

The Captains Newsletter

A Stuttering Start

The cold, the snow, then the cold again, the rain, the wind, it has been a long Winter. The captaincy is up and running with the first presentation on the 6th going well. I noticed a recent email from the Greens Chairman explaining why at weekend we are not on the greens. Let's face it, it is very frustrating but when you read and understand the dilemma, you can see why we don't risk the greens in the cold. Over the past 3 years, our greens have been up there with the best locally and I am sure we would not want to risk them. With only one day a week in the Winter to play, most members want to maximise their time and play the full course. The only way for us to do this is to invest in 17 new PGA greens.

Unfortunately, we don't have the cash. I will promise you this though; if a big business deal I am working on comes off this weekend, I will look to buy the greens myself. I am at the final stages of choosing my 6 numbers and will know Sunday. I will keep you posted! (Perhaps we should have a golf club syndicate? What do you think?) Please email your thoughts.

Committee Update

I just wanted you to know that we have improved the link between the "Board" and the "Golf Committee". Representatives from both committees are now attending both meetings. The board meetings now being attended by me or the Captain elect. Comments please!

Captain Elect

I have selected the Captain for 2011.

The captain will be George Jones. George offers a great deal of knowledge of the club; having been a member for 20 years. Now retired, George has a background in management, budgets and targets. He is also a tidy golfer and will be a great asset to the club. Congratulations George!

You will see a lot of George around the club or as a stand in for me. I have changed the way the club works the Captain elect system. George will now be the "Vice Captain" and will shadow the Captain. This, I hope, will mean many more of you will know George when he takes over. Far too many members of the club don't know who the Captain, President or official of the club are. This will be made easier for you over the next few months. For the record, I am the short fat guy with thinning blonde hair. No comments please.

Job Vacancy

The club is desperate to have members help around the club. Regretfully, Keith Graham, our handicap chairman has resigned after doing an outstanding job for some time.

Therefore, we need another handicap chairman for the Golf Committee...or maybe we need a few volunteers to do the job. Yes a few, this would enable more people to do less work. In my opinion, this would begin to unite the club further. So come on and let's see if we can make this work.

On a personal note, I wanted to thank Keith for a fantastic job, he is a credit to our club. In addition, Keith has said he will help the new Chairman.

Please email me if you are interested.

Captain's Weekend

We are now in the process of collecting the deposits. Please give them to David asap. For those who are thinking of coming, or would like to attend, please let David know.

The dates are Thursday 22nd to Sunday 25th April - 3 nights DBB, 4 rounds of golf at Carden Park, Chester.

New Members

If you are a new member of the last 12 months you are still finding your feet no doubt. Joining any new club can be daunting. Within the golf club there are so many sections, rules to understand and competitions to enter. Maybe someone needs to help you? The membership committee have done a great job recruiting new members. You will have had your grand tour

but now it's time to enjoy your membership. The first thing is to get your handicap. To do this, you need to play with a friend or member with a handicap and complete 3 rounds of golf. On each round you need to note every shot on a card. After this, submit the cards to the handicap section (there is a box for cards in the lounge). Make sure your card is marked "for handicap purposes. That's it; you will soon get your handicap.

To maintain your handicap, you need to play in competitions. For new members this can be daunting, but you get used to it.

All members new and old are welcomed to play with the Captain. There is no "click" just an attitude of having a laugh and enjoying the golf. Bring your wallets though for the pot!

Fancy A Bet?

Most of us enjoy a bet with our friends when stepping out onto the golf course. But, how many of you know some of the bets. I have listed a few bets below that you may add to increase the fun. So here's the bet guide:-

The Straight Bet:- The most used bet. Simply agree on an amount for the best score.

Birdies:- Most people add birdies to the above bet. People may refer to the birdies as bits. Normally 25p or 50p per birdie.

Front Back & Game:- This bet is like the straight bet with a twist. You bet on the best front nine score, best back nine score and the best overall game score. E.g. £2 front, £2 back & £2 overall.

The Woody:- Good fun, every time you or your playing partners hits a tree during the round,

the pot gains an amount of money. The last person to hit a tree is responsible for the pot. So for example, you may agree that every time a tree is hit it's 20p. If during the round you collectively hit 10 trees, then the person who last hit a tree would have to pay his playing partners £2 each.

The Camel:- Very similar to the Woody, the camel involves bunkers. The same applies as the Woody, with the last person in bunker paying the bet.

The Ouzler (think this is the right spelling):- The Ouzler relates to par 3's. Basically, you all hit your shots. You must hit the green. The nearest to the hole has the ouzler. However, they must 2 put to get the ouzler.

Reverse Ouzler:- If you don't 2 put when nearest to the hole then you will have to pay the reverse ouzler. Good for the nerves this one.

The Aggregate:- Again related to the par 3's and mainly playing in a 4 ball. The aggregate is the collective score of you and your partner. So if I had a 3 and my partner had a 4, we would have an aggregate of 7. If our partners had a 3 and a 2 totalling 5, then they would win the aggregate bet. Great fun - especially if you add the ouzler. You can win the aggregate but still pay out because you 3 putted.

Eagles:- If you are lucky or talented enough to have an eagle then this is a double birdie and therefore double payment.

Hole in One:- Yes you will win the eagle bet. However, that's it. It is tradition you buy everyone a drink. Normally a whisky.

Let me know if you have any bets to tell the members.

Competitions

In my opinion, it is very important to play in club competitions for several reasons. Mainly, it's a good way to keep your handicap fair either going up or down, a chance to get your name on the clubs major boards and of course to play with members that you would not play with normally.

For new members, the thought of playing with a card in your hand is daunting. Many new members don't want to "cock up" and embarrass themselves. Believe me, we have all done it and after a few competitions you will be the one taking the "mickey".

Numbers for Saturday competitions have been lower than we would have liked, so please make every effort to play.

Presentations:-

If you win a competition, you are asked to collect your prize at the Captain's table; another daunting time for first time winners. However, the nature of our club means that there is good banter at the presentations with a nice balance of heckling and etiquette.

On a serious note, YOU SHOULD attend the presentations, it is a major part and dynamic of the club.

You will be getting a personal invite from me for Captains Day. Please keep this date free. My day will be combined with England's 1st world cup match against the USA.

We are looking at the ways we carry out presentations and the timing of them. We will keep you posted.

Socially Speaking

Over recent years the club has worked hard to put social events on. Many being good nights.

The problem is that these events are attended by the same people. So what I am trying to say, is bring your partners to a social event, invite some friends who may not be members and support the club. After all, the events aren't every week.

Families

I have a young family and understand the demands. However, in readiness for the start of the season we will be starting family nights when you can bring the family up to the club for tea. Yes chicken nuggets by the barrel full! It really would be nice to see the families at the club.

Personally as Captain I can't play everyday, but I will be at the club with the family having tea a lot during the season.

Something for the Ladies

The ladies have a very strong section with presentations and social events well attended. The ladies also put on additional events like "The Ascot Day". Based at the club the ladies have a good lunch, champagne and an in-house bookie. This is a well supported event, but I am sure there are extra tables for new attendees. Perhaps mention this to your partners - it's a great day.

In addition, the Lady Captain, Pat McCallone is also dedicated to new ideas at the club. So please let me know any thoughts you have for the ladies section and I will pass them on.

The Captains Pot

A tradition of the club is that the Captain has a tankard named the Captains Pot. The pot is there to collect fines from members and bets whilst playing with the Captain or President. The pot is then used for members to enjoy a free bar at the end of the season.

Fines can be for anything and forms part of a good crack.

And Finally:-

I have covered several topics within my 1st newsletter and would appreciate your comments. Remember you can take the "mickey" out of the Captain to a certain level. However, remember the pot will not be far away!

Contact Details

You can email me on any of the topics at:-

scott-grayson@hotmail.co.uk

We need your email address. please forward it to:-

secretary@marple-golf-club.co.uk

Thanks

Scott
Captain 2010

“Sponsors
required for
this years
competitons”

“Deposits
required for
Captains
Weekend”

“Members
required to
help out.”

“Don't forget to
have a bet”

“Go and use
David’s new
video facility”

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