



The Raven

Newsletter of the Herefordshire Golf Club

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AGM was one of the shortest on record

This year's AGM was according to those present, one of the shortest so far. It lasted 38 minutes in all. The financial report shows that we are making improvements despite having suffered in the recession. There were no questions from the floor for the Treasurer, **Emyr Saer**, to answer.

The other Chairmans' reports were also well received and again there were no questions from the floor.

A proposition was put forward to add an additional category to the membership. This was an additional intermediate category for those members between 25 years and 30 years. This was carried..

Honorary membership was conferred unanimously on **Alan Blake**, who has been a long and valued member of the Herefordshire Golf Club for many years. This was a well deserved honour.

Ron East was elected as Captain of the Club. The newly elected members to the committee were **Karl Alexander** and **John Oldman**.

A request was made by **Mark Owen** to have photographs of the current Executive members displayed. It was agreed that the Secretary would arrange that they would be displayed in the foyer.

Captain's Notes

The 15th April, 22 days into my captaincy and I am writing my first report. One certainly hits the ground running in this job.

Thank you for electing me as your captain for 2010, I will endeavour to represent the club to the best of my ability.

I am going to start my report by turning the clock back to recent Executive Committee meetings. In October the Committee agreed to increase the annual subscriptions for full playing members by 5% to £548.00 and other categories by a pro rata amount, to meet our ever increasing costs during difficult economic times. At the March meeting it was agreed that the subscription date would be changed from January to April, mainly to ease the financial pressure on individuals immediately after Christmas. At the same meeting it was also agreed that the Committee would recommend to the members at the A.G.M. that a senior intermediate membership for ages 25 – 30 should be introduced, with an annual subscription of £400.00, to help this age group who are likely to be meeting other big expenses. This recommendation was duly passed.

I believe these decisions, combined, demonstrate that your Executive Committee is prepared to make unpopular but necessary decisions in order to maintain the standards of the golf course, but, also has the best interests of the members in mind.

Forward now to my drive in and possibly my straightest, longest drive of the year, 27yards` and increasing, past the furthest peg. Unfortunately the second drive was a

poorly struck hook but we all know that we've never got this game beaten. Congratulations to Bob Barnett and Peter Timms, who had the closest pegs to my drives. Congratulations also to the stableford competition prize winners. First place went to John Devereux Snr. who scored 40 pts., second was Steve Radziejowski with 39pts and third place went to Frank Hart also with 39 pts.

Thanks to Jeremy and the greens staff for presenting the course in such a good condition after an extreme winter. It was certainly testing. £432.00 was raised for my nominated charity, the local branch of the Alzheimers Society. Thank you to all who supported the event.

Finally, congratulations to our new Lady Captain, Anna Irwin, Vice -Captain, Barry Spink and new Executive Committee members, John Oldman and Karl Alexander on their appointments. I hope they all enjoy their term of office.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members who are supporting the friendly matches at this early part of the season. The small changes I have made to the selection process appear to have had the desired effect of creating greater interest amongst a wider section of the club. Our team captain Barrie is being as fair as possible with his selections. A sheet will be going up in mid-May to cover fixtures through June and July when I hope to have your continued and growing support.

Enjoy your golf.

Ron East

Lady Captain's Notes

We have had a very busy few weeks since Easter what with the Hereford County AGM, Gavin Nicol Cup, Coronation Foursomes, 3 Friendly matches, 2 Droitwich League matches, a Charity Bridge Drive and last but not least a visit to Hawkstone Park. Several members have also attended coffee mornings locally at Burghill and Kington.

My first Charity event was ably organised by Vivian Griffiths and Sue Powell. Zita Chilman was invited to act as Director for us and ably looked after all 88 bridge players who turned up for a most enjoyable and relaxed evening of bridge at the Club. Thank you to all of you who encouraged your friends to come and play. Thanks to Jo and Rita for selling raffle tickets and also to all of you who supplied raffle prizes.

For the first time we included three tables for 'beginners' and a special prize for the winning pair. Overall there were 22 tables, and special cloths were borrowed from another club. Thank you all who made delicious sandwiches, vol-au-vents, mini-quiches, sausage rolls and those scrummy cakes. The service was excellent so many thanks for those members who not only served but also did a fantastic clean up afterwards. Thanks to all of you we raised over £700 for Parkinsons that night.

Our recent visit to Hawkstone Park was like going on a summer holiday. The weather was warm enough to wear cut offs and shirt sleeves and the sun shone both days. The Hotel was old style, comfortable and most of us had views over a course. The Hawkstone (old) course was very dramatic bordered by towering rocks. Maddy Patterson with Ellen Goodchild made a formidable team scor-

ing 44 betterball stableford points. Jo Ware with Pat Millington and Ann Wheatstone with Viv Griffiths came in hot pursuit with 41 points for each team. Iris Corfield, Ann Wheatstone and Jo Ware demonstrated their skill scoring twos. An evening of laughter and good food followed.

The next day after a king-sized breakfast we took on the Championship (Windmill) Course. Quite a different links style course, testing, hidden wind, bunkers and a lake to play round. Playing in Teams of four or three with three scores to count and all scores on the last hole, Jo Ware, Vivian Griffiths, Iris Corfield and Ann Saunders came in with the winning stableford score. Iris and Maddy had twos on one of the short holes. We met in the club house for a sandwich lunch to recover and after giving prizes, receiving a lot of thank yous, all went home happily.

Thank you so much for my surprise gift too!

Anna Irwin

Seniors' Captain's Notes

I must admit I was lucky to become Captain in that Barry Stevenson was looking for a Vice Captain who could boast the following criteria - 72 years of age, poor eyesight, hard of hearing, playing off a handicap of 25 and who didn't mind the fact that 25 people had been asked before him! With me , flattery always won out!

I am sure that the foundations of one's Captaincy are laid as Vice Captain. It was clear that Captain Barry Stevenson was doing a great job with the matches and

I was able to concentrate as Vice Captain on building more support for a Tuesday competition that had become dysfunctional and uninteresting. Fields of 20 to 25 were not uncommon and 'putting out' a rarity. So it was not surprising that 65% of senior members ignored the event. So with the support of the committee in April 2009 some very hard hitting and provocative notices were posted in prominent places to reach **ALL** seniors stating that anyone not 'putting out' would be disqualified and that slow play must be minimised. We were simply broadcasting to **ALL** seniors that we were putting our house in order.

This still left the problem of the competition, so to make it more interesting ideas were collected from 45% of active seniors by way of a questionnaire. Based on their views a new varied annual golf activity schedule was completed for 2010. As a result of these measures more seniors started to play with numbers increasing throughout 2009. However 2010 has brought a startling improvement in support vindicating the measures taken. In April 2010 **145** players supported the Tuesday competition (whilst there was a match on) versus **84** in 2009 an incredible **73%** increase. These results speak for themselves.

On the match front the team has played seven, won three, lost three and drawn one, a reasonable performance that can be improved upon.

One of the biggest revenue builders in the seniors is The Seniors Open' run by Dave Hamer. Initially Peter Bingham a past member was the first to sow the seeds of success but David has taken the competition a step further by making it the most popular in the three

counties with close to 150 participants this year. David Knowles as fixtures secretary gives essential support to the Captain producing fixture lists with accuracy and efficiency. Last year we were fortunate to have Roger Wardle as secretary who has now stepped up to the post of Vice Captain. He gives me invaluable backing as does that old hand Colin King who has returned to the fold as secretary; Colin is also influential in liaison with club sections in general. Our ex-captain Barry Stevenson has tutored me with the psychology of match play and offered helpful advice. Then there is of course Jeff Burkin a past captain who is now the treasurer producing regular financial summaries and who has taken to trading profit & loss plus balance sheets like a duck to water. All these activities take place under the care of our President Norman Sockett who has great experience in golf club committee work.

Frank Greatorex

News from the Office

We have had a number of new members this year, and to those Sarah and I wish you every success in golfing at The Herefordshire.

I am sure you will find a warm welcome from the present members. It is hoped that this year we will hold a Welcome Evening for those new members joining 2009-2010. The date will be posted on the notice board and invitations will be sent out. We hope that all the new members will be able to attend.

This year we are intending to have a display cabinet for our cups and trophies in the foyer, so watch this space. I'm sure a lot of members would like to see them.

We still have a few lockers left, (and I now have new locks) so if interested please contact the office.

Dave Hankins has done a lot of work on the web site recently, so check it out. Many thanks to Dave for his sterling work.

Dave and Sarah

Daily Mail Foursomes

Last year in the 1st round of this competition **Stephen Griffiths** and **Tony Gwynne** were beaten by Ludlow (A).

However the previous year, **Adam Herbert** and **Jon Williams** performed exceptionally well as follows :-

Rd 1 v Leominster (H) won 3 & 1

Rd 2 v Ross (H) won 5 & 4

Rd 3 v Woodlake Park @ won 3 & 1

Rd 4 v Kington (H) won 3 & 2

Rd 5 v Glynneath (A) won at 21st hole (Max Boyce was there!)

Rd 6 v Raglan Parc (A) lost 2 & 1.

I think James Cook and Matt Davies have excelled in the past but this is possibly the best performance from our club.

Wyn Owen