



FORE !

KEEPING YOU IN TOUCH—the Club's quarterly newsletter

May 2011

News in brief:

- Subscriptions holding up well
- Finances on budget
- Course condition improving
- Cheddington golfers integrating well

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We are three quarters of the way through our financial year and I am optimistic for the outcome at the end of July. Despite fifty one resignations our subscription revenue is holding up well due quite considerably to the demise of Cheddington. New members so far this year total thirty one. The bar and catering sales are improved on last year, whilst green fees are holding their own. Our Buggy Shed is almost complete and will be ready for use in a short time. Our thanks to Sue Davidge and David Hay for overseeing it, thanks also to the Seniors for the Pat Reilly legacy. A major maintenance week has been allowed for the course in August, a one tee start will operate for the week, please be patient as the result will be beneficial to us all. We now have more active members and the course is getting busier causing some hold up problems and possible financial ones. With this in mind we are trialling the idea of allowing three balls to go off either side to see if this helps the situation.

CLUB HOUSE

Good news Dave Astill has agreed to extend his contract until May 2012. Leon our second chef has settled in well and with John our chef is turning out food at our many functions that

is the talk of the area - *WELL DONE.*

Thursday lunches were instigated by our secretary and have proved to be a financial success, both in the catering and the bar. A new combi - oven has been purchased for the kitchen, the old one served us for over ten years.

THE COURSE

Despite the severe weather our winter programme has been carried out, at times in December we had five snowmen instead of five greenkeepers. The mole drainage helped to disperse the water as expected and the bunkers that were renovated are a great improvement. The practise net was broken and became obsolete and my thanks to the seniors for replacing it, this is an appropriate place to thank both the ladies and the seniors for the donations they make to the club. Finally on the course, a plea for help: would you all have respect and regard for our green staff's safety, a golf ball is a lethal weapon.

THE OFFICE

The marketing of Golf Week and our Opens has gone exceedingly well. All departments of the golf club are running smoothly and efficiently under the team leadership of our secretary.

THE FUTURE

The old strategy plan has most items completed and a new one is being prepared. On the course capital expenditure will carry on as planned with outdated machinery being replaced. A much needed emergency exit is being provided in the flat. Projects under consideration are renovating the men's and ladies' shower areas. The landfill scheme as envisaged is long term; the latest is that drawings have been submitted to see if they comply with the councils ideas. Communication is a problem in all organisations and we are no different, particularly with regards the course. Last September David Everitt and Peter Connett attended a meeting where they explained work carried out and work to be carried out in the winter, this helped squash misunderstandings. As promised we are holding the follow up one on 20th May where the green staff will explain the past and the future to a representative number of members from most golfing groups.

I close by wishing for good weather thus enabling members and guests to see our course at its best.

Neil Pollard
Chairman



*2011 Lady Captain
Rhoda Elwick*

BAR & CATERING

Our year got off to a slow start with vat and price increases but we have been able to control our pricing well, and below our competitors. Your pint of beer after the member's 20% discount is still well below £3 and snacks and meals are also great value with 10% off. We have introduced a Senior Citizen's Lunch on Thursdays at £5.95 for a two course meal. This is portion controlled and proving very popular. The quizzes and other winter functions were very successful and well supported, thank you. Please keep your eye on the Social Notices board for your summer and autumn entertainments.

RHODA'S RAMBLINGS

After a miserable start to the year, weatherwise, we managed to play our first 18 holes in late January and the course, for the main part, has been dry ever since, though unfortunately our Capt. versus V.Capt. match was cancelled due to it being wet and foggy. The Charity Bridge event held on the 18th January was a huge success and the lovely cream tea was appreciated by everyone. This event raised £310 for my Charity, The League of Friends of the Lyme Regis and District Health Care Services who help and support our local medical centres. My sincere thanks go to Sandra Shefferd and Ros Hadwin who worked so hard to make the event a success.

Our Coffee Morning, held on the 8th March, raised approx. £475. My thanks to my Committee and members who helped on the day and those who brought homemade cakes, plants, raffle prizes and other items to sell. All in all the day was an enormous success. Adding to the enjoyment Ann Talbot and Carole Brown entertained us with an amusing Rules DVD which I am sure benefited us all. Ladies versus Seniors match held on the 15th March – victory went to the Seniors – a little adjustment is needed here, I think!!!

On March 16th, I and a number of our Lady members attended the Dorset County Ladies Golf Association Centenary lunch followed by a talk by Maureen Madill, professional golfer, coach and broadcaster and then a very hu-

morous address by Peter Allis, belying his 80 years. The Seniors Dinner was held on 15th April, to which I was invited, as Lady Captain. The meal and company were superb and Max Thorner's toast to the ladies was very humorous BUT I think I gave him a good run for his money and got in a few points for the Ladies section.

Now for the congratulations: Firstly to Sophie Keach who not only won the Dorset Ladies County Championship but, attended The World Schools Golf Challenge in South Africa, with her fellow team members of Millfield School, where she became the Girls Champion after stroke play rounds on 4 different golf courses. Her performance also helped her school to win the Team Event – all at the age of 14. To Melissa Mahon who came runner up in the Dorset Ladies County Championships. Very well done girls – keep up the good work and every success to you both.

To Prue Russell and Di. Dick on their success in the 2nd round of the Daily Mail Foursomes. Good luck in the next round.

Also two of our Ladies did well in the Dorset Ladies County Golf Association Championship held on the 3rd May at Ashley Wood, Ellie Langford came 4th Gross with an 86 (OCB) and your illustrious Vice Captain, Julia Collins came 8th with a nett 74. Not bad out of a large field. Our Humphreys Bowl, Parkin Cup, Interclub and Beales matches are beginning to be played, along with our Friendlies and our

Mixed Friendlies. I wish everyone a happy and successful golfing year. Sadly we lost the 3rd leg of the Legg Bowl at Rushmore Park and also the second round of the "Mail on Sunday" against Yeovil. The Quiz nights and social events have been a great success, although members enthusiasm was distinctly lacking on the last couple of occasions i.e. St. George's Night and the Royal Breakfast – where, oh where is your patriotism??

I shall be holding a Crazy Whist Drive on the 31st May to raise funds for my Charity, when all will be welcome, members and friends. It is basically a fun evening and **card playing skills will not be required**. Full instructions will be given on the evening. The cost for the evening is £10 to include a Luxury fish Supper and plenty of fun. Please try to come along and support this event – details on the Social Board.

A great "Thank you" to Duncan who has generously given his time to encourage us with group coaching, etc. and also accompanying me in our Pro-Challenge matches. We are looking forward to our future matches.

Finally, and with great sadness, I would like to thank all who attended Betty Benson's funeral on the 6th May. The small church in Seaborough was packed to capacity as we said goodbye to a very dedicated and loyal member of our Golf Club.

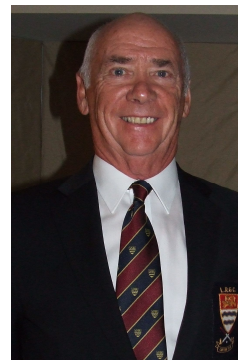
Wishing everyone a great year of Golf.
Rhoda Elwick, Lady Captain

CAPTAIN'S LOG

I have to pinch myself sometimes to realise just how quickly my Captain's year is flying by, I am certainly enjoying the experience to date. I have had many meetings and discussions with Captains, Secretaries and members of other Golf Clubs around the counties who tell me that they are all battling with member numbers down and visits by societies less than previous years. We are experiencing better days here at LRGC and I am pleased to report that we are continuing to attract new members and we also have some very prestigious events ahead of us. I recently organised a Society day to support the local Candles on the Cobb Charity and we were able to accommodate 105 Players on the day with 83 Members and a further 22 Green fees. The day was blessed with good weather and £2,350 raised for the charity and also resulted in excellent takings in the bar and catering. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those members who supported the day and I anticipate that it will now become a regular fixture in our Golfing calendar. My recent knee operation appears to have been successful and I now hope to be seen more often out on the Course enjoying the rest of my Captaincy. Duncan and I hope to be able to re-introduce the popular Captain and Pro Golf Challenge and make a few extra pounds for my chosen Charity, the HUB. I am really looking forward to my Captain's Day on Saturday 23rd July when, as a very special treat, the RED ARROWS will be

performing a display over the Golf Course at around Noon. I hope that you will support my day which will comprise a Juniors Competition in the morning followed by a Men's teams of 4 Competition. Look out for the Posters which should be up just after the Club Golf Week in early June. Please also look out for my Captain's Charity Golf Day, which will be a mixed team competition and will take place on Saturday 17th September. It promises to be a wonderful day and will be one of my last opportunities to raise funds for my Charity. Moving away from Golf, for just a moment, I would like to draw your attention to the very important subject of Social activities. These events are arranged by the Lady Captain and myself at the start of our captaincies together with the help and assistance of David Astill and his bar and catering teams. It would be of huge value to us and the future Captains to have your feelings about what you would like to see hosted at the Club and perhaps we will then all be able to work together to provide you with what you want and, by doing so, avoid having events that are not supported. Our next Social event is a Spanish Theme Night on Friday 17th June and our aim is to have a very casual evening and hopefully, weather permitted, to be able to enjoy good music, dancing and BBQ, please support the evening. The following event will be a Murder/Mystery Dinner on Friday 19th August. The similar evening held back in October was a complete

sell out, so keep your eyes out and look out for the poster to avoid being disappointed. Turning to the revised Dress Code which was agreed by both the Captain's and Management Committees before being posted around the club and golf course. The main rules which appear to be regularly broken is the wearing of Golf shirts outside of shorts or trousers whilst on the course and the taking of shoe bags and holdalls into the Lounge and Dining areas instead of leaving them in the changing rooms or taking them to your cars. I trust that if either of these comments apply to you, more notice will be taken and thereby avoid causing any friction with officials and it would certainly make it a lot more manageable with visiting groups if our members are abiding by our club rules. The Course is in excellent condition and my personal thanks go out to David Everett and his staff for all of the work they have carried out around the Course, including the thinning of the hedge areas, which has made such a difference to the overall appearance. Finally don't forget the Suggestion Book, which is kept in the Club Lounge, and is brought to the attention of the Captain's Committee at every meeting. This book is a perfect opportunity for you to mention any comments, both good and bad, that can be discussed at our meetings and can work for the long term benefit of Your Golf Club. Happy Golfing. Ray Farrell, Captain



2011 Club Captain
Ray Farrell

JUNIORS

With the season getting underway and competitions in full swing we have a new junior coming to the fore. Bradley Searle won the first major trophy of the year, The Easter Cup, with an excellent 66 and followed it up by winning the stableford. Bradley, age 11, has had his handicap cut 10 shots and is definitely following in father Matt's footsteps! The first round of the order of merit starts this week with everyone trying hard to dislodge double winner Kai To Li off his perch, watch the board for scores. The first round home and away of the Dorset League starts soon, we play Crane Valley this year, we can produce a strong team and are looking forward to (at least) reaching the finals again this year. Our younger Juniors, especially the girls, are progressing well and with Duncan's guidance it looks good. David Astill Juniors' Organiser

Lyme Regis Golf Club
Timber Hill
Lyme Regis
DT7 3HQ

Phone: 01297 442963

E-mail:
secretary@lymeregisgolfclub.co.uk

Website:
www.lymeregisgolfclub.co.uk

Fore Editor:
David Hay



The next edition of Fore! will be published in August 2011.

Social dates for your diary:

May 21st Horse Race Night

May 31st Crazy Whist Night

June 17th Spanish Theme Night

August 19th Murder Mystery Night 2

EVERETT'S EDGINGS

After a long hard winter March gave us much to cheer about with many sunny days. Although cold at night with frosts showing at times, the month was a welcome change from the freezing weather of winter. April/May continues to give us sun plus the benefit of warmer nights. We have made good start with spring maintenance. Micro tining, two tonic fertilizers, verti cutting, grooming, brushing and three top dressings to date. Growth cannot be forced, only encouraged by sensible management. We work hand in hand with nature and have to be patient. There is ever more pressure put on greenkeepers to get greens in good condition ever earlier in the year. We all do what we can, but there are limits. This must be recognised by all who play the game otherwise morale amongst staff will drop. Believe me if we could get perfect

greens in March and April we would. Neil Cornelius, a long standing member of the club who is known to many of you, is carrying out the role of Greens Chairman. Often a thankless task, all of us on the greenkeeping team are very pleased to be working with Neil who in our opinion has a very level headed approach to the work carried out on the course and what's achievable and what's not. I look forward to having a long association with Neil and just hope he has selective hearing, as at times he will need it. As the spring moves on and growth improves greens will be mown more often with the height of cut reduced from 5mm to 4mm eventually mowing six or seven times a week. The feeding programme on the greens will be based on organic foliar feeds applied on a little and often basis. Aeration will be carried out throughout the sum-

mer months to ensure the health of turf is maintained. Light top dressings will be applied on a little and often basis, this will help to improve surface levels. Water usage will be monitored closely as we want to achieve fast firm surfaces. High levels of irrigation only encourage thatch, weeds and diseases plus mains water and electricity to power the pump get ever more expensive. Our course is exceptionally busy at times please give way to us as we carry out our work. We get what we can do during the morning and have started to carry out some jobs late afternoon or in the evening when the course is quieter I hope you all enjoy a good summer and get pleasure from your golf and the friendships the game builds.

David Everett.
Head Greenkeeper.

SENIOR'S SECTION

Well we are right in the middle of the busiest time of the year with just about everything happening. If you read the Seniors' notice board you will see what I mean. Steve Percival is busy trying to fit 80+ into each of his competitions. Ted Baker has sold out the forthcoming Seniors Open to visitors, 160 from 32 different clubs. Tony Johnstone is managing to select 12 players for each match against other clubs from the up to 30 people apply-

ing to play in each one, and winning more than he is losing! John Philips has processed entries for 29 people who want to play in away opens in only the first 4 events of the summer and our treasurer, Tony Wakeling, is keeping tabs that everybody pays the right amount for whatever they enter! With the draws now published for the various Senior's knockouts any Senior not playing at least 3 times a week is probably slacking!

And Me, well I'm just sitting back and playing as much golf as I can to make up for not playing much lately. Which is my way of saying what a good committee I have!!

PS Having had new members join following the demise of Cheddington GC how nice to see them in all the comps and rollups, a big welcome to you all!

Adrian Wells
Seniors Chairman