the losing pair. This is a great opportunity to see how a professional, who really knows the course, plays all the holes, so find a partner and arrange a date with either myself or Phil.

On the social side, the Social Committee pulled off a great scoop by getting "Robbie Williams" to do a warm-up gig at the Club for his next tour, and while he was here to run through some of the Rat Pack's repertoire, a thoroughly entertaining evening which had the audience swinging in their seats and rocking on the dance floor. Look out for the Club Quiz next month with Kit Neilson as Quizmaster General.



Jane Scott
Ladies' Captain

February has been a quieter month for our golfing activity mainly due to the wet weather we have all experienced.

This meant our final Winter Triple match at Lee-on-the-Solent which was due to be played in the middle of the month has had to be postponed as their course has suffered with the wet conditions and they couldn't guarantee that all 18 holes would be open. This will now be played in March.

Our ladies friendly matches begin in March and this is always a sign that the "golfing season" is really beginning. I am looking forward to welcoming Hockley to Alresford and to visiting Royal Winchester and Bramshaw.

Also in the middle of March we have our popular Ladies Coffee Morning which has been over subscribed and has resulted in a waiting list. This is always a good opportunity to "catch up" with golfing friends from other clubs.

The entry sheet with details of the annual Vets and Ladies Breeze-up will be available in early March with the actual competition taking place on Thursday 18 April. It would be great to have a good turnout from the ladies, so please do enter.

What's on for the ladies in March?

- Ladies medal & lifeboat charity competition – Saturday 2 and Tuesday 5
- Ladies Stableford – Saturday 9 and Tuesday 12
- Mackershaw Trophy (Stableford) – Sunday 24 March which is open to both ladies and men
- Tuesday 26 March a roll-up competition will be available
- Friday 29 March and Saturday 30 March – Linnets 36-hole competition – open to both ladies and men

a look at rules

supplied by **Celia Batten**

email: celia@celiabatten.vispa.com



Decision 2-4/4

Whether picking up opponent's ball is concession of next stroke

Question: In match play, A holes a putt and, thinking he has won the match, picks up B's ball. B then advises A that he (B) had a putt to win the hole. Did A concede B's next stroke when he picked up B's ball?

Answer on following page





Peter Dowse
Vets' Captain

Hello everyone. There is not a lot to report on this month. This awful wintery cold weather is still curtailing the golfing activities of many Vets, but I promise the warmth is about to begin, next week.

The Vets Wednesday roll-ups are still being well attended, even through these bitter winds. In the last two weeks the following have been in the winning frame: Dennis Jones, Derek Marsh, Les Widdecombe and David Brook. The new system of "Bagmen" seems to be working very well, no hiccups so far.

The Winter League has now come to an end. After a poor start in the first part of winter, with Alresford not having any wins, the New Year changed our fortunes. The Alresford team pulled off stunning wins in all of the 2013 fixtures. Well done.

There's a very short break now before we hit the turf running, with the Vets Captain versus Vice-Captain teams event on the 13 March. The four-ball teams and start times are on the noticeboard, go and check your start time. Of course, you've already paid the £10 entry fee haven't you.

The teams have been selected for our first two Summer Matches against Rowlands Castle and Corhampton. Team members please tick off your names.

The "Request for Players" sheets are also up for our following matches: Hockley, Waterlooville, Tylney Park, Romsey, and Stoneham. Get your name down quick. There are some spaces still open for the "Captain's Awayday" to Hamptworth on Tuesday 23 April. The sheet is also on the noticeboard.

Happy golfing and enjoy yourselves.

House committee



Part-time Handyman/Gardener

The club are considering employing a handyman/gardener on a part-time basis to undertake the exterior Clubhouse planned maintenance programme, keep the flower beds and patio areas in good order and undertake minor DIY items under the directions of the Secretary. As we would prefer a club member to take on this role, if there is a member who would be interested in filling such a position should it come to fruition, please let myself or David Maskery know as soon as possible.

John Dillon

Chair: House Committee

(john.dillon@talktalk.net) 01420 543660





March sees the beginning of 2013 competitions with two stablefords, the Famous Grouse Memorial, the Mackershaw Trophy and the 36-hole Linnets.

The annual handicap review has taken place and those players whose handicaps require adjustment have been notified. The adjustments take effect from the 1 March.

Another action that was undertaken was to identify all those players whose handicap has become inactive. Surprisingly 40% of the playing members now have inactive handicaps. These players now need to submit three qualifying scores to regain an active handicap and this can be achieved by entering qualifying competitions, submitting supplementary cards or a combination of both.

The draws for the summer knockouts are due to take place in the first week of March and the resulting lists will be posted on the noticeboards.

Also on the noticeboard is the entry sheet for the Famous Grouse Memorial competition which will be

a shotgun start event. This event will be played on the 17 March and the closing date for entry is Saturday 9 March. As in previous years the format is American Greensomes medal.

Now that the competitions are due to start in earnest I thought it would be worthwhile to highlight some issues regarding the completion of score cards and entry into the computer which makes the closing of competitions more time consuming for the match committee:

- No handicap on card
- Card not signed by player
- Card not signed by marker
- Entry number not shown on card
- Card not returned
- In stableford competitions points entered in to the computer rather than the gross score
- No returns not entered into the computer
- Start sheet not completed

Your help will be greatly appreciated.

David Robertson

Match Secretary

competition result

There has only been one competition since the last eBulletin and the result is shown below.

Pros Stableford 9 February

Dave Seager 36 pts ocb; Peter Tandy 36 pts; Grant Thorne 33 pts

team golf



INTERESTED IN PLAYING IN THE TEAM GOLF EVENT 2013?

I have had several members (old and new) enquiring about this year's Team Golf Event and how to get involved in this popular annual event. I have already posted the "Format and Rules" sheet and "Entry" sheet was posted on Monday 4 March. The deadline for entries is Tuesday 2 April.

Full Information will also be available in the March Links magazine.

I strongly recommend new and recent members to check posted notices and to contact me with any queries and/or to give me your details if you want to enter as part of a team.

This competition has been running for 18 years and is a genuinely fun event of 9 holes run over 12 Thursday evenings from 2 May to 18 July. Each week two members from each team compete in a Betterball Stableford match. Individually each team

member is expected to play in at least three matches over the 12 weeks. Each team of six players should include at least one lady, a senior (over 50), one recent adult member and a Junior/Young person (up to 21 years of age).

THE FINALS EVENING on Thursday 18 July is for all the six members of each team to compete for "Championship and Plate" prizes.

The County Finals at which our championship winning team compete, is being held on THURSDAY 25 JULY at South Winchester Golf Club.

Thank you

Roger Corkhill

Team golf Organiser

My contact details are: Tel. 01962 883701 or
roger.corkhill@btinternet.com





Firstly I must apologise for the absence of my report in the February Bulletin, Elaine and I were laid low with the bug that has been going around and I totally missed the deadline.

SHEEP

The sheep have been successful in maintaining the rough between the 3rd and 17th fairways. In addition to a saving on diesel fuel, grazing of the rough will mean that tyre marks by machinery to cut the rough will be minimized and the sheep will root out a number of the oak saplings that are there. The experience from this winter makes it appear that we could do with double the number that we currently have on site. Although a certain amount of benefit can already be seen, it will take 2 to 3 years before the full benefit is seen. It is nearly time for them to go back home for the summer, to visit us again in the autumn.

SHORT COURSE & PRACTICE AREAS

During the winter there has been work on the short course with the addition of mounds on some of the greens and irrigation to them.

I am sure you will have noticed the new teeing area on free range wedge practice area. This has been built so that the dome currently on the main practice range will fit on the artificial tees when it is moved down there so that you can practice your wedges in the dry! The idea is that an extension to the wooden undercover bays will replace the dome in due course.

BUNKERS

Maintenance of the bunkers was a problem particularly last autumn with all the rain that we had. The drain in the 10th greenside bunker was drilled out which immediately allowed drainage of the accumulated water. It has been suggested that if this bunker was enlarged that there would be more room to play from in the event of it becoming partially flooded. However, I would like to look more at the problem of bunker maintenance in the coming months.

TEES

After the temporary hold-up of work on the 4th medal tee, the drier weather is now allowing work to progress so that it will be turfed and ready for the season.

The construction of a temporary 5th medal tee is underway so that members will soon have the opportunity to experience playing from this trial tee. Initially we were going to re-position the fairway bunkers on this hole during the winter but we now feel this should wait until the effect of tee shots from back the medal tee become apparent.

TREE SPADE

In January, we had a tree spade in to move a holly tree to the 17th and to replace dead trees by 8th green and 2nd tee. It was also used to reinforce the left-hand side of the 1st fairway and to reinforce some of the ash trees which are threatened by the "Ash die-back" disease. Although we only had the tree spade in for one day the very soft ground was churned up badly. This damage will shortly be put right.

STAFF

We have appointed a new trainee to replace the one that left before Christmas. He is called Daniel and seems very keen.

OTHER

New drainage from the water fountain at Curly's Barn has been installed. Hedges have been cut around the course. Hedging and shrubs were ordered for planting around the car park and they were planted during last week.

Peter Spreadbury
Chairman of Greens

rule answer



Answer: No. A incurred a penalty stroke under Rule 18-3b; B must replace his ball and now has two putts to win the hole.





The current club website which has served us well for a number of years under the care of Ken Coburn is reaching the end of its useful life. A new website, designed and built by Ron Beal, is planned to take its place towards the end of this year. Prior to that, we would like to give members the chance to try the new site and raise any issues, additional requirements or suggestions.

The new site has been built using the free and open source WordPress content management system. Page content can be updated (with the appropriate authority) from any web browser – making the site straightforward to keep up to date and extend. The new site has been designed to meet two needs; to provide information for members and to showcase the club for prospective visitors. A number of commercial golf club website packages were also reviewed, but these were judged to be unnecessarily expensive - typically offering things like tee time bookings which we don't need.

The entire content of the current site has been copied to the new site, with additions and enhancements where possible. The new photo

gallery currently has only a small number of test photographs – the plan is to significantly expand the galleries prior to the current site being replaced. Also, during this test phase, the new site's club diary has to be manually kept in step with the existing site diary and this is only done weekly - so don't rely on the calendar information.

The new site is already "live" using a new web address: www.alresfordgolf.co.uk/...you won't find it via a search engine- they are discouraged to avoid confusion with the current site.

Please take the opportunity to visit the new site and have a play. If you want to look at the members' section it uses the same login and password as the current site. During testing a low-cost shared hosting service is being used, so occasionally the site can be slightly slow to respond.

Lastly, the new site automatically adjusts its layout if it detects a narrow screen device such as a mobile or tablet. Comments on this function are particularly welcome.

To comment on the new site please email ron@ronbeal.com or collar Ron in the bar.



This is a test site – for our live site please go to www.alresfordgolf.co.uk



Founded in 1890, we have developed into one of the most attractive and challenging courses in the south of England.

The reputation of the course for its outstanding overall presentation and true greens has led to the club hosting regular County amateur and PGA tournaments.

As a traditional members club promoting a friendly atmosphere we offer a picturesque and easy walking downland course providing all year round golf in excellent conditions without the need for tee reservations.



Major Course Disruption (only a test)

Course (not) Closed because of snow 16:31 Sun 24 Feb, 2013

For current restrictions: 01962-733746 opt 1)

Latest News

Let Andy Wilsher Entertain You
Site Updated with 2013 Information

Sun, 24 Feb 10:30 Club Triangular Match

Tue, 26 Feb 09:30 Ladies Roll-up

[View Full Events Calendar](#)

Day	Temperature	Wind	Other
Tonight	0°C	10	-5°C
Mon	4°C	13	0°C
Tue	4°C	13	0°C

Help Options More details
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New Members

Welcome to the following new members who have all joined the club starting in February: Michael Duncombe and Geoff Eddy (both Social Extra).

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 details 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.

Members' Guest Green Fess Special Offer

Due to the continued success of this scheme, we will offer the GUEST GREEN FEE DISCOUNT OFFER again in 2013. 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 2013. No refund or extension will be given on unused "visits". Normal restrictions apply.

Club 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.

MARCH

- Wednesday 6 - 10.30am
- Wednesday 13 - (Vets Capt v Vets Vice-Capt) NO ROLL UP tbc
- Wednesday 20 - 10.45am
- Wednesday 27 - 10.45am

APRIL

- Wednesday 3 - 11.00am
- Wednesday 10 - 11.00am

Mothering Sunday

Mothering Sunday Lunches will be available on Sunday 10 March. Book directly with the Kitchen. Spaces are running out fast.

Catering Franchise Update

By the time the eBulletin is sent out, we will have interviewed a short list of candidates and hopefully be in a position to offer the franchise to one of the candidates. We had 29 expressions of interest and 18 formal applications from all over the country including Scotland. We selected eight candidates to interview based on previous experience and skills.

A final decision will be announced after the normal protocol has been followed. Please keep an eye on the noticeboard for the news.

Please Note Change to Friday Bar closing 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.

March 15, March 22 and March 29.

Members should check the club website or bar for any changes to these dates.

Spring Texas Scramble

SUNDAY 21 APRIL

Signing Up sheets for this popular "season opener" will be posted in March. There will be two shotgun start competitions – a morning and afternoon start. Teams will be drawn, so it is a great opportunity to meet new people and have a fun game.

Seniors Open - JUNE 14

Entries are welcome from Alresford members to enter this successful annual event. Each year our Vets are allocated to single entries to help "show them around" the course and make them feel welcome on the day. We receive many positive comments because of this. Alresford members entry fee is reduced by £10 to ONLY £21. Entry sheets available from the Office.

David Maskery
Club Secretary





Andy Wilsher performing his two different acts . . . The Rat Pack and Robbie Williams

The latest music night took place on Saturday 23 February. Guests were greeted with the crooning sounds of the Rat Pack in the first half from the superb voice of Andy Wilsher. The interval once again included a choice of tasty burgers and chips offered by Robbie and Sheena. Andy then transformed into Robbie Williams and sang some of his and Take That's greatest hits. Naturally the finale was "My Way". Pictures from the event can be seen at <http://www.andywilshersings.co.uk/photos/AlresfordGolfClub.htm>.



Members who attended getting into the full swing of things and enjoying the show

Our esteemed quizmaster has been busy at work for this year's Club Quiz which takes place on Saturday 16 March. This will be the 35th year that Kit Neilson has organised the event and has told me that he is getting the hang of it. Please sign up on the Social Events board in the club house to test your knowledge against other members. The cost for a team of 4 is £8, which is payable on the night. There will also be a selection of meals available which can be pre-booked.

Plans are now in place for the "History Night" on Saturday 27 April. There have been some excellent suggestions and I am sure it will be a super evening with many interesting stories. We are extremely fortunate to have members and staff who have such in-depth knowledge of the golf club and course. Highlights of the evening include presentations by David Harrison, Brian Young and Malcolm Scott. There will also be a display of various Alresford Golf Club memorabilia and a quiz. Please look out for further details.

James Stewart
Chair, Social Committee





The winners of the 100 Club prize draw in February were:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| £100 - Brenda Hedges | £32 - Carol Clark |
| £50 - Carole Young | £32 - Carol Middleton |
| £32 - Jack Moody | £32 - Pat Wallis |

Congratulations to the winners. A very good month for the ladies ... perhaps that's because February has Valentine's Day. The next draw will take place on Monday 4 March; will it be lucky for those with a Welsh or Irish connection?? ... look for the list of winners on the Secretary's noticeboard.

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.

NEW CLUB TELEPHONE SYSTEM

Many of you will have noticed that we have a new telephone system recently installed. This has meant that some of the old numbers you have dialled in the past have changed. Most notably is the COURSE INFORMATION LINE.

You will no longer receive any answer or message on 01962 735735.

All Daily Course Condition information is now accessed on 01962 733746 Option 1.

Please bear in mind that there are two lines into the Office and Pro Shop, so when calling and you do not get an answer straight away it may be that there is only one person on duty and they are on the other line.

All calls in to 01962 733746 go to a central switchboard where you are given options to be transferred as follows:

- | | |
|----------|------------------------------|
| Option 1 | DAILY COURSE CONDITIONS |
| Option 2 | SECRETARY & GENERAL OFFICE |
| Option 3 | GOLF PROFESSIONAL & PRO-SHOP |
| Option 4 | COURSE MANAGER |
| Option 5 | BAR |
| Option 6 | CATERING |

You can still direct dial to the following extensions should you wish:

PRO-SHOP 01962 733998 COURSE MANAGER 01962 733153



Getting in touch: Alesford Golf Club

Cheriton Road, Tichborne Down, Alesford, Hampshire SO24 0PN
email: secretary@alesfordgolf.co.uk www.alesfordgolf.co.uk

DISCLAIMER

The Editorial Team takes no responsibility for incorrect information received from Contributors.

Secretary: David Maskery Tel: 01962 733746

Professional: Malcolm Scott Tel: 01962 733998

eBulletin editor: Mike Gould email: mpgmagwin21@sky.com