



alresfordgolfclub

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It is humbling to have seen the huge amount of work that has been done on behalf of members by the Captain and all the volunteers who help to run the committees and the sections. As well as reports that have been submitted on time - and with a great deal of careful thought - there must also have been hours of planning, discussion by telephone and the inevitable emails. In particular the report from the Greens Committee does highlight for me the volume of effort involved in bringing about the improvements that we have seen during the year.

All of which makes me very thankful that Alresford is such a lively and well respected club and that we should encourage others to come along and join in to enjoy the facilities and experience the comraderie. A shining example being the 28 past Captains who were recently photographed together!

Thanks then to our 2015 contributors and my best wishes to those who have taken on the various roles for the coming year. A list of copy dates is being 'honed' and this should allow the assembling of the 2016 monthly editions of the newsletter to be relatively stress free!

Tony Gard
'Fore Info' Editor



28 Past Captains



A nostalgic look back at 11th Fairway Alresford. Please see Greens Report Page 6



Alresford
Golf Club

Getting in touch...

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

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I can't believe that this is my last report, already.

The Cock & Hen trophy had an excellent entry this year. 18 pairs battled through less than ideal conditions in our only mixed 4BBB drawn competition. Mandy Overton and Bob Germon recorded the winning score.



Many thanks to Kate and Ken Mills for organising and running the competition.

We played our last mixed match this month in a brand new fixture. Lamberhurst is another club celebrating 125 years this year. My original contact with their Captain brought an immediate request from them to form a close and lasting relationship; the club is on the borders of Sussex and Kent, about 1½ hours away. A "courtesy of the course" reciprocal was agreed as well as a mixed match.

Held at Alresford this year, it was an excellent day, thoroughly enjoyed by both teams. Alresford won 7 – 1 but, as their Captain stated "the deficit will be reduced at Lamberhurst next year". It is hoped both the reciprocal and the match will continue in future years; the camaraderie generated during this match should cement that.

We also played a match against Hampshire Schools. Annually they bring some excellent young golfers to Alresford giving some of our juniors a wonderful opportunity to play at a different level. I played against Lawrence, their Captain, who I have played several times this year and he has now got down to scratch. Christian Bottomley and I felt we did well to hold him and his low handicap partner until the 17th. Overall we lost the match 5 – 1 but it was a very enjoyable day.

The inaugural 125 Medal – Stableford competition was well supported with 83 taking part. The early starters got the best of the weather and, with one exception, the scores reflected that. Jack Skinner won the trophy and will see his name on the top of the winners plate for years to come.

The Harry May Two Generations trophy also attracted a good entry. 36 fathers, mothers, sons, daughters and even one grandmother & granddaughter enjoyed a perfect autumn day for golf. The scores were all extremely close with Jenny and Derek Myers coming out on top by 1 point.

We have played two other men's matches against Tidworth Garrison away and against Ryde Pirates at home. Unfortunately we lost both. We also played another mixed match against Weybrook Park, at home, where we fought hard to hold onto a half.



November sees the Club Dinner where we have an excellent speaker in Donald Steel. Renowned course architect, golf journalist and writer and past President of the English Golf Union it is sure to be an interesting evening. There are still a few places left.

By the time you read this all the scores will be in for the Captains Charity Teaser.



James Cracknell is Vice President of Headway and is dedicated to raising the awareness of brain injury and supporting the charity. I am now in possession of one of his books and one of his DVDs, both of which have been signed by James. They not only make fascinating reading/watching, the author's signature makes them a valuable keepsake so there will now be 2 prizes for guessing the Captains' and Vice-Captains' scores.

I shall be announcing the winners at the Presentation Evening on November 13th. The entry book at the bar will stay open until that evening for you to have another guess at the total scores. All the money raised will go to Ian Voak and Headway ... please be generous.



the brain injury association



Carol Roe
Ladies' Captain

Gosh! I can hardly believe it that I am writing for the November bulletin. This last year has passed in a flash and this is my final report. Before I comment on the events of October, I would like to take the opportunity to express how much I have enjoyed my year as Ladies' Captain and my gratitude to the ladies section for their support, the fun and the laughter. There have been so many highlights in this wonderful year when the club celebrated its 125 anniversary that if I were to list them, this article would go to two volumes. 😊 However, there was an outstanding moment on Captain's Charity Day. We were fortunate to have an important guest, Ian Voak. It was very special to see the amazing look of love exchanged between Ian and his wonderful Mum, Pat. It reinforced the importance of our fundraising effort. But, I need to take care of business and report on the section's activities.

External Competitions...

On the 24 September, Pat Palmer, Jan Haring, Sandra Hooker and Jenny Dillon represented the club in the Broadstone eclectic. In the morning, Sandra and Jenny had a very difficult round, but in the afternoon, Pat and Jan picked up 26 points and the joint team came sixth. A very good result for the team. A few days later on the 27 September, Mandy Overton, Charlotte Bass, Gill Pratt and Sue Masser played away at Wellow in the Legg Cup. Despite their best efforts, Alresford lost.

On 1 October, Alresford Golf Club played host to the HLCGA Autumn meeting Div.1. The ladies section were asked to provide four starters covering the 4.5 hours of tee time. Two Past Captains, Tony Maxwell and Clare Monkhouse, stepped up to support Linda Glynn and myself.

Alresford was well represented and three of our members were in the prizes. Kelly Travers picked up two trophies, the Aggregate Nett Cup (Spring and Autumn meetings) and the meeting Scratch Coasters. Lynne Cowser and Elaine Capp also were among the prize winners. There was even a hole in one by Kerry Smith who won the Aggregate Scratch Porringer. Congratulations to the prize winners in all the competitions.



Kelly Travers



Alresford Cup...

On a beautiful sunny Sunday on the 26 September, girls from seven counties competed for the Alresford Cup. The Kent team won. One young lady scored a hole in one on the second.

Friendly Matches...

We played two friendly matches this month. The first on 5 October at Brokenhurst, in torrential rain, our team lost. On 20 October we played our last friendly match of the season away against Worldham where we came second! However, our final tally for the season is 8 wins, 5 halves and 8 losses, a result of which we should all be proud.

Cake and Produce Sale...

We held the annual Cake and Produce Sale in aid of Breast Cancer on the 27 and 31 October. As well as home-baking, there were jams and chutneys. One of the ladies, Pauline Cook and her husband, James, also made peg bags, cushions and beautiful wooden bowls. It was yet another successful event and we anticipate raising over £500.00. I would like to thank all the ladies and the one gentleman, James, for their delightful contributions. A special thank you is also due, to Romy Parsons who, despite having a broken ankle encased in an elegant boot (sic), was on duty with Linda Glynn and Mandy Caldwell on 27th from 8.30am until 1.00pm and Pat Wallis and Jennifer Clelland on Saturday 31st. I don't think anyone, including visiting tradesmen, escaped their eagle eyes and determination to sell. Well done!

Looking Forward...

My time as Ladies' Captain may be running out but "the show must go on". There is still the Xmas Bazaar on 3 November when you can do a bit of early Christmas shopping. Many of you won trophies this year. I hope you will come along and support our winners on 13 November. Last but not least, there is the AGM on Saturday 28 November.

Goodbye...or perhaps au revoir.



Munro Spencer

Winner: Lesley Martin 69pts

September Stableford & Macmillan Spoon

Div 1 & **Winner overall:** Elizabeth Thorne 37 pts

Div 2 Gill Freemantle 34 pts

Div 3 Jean Coveyduck 30 pts

Carol Roe and Sandra Hooker won the 4BBB competition at our wet Autumn Meeting, with an excellent 43 points.

Mandy Caldwell
Ladies' Handicap Secretary

Ace's Corner

Neil Flowers scored a Hole-In-One at the 16th hole on 01/11/2015 while taking part in the November Men's Stableford.



Match Committee Report

Fore Info

Both the Cock & Hen and the Harry May Competition for two Generations attracted 18 pairs competing. The results are below.

In addition the other competition of note was the '125 Medal' which was a Stableford! This was introduced this year, for our 125 anniversary. The competition is set to continue in future years.

The draw for the Winter Leagues was performed in the clubhouse on Monday and the results of the draw are on the relevant notice boards.

The other important event coming up is the Trophy Presentation Evening on 13th November.

Competition results

4 Oct	Cock & Hen Trophy		
	1st	Bob Germon & Mandy Overton	
	2nd	Simon Freemantle & Debbie Wills	
25 Oct	Harry May Trophy		
	1st	Derek & Jenny Myers	34 points
	2nd	Louis & Bevan Parker	33 points
	3rd	Jane Scott & Carole Young	33 points
24 Oct	125 Medal		
	1st	Jack Skinner	40 points
	2nd	Peter Grant	39 points
	3rd	Geoff Colwill	39 points

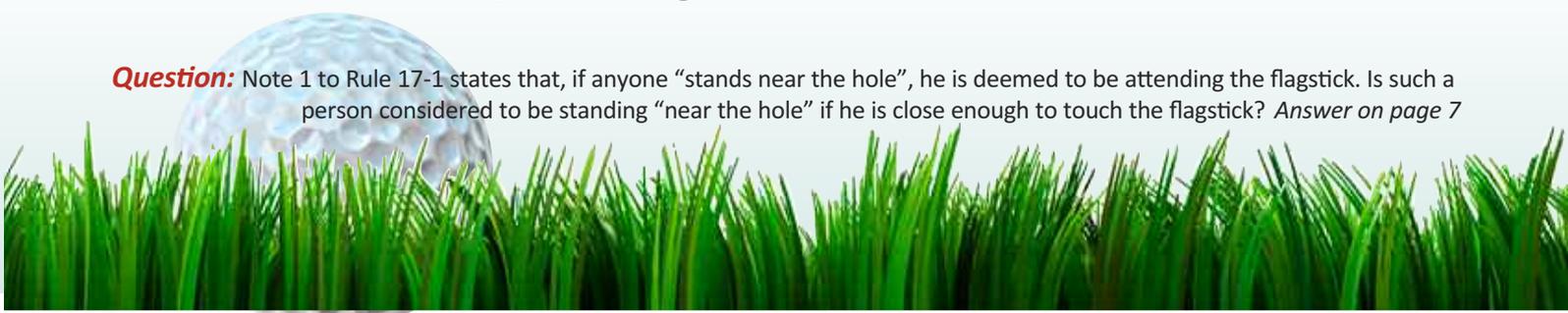
Peter Spreadbury
Match Secretary

...a look at rules

Fore Info

17-1/1 Meaning of "Stands Near the Hole"

Question: Note 1 to Rule 17-1 states that, if anyone "stands near the hole", he is deemed to be attending the flagstick. Is such a person considered to be standing "near the hole" if he is close enough to touch the flagstick? *Answer on page 7*





Stuart Slater
Vets' Captain

We have now completed the 'Summer Friendlies'. There was a late flurry of good results with halves against Test Valley away and Basingstoke at home, wins against RWGC, Hartley Wintney and Lee on the Solent all home and only two losses against Farnham and Sandford Springs both away. That gives a final tally of 11 wins, 7 halves and 22 losses. We would all like more wins but I am glad to say that we had 64 of our members participating in our competitive games this summer. It is my view that it is worth sacrificing a few wins to enable more players to have the chance to play and I would like to thank all those who put their names down for inclusion. The Bagman Trophy was hotly contested on Wednesday Sep 9th and the eventual winner was Stuart McCullouch.

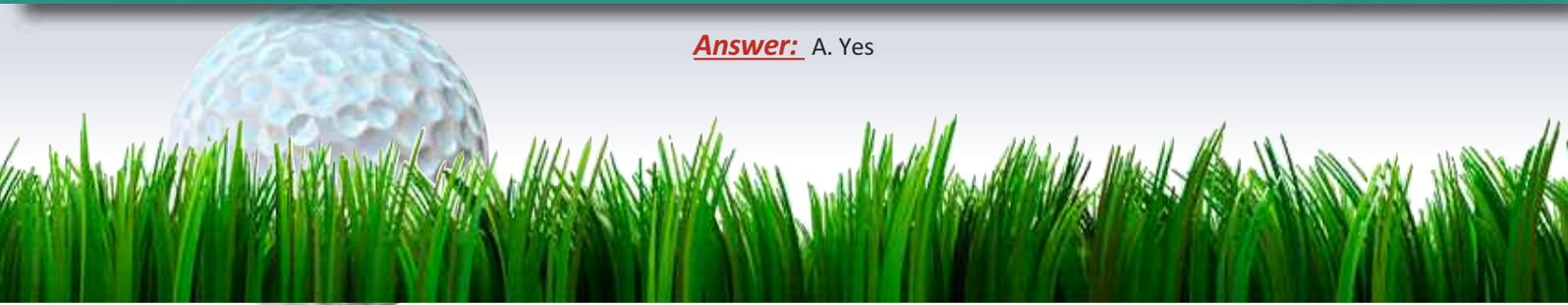
The Vets Secretary's Trophy was played over two days with a Stableford round followed by a Medal. 24 players contested the Stableford round on a mostly fine day. However, only 17 ventured out for the Medal which was played in near continuous rain. The winners were decided by subtracting the Stableford Score from the Medal score. Ian Johnson came first with an aggregate score of 38 followed by Pete Dowse with 41 and Stuart Slater with 42. The best Stableford round was Ian Johnson with 37 points and the best Medal round was Stuart Slater with a net score of 71. The annual Vets vs Ladies match was played on Thursday Oct 8th. The format was American Greensomes with the best score to count and 40 players participated in what was a splendid day of golf with the Vets coming out on top with a win of 7.5 to 2.5.

One of the highlights of the year is the Vets and their Partners dinner where we are able to entertain our ladies and thank them for 'putting up with' the many hours we spend on the golf course! This year 70 sat down to a very good 3 course meal in a very convivial atmosphere - or could that have been due to the amount of wine we consumed?

We had a 'new' event this year. On Oct 12th 16 players participated in the 'Captain's Away Day' at Weybrook Park. The day started with coffee followed by 18 holes of golf and finished with a 2 course meal and prize giving. It was a very enjoyable day out and gave us the chance to play competitive golf at a different venue without having to play in a match. The format was individual Stableford and the feedback was very positive. My only regret was that more members didn't participate! I hope that Geoff will continue the event next year and that more of us will benefit.

We are now looking forward to the Wessex Winter League, with the first match being played on Nov 5th, and the Vets AGM golf and Meeting on Wednesday Nov 11th. Please come along - there are several issues to discuss and a good turnout will ensure that your views are heard.

This will be my last Monthly Bulletin in my year as Vet's Captain. I would like to conclude by saying that I have had a most enjoyable year. We have played 54 matches and 18 tournaments so far and it has been a pleasure to be part of most of them. In addition, we have been lucky enough to play during our 125th year as a club which included our very special 125 event. I would like to thank the committee for their fantastic work and support throughout the year. Individual highlights are too many to include here. However, suffice it to say that the effort they have made have not only allowed you all to enjoy your golf but also made my job of Captain much easier. I look forward to being part of the Team next year and would like to wish Geoff Jenkins the very best of luck for his Captaincy.



I am sure many of you will have started a seemingly simple task, such as wallpapering the hall and discovered that it was a much bigger job than originally thought. By the time you realise this, it is too late, but you are already half way through and you wonder if you should ever have started. This is effectively the position we are in with the winter project and it is the main issue preoccupying the Greens Committee this month.

The Hawtree Report was commissioned to give us an independent professional view on the course and to give us the courage to implement improvements as part of a longer-term plan. We have had a lot of mainly positive feedback on the Report, both following its posting on the website on March 21st and again, following my two presentations in August and September. The Greens committee have met several times to start preparing the groundwork for a 10-year plan – it must be noted that this will incorporate some of the Hawtree recommendations, but by no means all. We are obviously working within financial constraints, but also we need to keep the views of our members in consideration and not change the overall character of the course.

As reported previously, not wishing to miss the window this autumn/winter, the Management Committee approved our recommendation to implement changes to the 10th, 18th and to a limited extent the 9th green surrounds. In addition, it was agreed to selectively thin some trees to the right of the 1st and 4th fairways and to the left of the 7th. Some of these changes (particularly the surrounds to the 10th) are directly attributable to the Hawtree Report, but most others, particularly the tree removal, are within the remit of normal winter maintenance. For instance, a number of trees around the 10th will have been felled by the time you read this, to allow light and air circulation around the green thus improving a historically problematic area.

The member feedback to these proposals, which were highlighted in Fore Info last month, has had a polarising effect on the membership. We have received some feedback that was strongly supportive, but also it is fair to say, a number of emails and comments, which have voiced concerns. Although the project continued to be supported by ManCom, I felt it useful to explain some of the background in a little more detail to which end, an open forum was held on the 29th October.

Personally, I have been living with this project for the last six months and have spent a fair degree of time in commissioning, considering and presenting the Hawtree Report. The Greens Committee have pored over the feedback from members (both written and verbal) and we have immersed ourselves in the detail with a view of coming up with the best outcome we can to evolve the course, for the benefit of our members. Whilst we have always sought to communicate the position, as clearly and as expeditiously as possible on all Greens matters, we are probably guilty of making the assumption that all other members are as entrenched in the minutiae as we are.

The Forum on the 29th was an opportunity for people to air their views and, as the majority of the Greens Committee also attended, we were able to collectively hear the views expressed, positive and negative. We had put the contractors on standby pending this forum, the objective being to convene a full Greens Committee on the morning of the 30th to make the decision as to whether to defer the project or to carry on with the proposed plan. As you might imagine, this was a difficult decision, as we would clearly upset some people whatever we did, but at our meeting, it was unanimously agreed to continue with the project.

A number of people had expressed concern over the planned removal of the pollarded oak tree, left and short of the 10th green, as they felt this was a feature that should be retained. We have agreed therefore to discuss this tree with Hawtree when they arrive on site on Tuesday to ascertain whether we can amend the landscaping to accommodate it. We will use our best endeavours to find a way of incorporating it into the scheme, but the Committee are clear, that we do not wish to end up with a 'camel instead of a horse' and we will be guided by the professionals, who are more experienced than we are.

At the time of writing, tree surgeons arrived on Friday 30th to remove some of the big trees which are either shading, preventing air-flow or encroaching their roots on the green. There has been widespread concern that we will be razing all the vegetation. In reality, the tree surgeons removed 5 trees plus a sycamore which was close to the 9th fairway and interfering with a much more impressive oak. Our landscaping contractor arrives on Monday 2nd with the Hawtree consultants to supervise the work, the day after. Assuming some continuing fair weather, they could all be off-site by the Friday or early the following week. Our greens staff will continue working on turfing etc. for a couple of weeks or so thereafter.

The Greens Committee is fully behind this project. We never expected for it to be unopposed or for it not to raise concerns, but overall, the membership will be playing on two/three vastly improved holes in the spring and hopefully, will be wondering what all the fuss was about. Finally, we have come across a number of misconceptions, which I will attempt to explain below:

* Further to the comments on the trees on the 10th above, in the spring when we make the presentation on the meat of the 10 year plan, members will be pleased to note that we intend to remove considerably fewer trees in general than the Report suggests. In common with many members, we like our trees and do not want to play golf in a field. However, we do need to open up tees and greens, thin out some of the copses and give some of our specimen trees prominence over less impressive specimens.

* If we have time for the 9th, it will only inconvenience members for a day or two. We may even delay this until later in the winter, as we do not need the big machines for this.

* The bomb hole on the 18th is only being brought round to about half way across the fairway, not the whole way across to present a barrier. This will not stop players running the ball in from the left. At the moment, any low shot up the middle tends to break right anyway.

* The 18th will only be out of commission for a few days, so the usual temporary green on the fairway will be in operation. This is subject to re-routing the irrigation system, the extent of which will not be known, until digging commences.

* We will reopen the 10th it as soon as we can, depending on its speed of convalescence. This is likely to be late March all being well climatically, although consideration may be given to opening it occasionally for some important events.

Other Matters

* You will have noticed that the sheep are back! As you know, they help improve the rough areas where they graze. Many members have commented on how much easier it was to find balls this year, although the cold spring also helped. We are at the mercy of the farmer who supplies the animals and this year, there are only 15 – we had over 20 last year. This group is unused to the concept of a pen and the morning after they arrived, our Green Keepers arrived to discover that most had escaped and were happily roaming around the rest of the course. They spent 4 hours rounding them up with the help of the farmer – not a great use of their time. However with increased voltage and extra wiring, the sheep now seem more inclined to stay where they are.

* Please remember that golfers should not enter the pen; the local rule is that a free drop may be taken a club length from the nearest point of entry. Someone has already been spotted trying to straddle the wire; apart from the exciting prospect of electrocution, the rams occasionally get territorial. You have been warned!

* Winter rules were introduced on October 27th and are likely to be in place until the clocks change back in the spring, although this ruling is obviously weather dependent.

* In recent weeks, we have noticed a large number of unfilled divots, on both tees and fairways and some have been exceptionally large. Even though we are now under Winter Rules, please replace divots on the fairways and fill them, with the soil provided, on the tees.

As always, if you have any comments or observations, please email at greens@alresfordgolf.co.uk

New Members

Welcome to the following new members who have all joined the club starting in October; Sylvia Goddard (Social Extra) and Harry Scott (PGA Social). 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.

SHEEP ON THE COURSE

All members are reminded that entry into the sheep enclosure is **NOT** permitted.

Members with pacemakers must stay away from the electric fence.

If a ball is in the sheep enclosure, it **MUST NOT** be retrieved, and another ball must be substituted and dropped in accordance with Rule 25-1b. If it is known or virtually certain that a ball that has not been found is in the sheep enclosure, the player may take relief, without penalty, as prescribed under Rule 25-1c.

**THIS LOCAL RULE IS NOT OPTIONAL
ALL PLAYERS MUST TAKE NOTE.**

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.

NOVEMBER

Wednesday 4th - 10.30am

Wednesday 11th - 10.30am

Wednesday 18th - 11.15am (due to golf society)

Wednesday 25th - 11.00am (due to golf society)

DECEMBER

Wednesday 2nd - 10.30am

Wednesday 9th - TBA due to Vets Xmas lunch

AGM and SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS 2016

We will endeavour to send the majority of AGM papers and subscription renewal notices out to members via email this year. Please ensure that we have your correct email address and pass this information on to any of your colleagues if you think they are not receiving the ebulletin. Any members who we do not have email addresses for will still have these details posted as normal.

TROPHY PRESENTATION EVENING – Friday 14th November 7.30pm

All trophy winners AND other club members are invited to come along to the Club Trophy presentations. Please make every effort to attend and collect your trophy. A list will be displayed showing which trophies are to be presented on the night. Please confirm your attendance

CLUB AGM

Friday 27th November at 7.45pm. Minutes of the 2014 AGM and 2015 SGM can be viewed on the club website or printed copies may be obtained from the Office. Please note that your calling notice and meeting agenda / accounts booklet will be sent via email this year. There will be a small number of printed booklets available at the meeting and for those for whom we do not have email addresses.

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. These are the dates when the bar will be closed earlier on a Friday. 30th October, 20th November, 4th, 11th & 18th December. Please check the club website and main noticeboard for changes to these dates.

HEALTH & SAFETY REQUESTS FOR NOVEMBER

CAR PARK: With the on set of winter we will begin to have period of cold weather which in turn will bring frost and ice. Members are advised to take care driving around the newly surfaced car park and to drive at speeds appropriate to the potential conditions.

CAR PARK: The stone filled french drains that bisect the car park between the lighting column's are NOT to be driven over. They contain the drainage systems for the car park.

CURLY'S BARN (12TH GREEN): To help with pace of play and to ensure the continued safety of golfers, please do not leave your bags and trolley in front of Curly's Barn whilst on the 12th putting green. This means you have to walk back down the fairway towards oncoming golfers, who therefore have to wait for the area in front of the green to clear before playing. Please leave the green behind the barn near to the left hand bunker thus allowing safe play to the green for groups behind.

FOOTPATHS: We are still encountering problems with walkers and golfers. DO NOT PLAY if there are walkers on the footpaths crossing the course. Make sure they are well clear before playing your ball towards them. Whilst not all are polite or courteous themselves, most are and will appreciate courtesy shown to them.

SLIPPERY SLOPES AND BANKS: The change to wet winter weather will also mean that banks and slopes will become increasingly slippery whether due to mud, frost or ice. Take care when walking across or down slopes and regularly check your spikes are clear from a build up of mud or ice.

David Maskery
Club Secretary

The winners of the 100 Club prize draw for October were:

- £100 - **Tony Marshall**
- £50 - **Tim Chandler**
- £32 - **Sarah Thorne**
- £32 - **Ray Grainger**
- £32 - **Bob Smith**
- £32 - **Ken Richmond**



18th green from the Clubhouse

Congratulations to the winners. The November draw will take place in the week beginning 2nd November. You will receive a statement of the 100 Club's finances included in the notice for the Club AGM. We have spent £3750 on projects this year and paid out £3269 in prizes. We still have quite a healthy balance in the bank which allows us to support most projects as and when they arise. Decisions on what we spend our money are taken by our trustees, Robin Good and David Farr, and will be communicated through the ebulletin.

Not a member of the 100 Club?

The objective of the Alresford Golf Club 100 Club is to raise funds for projects and items requiring capital expenditure that will enhance the Golf Course and/or the Clubhouse. Such projects would generally be considered as 'extras' and not necessarily be within the Club budget. The 100 Club was launched in 1987 to raise funds to augment the Centenary celebrations of the Golf Club in 1990, but at the request of the members, the 100 Club has continued to raise funds for items such as the provision of patio furniture, the pneumatic shoe and trolley cleaner, and the Starter's Hut on the 1st tee.

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 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.

George Clelland

Social Scene

Fore Info

If you have not already done so it is not too late to sign up for the Sunday Carvery which follows after the Captains' Drive In on 29th November. Book now, to avoid disappointment!

Over the next few weeks, look out for members of the Social Committee who will be selling Christmas Draw tickets. If you miss us, then tickets are also available from the Secretary's office or Pro Shop.

Gill Freemantle

Chair, Social Committee

gillfreemantle@btinternet.com

