



MEMBER'S NEWSLETTER

GILLINGHAM GOLF CLUB

Issue 3

Christmas Edition

Nearing Christmas now nights and weather drawing in making the playing hours much shorter and therefore a time I feel to reflect on the past year and to maybe say a few thanks.

We started my year in April with the state of the course not being as good as it should have been for various reasons. After some discussions between Brian Young, Martin Salmon and Steve Smith our Head Green Keeper we turned the course around and by mid-year I was being congratulated by other club captains on having the best greens in Kent and now at the end of November we still have great greens and tees. My thanks to Brian, Martin and Steve. With their help we have in place a whole winter programme geared not only to give the best winter playing conditions but also making sure next April we start the season with the best greens in Kent.

I owe a big thank you for the help and support given to me by my past Captain Mr David Reardon who helped me with some extremely important advice and support in my first few months as Captain; may I also add David that I miss you from my committee. David thank you.

Doug, Roy and Shirley thank you for the work you have put in to make the experience of attending Clubhouse events enjoyable; for the time and effort put in to choose the right sort of entertainment for members. My family and I have had some great nights and have been approached by several members

with only good things to say about you. Congratulations.

George Mortley; I don't think you knew just what you were taking on when you agreed to do sports and handicaps, a tough job. But George you have made an excellent job of it, in all ways even down to making up results boards that are legible something I could never do and also interpreting the rules which, with Congu in charge, is always difficult. Thank you George.

Baby Brack a tough year for you personally which is not my place to go into, but you have still been there for Gillingham Golf Club your support and advice when needed has been second to none thank you Rob.

Martin Daniels and Neil: Again Martin and Neil when I've needed help and advice you been there thank you.

The girls in the office Karen our club manager and Karen our club administrator thank you for your support, your help when I was floundering and just generally tolerating a novice Captain. Thank you.

Len my vice-captain who was there with advice when needed who has to go through the process next year I hope I've helped make it easier for you, I promise that next year I'll be there for you whether you need it or not. Thank you Len.

Just two more to go Bob our Chairman: Bob I know I have given several headaches over

the past eight months and I'm sure there will be some more in the last four months of my reign (not sure that's right word) but still Bob thank you.

Last but not least my Lady Captain Carol Fedgradoe Thank you darling I couldn't have made it without your support.

To finish I would like to thank all the members of Gillingham Golf Club old and new for their support, and patience with their Captain. Their support for the club, by attending the competitions both in-house and away our A team our B team for representing the club the vets league team and the members that supported me in my friendlies.

Thank you all and I wish you a merry Christmas and may your gods be with you in the coming New Year.

T Thompson, Club Captain

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Reminders

- SUBS ARE DUE BY THE 1ST JANUARY
- BOOK NOW FOR NEW YEARS EVE (Limited Availability)
- WINTER RULES ARE NOW IN PLACE FOR CASUAL PLAY
- PLAY NOT PERMITTED FROM GRASS TEES WHERE WINTER MAT IN USE
- REPAIR ALL PITCH MARKS
- TAKE NOTE OF DIRECTIONAL NOTICES AND ROPES

Competitions Review

Sorry, but we have had to change our plans for the Winter Medals, they are non qualifying medals and no handicap adjustments are possible under CONGU rules.

Our Men's Medals are becoming over subscribed so we may have to ballot some groups out. Those balloted out will have preference for the next medal.

Just a reminder, pitch marks should be repaired and slow play should be avoided.

You are reminded that the Oakshott Cup, Evan Thomas, Graham Cup, Jackson Trophy and Club Singles competitions all require entrance fees to be paid BEFORE THE DRAW, no exception. Those not paid will not be put into the draw. Also please be aware of the rules regarding arranging matches. A note will be posted with the calling sheets, if you can't comply please don't enter.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS from your Competitions Committee
G Mortley, Competitions Chairman

Competition Results

McLean Cup—won by the Gents

Ladies Autumn Meeting—won by Gay Barker

J Mitchell Trophy—won by D McLeod

Mixed v Sheerness—won by Gillingham

Gents Invite to Ladies—won by L Shed and Mrs S Bosworth

Vets invite to Ladies—won by the Ladies

Vets Open—won by Manor of Groves Golf Club

Mixed v Sittingbourne—won by Sittingbourne

Junior Open—won by Ben Maddox

Rabbits & Tigers—won by the Tigers

Mixed Texas Scramble—won by Sally Williams, Natalie Wallis, Bill Williams and Paul Veazey

Club Champion Results

M Thomson—339

A Bathgate—342

D Peat—355

P Whiffin—355

A Stanford—357



Kent League Results

Unfortunately the 'A' Team came bottom of the League having lost all 7 games, the 'B' Team came 5th having won 3 and lost 4. Better luck next year!

Knockout Winners

Evan Thomas—S Neal

Graham Cup—N Hogben

Club Singles—P Whiffin

Jackson Trophy—Mrs S Williams & K Veazey

Oakshott Cup – P Whiffin & M Porter

Please be aware that although the course will be open for play over the Christmas Period, on Christmas Day the Pro Shop will be closed and there will be no Green Staff working.

Competition Reminders

- Check into Pro Shop at least 10 minutes before your tee time.
- Be on the tee 5 minutes before your start time.
- Avoid slow play at all times.
- Call group behind through if stopping at the Cabin.
- Adhere to rules of individual competitions as posted.
- Hand in score card immediately after competition.
- Failure to comply may lead to a ban or disqualification.
- If in doubt of a rule consult your R&A Rules Book (2012 edition now available from the Clubhouse or as a download)

Manager's Update

A few gentle reminders - *Car Park:*

Members are politely asked NOT to park in the roadway of the car park at any time as there is a risk of cars being damaged by delivery lorries and Greens equipment.

You are also reminded that any vehicle parking in a disabled space must display a valid disabled badge. The front of the badge should face upwards, showing the wheelchair symbol.

If you wish to leave your vehicle in the car park for any reason overnight, please inform a member of staff and remove it as soon as possible the following day.

All vehicles left in the car park are left at your own risk.

Locker Room:

The locker room is not a dumping ground for unwanted equipment, clothing etc. Please dispose of all unwanted items by taking them home for disposal.

Any items left in the locker room are left at the owners risk and items left under benches etc are liable to be removed at any time.

Subscriptions:

Subs are due for payment by the 1st January 2012. Payments can be taken in the office during office hours, either in person or by 'phone, but you are requested to avoid Monday mornings if possible.

Payments for events:

Most events with a charge need to be paid for in full at the time of booking. Should your numbers change, please advise the bar as soon as possible to help with Catering.

Closures:

The office will be closed on all public holidays over the Christmas period. The Pro Shop will be closed on Christmas Day. The Clubhouse will be open for limited hours only on Christmas Day and Boxing Day. There will be no Kitchen facilities available on Boxing Day.

Karen Snow, Manager



Note from your Chairman

At this time of year, it's traditional to pass on good wishes for the coming year in all aspects of life, health, wealth, happiness and of course golf.

I would also like to express my thanks to all the member of our staff, Club Captain and Committee Members for their hard work, commitment and support throughout the year.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Lets hope that the season gets off to a good start and that snow (or anything else) does not ruin your holiday plans.

Bob Mitchell, Club Chairman

*We wish you all a very
Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year*

New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following new members that have joined us since August.

Mr Simon A'court	Mr Steven Marsden
Mrs Debby Berry	Mr Graham Martin
Master James Busby	Mr Peter Martin
Mr David Carr	Master Kieran Maxwell
Mr Michael Cottle	Mr David Murphy
Mrs Gill Davidson	Miss Chelsea Nesbitt
Miss Cheryl Elliott	Mr Simon O'Shea
Mr Selwyn Fisher	Mr Daniel Overbury
Mrs Fountzopoulos	Mr Stuart Prentice
Master Fountzopoulos	Mr Henry Skinner
Doctor E Fountzopoulos	Mr Brian Smart
Mr Steve Hardman	Mr Peter Smith
Mr Daren Horne	Mr Nicholas Standish
Mr Roman Jheeta	Mr Richard Taylor

If you have introduced a new member in the past year, you will receive your incentive payment once the member has renewed.

We are pleased to report that a total of 116 new members have joined the Club this year including playing, social and juniors. In addition, we have also had several previous members rejoin us which are not included in this figure.

If you know anyone who may wish to join, full joining details and an application form is available on the website or from the Club.

Lady Captain's Review

This year I feel has been constructive and positive in all areas of Gillingham Golf Club.

The main aim has been to improve the condition of the course, which in my opinion has been a great success, although there are still more improvements to come, so watch this space.

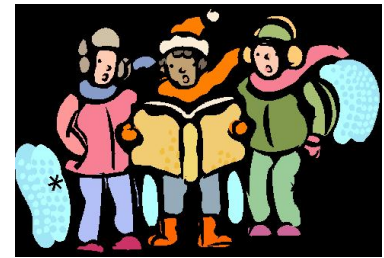
The mixed competitions have been very good fun this year and the Captain and myself would like to convey our thanks to all for making them successful and I hope this will continue in the future, bring on more Texas Scrambles.

One of the biggest successes of our club this year is of course the entertainment evenings, the entertainment committee

has done a marvellous job and should be complimented on their variety of entertainment, (and there's more to come), Well Done to you all.

Last but not least I thank my Ladies for making the best part of my year happy and enjoyable.

Carol Fegradoe, Lady Captain



*"Still places remaining for
New Years Eve"*

Entertainment News

As we near the end of our first year as an Entertainments Committee, we can look back on a highly successful venture.

The support that we have received from the Members of the club and their guests has been most encouraging and it is much appreciated.

The acts that have come to the club have provided some great entertainment but as was to be expected not all of the evenings were popular however even those that did not attract a lot of support had a degree of success.

The Race evening had a small attendance but we still managed to raise over £700 towards the Dreams Come True Children's Charity and those that were there enjoyed the cut and thrust of nine recorded races.

The next event saw an Abba tribute when we had much support and the girls were well received and were very talented. We asked our Caterers to provide a buffet and the evening as a whole was a great success.

Everley Brothers tribute was next and again this was well supported and the room was lit up with people dancing and singing along to the hits from this popular duo.

To move away from the 60's and 70's we invited a group of local ladies called The Clover Sisters who sang a varied repertoire of numbers from the 40's and 50's we attracted 120 members and there was much audience participation, a fish and chip supper added to the general atmosphere.

Our most recent event saw Mike Harris "Mr Smooth" return. Some 140 turned out for another popular evening the dance floor atmosphere was electric.

The year will end with our New Years Eve Dinner and Dance and whilst we have again had encouraging support there are still a few places remaining. The evening offers a three course

meal and dancing to "Loaded Dice" a local group all for £35 so join us if you can.

We have already secured several artistes for next year as you will see from the current entertainments leaflet. In inviting these acts to perform we have called upon the experience that we have gained from the 2011 programme as we aim to provide something for everyone, however we are always open to any suggestions that Members might have regarding an act or a style of entertainment.

This can be done by either talking to any member of the Entertainments Committee or speaking to Karen the Club Manager.

I must mention that the success of our events could not be achieved without the support of the Bar staff and the Caterers and our thanks go out to all concerned.

If you have been to one or more of our evenings we look forward to seeing you again together with your friends and family and if you have enjoyed yourself please spread the word to other Members of the Club and ask them to give us a try everybody is always welcome.

Doug Clark, Entertainments Committee

Our regular Quiz and Wordsearch are on the back page
Quiz Answers: 1.T,2.F,3.F,4.F,5.F,6.T,7.F,8.T,9.T,10.T,
11.C,12.C,13.A,14.B.

Greens Update

Since our report in the last Newsletter, I'm sure members have noticed the vast improvement in the state of our greens. The extra effort and attention to detail from our Head Green Keeper and his team plus the vigilance of our Captain has been worthwhile.

As you know, this year we are adopting a different approach in dealing with the disease Fusarium. We shall be applying the required chemicals before the onset of Winter. In fact we have already applied an initial application against Fusarium. Hopefully this method will be more successful in dealing with the disease, rather than waiting for the tell tale signs before applying the necessary chemicals. This approach has been successfully adopted at other clubs. We shall know the results in the spring!

Your committee have recently been investigating the costs to improve the quality of paths around the course, Hopefully we have sufficient gravel planings (100 ton) to complete the task. This work along with installing railway sleeper steps at the 18th tee is scheduled to start early December.

After much deliberation, and approval from finance, it has been agreed to refurbish the large bunker on the 1st. The proposed start date has yet to be established but every effort will be made to complete this project before the start of the new season.

Also as part of the works programme, some tree felling of old and diseased conifers will be taking place. This will allow some of our indigenous trees (Ash etc) to flourish. It must be emphasized that the established layout of the course will not be compromised in any way due to this work.

Also to improve and where possible enhance some areas on the course recent plantings have taken place. This entailed six Photinia shrubs (Red Robin) and Silver Birch saplings planted behind the 10th green. I'm sure in time these should mature into an attractive feature for the hole, whether its in my time is another matter! So please take care if you should play too full a shot into this green.

Green Keepers Line

The staff were working hard on keeping the course free of leaves and were well on top of them when unfortunately two machine faults put this work on hold for two weeks.

The large tractor had a split in the side wall and despite many attempts to locate a replacement, one was not available. The tyre has now been repaired and a second hand spare was also obtained. The rough cutter at the same time had a gear box problem and had to be sent away for repair, all machinery is now in full working order.

Members may have noticed that half of each tee has already been worked on and the other half is being worked on as and when the tee goes onto a mat.

Regular aeration work will also continue on the course over the winter months to try and stop any disease forming together with the application of chemicals to prevent Fusarium.

Work will shortly begin on the trees around the course, felling where necessary but mainly removing dead and overhanging branches and cutting back at the lower levels.

We reported in the last Newsletter that the proposed drainage ditch across the 5th fairway has been shelved. However, the recent rainfall has clearly demonstrated the urgent need to improve the drainage at the 5th green. As always finance comes into the equation where major projects are proposed, but I'm happy to report this project has been provisioned in this years budget (2012). It is our intention to complete the drainage improvements promptly, subject to manpower and the weather.

This Autumn, we have tried to keep members playing off grass tees as long as possible. It is only recently the mats have been used on the par 3's. The decision regarding the par 4 and 5's will be taken shortly.

Finally, I've noticed over the past few months that members are becoming very lax in repairing pitch marks on the green. It's worth noting that a pitch mark not dealt with promptly not only becomes an eyesore but is a potential source of disease on the greens.

Brian Young, Chairman of Greens

"a pitch mark not dealt with promptly not only becomes an eyesore but is a potential source of disease on the greens"

Rope is used at various points on the course, to direct members away from work in progress. In some places this rope is constantly being cut resulting in a shabby appearance, if you know who is doing this, please report them to the Office Manager or if this is you, please remember that its your course we are trying to look after and the rope is in place for a reason.

Finally, please remember to check the board approaching the first tee to find out what work is being done on the course that week.

Steve Smith, Head Green Keeper

Obituaries

Unfortunately we have lost the following members and Past Captain's this year:-

Mr Sam Baldwin
Mrs Marjorie Bleasdale
Mr Derek Burton
Mr Len Heinson
Mr Terry Jones
Mrs Mary Lukehurst
Mr Albert O'Neil
Mr Ben Troke
Ms Nada Varnfield
Mr Roy Wood

All will be sadly missed and our thoughts go to the families.



200 Club Results

The December draw results are as follows:-

A Cherry (138) - £200
J Reynolds (38) - £120
J Hammond (180) - £50
M Cope (78) - £25
J Pocknell (121) - £10

Congratulations, winnings can be collected from the office. If you are unable to get to the office please call and we are happy to add it to your fob. Previous draw information can be found on the website or on the notice board outside the locker rooms.

There are still numbers available for £10 per number please contact the office if you would like to purchase one and be included in future draws.

A word from your Bar Staff

The Bar staff bravely put on a Quiz Night for your enjoyment and raised a total of £306 for the Children's Christmas Party, thank you to all that participated and congratulations to the winners.

We have a special promotion running for the Christmas period Jagermeister Bombs—one shot of Jagermeister dropped into a Kick—priced at £3.75 each or buy two for £5.75.

The Christmas Raffle is selling out fast, have you bought your ticket yet? Pick your number from the board on

the bar, write in your name and pay the Bar Staff, just £1 per ticket.

Weekly Bonus Ball is still running as well, for £1 a number.

Pies and pasties are now available from the bar once the Kitchen has closed for the day—prices from £1.20.

All the Bar Staff would like to thank you for your support over the past year, we wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

Carol and Dawn

“Try a Jagermeister Bomb”

Foyer Information

The green folder on the table in the foyer contains details of Open Competitions at other Club across the county and beyond in all formats—Men's, Veterans, Juniors, Team, Mixed, Pairs, Foursomes etc. It also contains details of special society deals and holiday breaks, this folder is constantly updated as and when information comes in, so please remember to check it regularly for up to the minute information. Details of County Competitions can also be found here.

Also on the table is the Comments book, so if you have any comments to make regarding the course or club-

house, good or bad, please write them clearly in the book and check back for any reply. Please note that this book is not a general scribble pad and rude comments will not be tolerated.

Information such as Membership Application forms, Entertainment Flyers, Newsletters and other club information are available on the table.

Other information which may be of interest from outside organisations such as Sports Injury Clinics is also on the table and matching posters are on the notice board behind.

Periodical newspapers and magazines

can be found on the floor under the table and may be taken away for reading at home.

The main foyer notice board will always contain the latest announcements, death notices and important information as well as social and entertainment notices, so please check this board regularly.

The notice board and tables in the upper foyer will normally contain entertainment and social details only.

Remember to collect your Christmas Cards from the table on the upper foyer.

Website Update

For those of you who haven't visited the website recently, we now invite you to do so. We have recently added a short video clip to try and encourage new members, why not take a look and let us have your feedback, a link can be found on the home page.

The website is full of useful information such as fixtures, social events, 200 club results and general member information and well as details of society and wedding packages.

It's also the place for all the latest Club news with things like course maintenance works.

We are also on Facebook and Twitter

so join us if you like to communicate on these Social Networking sites, links are available on the website.

We will shortly be launching our Website advertising, which we mentioned in an earlier newsletter, this has been slightly delayed but should be operational in the new year, so if you own your own business and would like to advertise, please contact Rob Brack for more information.

Further Website developments will also happen in the new year with the possible addition of on-line competition entry—more details will follow on this in due course.



Course Etiquette and Safety

It has been noticed that some members are not complying with certain course etiquette rules. Please note that breaches of etiquette will not be tolerated, even if you can't see the harm in breaking the rules you will eventually be caught out.

You are therefore reminded that the maximum number in a group teeing off at any one time is 4.

Practice on the course is not permitted, you should play one ball only from the tee. Practice balls can be fired into the practice nets only.

Avoid slow play even in casual golf and call through the groups behind if you feel you are holding them up. You should also always call through the group behind if you stop at the Cabin

Rules regarding fog on the course are there for a reason and the flag on the first green must be visible for a full 15 minutes before play can commence and you will be advised of this by the Professional or Head Green Keeper. It may on occasion be necessary to delay this further if there is still thick fog at the lower ends of the course.

"The maximum number permitted per group teeing off is 4"



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Wordsearch

Ball	Parkland
Birdie	Pitch
Bogey	Punch
Bunker	Putting Green
Caddies	Sand
Club	Scotland
Course	Snow
Desert	Stroke
Eagle	Swing
Expensive	Tee
Fairway	Tiger Woods
Flag	Water Hazards
Flop	
Flyball	
Golfcart	
Heathland	
Hole in One	
Par	

S F T R R Z N Q Q U N Q O A A K W H E V
I E H E A T H L A N D I F Y J R C S X K
N R E K N U B I R D I E T I G T R R U S
L N T T J D O M P Z M N V F I U S I G H
Q E M O A T J A M E R L P P O D L R B S
H V M Y G N O D N A L T O C S N V G T X
L D X E J E E H M F B U Y A D N Y B F Y
I L Q G N E V E A G L E Z D O Q O O L S
N L A O J O M I R K C I B D O N S W O R
L L A B O D N E S G I V O I W L Q E P L
Q R B Y Y R I I O N G A P E R C B A O H
H M P U J L D L E M E N W S E R W W T A
Y A W R I A F R L L G P I H G P E I K E
V P B U L C H L G R O P X T I E R M W P
R S D N A S D R A Z A H R E T A W W C C
X O U R W T E K O G N O U P K U B H T U
V L T I Z R S S P D N A L K R A P F E R
I K N U M O E Y K P A Y S K R A L H W G
U G X N P K R F D W H Z L C R F O O L W
A L G V K E T X I P U N C H V R D A T G

Rules Quiz

True or False

- Q1 Equipment is anything carried for the player by his partner or either of their caddies.
- Q2 A ball deflected by a direction post must be replayed.
- Q3 A caddie is not permitted to handle the player's clubs during play.
- Q4 The flagstick may be non-circular in cross-section.
- Q5 A 'Stroke' includes the players backswing.
- Q6 A ball is holed when it is at rest within the circumference of the hole and all of it is below the level of the lip of the hole.
- Q7 A player may employ two caddies at the same time during a round.
- Q8 Snow is a loose impediment.
- Q9 Equipment excludes any ball played at the hole being played.
- Q10 A ball is 'in play' as soon as the player has made a stroke on the teeing ground.

And now a few more challenging questions

- Q11 In stroke play, a player swings at and misses a wrong ball. What is the ruling?
A No penalty, *B* Two-stroke penalty and the stroke counts in the players score, *C* Two-stroke penalty, however the actual missed stroke is disregarded.
- Q12 In stroke play, a player bends long grass near his ball so that he can see the ball when playing his stroke.
A No penalty, *B* One stroke penalty, *C* Two stroke penalty.
- Q13 In a match, the two players agree in advance to concede all putts within a specified length. What is the ruling?
A Both players are disqualified. *B* The player who first suggested this should be disqualified. *C* No penalty
- Q14 During a stipulated round, a player runs out of balls. What is the ruling?
A He must abandon his round, *B* He may borrow some balls from any player on the course, *C* He can discontinue play in order to find or purchase more balls.