

Captain's Report for 2024

I am going to break from tradition and not report that the year has been an absolute triumph!

It would be fair to say 2024 will not go down in history as the greatest year for Golf at Little Hay. After probably the wettest winters most of us can remember and an unprecedented blanket extension being made available by England Golf it was June 1st 2024 when the use of preferred lies was lifted and play it as it lies becoming the norm again for just a few short months in which time the summer never really showed its true face before a fire in the in the Machinery Shed on 5th August destroyed all the Greenkeeping equipment and leaving the Greens irrigation system requiring manual operation just when the sun did start to shine, we were thankfully (for once) just a few weeks later when rains returned and the few parched areas of the greens soon returned to golf green from cricket yellow.

On behalf of Little Hay Golf Club I wish to convey our immense gratitude to the local Golf clubs and companies that came to the rescue and loaned equipment so the course could remain open during that testing time and furthermore and even more loudly a massive shout out and thank you to the Little Hay Complex staff and management who have put an immense amount of hard work and effort in to overcoming the obstacles both of the fire and negotiations with the Council over an extension of the lease to run the Little Hay Golf facilities, it is testament to this hard work that the course remained in pretty good shape during the late summer and autumn and that a short term lease extension has now been agreed, following which there will be a tender process for a longer term contract from 2027.

Orders for replacement greenkeeping equipment to replace the current on hire equipment are in progress with the first badly needed piece of equipment due mid-February being the bunker raking machine for which no hire equipment could be found hence their current poor state of repair.

Though not strictly LHGC matters I felt it necessary to highlight the above issues in this report to members as they have contributed greatly to all our golfing experiences during the past year.

I welcome the news of the lease extension and the increased spend on course maintenance that is now earmarked for the coming year, regular communication on the maintenance plans will be forthcoming both via email and the Coursemate App and your feedback and suggestions are both welcome and requested, the commitment received is not just in restoring but improving the golfing facilities during this lease period.

Your committee look forward to working with the Absolutely Together management team to assist them in the process of them winning the tender for the longer-term contract to enable future plans to come to fruition. Afterall, putting smiles on the faces of Little Hay golfers will help them in their endeavours of putting more smiles on the faces of youngsters their charitable works.

As the Treasurer's report details the club's finances remain in a healthy state despite inflation causing a further rise in several expenditure items.

The Captain's charity Cancer Research has benefitted from donations of £725 during the year I am thankful to all who have made donations and helped organise events, or donated raffle prizes during the year for the cause.

Following my first full year on the Club committee I wish to thank all who stand on it in and give their time and energy to run the club affairs, each one of them deserves a mention and a great deal of gratitude from me for the help they have afforded to me during the year, so I thank them all now.

My final thanks go to all of you, for it is you that make Little Hay Golf Club what it truly is which is a great friendly and inviting place to enjoy the game that we all love.

IVAN LAWRENCE – CLUB CAPTAIN 2024