



Spring 2024 Newsletter

1. Annual Membership Renewal

This Years Club Membership fees have been set by the committee and bills issued to members on 13th March, the fees that have remained unchanged since 2018 include a small increase that covers recent Affiliation cost increases from Golf England & Hertfordshire Golf.

If anyone has not received their Bill by Email please do contact the Membership Secretary.

Fees are by 1st April 2024.

2. WHS Handicap Changes and course Par Standardization

There are several changes coming into effect on April 1st within Golf in GB&I on how your course Handicap is calculated, as a result at Little Hay many Men will see a reduction in Playing Handicaps.

A summary of the main changes is attached to this newsletter and is posted on the notice board opposite the Trophy Cabinet.

Perhaps more welcome by many, is a further change in the WHS update is a recommendation that Par for each tee set by gender are standardized, in agreement with the Complex this has been arranged, and the yellow tees will revert to be Par 72 as will the winter tees from next winter.

New Cards are on order and a replacement Handicap board is ready to be mounted on the exterior wall.

3. Complex facilities and App

Do be aware of a Special off on Season tickets with the Complex between 18th March & 31st Anyone signing up to a season ticket either Monthly or one Payment will receive 12 months golf for the price of 10 if your renewal date is 1st April.

The CourseMate App has been relaunched and is now operational, it has many useful features that can enhance your time at the course, download it from the links below:

Apple App Store: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/little-hay-golf-complex/id1168309833>

Google Play Store: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=coursemate.littlehay&hl=en&gl=US&pli=1>

The App is being used to advise on the course status open/closed and will advise course maintenance weekly plans, there is also a useful GPG function to check distance to the centre of the green.

You will have also noticed also that tee times have this winter been moved to be in 10-minute intervals to help reduce backlogs occurring on the first tee, this should also help with the pace of play.

4. State of the Course over Winter – Captain's Perspective

Despite one of the wettest winters on record the course has remained open whenever possible, Unfortunately the driving range has not fared so well & has had to close on numerous times, recently for an extended period due to the mud making collecting & cleaning the balls extremely challenging, winter winds also wreaked havoc to the base of the fencing material on one side, this has now been replaced with new netting.

The Winter Tees, though far from Ideal have held up better than last winter, less sagging & movement has been apparent. On Course conditions did get very difficult and as a result the submitting of Qualifying scores for Handicap had to be suspended for a period but the course is now showing signs that winter is on its way out, grass is growing and being mown on the days it's possible to get Machinery to it and preparations have been started by the Ground staff for a return to grass tees on the 1st April.

One of the main complaints I hear from members and not just in winter is crowing around the cups and putts diverting when they appear to be going in, the greens staff have committed to ensuring all holes are moved weekly on a Wednesday, but we can all help to reduce this phenomenon by ensuring we stand as far away from the hole as possible when removing the ball from it.

5. Senior Section Please HELP!

As most of you will be aware for the start of the 2024 season, we have no Senior Captain in place, this gives an increased burden onto other committee members who must take on additional duties to ensure these fixtures are completed.

I would urge anyone who plays regularly in Senior matches to consider assisting in any way they can, many hands make light work please do speak to a member of the committee if you can assist in any way.

I express on behalf of the whole committee immense gratitude to Frank Klimaszewski for filling this important role for the past year whilst also being our Club Welfare Officer which was no easy task.

6. Remembering and Thanking

Recent months have seen the passing of two past members: Paul Whiter & Chris Venner.

Please take a moment to pay respect and remember golfing achievements you may have shared with them.

A Big thank you to all those who volunteer, without whom your club would not function.

Your committee members

Website contributors and technical support.

Greens & Liaison Committee members.

Match, Competition, and social golf organisers across all Sections.

The Independent Examiner

The success of a club like ours relies on all who volunteer their time, for free, to ensure the smooth running of the club and all its events. There is always room for more so please do step up and volunteer some time to support your club, please contact any member of the Club Committee to discuss what you might be able to assist with.

7. Welcome to New Members

A Further welcome to our new members who joined over the winter, do reach out in the Welcome to Little Hay WA Group if you have any questions or want to organise a round for Handicap allocation. Any member can join in individual competitions to play rounds for Handicap also just reach out to the organiser to be added to the start sheet.

8. Busy Spring & Summer Season – all Sections

The Fixture list for the year is published on the Website and is also on the notice board opposite the Trophy Cabinet. We have a full season of fixtures across all sections throughout the Spring and Summer, please get involved and book into events on the HowDidIDo (HDID) App. We look forward to your continued participation in all our events and fixtures.

An additional Club has entered the Herts Friendly League (A Team Fixtures) for 2024, Haste Hill meaning there are 2 more weekend interclub matches to be contested this year, opportunities for more players to represent the Club against other clubs.

9. Pace of Play

On the notice boards around the Complex, you will see information about how the pace of play can be affected by simple small actions that everyone can make during their golf rounds. Please do take some time to look and absorb them, then take heed each time you play for the benefit of all golfers on the course.

A small amount of time saver by each player on each hole can make a large amount of time over a round and a greater enjoyment of the Game by all competitors.

Do also be reminded that our Club's affiliation to England Golf provides you with automatic personal Liability Insurance. But this does not cover your golf equipment.

Wishing you all a Great Golfing season!

Ivan Lawrence: Club Captain 2024 (Email: ivan.lawrence@ferrero.com)