

Brecon GOLF CLUB



December 2014 - Issue 1

Dear Members,
It's been quite a while since we produced a Club Newsletter, but here's an up-date on what's been happening in the Club.

----- CLUB NEWS -----

Money, Money, Money

It is quite appropriate for a golf club that we can report sighting some "green shoots of recovery" recently. After a few years of struggling and having to report annual deficits we have begun to see a small improvement in our finances. This is due mainly to an increase in members and green fees received.

New members have joined in all sections this year, due in no small part to the various schemes developed in the last year or two, which continue to be reviewed and revitalised. New member subscriptions are good for the whole club and some short-term offers are leading to longer-term dividends.

Green fees have seen an increase this year, although Society income is still very low. Visitors that have come have enjoyed the course, as we all do, and often compliment the green keeper for the excellent greens and layout they find. A number of visitors who have

called in whilst on holiday often call again and that is a great compliment.

Increased Green Fees from individuals and societies help the club's finances and we should all encourage visitors and locals to come to our course and try it out.

The committee has committed to spending some money this year on one off items, some of which are described below:

1. Kitchen equipment and renovations ~ Money was spent earlier in the year in fitting the hood, replacing one of the fridges and other small works. The expenditure together with the considerable input of Owain and Sylvia helped us improve our kitchen rating this year to "5", the highest available and is a remarkable achievement for our club.
2. Additional container ~ an additional storage container has been purchased to provide more secure space for our grounds equipment, both owned and rented, to reduce risks of damage or loss from previously having to leave some items outside.
3. Shed ~ A shed has been purchased with a view to establishing a Trolley Bay that members may use to

leave their trolleys, much like we use the lockers for golf clubs at the moment. When the shed has been erected and adapted members will be invited to "rent" a space, as for lockers, and if there is a demand for this a further purchase may be considered.

A full picture of our finances will be presented at the AGM early in 2015, and I will start work on this as soon as I have finished my usual December role in Dickens' "A Christmas Carol."

Steve Morris - Treasurer

Website

Stuart is currently in the process of updating the Club's website, so hopefully making it easier to access and with more regular up-dates and news. This should be completed by the New Year.

Facebook

The Club's moving with the times and you can now see Brecon Golf Club on Facebook.

Senior Section

Aneurin Harley has been appointed the new Captain of the Seniors and he will be ably supported by the experienced Derrick Jackson who continues as Secretary.

The Section has also added an additional morning to its weekly line up with golf now being played on a Tuesday morning (mainly 14 hole), with an additional session added on Thursday mornings (mainly 18 hole). This seems to have proved popular with members and none less than Paddy Murray on his quest for Birdies.

Winter League Leaderboard:

1st D T EVANS

2nd RICHIE PRICE

3rd GWYN JONES

4th PADDY MURRY / KEN PRICE

Weekly Stableford Winners:

PERCY HAYNES

PADDY MURRY x 2

OWAIN MORGAN x 2

Monthly Stableford Winner:

CLIVE MASON

Seniors look forward to their Christmas Dinner at the Clubhouse on 16th December. Ho Ho Ho!

Christmas Draw

Sunday 28th December (around 12.30pm).

25% will be going towards the defibrillator and training fund. Prizes to include Golf & Spa Day, Driver, cash prizes and many, many more. Tickets for sale behind the bar, please support the Club.



Junior Section

We have had a few new junior members this year but unfortunately have not been

able to provide any specific benefits for this key section. The Committee would like to appoint a Junior Coordinator to organise practice days for the section, both to help them with their game but also meet other like minded players to hopefully enjoy forging playing partnerships and internal competition.

If anyone would consider this task the committee will help in any way they can to support the development of the Junior section. Please talk to the Captain, Secretary, Treasurer or any other committee member if you may be interested.

Defibrillator Fund

Having decided to purchase a defibrillator through collections and donations, there has been terrific support for this, both on the initial charity day that launched the appeal, and subsequently from collections and many individual donations.

The initial total set for the purchase and training of 12 members has almost been reached, although collections continue as the Committee is looking to train a further 12 members (24 in total) to ensure good coverage throughout all sections and staff. (First Training Day is 24th January - members will be contacted).

The collection has also been well supported by the Ladies Section with their cake sales that have proved very popular. Perhaps we should look at a "Bake Off" event with Jamie "Hollywood" and Dorothy "Berry" in charge!

Member Survey

A survey of all members is being issued this month (December). The committee recognises that we are 'a members club' and whilst it takes on board individual comments, it is felt it would be useful to undertake a membership-wide survey to

check where we are in delivering what is required from your club.

In order to do this we are issuing this survey to take your views on current performance in the areas of GREENS; HOUSE; COMPETITIONS; GENERAL as described on the form being issued, which will also allow for comments to be added, as required. Look out for the emails and notices being posted.

Practice makes Perfect

Maybe not, but it definitely cannot do any harm. With our nets now re-sited, our excellent putting green (the much missed 2nd) alongside the small chipping area, and our "Field of Dreams" practice ground behind the 1st / 8th, there is no excuse not to sharpen your skills in all areas of the game.

We are very lucky to have these facilities and the time from the staff that look after them, so take advantage and improve your golf at the same time. It is a shame that the old quote "if you build it, they will come" has not truly occurred here.

Comings and Goings

Sylvia Evans has been a stalwart for the club in many areas having been Treasurer for a number of years, a supporter to husband Jon's many roles in the club, a player and, of course, part of the team that has worked tirelessly to ensure the kitchen and bar work as successfully as they do.

Together with Owain, she has been a key member of staff ever since the member's volunteer scheme came into being some years ago. Giving some hours freely each week and receiving minimum payment for others, this team has allowed us to make significant savings over previous arrangements and to maintain a service for members and visitors alike.

Sylvia is giving up her role in December to make plans for her and Jon on his forthcoming retirement, and plant them in his head as his own ideas! We will miss her but wish her success and enjoyment.

Some new faces have appeared behind the bar and we are grateful that Beth and Ailie have come on board to help the team.

Christmas Tree

Thanks to Richard Kedde for donating a lovely christmas tree.

----- NEW MEMBERS -----

Welcome to:

- Mr Brian Probert
- Mr Roger Robins
- Mrs Susan Morris
- Mr David Morris
- Mr Gary Evans
- Mr Les Reece
- Mr Neil MacPherson
- Mrs Denise MacPherson
- Mr William Hogg (junior)

----- PRESENTATION NIGHT -----

A well attended evening by all sections of the Club for the 2014 'Presentation Evening'. Unfortunately the President Mrs Balance was unable to join us due to ill health, and we all wish her well, but all captains stepped in and presented the cups. Well done to prize winners and also thank you to all who attended.

----- COMPETITION RESULTS -----

Men

Winter Stableford Winners:

- Mr Ian Nevins
- Mr Stephen Morris
- Mr David James Powell

Winter League is well under way. Currently Percy Haynes is streaking ahead

NOTE: Sunday 28th December - Stableford. Earlier Tee off 8.30am to allow for the lunchtime Christmas draw.



Ladies

Congratulations to:

Sandra, Lorna & Heather who won the Mid Wales Team of 3 competition at Penrhos.

A Sunday game started off with a bang. Ladies watched as Heather was jumping around the 1st, we all thought she had found a pound, but it transpired a 'hole in one'. Well done Heather and the ladies all celebrated with drinks and cake. Obviously Heather's pockets a bit lighter going home.

On a rather festive cold morning, 10 ladies travelled to Builth Wells Coffee morning. Play was delayed due to the weather, but eventually Brecon came away with Chris Garrett winning and Maureen runner-up.

22 ladies enjoyed their Christmas dinner at Tipple n Tiffin, enjoying a chance to catch-up, secret santa and trying to guess 'whose who' in the baby photos. Also it was great to see Wendy, Grania and the 'Monday ladies' joining us.

Currently Ann Couzens tops the leaderboard of winter league.

NOTE: Sunday 28th December - Ladies Tee off slightly later than usual due to Christmas Draw.

----- 19TH HOLE HUMOUR -----

Rob, Ian and Graham were stuck behind a particularly slow group in front of them.

"What's wrong with this lot" said Rob.

"I've never seen such poor players" said Ian.

Graham asked Stuart, who was passing and he told the boys that these visitors were a group of firemen who had lost their sight when helping to save the tractor shed from burning down when that car went on fire last year, and that he always



arranged for them to play for free whenever they wanted.

The boys thought about this until Ian said he would pray for these men on Sunday. Rob said he would contact an eye specialist to see if anything could be done for them. Graham took a swig of his Bud. and said "Why can't they play at night!"

New Driver

The Captain is very pleased with his new driver. He says he can throw it ten yards further than the last one.

Light Bites

My most consistent and reliable shot is always the double at the 19th.

It took me seventeen years to get three thousand hits in baseball. I did it in one afternoon on the golf course.

REQUESTS: Any suggestions/comments for future issues will be very welcomed. E-mail the Club or contact Maureen

**Divots Please - Replace them!
Pitch marks - Repair them!
It's Your Golf Course - Look After it**

