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The Haymaker

(The Newsletter with a Punch!)

Newsletter of the Little Hay Golf Club

Edition 45, December 2014

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Lance retires as editor after 44 editions

The Committee and Membership would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to Lance Redler who is stepping down after editing The Haymaker since it's first online publication in 2010. It has been a valuable resource for all members of the club and the wider community to keep up with all that has been going on at The Club.

A Word from the Club Captain

Our waterproofs are now as essential to our golf, as our clubs, with the weather disrupting our golf a bit in November, with the course having to close a couple of times, due to the amount of rain we are having at the moment.

Congratulations to the winners of the Doughty Cup, Chris Miles, Dorcas Kindinger, Trevor Sargent, and Hayden Bunce.

I would also like to thank Dorcas & Trevor for a great job in organising the competition. and of course welcoming Dorcas as the new Lady Captain.
The Winter League is now under way with Matt Armstrong and Paul Rolfe leading the way after the first round with a fantastic 51 points.
Well that's about it for now but would like to take this opportunity to wish all Littlehay club members, Sportspace staff and their families a very merry Christmas.
Don't forget the various Turkey Shoot Competitions in December, sign up in the competitions book for a bit of festive golf.

Mick Whelan

Rules of Golf

Wrong ball

This happened to your new editor in a recent Seniors stableford competition

Rule 15-3b

If a competitor makes a *stroke* or *strokes* at a *wrong ball*, **he incurs a penalty of two strokes.**

The competitor must correct his mistake by playing the correct ball or by proceeding under the rules. If he fails to correct his mistake before making a stroke on the next teeing ground or, in the case of the last hole of the round, fails to declare his intention to correct his mistake before leaving the putting green, **he is disqualified.**

Luckily for me, Frank 'K' spotted the error almost immediately, and we sorted it out.

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Men's Section News

Competition Results (Men)

The November Medal results as follows

Div 1

1 st	Paul Whiter	Nett 62
2 nd	Andy Lepiniere	Nett 65
3 rd	Sam Deering	Nett 68

Div 2

1 st	James Wallace	Nett 69
2 nd	Jerry Clarke	Nett 74
3 rd	Phil Joslin	Nett 75

Thank you all once again for your participation in the men's matches this season, and I wish you all and your families a very Merry Christmas and look forward to the coming year.

Fixtures for December as follows

6 th	December monthly medal	Organiser Mick Whelan
20 th	December Turkey Shoot	Organiser Phil Jefferson

Senior Moments

A Word from the Seniors' Captain

This will be my last report for Haymaker and by the time you read these lines I am likely to be the past Captain, and Trevor will be firmly in place as the new Captain. I would like to put on record my thanks to Vice Captain Trevor for his support throughout the year and to ensure him that I will do all in my power to fully support his efforts in making 2015 as enjoyable and exciting as humanly possible. I will leave it for Trevor to announce the things he has planned and I am very keen to hear the news about his new Vice Captain. I know we will not be disappointed with his plans.

May I also thank all the members who have supported and helped me in the year. While it is too many people to list in this brief message they will know who they are. A successful section starts with a good starter of events and we have been very fortunate to have had the experience and dedication of Ray Moore. John Ridgewell has provided great fun at the raffles and raised a considerable amount of money for the Captain's charity. Derek Tarling has worked miracles in getting the Christmas lunch together. Other seniors have been actively engaged in essential activities such as membership, sports base liaison, greens committee, haymaker, etc, etc. To all you unsung heroes a great big thank you for making the club work, as without you, Little Hay would probably not exist in the shape it is today.

I hope that all seniors will be able to play or just attend the next stableford planned for Thursday 4th December. I have agreed for a representative from Watford Shopmobily to come over and receive

a cheque, that at the last count was £1595 (with still one raffle to go). I am told that the Charity will purchase a scooter and print for all to see that it was presented by the members of Little Hay Golf Club. So if you are ever in Watford you can feel proud that you had a hand in helping a disabled person lead an active life outside their own home. I will also be passing over to Trevor £182 to launch his captain's appeal. I will not steal his thunder and I shall leave it for him to tell us all about the very worthy cause he has selected.

It remains for me to wish you all, and your families, a very merry Christmas and a healthy New Year. I look forward to meeting all of you who can make the lunch on Wednesday 3rd December as it promises to be a superb meal set in very nice surroundings.

Paul

A Word (or two) from the (New) Seniors' Captain

Usually the 'New' Seniors' Captain pens his first or introductory "Senior Moments" piece after enjoying a super Christmas-ish lunch and traditional (let's not say formal!!) handover of 'the baton of Office' BUT this year we were forced by circumstance, (a couple of times in fact!!), to changes both of date and venue, as most of you know.

So I'm writing this not in the after-glow of enjoyment of a great lunch but in great anticipation of such.....which takes place only 48 hours after your receipt of this august and always, much awaited Organ.

Can I firstly say really a BIG 'thank you' to Paul Thompson for his leadership through this past year. Paul has actually been even more dutiful and diligent than even a heightened expectation level gave us the right to anticipate and he very quietly, calmly, smoothly and classily carried on the fine traditions of leadership built up over the years for LH Seniors. I shall find it, at minimum, difficult indeed to follow on from Paul and the Captains of recent years as they have ALL set 'the bar' so very high. Therefore whilst I shall try hard indeed, I believe I shall have to be satisfied if I am able to merely maintain their standards..... as I am afeared that to hope to exceed such may be an aspiration a little too far.

I might also pop in here a swift but HUGE THANK YOU to various people at the Club that effect various tasks that proceed basically unsung and unheralded and who TRULY make a Captains job much easier but further ensure, not only the smooth running of the Club but it's very functionality as a Club. WE all know who we need to thank (and I certainly will so do at every opportunity, I assure you) so I won't cause embarrassment by listing names here.

YOU ALL know who you are and YOU are ALL much appreciated by ALL Seniors.....I really do assure you.

Overall however I must say that the old adage. "if it aint broke don't fix it"is one in which I see a lot of good sense and with that in mind I must say that I do not plan any major or significant changes through 2015 for Little Hay Seniors. I think things operate perfectly well for all concerned, as matters stand. If however any one of you feel a little change here or there would be for the benefit of the whole then do mention such to me, clearly I am not against changeI am only against change for change's sake. I am, receptive and very keen to listen to all ideas and suggestions that will amount to improvements in any direction.

I'm not going to mention here the old chestnut of "slow play"!!!!

If possible I hope that during 'my year' we may at LHGC have a little improvement in attendance and see a touch more inter-connection and dealing between Ladies/Seniors/Men/and Juniors at the Club.

For obvious reasons the various Sections tend NOT to overlap and intertwine very much but perhaps that situation can be addressed through 2015.

I know most of the CLUB/ ALL SECTIONS Matches are played on Weekends, (as most Men have employment through the week), whereas Seniors play on weekdays, but please don't let this dissuade you from playing. Do seriously consider playing in all of the ALL SECTIONS Matches..... just as Seniors usually are "full-on" in support of the Contests with Ladies only. There are five or so Contests with Ladies BUT against Men only, not so

many, and therefore it seems to me to be somewhere near important that ALL SECTIONS events get well supported.

GO ON, put your name down. It does all sides (ie: the Club) good to have a little cross-fertilisation of Sections.

A little inter-connection is also much aided by such things as The Winter League (yes I know it's played on Sundays!!.... BUT it is a 'pairs' -- mixed or otherwise -- league contest); The Summer Evening League (played after 5pm I know but is only over the front 9 holes a round!...so, only two hours (!!!??) and you're sure to be back home in time for your Cocoa !!!) ; PLUS (as I've already mentioned) all the various mixed (ALL Sections) Club events. With this situation in mind I hope to have made available and already handed out, at the last couple of Seniors' Medals/Stablefords, a single sheet, "Seniors Fixture List 2015". This lists not only Seniors Medals, Stablefords, Interclub Games, Matches with Ladies, Away, Charity and Fun Days ...BUT will include a section listing CLUB COMPETITIONS generallymeaning, games involving ALL SECTIONS of the Club.

So with this tool YOU can make a BIG note to watch out for the relevant Competition Sheets appearing in "The Competitions Book" in Reception at The Complex ...AND....(go on) PUT YOUR NAME DOWN TO PLAY.

YOU'LL ENJOY EVERY MINUTE....promise.

Don't be SHY...these games (as with all rounds of Golf!!) are truly FUNand you'll maybe play with and get to know Club members you wouldn't ordinarily meet.

ALL these FUN Contests really do cement the feeling of Friendship and Camaraderie that LHGC is famous for.

Also PLEASE DO put your name down to play in the Inter-Club Matches through 2015 as and when the Match Sheets appear. These are also very much enjoyable competitions. They are played for enjoyment pure and simple.

My Charity for 2015 is to be " Rennie Grove Hospice Care". The Seniors did during Lance Redler's Captaincy year (2012) ,sponsor this super Charity, so it and the Club are not at all 'strangers' as it were . I have chosen 'Rennie' for the very simple reason that this Care Service supported and assisted Peter Betts and his Family in and through his final weeks last March and bearing in mind the great fondness and esteem in which we all held Peter at LH, I felt that there is no finer TRIBUTE to PETER's memory.

Peter Betts continues in fact to be much missed by a whole lot of us at LH. He was, in a word, irreplaceable. This Charity is very much a worthy and worthwhile cause. Also we have now introduced into the Golfing Calendar a "Peter Betts Shield Event" (the fine Trophy for which Peter's family have generously donated, as we all know). Peter's great pals, John Poston and Ron Johnson will run this event next year, as they gladly and efficiently did earlier this year, in inaugurating this very fine enjoyable day. It is very much a FUN event played as a Charity Texas Scramble and with lunch (hopefully in the new Complex Extension) after the Game and a Charity Raffle that will have MAGNIFICENT prizes on offer. This was, deservedly, a well supported event earlier this year and will take place again next year on Tuesday 31st March.

Make a special note in your Diary for 2015 Please, for this event.

So just three last points.....

Firstly, apologies I cannot announce here who has accepted the 'burden' (as if !!!???) of being my Vice-Captain for 2015 as we are still 48 hours previous to the traditional announcement (this year at Chartridge GC on Wed 3rd December)..... (but you will love him!!).....

Secondly, the 2015 Golfing Calendar is set and therefore please study the Fixture List for next year AND get ready to put your name down (for everything).....AND.....

Thirdly (and last but in no way least) can I please WARMLY wish ALL CLUB MEMBERS and your Families a smashing, joyful, safe and Happy Christmas AND all the SUPER WARMEST BEST of Health, Wealth , Happiness and Golfing (and general !!!) enjoyment through 2015.

Trevor

Editors note: You old boys have a look at the results of the Men's November Medal ! Lowest gross: Paul Whiter 73

Senior Medal	Division 1	Division 2
	1 st Terry Silverton net 68 2 nd Phil Joslin 69 3 rd Frank Klimaszewski 73 Lowest gross Phil Joslin 85	1 st Gordon Shaw net 72 2 nd Wael AlJawad 75 3 rd Mike Mason 77
Senior Stableford	Division 1	Division 2
	Tony Grainger 38 pts Frank Klimaszewski 36 John Redgwell 35	Wael AlJawad 44 pts Syl Nolan 35 Patrick Mcinerney 34



Ladies News.

This is the first missive from your new Captain for 2014/15. Bobbie Barnes, our past Captain, handed over the reins to me at the Ladies AGM on 11 November. It was a successful event with pleasing support from the ladies. Bobbie paved the way well, and hopefully I shall keep up her high standard. The Ladies Committee, this year, is a remarkable one. Each member is committed and diligent. It is great to have so many ladies who, as volunteers, selflessly devote their time to the smooth running of golf for the ladies' section.

My chosen charity is 'The Waterside Centre' which is based in Kings Langley. It provides day care services to adults with learning disabilities. It encourages its students to integrate more fully into the community. I would like to thank you all, in advance, for your support for this worthy charity during my captaincy.

We have made a good start with the Pearson Trophy. Under the expert leadership and encouragement of Elaine Meagher, the team won their first match away against Aldenham. In spite of heavy mist and fog we managed to complete the All Sections Doughty Cup – Texas Scramble on November 15th without mishap. It was well supported by the Junior, Men, Senior and Ladies' Sections. The ladies excelled themselves by turning out in large numbers.

On Monday, 1st December we will hold our annual Christmas Lunch at Martyn's Pond in Potten End. Thirty six ladies have signed up to attend. I am sure it will be a very festive occasion. A few enthusiastic ladies will play twelve holes of golf in the morning and will certainly deserve the hearty meal which will await them.

From the middle of December, after the Turkey Shoot with the Senior Men, we will be holding roll-up friendly games on Mondays for those ladies who wish to continue to play golf throughout winter.

Dorcas Kindinger

Competition results

November Medal	1 st : Jennie Walker net 73 2 nd : Pauline Manning 73 3 rd : Clare Stammeijer 74 Lowest gross Pauline Manning 85	
Greensomes	Chris Marsden/Gill Howells 42 pts Linda Reeve/Jennie Walker 37 Elaine Meagher/Sylvia Lutt 36	
New Captains Cup	Chris Marsden 39 Jackie Joslyn 38 Leslie O'Brien 37	

Junior Section News

All qualifying competitions for this year have finished. We are now busy planning a full junior programme for next season. We have 15 junior competitions (two non-qualifying and 13 Qualifying) which are open to all juniors with, or working towards getting a handicap, eight Lexus League matches planned. The Juniors with handicaps will also be encouraged to play in seven club competitions open to all sections of the club.

The cold and wet has not deterred everyone, with a few Juniors playing in the non-qualifying Winter League competition and attending Lee's Monday night coaching sessions which will continue through the winter.

Congratulations to Emma Shepherd for winning the most Stableford points over the season in the Ladies Section

Congratulations to The Little Hay Juniors Lexus League Team who finished 5th (229pts) on finals day in the stableford competition. They were only 3pts behind the 3rd (231pts) placed team.

We are sorry to lose Jamie McIvor and Keiran Beasire next year, they have been valuable members of the Junior section. We wish them the best for the future. Jake Conroy who has also been a valued member of the juniors, moves into the men's section. He has kindly agreed to help with the juniors next year. We look forward to seeing you next year.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Martin Evan and Eileen Jarvie

and in Conclusion...

...the last word is... Golf is a game of trust and you will often find yourself alone with your conscience.

...and a touch of humour...Do not get depressed if you are not playing your best game...

And never take your spite out on other people – after all – golf is only a game.

Editor

cc: Club President, Club Captain, Club Vice Captain, Club Secretary, Seniors' Captain, Lady Captain, Juniors Captain, Complex Manager, Head PGA Professional, charities, advertisers

What's on This Month and Next?

Competitions for ALL Club members

Sunday 9 November – Winter League Week 1
Sunday 23 November – Winter League Week 2
Sunday 30 November – Winter League Week 3
Sunday 14 December – Winter League Week 4
Sunday 28 December – Winter League Week 5

Saturday 1 November – Medal
Saturday 8 November – away match vs Rickmansworth
Saturday 15 November – Doughty Cup Texas Scramble
Sunday 7 December – Medal
Saturday 20 December – Turkey Shoot

All Seniors are eligible to play in any of the competitions listed above.

Seniors:

Thursday 6 November – Medal
Saturday 15 November – Doughty Cup Texas Scramble
Thursday 20 November – Stableford
Thursday 4 December – Stableford
Monday 8 December – Turkey Shoot with Ladies

All Ladies are eligible to play in any of the competitions listed in the top group.

Ladies:

Saturday 1 November – BL Medal
Monday 3 November – Medal
Saturday 8 November – BL Aussie Spoons Stableford Foursomes
Monday 10 November – Aussie Spoons
Monday 10 November – Ladies' AGM
Saturday 15 November – Doughty Cup Texas Scramble
Monday 17 November – Friendly Greensome
Saturday 22 November – BL New Captain's Cup Stableford
Monday 24 November – New Captain's Cup Stableford
Saturday 29 November – BL Stableford
Monday 1 December – Christmas Cracker Lunch & 12 Holes
Saturday 6 December – BL Friendly Stableford
Monday 8 December – Turkey Shoot with Seniors
Saturday 13 December – BL Friendly Stableford
Monday 15 December – Friendly Stableford
Saturday 20 December – BL Friendly Stableford

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