



alresfordgolfclub

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Major storm 'Doris' was a surprise, given that name did not seem aggressive enough to match the severity of the weather she brought with her at the end of last month.

I do hope that is to be the last shout of the winter and we can look forward to a gentler spring. Very well done to the members who continued to play through the winter months.

Brave souls...

Tony Gard
'Fore Info' Editor

Management Corner

The major item of management news this month is a progress report on the refurbishment of the locker rooms and this is within the Secretary's report.



Alresford
Golf Club

Getting in touch...

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One of the golfing highlights of the year is the annual fixture with the Hampshire County Golf Union and this year was no exception. AGC fields 30 players, 20 of us against 10 County players teamed up with 10 of ours, all off scratch.

We aim to fill the team of twenty from category 1 & 2 players so that we give the County boys a run for their money. The fixture has been going for a number of years, originally set up by David Harrison, with the intention of giving the Hampshire team a warm-up for the season ahead.



Andrew Frearson
Club Captain

This year, I am happy to recount, the County 10 included the Hampshire Captain, Martin Young, and Amateur Champion and rising star, Scott Gregory, member at Corhampton. The team were accompanied by Hampshire President, Johnnie Moore and Secretary David Wheeler. Scott Gregory, in his capacity of Amateur Champion, has an automatic invitation to the Masters at Augusta in April and the US Open in June. He has a place in the Ryder Cup squad in his sights. As the first Hampshire born Amateur Champion, he is definitely worth watching.

Some of our own players also stepped up to the plate and my partner Jim White, for example, shot a gross 71 off his 7 handicap. Well done Jim - certainly saved me from a fate worse than death - (being beaten by a combination of the Hampshire Captain and our own Vice-Captain Brian Wright).

A few hardy souls came on Sunday 19th to watch this event and were rewarded with seeing some wonderful golf. We never expect to win the encounter but this year the loss was contained at 6 - 4 in the County's favour. Well done the home team.



County match 2017

Thanks, as usual, to Steve Privett and team for preparing the course to such a high standard at this time of year.

Our next event, and the last before the "friendly" matches commence, is another County event, this time against an under 18 team, played off 90% handicap. This is to be played on 5th March starting at 11.30 should you want to come and support.

On the social scene, Chris and Kelly pulled out all the stops for the Chinese themed night which was enjoyed by all. We were not available for the Valentine's day celebration but I am told it was a great success.

At a small gathering on 31st January, a presentation took place to a representative of last year's Captains Charity, Alzheimers Research, for the magnificent sum of £9,400. Thanks go to all those who contributed so generously.



Charity Presentation

With the weather beginning to warm up a little, the golf course is starting to awake.

Enjoy the Spring golf.





Jean Coveyduck
Ladies' Captain

An informal coffee morning was held for new lady members at the end of January – 4 Winter members and one Academy member attended. This was followed by a small competition scoring individual Stableford points which was won by Linda Fossey. Our next initiative to encourage new members takes place in March on Saturday 18th with an Open Day and I hope you will make yourselves known to visitors on that day between 9.30 am and 3.00 pm so that they realize what a friendly and welcoming club we are.

Committee members gamely turned up to clear the changing room prior to refurbishment work commencing and we set up our administration base in the lobby. Our thanks to the Social Committee for sharing their noticeboard with us.

A milder month has proved very welcome and we were able to complete a non-qualifying Stableford and the first qualifying Medal for the year. It was also really good to see two of our Junior Girls taking part in the Stableford with the ladies on the Saturday morning.

We hosted Windlesham ladies for the Maple Leaf Trophy but were sadly beaten on our home ground. There are two more matches to complete this part of the competition but, sadly, I rather doubt we will qualify for the final.

Corhampton's hosting of the Winter Triple took place this month and should have been the final leg. Alresford came second this time but we were unable to improve on our overall position of third. It is the 10th anniversary of this competition and Corhampton served a beautiful cake to celebrate the occasion. We will now be hosting the final leg of the competition in March as the match in January had to be abandoned due to fog.

The Club Quiz was well-attended and Les Thorne's performance as quiz master was immensely entertaining, particularly his interpretation of some of the questions set by David Maskery and his attempt to illustrate them with curious regional accents!



Corhampton

Before the end of this month we look forward to the Club Team challenge, a 3 way match play format with players from our Stoneham Cup team against players from the men's County 7's and Gales Hockley Teams. This competition gives our top teams the opportunity to hone their match play skills before the season starts. Results will be reported next month.

March sees the start of the Friendly Match season and the ladies will be playing Hockley at home and Royal Winchester away so please keep your eyes on the noticeboard where the teams will be posted.

Lastly, the Ladies' Coffee Morning will take place on Tuesday, 14 March so the first tee will be closed in the morning from 9.45 am to 12.15 pm. Once again this event has proved popular with local clubs and has been fully booked for some time.

Finally, congratulations to Melissa and Alex on the safe arrival of their baby daughter on 22 February. Wonderful news and we send them our warmest good wishes.

...a look at rules

Fore Info

Q: A player positions his golf bag near the teeing ground for the purpose of blocking the sunlight from the position where he tees his ball. He then makes a stroke. Is this permissible?



Winter Leagues

The draws for the knock-out phases of the Winter Mixed and Lombard 4BBB have been posted on the notice boards. This year, with some pairs withdrawing from the competition after having played some games and not all groups having the same number of pairs, deciding who went through to the knock-out stage was not as straightforward as usual. The games played by a withdrawing pair were declared null and void, so no points were awarded to their opponents; the pair with the greatest number of points in each group automatically go into the KO stage. The best second placed pairs were decided by ranking based on the average points gained per game played, and then the number of holes up and then the number of holes down. Please remember that both parties in the draw are equally responsible for arranging the match and make sure you take notice of the closing date for each round.

Summer Knock-outs

The draw for all the Summer Knock-outs will be done on Monday 6th March starting at noon in the Clubhouse and posted on the notice boards and on the website as soon as possible thereafter. Please remember that both parties in the draw are equally responsible for arranging the match and make sure you take notice of the closing date for each round. Note that for all knock-out competitions no extensions to the play-by dates will be granted.

Competition Entry Fees

From the 1st March the entry fee for competitions (Men's and Mixed) will be increased to £3.00 (£6.00 for 36 hole competitions). The prize money for these competitions will also increase by approximately 20% across the board. It is 10 years or more since the last change and the Committee considered this increase was necessary to ensure that the total income from the entry fees not only covers the cash prizes but also the prizes awarded on the Trophy Presentation Evening.

Score Cards

As the main playing season is about to start, this an appropriate time to remind everyone to please complete their competition score cards correctly. You should ensure that your card has the name of the Competition, your Name and Handicap, the Date, your Entry Number, and that you and your marker sign the card. In Foursomes and 4BBB competitions, the names and handicaps of both players must be on the card. Players whose cards are not signed or have no handicap or a higher handicap than that to which the player is entitled will be disqualified. Score cards should always be returned regardless of the circumstances. Members who persistently fail to return score cards may be sanctioned.

Men's & Mixed Competitions

28th January – Pro's Stableford (non-qualifier)

1st Hennie Muller	42 points
2nd Ian Jones	41 points
3rd Alan Powell	39 points

4th February – Pro's Stableford (non-qualifier)

1st Hennie Muller	44 points
2nd Dave Seager	39 points
3rd Ian Jones	38 points

18th February – Pro's Stableford (non-qualifier)

1st James White	42 points
2nd Derek Myers	38 points
3rd Nick Duncan	36 points

19th February – Pro's Stableford (non-qualifier)

1st Weikus du Toit	36 points
2nd Peter Grant	33 points

Men's Matches

19th February

4BBB v Hampshire Golf Union (H) – Lost 6-4

Ladies' Competitions

4th & 7th February – Stableford (non-qualifier)

Division 1	Lesley Martin	34 points
Division 2	Elaine Spreadbury	35 points
Division 3	Marion Bruce	30 points

18th & 21st February – Medal (qualifier)

Division 1	Wendy Pidduck	Nett 74
Division 2	Gunnel Berry	Nett 75
Division 3	Ann Topp	Nett 76

Ladies' Matches

13th February

Maple Leaf Trophy v Windlesham (H) Lost 5-0

20th February

Winter Triple v Corhampton & Lee-on-the Solent @ Corhampton

Alresford 2nd
on the day,
(currently lying 3rd)





Geoff Procter
Vets' Captain

All our winter league matches have now been played and we came a valiant third out of four teams, with two wins, two halved matches and four losses. Not quite as good as last year, but we still had fun, despite the occasional cold day.

Having finished the winter league, we can now start thinking about the summer fixtures with the first event being the Captain v Vice Captain on the 8 March. So, if you signed up to play in this fun event, take a look at the Vets notice board to find your tee time.

Also on the notice board you will see the request for players for the first 4 inter club summer fixtures, so sign up early to avoid missing the various cut off dates for team selection. As in previous years team selection will be based on those people who sign up, with priority being given to those people who played in the home match.

Following the results of our survey at the end of last year, together with various conversations with other clubs, your committee has decided to introduce the following changes.

a) For all our home matches the dress code will be 'smart casual', although this will not preclude anybody from wearing a jacket & tie, or indeed a jacket without a tie if they so wish. For all our away matches we will of course abide by the wishes of the host club, some of which have decided to go "smart casual" and some who wish to keep to the traditional jacket & tie. Given these changes the future "request for players notice" will state the required dress code. It is hoped that players will have a shower after the game, although this will be left to the individual player's discretion.

b) In all our future home matches we will offer coffee before the match, followed by a one course main meal plus coffee & mints. The match fee for this will be £10.

c) It was also agreed that when we play at home we should continue to offer drinks before the meal and during the meal, but there would be no automatic assumption that a bottle of wine should be provided for each 4 ball. Furthermore, it was also agreed that the choice of refreshments would be left to mutual agreement between each 4-ball match.

I believe that these changes reflect the wishes of the majority of our members, are similar to measures proposed by other clubs and will reduce the time and cost of our matches.

...a look at rules

Fore Info

A. No, Rule 14/2a – A player must not make a stroke while accepting physical assistance or protection from the elements.

(Note; a player *is* allowed to hold an umbrella to protect himself while making a stroke.)

(Decision 14-2/2)



Thank you for your patience and understanding during the period of the changing room refurbishment work. The work is progressing well and at the moment LAN Services are on target to achieve their six week timescale. At the time of writing (24th February) the demolition, suspended ceilings, wall linings, first fix plumbing, electrics and new extraction systems have been completed. The shower trays and cisterns are in place and the wall and floor tiling are almost complete. Two separate projects - to install new windows in the men's showers and washroom and to replace the old water softener with a system that does not reduce the water pressure - are also complete.

PLEASE DO NOT WEAR YOUR SPIKES IN THE PORTA CABINS. ANY DAMAGE TO THE FLOOR WILL INCUR A CHARGE BACK TO THE CLUB!

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the following new members who have all joined the club starting during February so far; Steve Pratt (7 day), Andrew Heathcock (5 day), Rosie Rooney (Junior) and Paul Hiscutt (Social Extra). We hope that your time at the club will be a long and enjoyable one for all of you.

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.

SPECIAL MEMBER REFFERAL OFFER

Refer a new 5 or 7 day playing member and receive an EXTRA £50 credit on your bar card.

Speak to the Secretary for more information.

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 from January 2017 will be 11.00am all year - all timings subject to any advanced tee reservations

MARCH

Wednesday 1st ~ 11.00am
Wednesday 8th ~ 11.00am TBC (Vets Capt.v Vets V-Capt)
Wednesday 15th ~ 10.45am (due to society booking)
Wednesday 22nd ~ 11.00am
Wednesday 29th ~ 11.00am

APRIL

Wednesday 5th ~ 11.00am
Wednesday 12th ~ 10.45am (due to society booking)

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 current list of dates when the bar will be closed earlier.

Please check the club website and main noticeboard for changes to these dates.

Friday 10th, 24th & 31st March

Forthcoming Dates for your Diary

Friday 3rd March MIXED GRILL & MEAT RAFFLE
Saturday 11th March CLUB QUIZ NIGHT (KIT'S QUIZ)
Friday 17th March ST.PATRICK'S NIGHT
Sunday 26th March MOTHERING SUNDAY CARVERY

SPRING TEXAS SCRAMBLE

SUNDAY 19th MARCH

18 HOLE FUN COMPETITION WITH DRAWN TEAMS

SHOTGUN STARTS AT 8.30am & 1.30pm

5 & 7 day members welcome

Entry Fee: £10 per team (£2.50pp) payable on the day

LOOK OUT FOR THE 'SIGNING UP' SHEET IN FOYER

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 2017. Over the course of the season bring either 6 guests for £120 or 10 guests for £200. 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 2017.

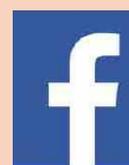
No refund or extension will be given on unused 'visits'. Normal restrictions apply.

TWITTER

follow the greens staff and see what's happening on and around the course.

@GreenstaffAGC

FACEBOOK



Make sure you 'like' our Facebook page and you will link to it and get the regular pictures and updates on what's happening!

<https://www.facebook.com/alresfordgolfclub>

At the time of writing, storm Doris is blowing herself out and it seems that the course was fortunate in only suffering slight damage, cleared quickly by our greenkeepers.

The tree spade work exceeded expectation and we added extra trees onto the range. The target green on the right of the range is taking shape and these additions make a significant improvement to our practice facilities.

Next week we will be topdressing the greens and carrying out two types of solid tining to help with thatch, compaction, drainage, surface firmness and to add air to the soil to help the grass roots to breath. We will start by dressing each green with approximately 3 tons of sand before solid tining with $\frac{3}{4}$ inch (20mm) tines down to a depth of 8 inch (200mm). We will use the large tractor mounted Vertidrain for this operation. The greens will then be brushed to sweep as much sand as possible into the large holes. After the sand has been brushed in we will again tine the greens with the smaller pedestrian tiner. We will use $\frac{1}{2}$ inch (13mm) tines down to a depth of 4 inch (100mm). Tining the greens again with a much tighter pattern with smaller tines will help seal the large holes created by the Vertidrain. Before the final brushing to fill the smaller hole, we will seed and fertilise the green. As the sand needs to be dry this work will start on Monday 27th or the next dry day!

Here are a few good articles as to why we do greens maintenance.

<http://www.golf-monthly.co.uk/features/the-game/what-is-hollow-tining-for-67993>

http://howdidido.blob.core.windows.net/clubsitespublic/file_88fec5a2-052f-48e3-a04c-27727d5ba6a0.pdf

Last month I outlined the plans for the 12th green as recommended by the greens committee and now approved by Mancom. This work will start as soon as possible. The two photo's below show the current view and then a photo-shopped idea of how much more sunlight and air will get to the green.



12th Green Before



12th Green After

It was good to hear the positive feedback from the Hampshire County players on Sunday the 19th. Great credit to Steve and his team

Finally, a big personal thank you to past greens chairs Chris White and Brian Young for their time, support and wise counsel.

Mark Tiplady



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

- £100 - John Goddard
- £50 - Ken Coburn
- £32 - Tony Marshall
- £32 - Nick Male
- £32 - Simon Wills
- £32 - Pat Wallis

Congratulations to this month's winners. The next draw will take place on Monday 27th March ... look for the list of winners on the Secretary's notice board.

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 Information Board and Clock on the 1st tee and the Automatic External Defibrillator in the Entrance Hall.

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 standing order. 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 by email or telephone: 01962735008 george.clelland@btinternet.com or call in to the Secretary's office.

George Clelland

Social Scene

FACEBOOK



Make sure you 'like' our Facebook page and you will link to it and get the regular pictures and updates on what's happening!

<https://www.facebook.com/alresfordgolfclub>

TWITTER – follow the green staff and see whats happening on and around the course.
[@GreenstaffAGC](https://twitter.com/GreenstaffAGC)

