



# Club Newsletter

Issue 01

[www.goringgolf.co.uk](http://www.goringgolf.co.uk)

December 2010

## Welcome to the New Newsletter

You will have noticed that the Club Newsletter has a new format. The aim is to brighten it up, increase the frequency and open it up to everyone.

The newsletter is for everyone to use. There will be items from the various committees and sub-committees, from the Captain, The President and the Chairman. There should also be news from all of the club teams and from the Club Professional.

Hopefully we will also get a few stories from the groups who play regularly. Who are the Mafia and the EGGs, when do they play and who can join them? Who is winning all the money?

And we need your news too. Stories about great rounds, great shots or the reverse. Visited a new course? Tell us about it. Got a new driver?

Mickey Haines worked really hard at the newsletter but was worn out chasing people for news. He did a great job and I can't follow him. So it is a use it or lose it offering. If you don't send in a story or persuade someone to send in a story, it won't get included. I will print as many entries as you send. I will keep them as you write them, just editing for clarity and depending on the space available. But I am not going to be constantly chasing everyone to tell me about their news, I want to continue to enjoy my golf.

So send me your news, your stories, your photos and we can develop a lively newsletter.

We will take articles about anything you want to write but I can't print anonymous entries or ones that are vindictive.

Over the next few months I will set up a separate mailbox for newsletter items. Meanwhile, please send your articles to [geoff.ward@greycells.co.uk](mailto:geoff.ward@greycells.co.uk), phone me on 01491 873342 or leave a note in the Marketing pigeon-hole outside the office.

**Geoff Ward, Editor**

## Member Introduce Member

For the last few months we have been running a Member Get Member promotion in which £50 was added to a member's swipe card when they introduced a new playing member to the club. You will see in other articles in this Newsletter, that membership numbers have improved thanks to the success of the Academy programme. Consequently, we are withdrawing the Member Get Member promotion with immediate effect. No doubt there will be new promotions in the new club year.

**Geoff Ward, Marketing**

## Up to Scratch

We finished second in the league this year missing out on retaining our title by 1.5 points to Reading.

2010 was still a great season for us, maintaining our position at the top. We were joint first in 2008, and won the league in 2009. Personally I was joint player of the year (most points won individually), having won it in 2009 also.

The league structure is changing in 2011 with the Reading and district league becoming 2 leagues of 9. Also we will only play each club once instead of twice as in previous years. We only have 8 games next year.

Clubs in Division 1 of the foursomes league for 2011 will be Goring, Reading, Calcot, West Berks, Mill Ride, Newbury, East Berks, Henley, & Maidenhead. The format will be a knockout cup playing 6-a-side off scratch, with 1 fourball pair, 1 foursomes pair, and 2 singles. It should be good fun. Goring are going for the double !!!

**Nick Jacobs**

**Scratch/Foursomes League Team Captain**

*(Nick has just been voted on to the Reading & District Foursomes League committee. Congratulations, Nick. Ed.)*

## Golf Buggies during the winter months

Following a recent buggy incident, may we remind members using buggies to exercise great care at this time of year. Particularly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> holes (please use the road) and 17<sup>th</sup> hole.

Whilst our buggies are usually returned during the winter months, this year we intend to retain one for golfers with disability.

If you are an owner/driver of a buggy you may use your buggy during the winter months but please do not "lend" your buggy to golfers without the approval of the Club.

If the Golf Course is deemed unfit for buggies an announcement will be made on the course status hotline (01491 873716). We recommend you call this number before leaving home to avoid any disappointment.

**Mike Evans, Club Manager**

## In this Month's Issue...

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## EGM of 4th November 2010

On a mild, early November night ninety-nine members turned out for the EGM – the culmination of three years' work.

### History

It was back in the autumn of 2007 that the then GMC, under Club Captain Norman Marlow, decided the management structure of the club should be reviewed to see if it was still fit for purpose in current times. The Management Working Group (soon shortened to MWG) set about seeking the views of members and staff as well as interviewing the managers of other local golf clubs with different structures. A series of open consultation meetings was held during the spring at which members were asked for their perceptions of the challenges faced by the club – and then for their ideas on how the challenges could best be met.

The ideas generated, tested and moderated were the basis for the report issued to the GMC and then the EGM of October 2008. The principle of modernisation was bought into whole-heartedly and the GMC requested to bring back the implementation. Thus, two years, and a few twists and turns later, the members were able to vote on 'modernisation'.

### Thursday 4 November

The modernisation changes were voted in by 85 votes for and only 12 against. So what does this mean for us?

There will be two committees running the club:

**The Club Committee** will be at the heart of what we do, organising all golf-related and social activities. In these days of falling membership and a lot of 'churn' it will need to put on (golfing) activities to appeal to existing members and persuade them of the benefits of membership. It will also have to do things to attract new – and often beginner – members. This will be a very pro-active role – not just doing the same old, same old. The members of this committee are the Club Captain and Ladies' Captain, the two Vice-Captains, a representative of the Juniors, the club professional and the Club Manager or other member of staff as well as two elected members.

**The 'new' GMC** comprises six members elected by the membership, the Club Captain, the Ladies' Captain and the Club Manager. Its remit is to focus on the business needs of the club. We face the twin challenges of falling numbers and increasing costs; the committee will need to develop strategy and deliver best value for members.

**The Club President** now has a distinct senior role and will offer advice to the Club Captain and CMC chairman. It is to him (or her) we will turn in times of trouble. And as, hopefully, that is not a role that will need to be fulfilled in the near future, the President will also chair all general meetings.

### Was there anything else?

Oh yes! We agreed to change the secretary/manager's job title to 'Club Manager'. This recognises the job being undertaken which is no longer just taking and keeping committee minutes but actively managing the staff and the business of the club.

We members also agreed to some tidying up of the rules. Most of these changes centred around improved drafting but on the advice of the Club's solicitors there is firstly a new rule that allows members to get rid of the mad and the bad committee member and secondly a couple of new rules regarding the use of letter-headed paper and the purpose of the club being to promote sporting fellowship. (You may wish to remind your fourball opponents of this the next time you are being beaten in a Saturday friendly!)

The proposal to introduce postal voting was heavily defeated although, interestingly, supported by many of the members who sent their apologies.

**Margaret Berriman**

## Greens Staff Projects This Winter

The following are the main jobs being undertaken over the winter months.

- Resurfacing and straightening some of the edgings on our non-rubberised paths, the main reason for the work, is to stop water puddling on the paths.
- There has also been extensive hedge cutting round the course, mainly round tees and course boundary's.
- Re-turfing of all worn areas round bunkers and tees.
- Re-positioning of some irrigation pop-ups on tees, where coverage is poor.
- Level out parts of the 8<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> tees.
- We will also be using a machine called an Earth Quake /Ground Breaker. Which helps take the compaction out of the first 10 inches of our greens; this has been done for the last few years. With minimal disturbance to the putting surface.
- We will also be verti-draining our fairways, this we also do every year. This is where a 14" spikes enters the ground vertically and then tilts forward lifting the immediate ground around the spikes and in so doing will alleviate the compaction in the ground.
- We will also be putting wood preservative, on all benches and shelters round the course.
- As well as all the usual maintenance that goes on during the winter month round the course and in the in sheds in adverse weather.

**Brian Valentine, Course Manager**

## New Web Site Coming Soon

The Goring & Streatley web site is undergoing a change and the new version will be launched in December.

The new site will have a crisper, cleaner image and be better for marketing the club.

There will be improved competition statistics and you can add your own non-competition rounds.

We are currently working to clean the text while the technicians are completing the integration with the till system. I hope you enjoy the new site.

**Geoff Ward, Marketing**



## The Captain's AGM Speech

In one way or another it has been an eventful year in the Club's life, but one which I have very much enjoyed. It has been an honour to serve as your Captain.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support throughout the year and I would especially like to mention the following people:-

David Hedley ~ For his hard work in taking the Chair at the beginning of the year.

Ian Knight ~ Who put his heart and soul into everything he worked on for the GMC.

Ian seems to be on the road to recovery now and we wish him well and look forward to seeing him on the golf course again soon ~ he is off on holiday to Australia next week.

The GMC ~ All your help has been very much appreciated.

Jason Hadland ~ For an enjoyable time playing the Challenge matches ~and for his good work and effort in setting up the Academy ~ We have attracted several new members through this scheme.

Sue Mooring ~ For her tireless efforts in providing our catering needs.

Brian Valentine ~ Who has done a tremendous job in keeping the course in an excellent condition during some very difficult times this year.

Helen ~ For keeping the office afloat single handed at the beginning of the year and keeping me informed and up to date with things. It's good to see that she now has help from Mike who is settling in to his new post as manager

Our President David Lane~ For all his help and advice during the year and we must congratulate him on winning the:~

Portuguese Open

The Frame Trophy

Member of the winning United Kingdom team in the 29th European Seniors Golf Association Team Championship

UK Senior Golf Association Midland Championship & The Alan Hobson Trophy

Pam & John Barnard ~ Who must be congratulated for all their dedication & input into the running of the Junior Section.

Alan Stephens ~ Captain of the A & B team

Nick Jacobs ~ Captain of Foursomes League

Now, there have been 3 women in my life this year:~

Gael ~ Ladies Captain whom I'd like to thank for all her support on and off of the Golf course

Margaret Berriman for saving my bacon these last few months and doing a tremendous job as Chair of the GMC

Sheila, my wife

I wish the Club and the new management structure every success in 2011 and future years.

Finally, I wish all Members and Staff,

**A Merry Christmas**

**and A Happy and Healthy New Year**

**Ivan Cork**



## Golf Academy at Goring & Streatley Golf Club

With winter rapidly approaching, it is an ideal time of year to work on a few swing improvements to help you on your way into the 2011 season

An ideal opportunity would be to take advantage of this offer which is available until the end of January 2011

**3 FOR 2**  
**WINTER WARMER**

Receive a FREE 30 minute Short Game Lesson when you book two golf lessons.

All golf lessons are to be taken before 28<sup>th</sup> February 2011

Pop into the Pro-Shop and speak to **Jason** or **Matthew** or call us on the telephone number below for more details

Goring & Streatley Professional Shop  
01491 873715

Please Quote **Winter Warmer**  
at the time of booking.

## **A&B Team Year**

The A&B Team had another very enjoyable, yet competitive season. Our 2010 playing record is played 17 matches, won 6, halved 4 and lost 7.

The team was represented by a friendly blend of "youth and experience" with an amazing 50 years age range! The format includes both handicapped and scratch matches. Normally we have brunch beforehand and beer and sandwiches afterwards.

Player of the Season was Mick Tombs, just beating Tim Hollingworth to the title.

Thanks to all the 34 members of the squad. See you all, and some new blood next season.

PS The Alphabet Cup has been engraved, following a fine close match against the C Team boys.

**Alan Stephens**  
**A&B Team Captain**

## Treasurer's Report to the AGM

I issued my notes on the accounts for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010 back in June when the accounts were originally made available to members. They showed a breakeven situation if the exceptional cost of rebuilding the 8<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> greens is ignored. The results were, in my view, satisfactory bearing in mind the problems with the economy which are affecting the majority of golf clubs and to which must be added the disruption caused by the National Grid work.

Perhaps more currently interesting are the figures for the half year to 30<sup>th</sup> September. We are £27k behind budget at that date despite strict control over expenditure. This is mainly due to loss of membership income.

In July we were over 60 members short but thanks to positive marketing this is now reduced to 25. Moreover the new members have come in later than last year.

Green fees and Societies are £2.5k less than the comparative figures for 2009 which is disappointing and probably reflects the economy as well as the repercussions of the National Grid work.

Food and beverage profitability is some £4k ahead. Investment income is low, reflecting interest rates. Expenses are on budget overall but reflect a current ban on non-essential expenditure.

At the moment I am forecasting a loss for the year of around £30k on general trading but this is subject to my comments below. The overall financial position of the Club as shown in the Balance Sheet remains sound.

Members will be aware that we are negotiating with the National Grid for compensation for the disruption to the course and the loss of income from members and societies. A detailed claim was submitted back in July and we have received £100k on account of this but recently negotiations have stalled; They have simply not been responding to our efforts for talks to agree the final amount. They have acknowledged that we have a claim but seem content to let it fester. Needless to say we have been pursuing it with vigour and a meeting between our loss adjuster and theirs has just been arranged for early December.

There has been no increase in subscriptions for the past 2 years partly because of the economic environment but also reflecting the loss of facilities caused by the National Grid work. This has put strains on our ability to run the Club as substantial costs have had to be deferred (in particular replacement of course machinery and the refurbishment of the men's changing room). These must however be dealt with soon if we are to keep our Club up to the standard we expect.

I am hopeful that an EGM will be called in the New Year to ask members to approve the use of part of the NG compensation to deal with these problems. Hopefully the amount of compensation will by then be agreed.

**Tim Brickhill, Treasurer**

## Lets Hear From You

Tell us what you would like to see in your Newsletter, send us your photos and articles. Would you like to see advertising in the newsletter? I would welcome your views. **Ed**

## Race to Portugal

Last month the final of Race to Portugal was played at Quinta do Lago South course with all the 32 finalist enjoying some rest and relaxation at the luxury Monte da Quinta Resort.

Goring and Streatley Golf Club was represented by Mick Tombs and Steven Shears. The pair declined to comment on their score, saying only that "the course was long" but were happy to report that "they had a great time".



The individual event was won by Jim McLeane from Faith Legg, in Waterford, Ireland and the Team event by Harleyford in Bucks.

Monte da Quinta have announced that the Race to Portugal will be scheduled in their annual calendar of events going forward.

Goring and Streatley Golf Club would like to thank Mr Cyril Griffiths and all concerned in staging the event, and hope that we will be considered once again next year.

If you would like information on the Monte da Quinta resort you can find it at: <http://www.mqclub.com/>

**Mike Evans, Club Manager**

*Wishing you a happy  
and peaceful  
Christmas and 2011*



## Next Issue

All contributions are welcome. Please e-mail to [geoff.ward@greycells.co.uk](mailto:geoff.ward@greycells.co.uk), post in the Marketing pigeon hole outside the club office, or telephone Geoff on 01491 873342

Please always include a telephone number, and an e-mail address if possible. Photos are welcome and encouraged. Please get your articles in as early as possible but **deadline for the January issue is Monday 27th December. Please get articles in early to avoid the Christmas period**

Whilst every effort is made to ensure that any information given is correct, Goring & Streatley Golf Club, its officers, staff and members do not accept any responsibility for the accuracy of such information or the consequences of relying on it. Any views expressed are those of the contributor at the time of submission.