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The Haymaker

(The Newsletter with a Punch!)

Newsletter of the Little Hay Golf Club



Edition 49, April 2015

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A Word from the Club Captain

Hello and welcome everyone, another year descends upon us all at the Little Hay golf club. It was nice to see so many of you attending the AGM. I'd like to say how honoured and excited I am to have been elected to be the club captain for 2015/16.

I really enjoyed my Captains drive-in on 14th March, in very, very cold conditions. I would like to thank everyone that took part and of course, Wayne Griffin for organising the day.

On the 21st March it was my Captains team vs. Past Captains which was closely fought, again in cold conditions. The captains team winning 4&3. It was nice to see some older club captains; it was a very enjoyable day.

I have chosen two charities to support this year: Alzheimer's Society and Parkinson's UK, whose logos can be seen on the Haymaker. I hope to raise funds for these two worthy causes throughout my year as captain.

I would like as many members as possible, to get involved in all of the various competitions organised by the club this year. Details of all competitions can be found on our website www.littlehaygolfclub.co.uk, or via the competitions book in reception, or by contacting the various section captains for more details.

Don't forget to get your knockout competitions entry form in by the closing date 19th April 2015. You can download this form via the club website or find it in the competitions book in reception. If you have any questions on this, contact Tony Alford. I have enjoyed taking part in previous years and hope you do this year.

I hope you have a great year golfing at Little Hay.

If you have any comments or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me, either by phone 07885914605 or by email chrismiles.lfc@live.co.uk

Chris

Rules of Golf

Rule 28 Ball unplayable

You are the only person who can decide if your ball is unplayable.

Tell your fellow players you think it is unplayable, and you then have three choices for relief which will cost you a penalty shot.

1. Stroke and distance. Return to the tee, or wherever your last shot was played from.
2. Drop a ball within two club lengths of the spot where the ball was declared unplayable. Mark your ball with a tee, then measure two club lengths from there and place another marker, drop a ball within the two markers, no nearer the hole.
3. Drop a ball on an imaginary line from the flag through your ball, not nearer the hole, but back as far as you like.

Free relief is available from obstructions, pop-up sprinkler heads and fixed tee markers etc, but that is for one club length only.

Etiquette

I asked for comments about rules in the last issue, and got a few after a recent medal competition.

1. There were many unrepaired pitch marks on greens. We repaired a lot.
2. On a couple of occasions the flagstick was not upright in its hole.
3. There were loads of divots lying about on the fairways. George and the lads do a great job on our course, please help them by always replacing your divots. Thanks.

Advertising

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On-line Booking

The Little Hay Complex best kept secret is it's on-line booking system. Although bookings are cheaper using the on-line booking system (if you book online at www.sportspace.co.uk you will save £2 for bookings made during weekends, and £1.50 for bookings made during weekdays) very few people, Club Members, or the public use it. Clearly this would only benefit those 'Pay as you Play' club members playing social golf. However, it would be very helpful to understand why take-up is poor.

So if you have tried to book on-line, and found the process difficult to achieve, please let Phil Joslin know why.

His contact details are at the back of the Haymaker.

Thanks

Winter League

The club's premier winter competition came to a climax on March 1st. Nineteen pairs, from all sections of the club, set out in November to play ten rounds, with the best six scores counting for each pair. Despite losing one round to course closure, the competition produced it's usual nail-biting finish on March 1st, with four pairs within four points of each other, having a real prospect of winning, and two others with an outside chance. None of the leaders produced outstanding scores in the final round, so the result remained extremely close:-

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------------|---------|
| 1. | Brian Ridgeway & Jerry Clarke | 259 pts |
| 2. | Martin Evans & Nigel Hopkinson | 257 pts |
| 3. | Hee-Young & Steve Crowhurst | 256 pts |



Photo by Phil Joslin

Special thanks to Hee- Young Crowhurst, with able assistance from Maureen Bidgeway, for organising all ten rounds.

Report by Martin Evans

Men's Section News

March Medal		net	gross
1 st	Mathew Armstrong	70	77
2 nd	Nick Jefferson	74	76
3 rd	Craig Peterson	74	81

Senior Moments

A Word from the Seniors' Captain

Well during the last month we've enjoyed super weather and.... errr...**not** so super at all! Mind you, the course has dried out superbly, and is looking and playing very well, including the Greens although George had said that he will be tining and dressing the Greens in the week running up to the publication of this Edition. So we shall be much "on song" almost within days...**and** playing off proper Tees at last. Long wait wasn't it??

Winter is not quite 'over', but we are near to getting there. Even the Complex Extension is pretty much finished, as is the Landscaping, and this facility will be fully open by the time of the next Haymaker. Let's hope it enhances the "Little Hay experience".

So in the midst of things getting better, Seniors have our very first Inter-Club Match at and against Redbourn Friars on 26th March, where we lost 6 & 2. At least we came second. We only played "The Peter Betts Texas Scramble (and lunch) Charity Shield (in aid of Rennie Grove Hospice Care) yesterday 31st March so a report on this super event again must follow in the May edition.

In the Medal played on 5th March, Mr. Mick Milne (he allows me to call him Sir !!) carded a STUNNING gross 74 and a net 67 (clearly playing off only 7)...lucky he wasn't in form! Then in the 19th March Stableford, Frank Klimaszewski scored a winning 43 points (off 16) . Well done to all .We shall henceforth revert to two divisions now we can play from the 'Whites'.

Further on Saturday 14th March there was the "Captain's Drive-In" which is an annual event and an All Sections Charity Match played in a Texas Scramble format. Teams of four comprising Man, Lady, Senior and Junior. 12 Teams departed the 1st tee. Prior to the 'scramble', the four Sections Captain's drove off (mostly very badly!!....I won't mention that mine was the longest....but NOT long !) and these were measured and the aggregate distance was the subject of raffle type guesses. The New Club Captain (Chris Miles) will no doubt give a full report but I will say here that Mrs. Trish Joslin, Phil's wife, was a member of the winning Team. Anyhow, I must say that we were a bit disappointed that only eight Seniors played in this event which was great fun and a very enjoyable and well organised day (mostly by our new Club Vice Captain --Wayne Griffin.....thanks Wayne). All proceeds raised went to the new Club Captain's chosen Charity.

Overall we've put our clocks forward, spring is nearly here, the complex extension is about to open, landscaping done making things visually nicer, the course is even now in great shape, we're off the grass tees, and hopefully, the Sun should now shine a little more.... so HIP HOORAY, we can enjoy our Golf even more.....without frozen ears and runny eyes and nose!

REMEMBER that upcoming in April is So busy, busy.

TREVOR

Senior March Medal			
1 st	Mick Milne	net 67	gross 74
2 nd	Sylvester Nolan	67	92
3 rd	Ron Goodfellow	67	92
Senior March Stableford			
1 st	Frank Klimaszewski	43 points	off 16 handicap
2 nd	Patrick McInerney	43	24
3 rd	John Redgwell	41	12

Geoff Selley

Has gone through the winter bare legged, wearing shorts, to raise money for the Senior Captain's charity. As we have just passed the first day of spring, get your money out if you bet him he wouldn't manage it.

He also mentioned he had picked up an attractive Dutch coin whilst playing on the 19th March. Have you lost your quirky ball marker?



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Ladies News

The Encyclopaedia of Golf (Campbell) states: “ Nature was the first golf architect, shaping the links of Eastern Scotland out of undulating dunes along the shoreline. But, as golf developed, leading professionals were called in to lay out courses, and the construction of tests for players' skills became even more elaborate.”

I feel Little Hay is perfectly shaped in sympathy with the lie of the land, with lovely tree lined fairways, and some beautiful views of the countryside. To me Little Hay evidences the above statement. It is always a pleasure to play on our home course, especially after playing in some of the Mary Forster matches at public courses in and around our county.

Little Hay seems to stand up well to the wet and muddy winters. We are now looking forward to warmer weather and improving our handicaps. Twenty ladies launched the Spring/Summer golfing season with a dinner at the Cock Inn in Sarratt. March has been a very busy month. We teed off with our March Medal as the start of our 'qualifying' competitions.

The results of our competitions:

Sat, 28th Feb 'March Medal' Winner: Chris Marsden

Mon 2nd 'March Medal' Winner: Chris Marsden

Thurs, 5th 'Daily Mail' (1st Round): Chris Marsden and Pauline Manning beat Berkhamsted convincingly 5 and 6.

Sat, 7th & Mon 9th 'Ovaltine Cup' 1st Dawn Rose; 2nd Gill Howells; 3rd Bobbie Barnes

Sat, 8th 'Mary Forster' 1st Trent Park; 2nd Little Hay A; 3rd Belfairs

Sun, 9th 'Mary Forster' 2nd Little Hay B

Sat, 14th 'Captain's Drive-in' Winning Team: Ivan Lawrence; Trish Joslin; Mark Penfold; Tom Butler with a gross score of 61 points.

The traditional sweep was held on the combined driving distance of 561 yards by the four captains. The sweep was won by Chris Marsden.

Mon, 16th 'Spring Bouquet' 1st: Gill Howells (40 stableford points) 2nd Chris Marsden (on a count back)

Tues, 17th 'Pearsons Match' Little Hay beat Aldenham 6-1

Congratulations to all the winners!

We have a new member to the Ladies section. I would like to extend a warm welcome to Caroline Skelton and hope she has many years of happy golf at Little Hay. She has already proved herself in the Spring Bouquet by scoring 45 stableford points. As it was only her second qualifier she needs to play three before she is eligible to win any competition.

Dorcas Kindinger

Junior News

There were no Junior Section events in March but 9 juniors turned out to watch our new Captain, Robbie Mcivor, take part in the Captains' Drive In on 14th March and play in the subsequent Texas Scramble. On a cold windy day the best that could be said of our Captain's drive was that it was slightly better than some of the other Captains!

We have been forced to reduce our Easter Junior Competition programme to one Stableford on April 6th and one Medal on April 8th - this is because the Easter Holiday dates for Bucks and Herts schools differ by a week leaving only one week in which all our Juniors are on holiday. Anyone wishing to enter either of these competitions and unable to get up to Little Hay can just email martin.e.evans@ntlworld.com.

Our first Lexus League match away against Letchworth is on April 9th. Would all Juniors please respond to Robbie's email asking if they are available to play. Please check his email does not go into your Spam file!

Martin Evans and Eileen Jarvie

Topical Tips

For those complaining about feeling tired toward the end of their rounds, keep hydrated, even in the winter. Carry water, or whatever, big enough to last 18 holes.

At this time of year when your ball is constantly muddy, carry a pack of cheap baby wipes, it cuts out all that rubbing.

Fixture Lists

Generally, the feedback I have received about the duplication of fixture lists, comes down in favour of continuing with those in *Haymaker*.

and in Conclusion...

...the last word is... Golf is a game that is played on a five inch course – the distance between your ears.

Bobby Jones

...and a touch of humour...

“All games are silly, but golf, if you look at it dispassionately, goes to extremes.”

Peter Alliss

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?

Men

Saturday 4 April – Medal and Gold Cup
Sunday 12 April – Bryn Aldridge Charity Shield
Sunday 19 April – B team away to Ruislip TBC
Saturday 25 April – A team at home to Rickmansworth

Saturday 2 May – Medal & Champion of England Q
0732 – 0812 & 0840 onward

Monday 4 May – Bank Holiday

Saturday 9 May – Panshanger A team – Home
Sunday 10 May – Secretary's Cup & UK PCC Qualifier
Saturday 16 May – Stevenage A team - Away

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

Seniors:

Thursday 2 April – Medal
Tuesday 7 April – Away to Rickmansworth
Thursday 16 April – Stableford
Thursday 23 April – Home to Shendish
Tuesday 28 April – Home to Batchwood
Thursday 30 April – 3 club John McDonough Cup

Monday 4 May – Bank Holiday

Thursday 7 May – Medal
Friday 8 May – Hazlemere – Away
Tuesday 12 May – Whitewebbs – Home
Wednesday 20 May – Redbourn – Home
Thursday 21 May - Stableford

Ladies:

Wednesday 1 April – Home to Ivinghoe
Saturday 4 April – Medal (Q) & 9 hole friendly Stableford
Monday 13 April – Charity Cup £3 entry
Wednesday 15 April – Away to Rickmansworth
Saturday 18 April – BL Charity Cup £3 entry
Monday 20 April – Irons Rosebowl no hybrids Stableford
Monday 25 April – BL Irons Rosebowl no hybrids Stableford
Monday 27 April – May Medal and NAPGC (Q) £2
Thursday 30 April – Away to Harpenden Common

Friday 1 May – Pearson v Redbourn – Home
Saturday 2 May – BL Medal & NAPGC Q £2 – Home

Monday 4 May – Bank Holiday

Saturday 9 May – BL Burhill UK Stableford £2 – Home
Monday 11 May – Burhill UK Stableford £2 – Home
Saturday 16 May – BL Coronation Fours/Aussie spoons £3 pair
Saturday 23 May – BL Friendly Stableford
Saturday 30 May – BL June Medal & Granny Cup

Juniors:

Wednesday 1 April – Medal
Monday 6 April – Stableford
Wednesday 8 April – Medal
Saturday 11 April – Letchworth away Lexus league

Monday 4 May – Bank Holiday

Sunday 17 May – Redbourn *Lexus League* Away
Monday 25 May – Stableford
Wednesday 27 May – Medal
Friday 29 May – Enfield *Lexus League* Home

All match details and social events can be found, in detail, on the club website.

Key Contacts

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Vice-Captain & Match Secretary: Gillian Howells

Membership Secretary: Fran Tarling

Handicap Secretary: Chris Marsden

Medal Secretary: Jackie Joslyn

Secretary & NAPGC Rep: Linda Reeve

Treasurer: Carol Kent

Business Ladies Rep: Hee-Young Crowhurst

Eclectic Secretary: Caroline Banks

County Rep: Bobbie Barnes

General Member: Jacky Pearson

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