

Links

The Newsletter of Northwood Golf Club

3 Centuries - 6 Monarchs - 1 Club

www.northwoodgolf.co.uk

Summer 2011



Gymnastic feet drying?
Stalin & Tito - Marshals?
Suggestions of deja vu?



A View Still Outside the Box

Editorial/Publishing

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Editor Dennis Sare
Editor's P.A. Erin Dors
Roving Reporters Anyone who has anything to offer
Any Articles Y. Notyew

Special articles for this edition

Recessionary Times Wat Snaw
Want a lower Handicap? Will Triharder
Did you eat those? Dai Scarrots
Up before the Beak JuanToomany

Regular Columnists

The Captain
Lady Captain
Chairman of House Committee
Chairman of Green Committee
Chairman of Membership Committee
All Section Captains

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Copy deadline date for the next issue is 1st September 2011 at the very latest please

Please give any articles or advertisements to be included in the next issue to the Editor Dennis Sare, either by sending an email with an attachment to dennis.sare@btinternet.com or by posting a CD (which he promises to return) into his pigeon hole. This will be fine as this will save a lot of time re-typing! At worst, for those who can still write, written copy will be OK.

The Publishing team's disclaimer is: Anything goes allegedly ! No responsibility is accepted for any article that appears nor is any article necessarily the official view of The Board.

These notes, some call them ramblings, of the Editor are always written with the title of this column ever in mind. There's too much "oh, we've done that and it doesn't work" or "I have no experience of that but I'll voice my opinion in any case" or "do you think we haven't thought of that already?". Today, more than ever, new ideas (even some old ideas too) need examining. Peripatetic members will increase but the important trick will be how to retain their continued loyalty. New ventures need encouragement such as Northwood's Professional Chris Holdsworth who has taken up with enthusiasm a new venture showing he's never afraid to learn new tricks. In conjunction with his buying group Foremost, he has launched his own website chrisholdsworthpgapro.co.uk Not only that sign up to receive his emailed newsletters and become the recipient of fortnightly pearls of wisdom - and perhaps just a little selling too. Can't be a bad deal and it isn't!

Erin Dors and I went down to Cornwall in early June and met a couple from Northwood who had joined St Mellion Golf Club. They had just had an EGM, like one we will be having. They were trying to see where financially they were going. The fine detail doesn't need to be mentioned here apart from noticing that the position in which they found themselves is the same as many other clubs and NGC - overheads and income not in harmony and not helped by the recession either. What they noticeably rejected, however, was that they would not go down any route that put them into bed with HMRC. Interesting that similar events are happening throughout England with some thinking that they know all the answers and others thinking they don't.

Sitting in the Club restaurant recently I was chewing the fat with a old chum. After a while the conversation turned to the ubiquitous topic of CASC and the ongoing, interminable discussions. My chum ventured the opinion that he hadn't attended any meetings nor was he going to! He knew what he thought was right and he wasn't going to waste time listening to people who had "entrenched" views. Apart from the wonderful irony of such a statement, what a closed a mind my chum appeared to have, overlooking whether he was for or against. It never occurred to him that he might be wrong, or that he might be ignorant or that his current information was at fault - or that he could confirm that he was right after all! I do hope readers will notice that I haven't mentioned from my privileged position what his viewpoint was for fear of swaying opinion. Suffice to say that I do hope that he does come to the 9 July meeting to

listen or even to take part. Who knows he may be right - or wrong! But he won't know unless he turns up.

A correction With regard to an item in the last edition of *Links* the Editor may have got a little too enthusiastic in making a point regarding articles submitted by an unnamed *Links* contributor who had objected to the Editor's need to edit his articles. The words "always full" are unreservedly withdrawn and perhaps the words should have been "sometimes had". Any misunderstandings arising have been addressed.

News has just broken that NGC member Sean Cunningham has featured in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. Formerly head of New Scotland Yard's Hostage and Crisis Negotiation Unit, Sean has been awarded an OBE for services to international hostage negotiation. I am sure we would all like to congratulate Sean on his appointment.

The Editor had first hand experience once when he tried to fix up a Rabbits match with Sean. Knowing that he was away on a "job" he waited until Sean returned. Having received an email indicating that he might be around, your Editor phoned him. The mobile was quickly and very quietly answered with a whispered "Hi Den, can't speak right now" Ed replied "why not?" And then he had a flash of inspiration, "where are you? Are you still in Mali?" "Yes Den, and right now I am on a job". Confusion reigned this end with many apologies to Sean the phone connection was finished. As they used to say - collapse of stout party!

Apart from Cornwall we also visited Berkhamsted GC recently and met our erstwhile GM Steve Derbyshire. He said that 4 years ago Berkhamsted had a female Club Captain who is now, among other achievements, Chairman of Greens. Let's hope that NGC, given the right applicant and opportunity, can have enough courage to do likewise if needed.

How to get more members? In these days of modernity and trying to be everything to all men, rumour of relaxing NGC dress code could perhaps result in throwing the baby out with the bathwater. Might Jeans in the clubhouse and on the course have the reverse effect with existing members? It may be yet another example of the Law Unexpected Consequences waiting to be enacted.

Dennis Sare
Editor



Norman Bennington
Club Captain

Captain asks if it is more than a coincidence?

Many Members ask me “Are you enjoying your year?” When I stop to think, I have already completed more than seven months and have thoroughly enjoyed it. So far, I think that things are moving in the right direction. The course has now turned the corner and we are at long last seeing some benefits from the greens. Not perfect yet, but considerably better than we have had. My congratulations go to Wes Walker and his team under the guidance of Peter Jones, our agronomist, and also

Greens Committee Chairman Cornelius Bohane.

I wonder if it is more than a coincidence that our subscription renewal numbers have stood up very well this year? A “well done” to Membership and Marketing Committee – keep up the good work. I look forward to meeting and getting to know the new members and I welcome them to Northwood GC.

My golfing season continues at a pace: playing with various groups, Captain and Professional challenges, mixed matches and a few away days as well.



Gentlemen' Winner S. Smith on
Captain's Prize Day



Ladies Winner Jayne Burden on
Captain's Prize Day

The Club's social events continue to be supported but we would always prefer more attendees. I thank Gordon Wilson, Terry Turner, Ted Gray and Nadia Geller for their considerable help in these matters. Some of the events organised and about to take place following the very successful, if rather damp, Captain's Prize Day and the Club Championship are:

- Club Golf Day Saturday, 2 July**
- The Am/Am Friday, 15 July**
- Gentlemen's Invitation Day**
Thursday, 4 August

All of these events are in the Club diary but please look on the notice boards; there are sufficient notice boards displayed throughout the Clubhouse – please add your name to the particular event in which you wish to take part.

I would like to thank all the staff for their continued support and particularly the Members.

Enjoy your summer of golf.

Financial Footnotes

At the time of writing we are nearing the end of the subscriptions process and the signs are that we have had a very strong level of renewals and an excellent number of new members joining us. See Brian Young's article for more detail on page 9.

Early indications of the end of year accounts for 2010/11 before audit are that, even allowing for some exceptional 'restructuring' costs, our end of year overdraft was less than last year with an improvement in our Profit & Loss Account.

The measures taken, about which I wrote more extensively in the last *Links*, were necessary to control costs and these efforts will result in lower on-going expenses that will bear fruit in ensuing years. We will be able to confirm final figures for 2010/11 in the next *Links*.

Members will have received a letter advising them of the remaining meeting on 9 July to enable the Board to listen to any concerns that they have regarding the possibility of joining the Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) scheme. The original briefing paper and subsequent member correspondence is still available for perusal in the Club office.

After that meeting we will then write to members with a final summary asking for an indication of whether members would support going forward with the next steps. This will allow the Board the opportunity of evaluating members' views and reviewing whether to take the proposal forward to a formal General Meeting.

David Leedham, Chairman

Never attribute to malice what can adequately be explained by stupidity Anon



Phillippa Fernandez
Lady Captain

Lady Captain says be ready to play your shot

Hi everyone, so pleased you are reading this as it probably means you have decided Northwood is the club for you for at least another year! When you look around locally, we really do have the most challenging and beautiful club in the area and we now have a dedicated team totally committed to Greens perfection..... and very soon!

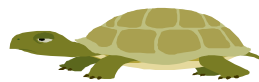
At the time of writing, we have just had our Ladies Spring Meeting, perfect weather and near perfect scoring from our Vickery Cup winner, Pam Severn, with a net 68: well done Pam. A huge thank-you to all those who helped to organise the Spring Meeting: our Starters Alistair Todd and Jimmy Keizer, Elaine Goulding and Gwen Tutty for prizes and flowers, Beth Heritage and Shirley Nicholls for manning Reception, Audrey Shepherd and Brenda Bowley for the half-way house and Margaret Barkwith for producing all the paperwork and cards along with the results with such professionalism!

Whilst on the subject of clever people, I would like to congratulate, Jackie McHardy for her recent 'hole-in-one' on the 3rd and Pat Goodall for her fabulous 'Eagle' on the 5th and last and, not least, Rachel Rooker, who has qualified for the "Volvo EWGA 2011 Grand Medal Final" which will be held at Droitwich Golf Club in Worcestershire on Saturday 25 June. Rachel was the only lady in Middlesex who qualified by finishing in the top ten in the South Regional Final held at Petersfield in April. I hear that Rachel's husband Steve, is going along as her Caddie!! Have a great day both of you and good luck!

There are a couple of changes to the Diary coming up in August. Firstly,

the Ladies Dinner has been moved from the 28 July to the 3 August, as the Club had the opportunity to take a large Society on the 28 and in the current climate it would be a pity to turn business away. This year the Ladies Dinner will have an Italian theme with entertainment and no, my husband is not going to sing! The second change is the Rabbits v Ladies match which is being re-scheduled from Tuesday the 9 August, to a date yet to be agreed, due to extensive work being carried out on the Greens by an outside company who are only available on the 9th. I will email all when we find an alternative date; this has cropped up at the last minute just on the Editor's deadline - so, many apologies.

Lady Captain's Prize Day takes place on Tuesday 12 July. The morning's play will be followed by the traditional afternoon cream tea. Past Lady Captains, playing or social members, will be most welcome to join us for the tea; please either put your name on the sheet in the locker room or call the Club and ask to be included. Tea should be at around 5.00pm.



..... Just a few words on SLOW PLAY.....Not me? You all cry, well yes, it just might be you, if you need to take 6 practice swings and 5 minutes to line up a ball? Of course, stuff happens during a round of golf, looking for a ball, taking 10 strokes to get to the Green! But, as long as we keep up with the game in front, everyone will be happy further back down the field. The ideal to aim for is, when the group ahead come

off the Green you should be ready to play your shot onto the same Green or at the very least be ready to tee-off. OK, I'm sure you all know this but we have had a few incidents recently and I felt it just needed saying out loud again! By the way, this does also apply to some of our "Gentlemen" members but not of course, to those who feel the need to shoot balls past a ladies fourball to make the point.....you know who you are!

The weather is set fine for the Summer, if our weather experts are to be believed. Here's hoping you play consistently to your personal best and beyond.

Enjoy your golfing Summer.

A message from Marg Bacon

RAYNAUD'S & SCLERODERMA COFFEE MORNING

Thank you all so much for your help and support in cash and kind over the last twelve years. You have all been amazing.

Sadly, we have decided to hang up our gardening gloves and put away our cake trays. The organisational input has become quite taxing so this was our last coffee morning. The £23,000 raised over the twelve years has been greatly appreciated by all those involved, particularly the Raynaud's and Scleroderma Association.

You may be interested to know that, while still aiming to raise a 'Cool Million' by 2012, recent research grants by the Trustees totalling £217,494 have been awarded to the Royal Free hospital and Salford Royal (Hope Hospital). The RSA's present commitment to existing research projects is £1,061,143.

We do hope that you've enjoyed viewing the photographs and the 'totalometer' and watching the funds grow.

**Many thanks again from us all,
Marg, Eleanor, Peter and Michael**

**What counts in making a happy marriage is not how compatible you are
but how you deal with incompatibility** *Leo Tolstoy*



Some high quality work in recent months

Cornelius Bohane
Greens Chairman

Peter Jones, our agronomist, has been making frequent visits to the Club and giving regular support - over the phone - to Wes. Peter has not been writing formal reports - which normally would be posted on the web site - due to a forced reduction in his working time. I hope circumstances will allow these to be resumed shortly but, rest assured, the Club is getting value for money.

There is now a settled Greens team led by Wes Walker, whose appointment as Course Manager was confirmed recently. Dylan Renwick, who is known to many members, has been promoted to be Wes's Deputy. Two recent recruits, Lee and Pedro, have settled in well and, as their skills improve, they are taking on more responsibility. Adam continues to be a great asset and much of the improvement in the bunkers has been a result of his work. I am sure members will join me in thanking Wes and his team for some high quality work in recent months.

The lack of rain in the spring exposed deficiencies and technical problems with the irrigation system. Huge efforts have been made to overcome both the problems and the consequences with hand watering of greens and tees. Further repairs and improvements will be made over the next month or so.

The next important issue for the Greens Committee will be to agree the winter work programme. Wes will agree a set of proposals with Peter Jones, for approval at the July Greens meeting. Last year's winter work was disrupted by changes in personnel. Next winter, the focus will be on improving playing surfaces and the presentation of the course.

On 9 August, there will be major work on all the greens. To minimise disruption to members, hollow coring will be carried out by outside contractors. The work will be completed in one day and full recovery is expected in less than 10 days.

What would you think if, during your weekly shop in Waitrose, another shopper yelled at the staff to stop stacking the shelves whilst they shop in that particular aisle? Not an edifying sight, I suspect. Yet, to my great surprise, occasionally I hear of incidents where golfers take greens staff to task in much the same way. Everybody on a golf course is entitled to courtesy and the greens staff are only there because they have been asked to do that particular task. They enjoy talking to members but, if you have any concerns, please report them to Wes or to the office.



Antique Club expert Gavin Bottrell shows how to swing in the 1891 style at the 120 year celebrations

There's some great golf coming up with the Gentlemen's and Ladies' Club Championships, as well as matches with other clubs and fun days such as the Club Golf Day. The Greens team are committed to making sure the course is in the best condition possible.

On 5 June, a marketing event was held based around the fact that the course was first laid out 120 years ago. A 9-hole course was set up for visitors and members' guests to play and to sample the Club's hospitality. 21 guests were welcomed on the day. They were entertained by an expert on antique clubs, Gavin Bottrell and several members, who gave their time with wit and golfing wisdom.

With hope, we can persuade those who enjoyed the afternoon to join as members.



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Peter Emery
Foxes Secretary

No more slinking away for the Foxes

An unusually warm and dry spring has got this golfing season off to an excellent start. Of late, much needed rain has arrived to green up our course and so it must be summer!

The Foxes team have played seven games to date, winning five and losing just two. It almost goes without saying that we have won our home games - our record at Northwood has been outstanding for several seasons now – but this year we have won our matches in style. Let's hope we can continue that trend. Perhaps our outstanding result, however, was the 4-2 victory at Gerrards Cross. This is the first time I can remember us winning there, and in fact, we usually slink away well beaten. So, well played David Leedham and the boys who

represented us on the day. We have also hosted the second playing of the Foxes Team Trophy when the eight host clubs for the Foxes Festival play their only fully competitive game of the season. Teams of five players from each club enjoyed a warm and sunny day at the start of June and the competing players seemed well pleased with the presentation of the course and the event.

The Northwood team, ably led by Jim Thorpe, did not find its very best form on the day and finished 'back in the pack' among the four teams with around 100 team points. The new holders of the handsome Fox trophy are Harewood Downs, who produced a display of consistent and outstanding team golf, winning by a clear 6 points. They also produced the individual

winner, Malcolm Barker (40 points), and the only man to manage a 2 on the day, Keith Laws, who cleaned up in the charity ball sweep!

The day was an undoubted success and local clubs were impressed by the welcome they received from Northwood. Particular thanks to Khandu Mistry, Rules Official for the event, who also proved to be a super-whizz at card checking when the heat was on at the end of the day. Also to Terry Turner, who impressed everyone as our official 'meeter and greeter', to Wes and his team for presenting us with an excellent course, to Jenny in the office for rescuing me on several occasions, and, of course, to Julie and her staff for an outstanding meal and for their general helpfulness and good humour through the day.

Congratulations to Garth Burden and David Crump who won the Winter Four-Ball final against Les Potter and Peter Emery. The final was keenly contested, but as an interested party, I have to say that the team who played the better golf on the day won in the end. I look forward to presenting them with their trophy at the October end-of-season dinner.

That about concludes the immediate news for now. Please keep your eyes on the Foxes board for notice of upcoming events and never forget to enjoy your golf – the season will be over before you know it! But there again, that may just be the rambling of an aging section Secretary!

GENTLEMEN'S INVITATION DAY

Thursday 4 August 2011

Bring a friend and enjoy a great day!

Coffee & Bacon Roll, Optional 9 holes Greensomes

Ploughman's Lunch followed by 18 holes Better Ball

Dinner with Prize giving

All for just £65 per pair

Please sign up on the Notice Board

in the Clubhouse



Chris Groom
Stags Captain

A rutting we will go

Sadly, I have to report that on Wednesday 18 May, very early in the morning, the highly revered Stags of Northwood Golf Clubs were led to the slaughter at Hartsbourne Golf Club. Perhaps I exaggerate slightly, and well done those Stags who won or halved their matches, but we were defeated 5 games to 3 and this was our first defeat of the season.

We opened our Stags year with four straight wins. Perhaps, as we cry in our beer, we can take a small crumb of consolation from the fact that, on aggregate over the home and away legs against Hartsbourne, we won nine games to seven. Unfortunately, the home match against West Herts in May was cancelled, due to a mix-up by West Herts, for which they apologised. It could, of course, also have been because we beat them five games to one at West Herts and they were trembling at the thought of an away game against our noble Stags. However this home game has been re-scheduled for 14 September and a list will be put up nearer the time, but preference will be given to the chosen ones (i.e. previously selected).

Despite the pleas in the last issue of *Links* the numbers of potential Stags who have put their names down to play has not greatly increased. All is not lost; there is still time to play this summer at some great venues. Would those interested contact Alistair Anderson or myself or add their names to the availability list on the Stags notice board.

Congratulations go to Michael Billins and Bryan Lund who were the winners of the Stags Winter Pairs Knockout Competition. The Summer Stags Cup singles knockout competition is now well underway. Can I remind contestants to keep an eye on the final match dates and ensure all matches are played on time?

Good Rutting!

Ice on your mobile?

Andy Butler has forwarded to *Links* an idea that could catch on. Let's hope an accident doesn't happen to you. But if it does, how can the paramedic contact your next of kin or a contact person in case of an emergency? Who do they phone?

There is a new concept being established that is catching on quickly. All you need to do is to store the number of the contact person who is to be phoned in an emergency and title it on your mobile as ICE (In case of emergency). If you want more than one person contacted just simply enter ICE2, ICE3 and so on. The theory is that a paramedic, if he finds your mobile will look for ICE and phone the contact.

By the way, it's not advisable to put your home number into your mobile and list it as HOME. A thief of your phone could phone the number, establish that there is no answer and stroll round to your house. Probably not a good idea.

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Neil Moncur
Tigers Secretary

Tigers have the strength in depth

Our First Team and Tigers teams have had mixed success so far in the 2011 season.

The First Team, led by Andy Williams, started off with a defeat at home to Hendon in the *Mail on Sunday* competition, and in the County President's Foursomes we were beaten 3-0 by Ashford Manor, although all three matches went to at least the 16th hole.

We have fared better in the Rowse trophy, the premier County team event, beating Trent Park 10-2 to gain a spot in the quarter-finals. We will have to take revenge on Hendon, at their course, if we are to emulate 2009 and progress to the semi-finals, but we have the strength in depth to be able to do that.

Individually, we have struggled at County level, with the two entrants into the George Gowland Salver being knocked out in rounds 1 and 2, and one entrant to the County Championships failing to qualify. However, an individual highlight was Robbie Johnson being selected to represent Middlesex at under 21 level against Bedfordshire and backing up his selection by winning both his matches.

The Tigers A team, this year for handicaps 3 and upwards, have had the most success so far. Having played five of six league games, we have secured qualification into the knockout stage and are one of only three teams, out of 16 in the competition, still undefeated. The final group game looks set to be a play-off with one of the other undefeated teams, Mill Hill. Winning this game would ensure finishing top of the group which gives home advantage, and an easier draw, in the quarter finals.

It is pleasing to see that 16 players have taken part in the five matches so far and nine of those 16 are undefeated. There are three players

who are undefeated having won 3 or more matches. They include Captain Pete McGlasson winning 3 out of 3, and Tony Lee winning 4 out of 4, before a sojourn to Florida, plus becoming a 2 handicapper – the first Northwood player to break through the 3 barrier in five years – ruled him out of future matches.

The Tigers B team, led by Jim Rochford, have had mixed success so far but are still in possession of their own destiny. In the Cameron Johnstone League they have played three matches, winning both the home matches whilst losing the one played away from Northwood. This is a fairly typical outcome, as home advantage counts for a lot, so they still have another three opportunities to try and pick something up away from home. In the Bullivant Bowl, they were outgunned by a strong Ealing team in the first round.

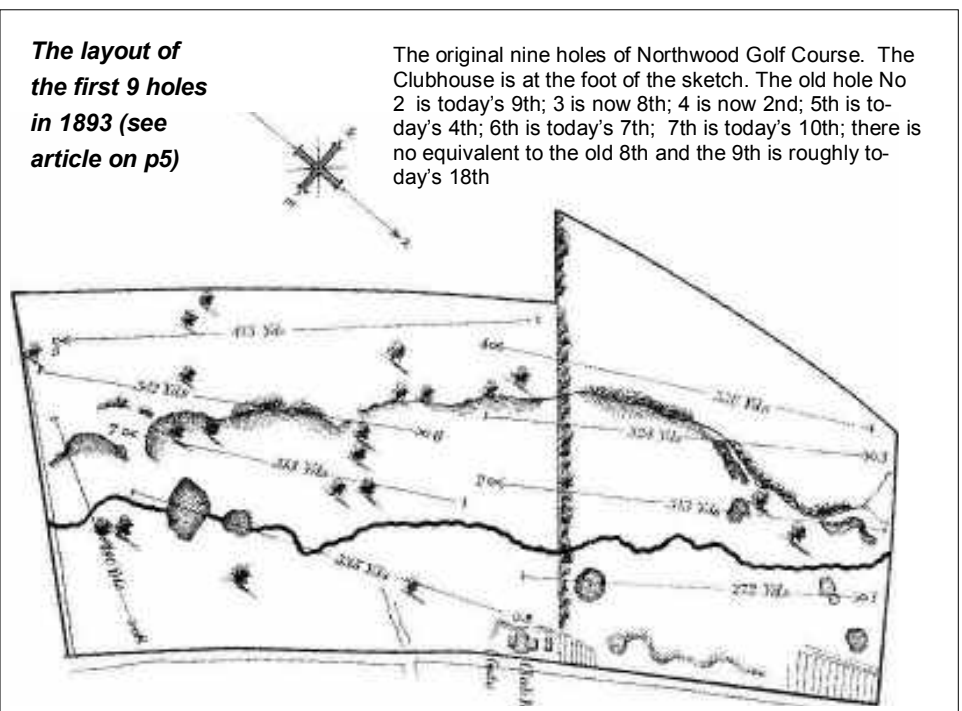
In the internal Club competitions, the Winter Eclectic was won by Tony Lee by

the narrowest of margins from Ray Rapp, and the Winter fourball better ball competition sees Pete McGlasson and Neil Baker take on Pete Goldberg and Colin Rattray in the final. The summer competitions are in full swing, with the Bengal Trophy being played in its new slot the week after the Club Championship.

The Scratch Knockout attracted 26 entries in its first year with the offer of a Bounty to anyone knocking out a player with a significantly lower handicap. With 12 matches played, Mark Capell is the sole Bounty winner so far, after an excellent win against a player whose handicap was less than half his.

The First Team and Tigers section notice board, right next to the pro shop, is regularly updated, and the Middlesex Tigers A and B leagues results and news can be viewed at: www.middlesextigersgolf.com.

The layout of the first 9 holes in 1893 (see article on p5)



Santa Claus had the right idea - visit people only once a year Victor Borge



Brian Young
Membership & Marketing

Keeping the flow of membership enquiries healthy

April and May are two of the most important months for the Membership and Marketing team. In the first, members subscription renewal letters arrive and, as members know, Playing Membership subscriptions were held at 2010 levels. This decision reflected the continuing difficulties in the wider economy and recognised members' patience and support while we addressed the development works needed on the course.

In May, as the Club started a new financial year, we then reviewed our membership numbers and, thanks to your continued support, we have enjoyed the strongest level of renewals for several years. Our Playing Membership numbers in fact increased between April and May, reflecting the recent strong influx of new members.

Another important 'health check' for NGC is Green Fee income and in this area we have seen an upturn in recent months, as we have given it more focus and some marketing support. As at the end of April, our 2011 Green Fee income is up 40% and we will look to maintain some growth in this area in 2011/12, as there are undoubtedly opportunities to do so without compromising our members' enjoyment of the course and clubhouse. Looking ahead, we are planning a number of initiatives

over the summer to enable members to make the most of the good golfing weather and, of course, to promote NGC to prospective new members. The main highlights are:-

The Open Championship, July 14/16/17:- Invite 3 guests for £60 on any of these 3 days, and then enjoy The Open on TV (as you consume your 'open sandwich', of course).

Twilight Golf:- This has become ever more popular, and we have now extended the scheme to include weekends. Arrive any time from 4.30pm, register your guests with Chris, and play from 5pm (subject to availability – Chris can advise on this). It's £22 on weekdays, £25 at weekends.

Summer Membership Offer As it is our 120th anniversary, we are trialing this scheme as a 'one-off' this year. The offer is: Join NGC for 60 days, during the June-September period, for £260, and if you then convert to Full or 5-Day Membership, you will receive a £130 discount from your 2011/12 subscription. Please tell friends and acquaintances about this offer as this is the first time we have run such a scheme in recent times.

In the last *Links* I mentioned the work going on to improve our website and some progress has

now been made. The pages available to everyone have been updated. Prospective new members and visitors will be able to see details of our course, clubhouse, green fees and subscriptions. The members-only pages are now undergoing work so that members will soon be able to see competition scores and standings, handicaps, and perhaps most chastening of all, the balance on your bar card. Once this is up and running, we will let you know how to access all the relevant information.

Meanwhile, the rest of us on the Marketing and Membership team (Allan Davis, Jennifer Buckmaster and Geoff Douglass) will be looking to keep the flow of membership enquiries healthy and to keep developing other revenue-generating activities. Looking ahead to what will, I hope, be a sunny and warm summer, we still need members' help and support in publicising our Club. The members are the best advertisement for NGC, so please tell all friends about us! Please support the Club if planning a Society or Corporate event this year. If you have any suggestions for making our membership and marketing campaigns more effective, do contact me via pigeonhole at NGC, by phone on 07802 821741, or by email: brian_young1@hotmail.com

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Ian Seely
Rabbits Captain

Opponents were more than Grim

Although summer is with us, the Winter Greensome final was recently played and congratulations go to the winners John Bennett and Phil Page, commiserations to Dennis Sare and Jeff Clift.

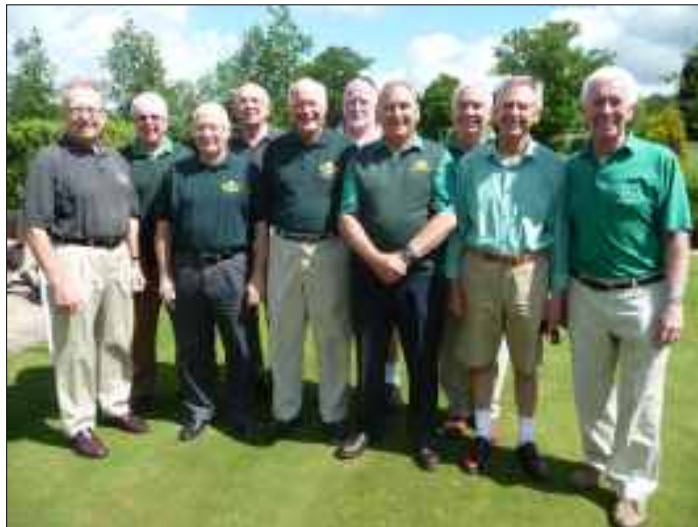
The Angora Cup Competition is now underway and good luck to everyone who has entered. The winner will be invited to play in the Inter-Club Super Rabbit Competition to be held this year at Finchley GC on 3 October.

One sad note is the recent death of Past Captain of Rabbits Tony Huggins. He was, and will be remembered, as a great supporter of the section.

We unfortunately lost our first round match of the Inter-Club Stanley West Competition away against Grim's Dyke. Perhaps one year we will be fortunate to get a 'home' draw.

The Summer inter-club 'friendly' matches are well underway and currently we have played against Batchworth, Stanmore, Sudbury, Pinner Hill and Finchley Golf Clubs, winning four and losing three matches.

These matches are always great fun to play in and we get to know Rabbits from other clubs. I would urge all members to play in one of these matches by indicating their availability on the Rabbits notice board in the foyer outside the Pro shop. Secretary Geoff will try to ensure all who sign up will have at least one or two games either at Northwood or away at one of the other clubs we play.



The Stanley West Team arrive at Grim's Dyke, near the former home of W.S. Gilbert, for their first round match. Not so much 'Pirates of Penzance' more like 'Nomads of Northwood'

10 PC Keyboard Shortcuts

(useful when you can't or don't want to use your mouse)

CTRL + C will copy text after it has been highlighted.

CTRL + V will paste text that you have copied.

CTRL + Z will undo last action that you have done.

CTRL + ESC will bring up the Start Menu.

SHIFT + F3 will toggle between upper and lower case.

SHIFT + DELETE will delete an item permanently without placing it in the Recycle Bin.

ALT + TAB will bring up a Window with a list of icons representing programs which are currently running on your computer. While holding the ALT key, press and depress the TAB button to cycle between each icon task.

ALT + ESC will switch to the next task running on your computer. Hold down the ALT before pressing and depressing the ESC key to cycle to the next task.

CTRL + ALT + DELETE will bring up Task Manager and allow you to end a process (terminate a program) if it has crashed or has stopped responding. Select the process which has stopped responding, and then press "END PROCESS".

SHIFT + INSERT will paste any text that is in your clipboard. Your cursor must also be placed in an area that will accept keyboard input for this to work.

Alcohol is good for preserving everything except, perhaps, secrets

seen in The Old Wine Vault in Faversham



Chris Groom
House Chairman

Nine & Dine is back on Fridays

The brilliant and dry weather this spring has been great for the golf, if not so good for the course. I hope all are looking forward to some fine events on the course and in the clubhouse and that you will support the Club whenever you can.

By the time this article is read we will be getting ready to welcome our new General Manager, Stephen Proudfoot. Also, not to be forgotten, a Thank-You to Jenny Kinsella for all her hard work as acting-General Manager.

In May we had the trying incident of a break-in of the Clubhouse Bar and my thanks again to Jenny and Julie and the other staff for coping with this so professionally.

Northwood Golf Club is 120 years old this year and, although we can't identify any parts of the clubhouse that date back to 1891, there are parts in its shell which date back to the early twentieth century – not unlike like a few of our members. Therefore, it will always be a challenge to keep the clubhouse and some of our other properties, which are also very old, in good practical condition, but that is our objective at all times. If any item is spotted which needs attention please don't just moan to your friends, let a member of the House Committee know and they will try to deal with the problem.

Now that Summer is here we are again running our Friday evening "Nine and Dine". Just turn up, bringing guests if you wish, at around 5.00 pm and then play 9 holes. There is no need to book in advance and, for those coming alone, a suitable partner will be found, although we are not a dating agency (not yet). After a friendly game there is one of Julie's fine evening meals at around 7.30 pm when non-playing friends and partners can join those who have played

Our Monday evenings Jazz sessions have restarted. Even if you are not a huge jazz fan why not come along and have a pleasant social evening at low cost with great music.

Don't forget the Sunday lunches, especially those with a birthday, when if you bring a party you dine free.

Finally a date for your diary: Saturday 2 July which is the Club Golf Day. Following a great day of golf, the entertainment after the dinner will be "Rod Stewart". The note from the Social Committee did not confirm whether this is the ancient 65 year old rocker married to Penny Lancaster or a better, newer, version.



- ❑ **Inheritance Tax Planning** *An avoidable tax? There are many solutions available to you in situations where your estate is likely to exceed the inheritance tax threshold on death and which would otherwise result in a 40% inheritance tax charge on the excess over that threshold.*
- ❑ **Probate & Wills** *Surprisingly one in three people in the United Kingdom die without a Will. The intestacy laws dictate who inherits your estate and in what proportion. These laws are draconian and can have a detrimental effect on your loved ones.*
- ❑ **Trusts** *If you want to protect your assets for the benefit of others in the future with the potential to mitigate Inheritance Tax, a properly constructed trust remains a suitable vehicle*
- ❑ **Powers of Attorney** *You can choose someone (such as a family member) to make decisions for you in relation to your property and finances (and delegate decisions) and your health and welfare. A Lasting Power of Attorney remains effective even if you lose the mental capacity to make decisions for yourself. Don't leave it too late- the alternative is expensive!*

Call Richard Tutty or Lisa Jones
Tel: 01923 824422

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E-Mail@ teaco@btconnect.com Website: www.teaco-assoc.com

Live as if you are going to die tomorrow, garden as if your are going to last for ever

Rudyard Kipling

Seve - The People's Champion

"He smiled. That's something lots of sportsmen and women don't do today." So said Peter Allis, the voice of golf on the BBC for decades, when marking the death of one of sport's, most spellbinding champions.

Severiano Ballesteros, who died on 7 May, aged 54, was one of the world's greatest ever golfers. His professional record is testament to that - the former World No 1 had 87 tournament victories, his 50 on the European Tour are more than any other player, and he claimed the Open title three times and the Masters twice - he was the first European to wear the Green Jacket.

But the statistics and trophies are the least important part of the picture Seve painted across golf's canvas. Above all he infused flair and unbridled joy into the game like no one before. Only a genius could play the Seve way. His volatility off the tee would have been crippling were it not for the vision, touch, and courage he displayed once away from the tee box.



In 1979, on his way to his first major at Royal Lytham, he would find a car park with his drive on the 16th yet escaped, admittedly by way of a free drop, with a birdie. Perhaps it would have been too easy for Seve if he mastered his driver.

Maybe he understood, cherished, the drama and danger of his game, the rush of adrenaline, the thrill of redemption.

With Seve, a round of golf became that little bit more. While you simply watched others play, you felt you had something more invested in him. He had the most innately expressive

demeanour imaginable. The elation and desolation he would so regularly alternate between were etched across his handsome features. As Allis said, he smiled.

A smile that was honest and uncontainable. And when things did not go his way, as they increasingly did not when his great career descended tragically, the pain was unmistakable. Everything he did on the course was hard-wired to his heart.

Anyone who witnessed the scenes after Europe's 1995 Ryder Cup victory at Oak Hill will long remember the embrace between Seve and Nick Faldo moments after Philip Walton regained the trophy for the visitors.

The man's honest passion was irresistible. It is perhaps the Ryder Cup that will be his greatest legacy. He single-handedly opened up the tournament to European golfers; such was his impact on the game in the late 1970s. In doing so, he helped breathe new life into a competition that had suffered the slow suffocation of American domination. It is now one of the world's truly great sporting occasions.

Seve has popularised the sport across the globe, and his feats on the course deserve to be credited, and aspired to by others. Tiger will never be loved in the same way - and that is what Seve was and is. A champion whose immense talent and success was dwarfed by the way he made you feel.

Will O'Doherty, *Leaderboard*



So you think you know the rules?

Now a qualified MCG Rules Official, refereeing Inter County Matches (and one at NGC next year) NGC member Khandu Mistry thought that members might like to brush up on some Rules of Golf using simple but unambiguous language.

By illustrating with real life scenarios familiar to members, he hopes this occasional series of

articles may help with the understanding of some rules, their interpretation and application.

Anyone who would like to ask Khandu a golf rules question is welcome to contact him by e-mail at khandumistry@yahoo.co.uk

Q: A player hits a shot, say from our 1st Tee, his ball went in the right-hand fairway bunker and the ball came to rest in a fox hole in the front lip, What can the player do?

A: The ball that went in the bunker and came to rest in fox hole is "through the Green" and no longer in the bunker. Therefore, under the Abnormal Ground Condition Rule 25 - 1(i) (in a hole made by burrowing animal) the player should drop the ball, without penalty, within one club-length (measured by any club and sideways if preferred) of the ball's position directly above the location where the ball came to rest in the burrowing animal hole; not nearer the hole nor in the bunker.

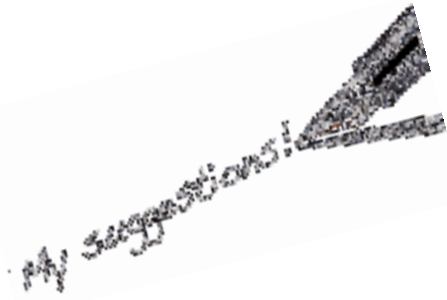
Q: A player hits a tee shot on our 1st Tee, the ball went in bunker, the player tried to hit out the ball but it went into the fox borrowing hole in the front lip of the bunker instead. What can the player do?

A: The player should take the ball out of the burrowing animal hole, and as in the above answer, drop the ball

without penalty within one club-length of its position directly above the burrowing animal hole not nearer the hole

Q: A player's ball having coming to rest under bushes, say on our 2nd hole, he took few practice swings touching nearby bushes. His on-looking fellow competitor told him, "if you drop leaves you'll be penalised". Is he right?

A: "Not necessarily". A penalty depends on whether his practice swing improves the "line of play". If a single dropped leaf resulted in improved line of play, he would incur one shot penalty under breach of Rule 13-2. However, if many dropped leaves had not improved line of play he would not incur penalty (R&A Ruling decision 13-2/22). However, the question of fact whether Line of Play has improved must be determined on facts and circumstances. General advice is, if you're not sure if your practice swing may improve line of play then, "Don't do it".



History keeps repeating itself

Mac Graham-Clare was having a rummage (as he is prone to do) and discovered an ancient Club Suggestions Book which was interestingly labelled "This is a suggestion book and not a Complaints book". It was thought that a few "suggestions" culled from the pages might illustrate that history does indeed sometimes repeat itself.

June 1938, Could the new tea charges be reconsidered? Tea 4d; 2 pieces of bread and butter 5d. The charge for bread and butter seems inconsistent
Reply: Tea charges have been reconsidered

January 1939, We respectfully suggest that the Secretary's room be converted into a darts room
Reply: Certainly not. Reasons please!

February 1951, I cannot see why the advent of the Spring Meeting should be an excuse for the Gentlemen's lavatory to be "towelled" at 6.15 pm
Reply : This was brought about by a laundry strike and is regretted.

April 1952, Can immediate steps be taken to prevent cows from straying on the course?
Reply: This presents a legal problem which is receiving our attention and it is regretted that any member thinks otherwise.
Sept 1952, Could the old practice

of providing a towel by the foot-bath be resumed please? The use of the machine roller towel entails gymnastics.

Reply: It is not the practice of the Club to provide towels for the foot-bath. The foot-bath is really for the benefit of any member who cares to provide himself with a towel for the purpose

June 1960, When the Club can afford it can a new electric bulb be fitted in place of the one which fails to function in the men's dressing room?

There was no reply

October 1960, We the undersigned object to the recent increase in Monthly Competition fees. We feel that a charge of 3/6 (17p now) including the 1/- (5p now) sweep would be adequate and that the present rate of 5/- (25p now) is excessive.

Reply: The Committee wish to point out that the sweep is entirely optional. They propose to reduce the number of monthly medal and bogey competitions by half (sounds a bit like some creative accounting to the Ed)

April 1972, We wish to register our protest at the type of poster displayed on the veranda to advertise the disco evening. If such posters are necessary may they please be exhibited in the men's' locker room only. (signed by 3 ladies)

Actual handwritten unofficial

reply: Could we know the lady who posed for the poster?

January 1976, Being a regular diner, I feel the meals have depreciated over the last 3 months. For instance, why is the roast beef rolled and cut so thin? I would like to suggest an increase in the price to £1.50p

Reply: Noted - to be brought to notice of House Committee

June 1976, It has become increasingly obvious during the past few weeks that the ladies need the facilities of a shower. Members and guests were forced to shower in the footbath 20" x 13" with no privacy whatsoever. (signed by 45 ladies)

Reply: Comments noted and brought before House Committee and passed to Board with "favourable comment".

August 1978, As some of the fairways have grass which in places is longer than some of that in the rough, may we please have the placing rule reinstated?

Reply: The fairways are to be cut shorter.

Sept 1994, May I respectfully (sic) suggest that someone with a modicum of intelligence is responsible for placing the hole.
There was no reply..

Nothing is so admirable in politics as a short memory

J K Galbraith



Who starts the starter?

for a day at Northwood and their members may be visiting our Club for the first time and therefore are not familiar with our facilities and details of the Course.

Well, even though John regrettably has now had to take a back seat, the original team has grown and includes Peter Freund, Philip Curtis, Terry Turner, Andy Williams and yours truly. Not only do we look after visiting Societies, we also assist, when asked, in specific Club events and we are always happy to offer our help, when required, for our members' own golfing day at

the Club (regrettably, we have to say no to weddings and bar mitzvahs).

The balance in helping to provide members, and also visitors to the Club, with the facility to play in their respective groups on a given day is often a fine one, especially on a Monday. Sometimes I feel a bit like an Air Traffic Controller in making sure we combine two groups with a reasonable clearance so as to avoid having a simultaneous meeting (or collision!) on the 1st or 10th tees. I must thank our Professionals, who are also a great help in avoiding any potential problems in this direction and overall things go relatively smoothly I believe with both parties appreciating the presence of the other.

I am often called "Coarse" Marshal, Tito, Dillon or Stalin (some of the more polite descriptions) and I

assume this is not a sign of hostility as we do try to combine our members' own right to play and the financial benefits a visiting Society may bring to the Club. Indeed, with generally favourable comments made about our course and overall facilities by the majority of Society members, this has led to new memberships.

The regularity of existing Societies coming back to Northwood for subsequent visits are also indicative that the Club is creating the right momentum for repeat business in the years to come. Recently we have attracted some new Societies as well

The need for help in our activities, especially during the high summer period, to assist the existing team would be greatly appreciated. So if you would like to help please contact me for further details. I usually plan our roster in three monthly intervals throughout the year so that no one needs to commit themselves too far ahead.

My thanks to Jenny in the Office for giving me details of those Societies booked in, so that we can cater accordingly for their needs. For example if a large Society is playing all day then several of us can spread the load and cope if it is a two tee split start.

Starters are not paid for helping in this way, but a free visit to the snack bar at lunchtime on duty days is an offer one can't refuse, made by the Board by way of thanks for time provided.

Often to be seen gently strolling to the first or tenth tee in all weathers, Alistair Todd is one of NGC's Official Starters. Coping with all eventualities and temperaments, being a starter is not all beer and skittles as Alistair is quick to demonstrate.

It was around 4 years ago that the Directors of the Club considered employing a Starter/ Course Marshal at Northwood. This appointment was not forthcoming. However, following an appeal to members John Servent and I, quite independently, said we would assist in this role on a voluntary basis, as long as the duties could be shared, so the task was not too onerous on one individual.

The roles were established to be to "meet and greet", set up competition holes, act as Starter and generally look after visiting Societies. These Societies come

Some names have class connotations. I was born on a council estate but once I had been called Jeremy, we had to move

Jeremy Hardy

T W (Tony) Huggins

1927 - 2011

It is with great regret that we have to announce the death of Tony Huggins. A popular member since 1990 Tony will be best remembered for his involvement with Northwood Rabbits when he eventually became their Captain. His sense of humour will be much missed and one of his friends, Ted Bamford, was asked to write about some of his memories of Tony.

I first met Tony when knocking a ball about at Northwood as Tony had a cavalier approach to the game. I said to him on the 2nd "Tony it's funny but, when I came down from the north when I was 14, I served my time with a plumber called Huggins. In fact, he was known as Charlie the Plumber. I said I only had a year or so before I went to sea. I think he lived at Queensbury, or was it Kingsbury?" I'm not sure if he was joking or not but Tony replied "he was my Dad".



Another fun time with Tony was, when I said we should take a trip to Azincourt where, it will be remembered, we won the match 1-0. Now, as Tony was navigator, of course we went around Boulogne several times and stopped at several Cafe Tabacs to ask the way, with obvious results. But we got there eventually and discovered a splendid tiny museum.

On this trip we stayed in B & Bs and, in one, we invited a charming lady owner to sample our G&Ts, of which we always had a plentiful supply. We finished up buying a case of wine from her boy friend. Later a tip-top meal was had which included snails, frogs legs and a dish with some queer old bits floating about in it. The lady in charge enjoyed the badinage so much that the wine was on the house.

Then on to a famous Fish restaurant, the superb "Jacque Perard" noted for the fish soup, where we had a bucket each of prawns and the biggest side of skate ever seen, not forgetting the Chablis.

I shall miss old Tony and those carefree days in France and all the laughter we had.

Ted Bamford

And so a friendship blossomed. Soon we went on a trip to France with Ted Ray which, I may add, caused a five mile tail back on the M25. But I will digress for a moment. Ted was having a digestive problem and, as I was driving, I said that we should stop at once for Ted, no matter what, and so we did. Ted scampered up the bank behind bushes. Now, there were also some blackberry bushes about - guess what? Yes, we decided to start picking some. It so happens that everyone drives like mad on motorways until they spot something and then they slow down as we are a nosey lot in the UK. A short while later a police car drove up and we were asked if we had broken down? When he saw what we were actually up to the language was not French! Ted then appeared and, by doing so, I think we avoided a large fine. So in no uncertain terms the policeman told us to clear off sharp as we had caused a mighty long tail back on the M25.

Marjorie Bramwell

1930 - 2011

I first met Marjorie at Haste Hill in 1973, when we were both starting our golf and waiting to become members of Northwood (in those days there was a two year waiting list and you needed a handicap). At that time I thought her a rather formidable lady, but as I got to know her better I discovered she had a really soft heart.

She was very proud to be a Lancastrian and had played lacrosse for the county as a schoolgirl. Sport was a large part of her life, she and Bill had been long standing members of Pinner Lawn Tennis Club, where she had coached the juniors, and she was extremely competitive at anything she took part in. Any suggestion that the Ladies bridge matches might be 'social', so the result wasn't terribly important, was always frowned upon.

Winning the Pearson Trophy in 1983 was a highlight of Marjorie's golfing career, as I think it was for all of us

who played in the team. Another highlight was winning the Grannies Cup, as she had seven grandchildren in whose activities she took a great interest. She was devastated when the onset of arthritis forced her to give up her golf in her sixties, but she started to teach bridge to beginners and introduced the game to a great many people. She said she sometimes had to start with "There are 52 cards in a pack, and 4 suits...."

She and Bill celebrated their Golden Wedding in 2005, but sadly Bill died in 2009. She coped well with her new status, but cancer returned, and after that life became increasingly difficult. She reacted remarkably well on her eightieth birthday last November, when unsuspectingly arriving at the Bedford Arms for lunch with her daughters, Christine and Alison, she was instead greeted by a large gathering. She had a wide circle of friends, and during her last few months in the nursing home was seldom without a visitor.

Margaret Barkwith

Results and Events



Captain Norman with Vickery Cup winner Pam Severn



John Hill & Johnnie Johnson, the winning pair in the Wednesday Fourball Spring Meeting

Gentlemen's Results

Competition	Winners	Runners Up
Monthly Medal -27.3.11	A Ericson	S Bell
Ad Hoc – 02.04.11	C Drake	F McFarlane
Monthly Medal – 09.04.11	G Iversen	S Denton
Ad Hoc – 10.04.11	S Bansal	G Iversen
Midweek Medal – 15.04.11	A Blakeley	J Blakeley
Monthly Stableford	R Rapp	A Bowen
Jubilee Cup	C Bohane	N Allen
Severn Centenary Salver	M Ward	Mrs L Baker
George Albutt Trophy	J Hayes	S Baker
Ken Whitaker Cup	T Lee	J Hourihan
Houseman Bowl	R Rogers & M Capell	M & D Robak
Autumn Challenge	R Galbraith	A Bowen
Monthly Stableford	R Morgan	M Griggs
Midweek Medal – 27.05.11	C Nichols	M Griggs
Monthly Medal – 28.5.11	S Smith	G Colley
Fairlie Challenge Bowl	S Smith	A Blakeley
Victory Ludorum	S Denton	M Ward
Ad Hoc – 04.06.11	L Kara	J Robertson
Veterans Trophy	Phil Wells	Ken Whitaker



Nick Allen & Rex Galbraith winners of the President's Day Competition with the eponymous Peter Harvey. Missing are Tony Lahiffe & Oliver Ginger

Ladies' Results

Competition	Winner	Runner-up	
Cancer Support Spoon	Marg Bacon	Sallie Bowen	
Middx 5 Club Knock-Out	Elaine Goulding	Melanie Roberts	
Irons Only	Silver: Brenda Goldie	Bronze: Pauline Wilson	
Marie Curie 4BBB	Jayne Burden & Maureen Crump	Bridie Fitzpatrick & Elaine Goulding	
Coronation Foursomes	Jayne Burden & Penny Dark	Marion Lloyd & Pauline Wilson	
Guide Dog Eclectic	Trish Lanning	Melanie Roberts	
Medal Winners Cup	Penny Dark		
Ping 4BBB	Sallie Bowen & Cathy Leedham	Melanie Roberts & Trish Lanning	
Qualifying Competitions	Silver Division	Bronze Div 1	Bronze Div 2
April Medal	Liz Foster	Esther Gray (One Division)	
April Stableford	Rosemary Rawlinson	Linda Baker	Pat Goodall
Par	Carole Monro	Sue Diamond	Margaret Batchelor
May Medal	Carole Monro	Sue Diamond	Jackie McHardy
May Stableford	Melanie Roberts	Lindy Creedy	Mary Willoughby
May Extra Medal	Penny Dark	Linda Baker	Julie Thompson
Spring Meeting – Medal	Julia Ginger	Pam Severn	Jackie McHardy
Vickery Cup	Pam Severn		
Grannies Cup	Linda Baker		
Scratch	Carole Monro		



Winner of the W4B Huggins Trophy Leslie Wicks