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See  
page 7  
for an exclusive  
**Brittany Ferries  
Offer**  
for Members Only  
of a limited  
number of Clubs

I'm sure all of you must be as fed up with all this wet weather as we are up here, but there again consider ourselves much more fortunate than further down in the West Country. I imagine Alresford course has stood up to the elements better than mine!!

Whilst reading through this bulletin, it will become clear the Club is mounting a drive to improve slow play, which is the bane it appears of all clubs.

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](mailto:mpgmagwin21@sky.com).

Mike Gould  
Editor

### Dates for Your Diary:

**Race Night**  
**Saturday 1st March**

**Club Quiz**  
**Saturday 15th March**

*See Social Scene  
for further details*





**Les Thorne**  
Club Captain

January saw the invite to my first past-captains' dinner, this is an event organised by the immediate past-captain and involves getting as many of the Alresford captains together. We are almost unique in the area that we can get so many of them together and in all there were 22. A good night of eating, drinking and storytelling was had by all and I look forward to organising it next year.

Due to inclement weather Malcolm's Junior Christmas Cracker Texas Scramble turned in to the New Year Scramble. This is 9-hole competition that brings together Malcolm's prep school juniors with some Alresford juniors. Luckily I was in the winning team in which I contributed very little, so congratulations go to Arvinda Sing-Brar, Finlay Parker and William Briggs. There were burgers and chips for dinner and prizes for all the juniors. You may have noticed the write-up in the local paper, this is a great way to promote the club in the local area especially when there is an event like this.

One of the best events at the club is the Burns Night Supper, this was my second year and the amount of diners that return year after year is a testament to the organisational skills of George Clelland and John McIlree. The Immortal Memory delivered by George himself was both informative and amusing, the Toast to the Lassies courtesy of Martin Sleight, with a poetic Reply from the Lassies from Charlotte Bass. Once again Meryl and Dean coming up trumps with a fantastic meal.

So what to look forward to in the coming weeks? Our men's team are playing away at Corhampton in the Mail on Sunday, so good luck to Grant and his team mates for that. We have two county matches, against the Hampshire men's team and the Under 18's, which are their first fixtures of the year and are a long running event at the Club. This is bisected by the annual match of the Alresford county teams which are the Stoneham Cup (Ladies), County Sevens (men) and the Gales Hockley (over 50's). This is a three-way match play event and always strongly contested.

One of the things that I would like to look into this year is slow play. I am not sure it is completely solvable as the internet is full of discussion about the problem. We have decided to try an experiment in one of the forthcoming Saturday competitions, this is to only allow play in 2 and 3 balls before a certain time. Please do give it a trial, we might be surprised that play may move along quicker or it might not work at all. Your feedback after the event will be looked at in great detail as to whether it will be worth doing it for other competitions.

The course has held up superbly in the weather and we should be very proud of the fact that we are open when so many other courses are shut in the area. I look forward to catching up with all of you at the club soon.

**a look at rules** supplied by **Celia Batten** email: [celia@celiabatten.vispa.com](mailto:celia@celiabatten.vispa.com)



### Decision 12-1/4

#### **Player touches ground in hazard when searching for ball believed to be covered by loose impediments in hazard**

**Question:** A player's ball is believed to be in a bunker covered by leaves. The player probes for the ball with a club which touches the ground in the bunker. What is the ruling?

*Answer on later page*





**Charlotte Bass**  
*Ladies' Captain*

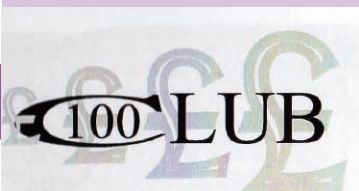
Saturday 25th January was the great evening that is Burn's Night. It is a very popular event and everyone seemed to enjoy the proceedings, especially those of us to whom it's all a bit of a mystery! I was delighted to be invited to respond on behalf of the lassies to Martin Sleight's toast to us. All good natured (well mostly) and good fun.

We went to Corhampton on Monday 27th January for the second leg of the Winter Triple. The course, like ours, is well draining, and all the greens were in play. The ladies from Lee-on-the-Solent have not been able to play their course since mid-December as its under water. Several holes are below sea level apparently. Our Winter Triple match on 5th December was about their last outing there. Alresford won the day at Corhampton, a terrific result, but we remain in third place overall. The last leg is our home match so we have the advantage.

On 30th January we played our first Mail on Sunday match at home against Royal Winchester. The match, captained by Lyn Travers, took place in dry, cold and misty conditions. Despite the team's best efforts and some close contests, I'm sorry to report that we were knocked out by a strong RWGC team, 3½ to 1½.

### Coming up in February:

- Stableford competitions on Saturday 8th and Tuesday 11th.
- 9-hole fun roll-ups on Tuesdays 4th, 18th and 25th.
- Club Triangular match on Sunday 23rd between Stoneham Cup team, Gales Hockley over 50s, and County 7's men's team.
- Winter Triple Monday 24th at Alresford – please come along and support the team.



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

<b>£100</b> - Carol Middleton	<b>£50</b> - Simon Wills
<b>£32</b> - Ken Miller	<b>£32</b> - Jack Moody
<b>£32</b> - Barry Norgate	<b>£32</b> - John F Clarke

Congratulations to the winners. The next draw will take place in the week beginning 3rd March ... look for the list of winners on the Secretary's notice board.

### 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](mailto:george.clelland@btinternet.com) or call in to the Secretary's office.







**Andrew Frearson**  
*Vets' Captain*

**Don't miss the following:**

The sign-up sheets for the knock-outs and the Fred White Foursomes are available in the Pro shop and the draws will take place at the end of March.

The sign-up sheet for the Vets Captain v. Vice-Captain match (to be played on 12th March) will be posted by 12th February with the draw/team selection to take place on 2nd March. The sheets for the first "friendly" matches, against Corhampton and Petersfield, will be posted in the third week in February.

**Slow Play**

Over the next few months I will be reminding our already knowledgeable members of ways to speed up play without having to run around the course or feeling pressurised in any way.

The first this month is positioning of trolleys around the green. Where possible, please remember to park up on the side of the green from which you will leave it to go to the next tee.

**Match results**

Congratulations to our Wessex Senior Winter League team who, on 13th January, at home, triumphed over South Winchester by 4 matches to nil.

There are two more fixtures – Corhampton away on 5th February and Royal Winchester at home on 20th February. Best wishes to the teams selected for these remaining matches.

## match committee report

This is a quiet time for competitions as the first qualifier is not until March. However, the League section of the winter league/knock-out competitions is about to come to an end and we shall be meeting on 3rd February to assess the results of the league to determine who goes through to the knock-out phase. The knock-out tables with their play by dates will then be posted.

We are due to have a meeting for the Annual Review on 14th February. I have had several requests for consideration for handicap adjustment and we will look at these at the meeting.

Members are frequently very sensitive about their handicaps and I should assure you that we do not "pick" on people out of any malice. Several things need to be remembered about handicaps and the foremost consideration is that your handicap is a measure of your standard of play in QUALIFYING competitions. While the immediate adjustments that are applied following the qualifying round are fairly good, CONGU realise that a certain amount of "tweaking" is necessary. Hence the annual review.

Looking at over 400 records would be a mammoth task; so the competition software has a section which applies a formula to the member's results over the year and flags up those where an adjustment should be considered. Members who have played less than three rounds are not considered as there is not enough data to go on. Unless you have played at least seven rounds the results of the formula are not very reliable and should be "considered with caution". Over seven rounds and the results become more dependable, and the software not only suggests an adjustment but in addition suggests the amount of the adjustment. However, we are not supposed to apply these changes without due consideration of the member's record sheet. In addition to evidence from qualifying scores we also need to take into account performance in match play and non-qualifying competitions.

Having decided on the adjustments to members' handicaps we will notify those concerned in writing, giving an adequate amount of time for them to receive the notification before the increase or decrease is made. There may be some instances where the decision is border-line, in which case I feel it would be reasonable to discuss the matter with the member concerned.

**Peter Spreadbury**  
*Match Secretary*

## news from the greens



Last winter was dominated by a biting dry easterly wind, whereas the signature of this one is the relentless rain and the mild temperatures. The gauge outside the greens shed, has recorded 21 inches of rain since Christmas Day and as a result the course is sodden and most bunkers contain at least some water. Happily though, it has not been necessary to close the course at any time.

Unfortunately, wet and warm is less preferable to cold and dry, so the winter programme continues to be delayed. In the interim, tree pruning and thinning continues and other essential maintenance (e.g. around the clubhouse) is being undertaken. Not wanting to tempt fate, we are hoping for a severe cold snap prior to Spring to arrest the development of fungal spores – if not, we are likely to see problems on the greens as the temperatures start to rise. Just a few days of Arctic winds and freezing temperatures would be perfect!

Over the next few weeks, the bunkers on the right of the 16th and the greenside bunker on the 11th will be re-turfed and we will be exploring ways of improving the drainage of both. In addition, the steep face of the bunker to the right of the 9th green will be re-turfed as this is showing significant wear and giving rise to some unfair lies.

The greens will receive another light top dressing as well as being brushed to keep them playing well through the winter. Also, the new range nets have finally arrived and been fitted, so we now are back with two functioning bays following the damage from a fallen tree in December.

As always, send any comments/suggestions to [greens@alresfordgolf.co.uk](mailto:greens@alresfordgolf.co.uk) and a reminder that the next open forum will be at 12.30 on the 25th April, in the clubhouse bar, if you wish to discuss any specific issue in person. It would be helpful if queries could be emailed beforehand.

**Harry Dhand**  
Chairman of Greens

## “Thought for the Month”



### **SLOW PLAY? Its not me, it's everyone else!**

*Slow golfers do not believe they are slow. They just tuck their head under their shell and continue to display poor pace of play etiquette on the golf course . Slow play is just bad manners.*



### **KEEPING UP WITH PLAY & BEING CALLED-UP**

It is your responsibility to keep up with the players in front of your group. Be aware of your place on the course and if you are affecting others. If you think your group is a little slow – tell your playing partners that you should all speed up. If a gap approaching the length of the next hole develops due to your slow play you should invite the following group to play through regardless of their numbers, ability or gender (yes – it does still happen!). This gives them the chance to keep up, which your group clearly could not manage. Long par-threes and short driveable par-fours are particularly bad at holding up play. You should always look out for signs that indicate a call-up hole where you should invite the following group to play up when you are just about out of range. This allows the following group to walk up whilst you are putting out.



## New Members

Welcome to the following new members who have all joined the club starting in January and February so far: Martin and Elisabeth Coward (7-day), James and Pauline Cook (5-day), Alan Parkes (7-day) and Summer Parkes (Academy) and Nigel Wright (Academy). 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.

## Annual Subscriptions

If your subscriptions are currently outstanding please make arrangements to either settle your invoice or if you are intending not to re-join please advise us immediately. This prevents us wasting time trying to contact all the non-payers and allows us to finalise the membership figures for accounting purposes.

We will allow a "grace" period until Friday 14th February to pay outstanding subscriptions after which any continued outstanding bill will be subject to a 10% levy. Please speak to the Secretary regarding any payment problems.

## Members' Guest Green Fees Special Offer

Due to the continued success of this scheme, we will run the GUEST GREEN FEE DISCOUNT OFFER again in 2014. Over the course of the season bring either 6 guests for £108 or 10 guests for £180. These will be available ONLY from the Secretary in advance (not the Pro shop). Please be aware that all "visits" must be used by 31st December 2014. No refund or extension will be given on unused "visits". Normal restrictions apply.

## Catering

Members can now enjoy a 10% discount on food purchased with their member's card. The discount applies to anything from the daily menu, specials board or Sunday lunches. It does not apply to match meals, function and events food.

## Club Roll Ups

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 5th - 10.30am  
 Wednesday 12th - 10.30am  
 Wednesday 19th - 10.30am  
 Wednesday 26th - 10.30am

### MARCH

Wednesday 5th - 10.30am  
 Wednesday 12th - tba (Vets comp)

## Sunday Lunch Carvery

9th February 2014 (nearly full)

Mothering Sunday (30th March)

Come along either as a large or small table and with members or guests. Book directly with Merryll.

## Card Top Up

There have been some comments about slow service at the bar at recent club events. Very often this can be traced back to the card "topping up" process. May I politely ask all members to think ahead and "top up" their cards prior to the event wherever possible. Many members have actually been to the club on the day of the event and yet wait until they arrive again to "top up" their card with debit card. This causes delays in service. Please help us out.

## Please note changes 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.

Friday 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th February.

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

**David Maskery**  
 Club Secretary





**This is an exclusive "members only" offer promoted to a limited number of clubs**



Ending Soon so don't miss out!

### Save 10% on golf breaks in France and Spain

With the start of a new year, now's a great time to give yourself something to look forward to by booking a Brittany Ferries golf break in France or Spain.

Better still, book now and not only will you secure the travel dates and courses you want, you'll also **save 10% if you confirm this year's trip before 31<sup>st</sup> January 2014.**

With our specially negotiated ferry-inclusive prices, no extras for transporting your clubs, and our expert Golf Desk service, you'll find our golf breaks are hard to beat, just call 0871 244 0808.

[Find out more](#)

#### Prize Details:

- ✓ 3 rounds of golf; Le Golf National 2018 Ryder cup venue, Le Golf Parc and Champ du Bataille.
- ✓ 2 nights B&B in the 4\* Best Western hotel in Evreux
- ✓ Take your own car with no luggage restrictions
- ✓ Return ferry crossing with cabin on each sailing

#### Why book early?

- ✓ Save 10% on golf breaks in France and Spain
- ✓ Secure the travel dates and courses you want
- ✓ The best pick of accommodation
- ✓ Choose the sailings and cabins to suit you
- ✓ Pay just £30 per person deposit

### Win 2 places at the 2018 Ryder Cup venue

Brittany Ferries is offering 2 places on its annual golf competition being held at the 2018 Ryder Cup Venue.

The winning pair will win travel to France in May and compete in this fantastic tournament.

**The competition closes on the 27<sup>th</sup> February 2014**

[Enter Competition](#)

**Brittany Ferries**

\*New bookings only. Individual Terms and Conditions apply to both the 10% discount and competition. 10% discount cannot be combined with any other offer or promotion.



## social scene

The Race Night is taking place on Saturday 1st March. Races start at 7:30. Tickets are £16 per person and available from the office. This includes food and eight £1 bets. Proceeds will go to the Captain's Charity and towards the club's 125th Celebrations. This is set to be a great event, so please come and support your club. The annual Club Quiz takes place on Saturday 15th March. Our very own quiz master, Kit Neilson, is once again masterminding the evening. So please bring along some friends and family to test your knowledge. Payment of £3 per person is available on the night (maximum teams of 4). Food is available on a pre-order basis. Please see Social Notice Board for more details.

**James Stewart**  
*Chair, Social Committee*

## Burns Supper 2014

It was pleasing to see another full house with 70 members and guests sitting down to enjoy our traditional Burns Supper. With smoked mackerel pate to start and then the centre piece of haggis, neeps and tatties, followed by hot whisky and marmalade pudding with Drambuie custard, Merryl and Dean presented an excellent and filling supper.

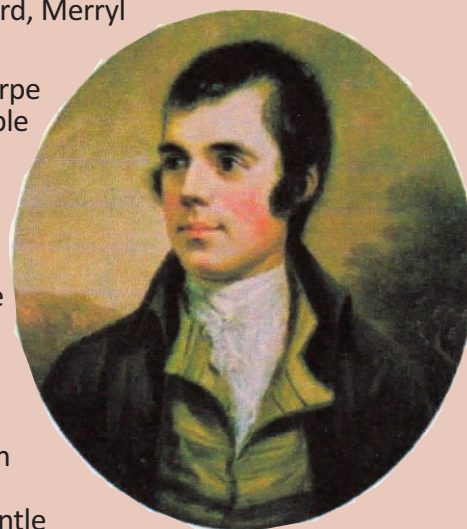
The early evening was dry which allowed our piper, Malcolm Stainthorpe from Chandler's Ford, to set the scene by playing on the patio as people arrived.

At the start of the meal John McIlree delivered the Selkirk Grace and then after the starter, Malcolm Stainthorpe featured again when he piped in the haggis carried by Dean on the Petersfield Salver, and also attended by John Murray bearing drams for the ceremonial party. The haggis was addressed and cut up with all due ceremony and gusto by George Clelland. After coffee, the Loyal Toast was proposed by John McIlree and then, George proposed an interesting Immortal Memory based on the world-wide popularity of Auld Lang Syne; Martin Sleight had everyone laughing at his Toast to the Lassies; but met his match in Ladies Captain, Charlotte Bass, who delivered her reply in rhyme and managed to include references to Burns' works while poking some gentle fun at some anonymous gentlemen of the Club.

Throughout the evening, John Irving managed to keep everything running smoothly as Chairman, while John at the bar kept everyone well supplied with liquid refreshment.

John McIlree and I would like to thank all those who contributed to the success of the evening, particularly Martin and Charlotte, and also Captain Les Thorne for his complimentary and amusing closing remarks.

**George Clelland**



## rule answer

**Answer:** There is no penalty. Rule 12-1 permits a player to touch or move loose impediments in a hazard in order to find a ball. A player is also permitted to touch the ground in the hazard while probing in the loose impediments with a club for the purpose of finding the ball. Such permission overrides any prohibitions in Rule 13-4. (Revised)





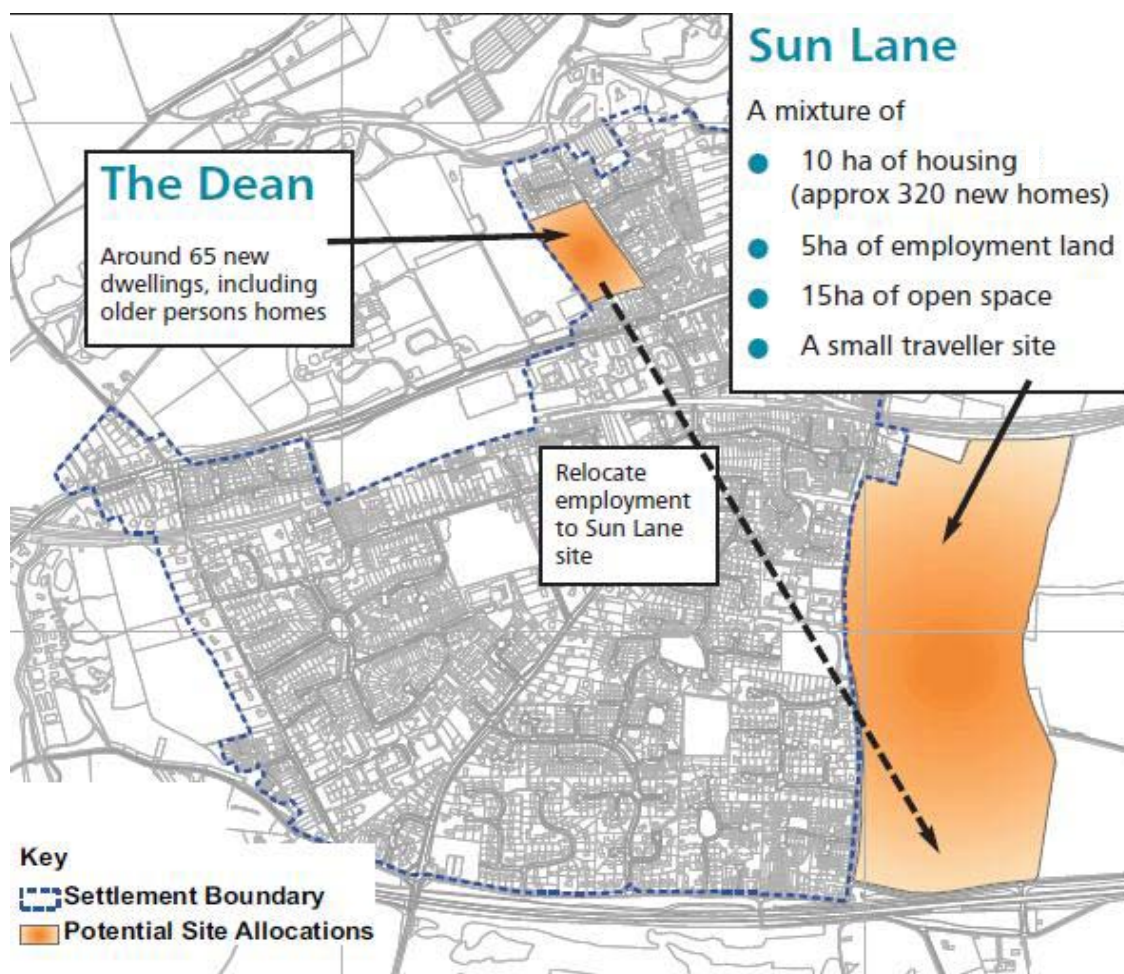
## New Alresford Development strategy

Just in case you do not know - members and in particular members living close to the golf club should be aware of the proposed development strategy for Alresford:

The plan is for **65 new dwellings**, including older person's homes in **The Dean**, and a mixture of **10 hectares of housing (320 new homes)**, **5 hectares of employment land**, **15 hectares of open space** and a traveller site all on the field adjacent to Sun Lane (near to the golf course).

More information on this including details about how to comment can be found on [www.winchester.gov.uk/lpp2/alresford](http://www.winchester.gov.uk/lpp2/alresford) and if you would like your views or opposition considered by Winchester City Council Planners, it would be a good idea to email Steve Opacic- WCC's Head of Strategic Planning. His email address is [sopacic@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:sopacic@winchester.gov.uk) or his postal address is Winchester City Council, Colebrook Street, Winchester, SO23 9LJ.

**Views need to be heard by 21<sup>st</sup> February 2014.**



### Getting in touch:

#### DISCLAIMER

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

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