



## THE GEM IN THE FEN - MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

**Captains Update** – Well here we are getting towards the end of the season; we've seen weather patterns of all extremes, beginning with The Beast from the East, through the Summer of continuous extreme Heat, to now the times of the Winds and rain storms. I don't know about you but I think our course has held up extremely well, I play many courses in and around our area and strongly believe it has some of the best greens to be played, and in general our course is always in very good shape. Since our last newsletter we have had Captain's Day and what a day you the Membership made it for me. You welcomed my family members, Sandra, Daughters, Son-laws and Grandchildren. They all said what a great bunch you were; they very much felt at ease, for that I thank you. This year for me started with such great expectations and hopes for my year, as you are all so aware following our family tragedy I've not always been around, but you've still always been there to support me. This was so evident in the numbers who entered the Captain's day competitions (in excess of 80) this was followed by an evening Presentation and Disco for members, family and friends. This again was attended by in excess of 90 people and following comments from many attendees, was thoroughly enjoyed. I conducted a Raffle, An Auction and a variety of competitions throughout the day and evening to raise funds for the Captain's project. Wow was I shocked (pleasantly) at how you supported them. At going to Press I believe, once all payments are received, the total for the Day should reach somewhere near to £1,200. I will deduct from the total only the cost of Disco (£295). You will remember I said from the outset of my Captaincy that you the Membership will choose how the monies I raise should be spent, not the Management committee, not me, YOU. You will be asked for your suggestions and then you will be asked to vote upon your choice from those ideas submitted. I must take this opportunity to express my thanks to a few people for their work towards it being a success. It goes without saying that Sandra was the biggest contributor; others who helped were Family members, Alex, Michal, the Bar staff and those who contributed prizes for the raffle and Auctions. To you all, I THANK YOU. To show to you my appreciation I'm thinking of putting together another working party to carryout some more Ditch work. If you would consider giving up some of your time and energy I would be very happy to hear from you. Mick

**Seniors update** - With a few friendly matches still to play the Seniors are having a good year and are likely to finish in the black. Over the year it seems that the people representing the club Seniors have significantly improved, with the last match against Tydd St Giles resulting in a 6 nil whitewash to March. Well done to all who represented the club over the spring and summer. The summer singles knockout has now concluded with Mr Roger Watts taking the match on the 19th hole from Mr Alan Hall. Other competitions throughout the summer have already been reported during the monthly newsletters. Well done to all the winners.



**Profile of the month** - Appropriately this month's "player" is Tom Sharp who won the longest drive on Captains Day with the longest drive Captain Mick says he has ever seen from a non-professional. Tom had 36 points in Captains Day which was enough for him to bag the Intermediate Trophy that was put up to play for, for all the lads that volunteered their time to help around the clubhouse in the morning. Tom has excellent potential and just beat fellow golfing comrade Lewis Hearn on a better back nine. His handicap has recently reduced having switched his tuition to March having started the game at Pidley, Lakeside. Tom is 23 years old, works at Cambridge University and has a current handicap of 20. He has a set of Cobra Flyz irons, Cobra King driver,

Ping G30 hybrid and Scotty Cameron putter. Tom hits the ball a long distance when "he's on" and in fact is known to break some shafts just through a normal golf shot!!!! Tom is a wonderful addition to our golf club and hope he remains here for a long time. This summer he holidayed in Mexico where he got engaged to his girlfriend Megan. Congratulations Tom!!

**Professionals update** - Dear members, the last month has been very busy "behind the scenes" and along with the promotions team, we hope to release lots of activities and happenings very soon. Golf traffic has certainly dipped that last six weeks or so due to holidays but generally speaking we then see a late season influx of golfers who look to get the most out of the year in October before the clocks alter. I hope to play a decent amount in October before our golf holiday to Turkey in November so if you fancy nine holes late afternoon before dark then please get in touch. I would love to. A quick note to my "Wednesday evening gang" - five pm in October but for those who can't get there for then, get here when you can, catch us up or join us on the course - we can split up no problem at all to help all! The course is boding well as we head towards winter. The greens are fast and the course very dry - we need it like that to give us a head start before Christmas. It is likely we will be on winter rules from the 1st October so please check the board on the first tee come Monday.



Speaking of golf trips - on the 17th November myself, my brother and several others fly from Stansted to Antalya to stay at the Sirene Belek hotel and play 5 rounds of golf prebooked on the Pasha and Sultan courses at Antalya Golf Club. These courses are widely known as the best in Antalya as they are the most established. If you are reading this you are welcome to join me but I really need to know asap please. The cost is an incredible £850 including flights for 7 nights 5\* all inclusive food, drink, golf, transfers - you name it!!



The week prior to that I have organised the annual Autumnal Men's Away Day to Stapleford Park. I have put a sheet up and the cost is £29 per person including coffee and bacon sandwich before play, 18 holes and prize monies. Please pay myself to guarantee your place. I am contemplating a meal afterwards and as Stapleford Park is so expensive in the hotel I was thinking that an evening up in March town centre, say a couple of hours after we get home might be nice. Maybe just a drink for those who want and then a meal afterwards for those who do with partners of course invited. Let me know your thoughts please and if you are going. The day is Thursday 8th November. I have recently purchased a batch of 1000 high quality

"lake" balls and have sorted into brand and model. A great opportunity to play a good ball during the winter and not be too annoyed at the cost loss when one of your screaming drives lies under a stray leaf never to be seen again! Arriving soon is the Island Green winter collection. Lined sweaters, base layers, lined trousers, hats and tops all at very fair prices. Island Green is the fastest growing apparel in the world and with the fabric quality combined with cost it's not hard to see why.

On the same note - I am selling all the men's shirts off now at £20 or 3 for £49. I have loads of styles and colours in particular in large, so come on in and grab a bargain. By the time you read this the Ryder Cup will have taken place. It's unwise to make any predictions in golf. I know of loads of people and pundits who wrote Tiger off completely and now see what he has done. I do have to say I wanted him to win again and I'm sure many thought the same. If you like Mixed Golf, be sure to enter our Mixed Open on Sunday 14th October. Tee times start lunchtime. Cost is £25 per player (10% discount for members) which includes 18 holes, prizes and a tremendous meal. The format is fourball better ball stableford. See me to enter or email me. Until next month's edition, enjoy the course and your game and if you are struggling, come and take a lesson. I help people each week with their game and £20 for a 3/4 hour session isn't exactly a fortune. As our club Chairman said after his tuition today "That was money very well spent".



**Course Update** - Dear all It's hard to believe that the 'normal' playing season is swiftly coming to a close and it seems like only yesterday that we were praying for a dry spell after the incredibly wet late Winter/Spring in the hope that the course could be ready for the first competitions. No pun intended, but a lot of water has passed under the bridge and the course has been in great shape (generally) considering the ensuing extended and extreme dry spell during the summer months. The typical Autumn tining and top-dressing has recently been carried out along with some other greens treatments that were able to be done due to a fixture cancellation. This included deep-vert-cutting (double cut) to

remove thatch from the surface and over-seeding. Also, the greens staff spent a considerable amount of time removing tree roots from the surface of the 4<sup>th</sup> green that has left a surprisingly small amount of scarring. This will not, I'm sure, be evident come the 2019 season. All of this work unfortunately had an effect on the playability of the course during those two days, but sometimes these situations occur to be able to maintain the course. There are proposals for next year to carry out some root pruning around the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> greens. Pruning was carried out some 4 years ago and proved to be very effective, as those who remember shoots sprouting up from those greens just beforehand and have been kept pretty much at bay since. Unfortunately, this was never going to be a one-off fix and so we will have to do this again. We will be proposing also that we carry out soil de-compaction on the greens next year. Technology has moved along and machinery is now available for us to be able to do this quickly, effectively and at no great expense. It is hoped that if this process is successful it will become a routine annual course maintenance activity. Lastly, and he won't thank me for this, but we should be grateful of the voluntary hours that have been put in again this year by Barry Groves. He does it because he enjoys it, however, his time and effort should be acknowledged. Thank you, Barry. Enjoy the rest of the reasonable weather. Best wishes Ivan

**Welcome to New Members**

George Kerr – Junior member  
Sid Johnson – 7 day member  
Alfred Liddle – 7 day member  
Jake Kaval – Intermediate member  
Peter Smith – Experience membership  
Stuart Unwin – 5 day membership  
Graham Thornhill - 5 day membership

**Handicap Decreases this month**

Maureen Pope – new handicap 33  
Sandra Russell – new handicap 18  
Jo Rowlett – new handicap 18  
Pam Wallis – new handicap 21

As a result of Captains Day the following had their handicap adjusted to:

John Church from 19 to 18  
Barry Grounds from 29 to 28  
Simon Moore from 16 to 15

**Recent events**

The Ladies played in the Past Captains v Ladies on Thursday 23rd which resulted in the Ladies winning very convincingly.

Texas Scramble result for 27th August was: 1<sup>st</sup> - C. With, G. Brinn, R. Watts, D. Williams with 59.65, 2<sup>nd</sup> - B. Salih, P. Smith, G. Lockwood, S. Canavan with 59.7 and 3<sup>rd</sup> K. Roberts, T. Roberts, M. George, M. Simpson with 59.8

The Ladies played the Phil Potter Trophy and medal on 28th August. The Winner was Emma Norman with a gross 85. She also won the medal with a nett 73 ahead of Ros Humphrey also with nett 73 (ocb) and 3rd was Viv Snushall with a nett 77.



The Ladies played a friendly against Ramsey at home on Wednesday 29th August. A great match which resulted in Ramsey winning 3 games to 1.

Seniors Mickey Dutton-Wells held on 29-08-18. 1st Alan Jones with 40 Points, 2nd Paul Wood with 37 Points, 3rd Roger Watts with 35 Points.

The Ladies played their last big event of the season on Tuesday 4th September - The Autumn Meeting individual stableford and also Canada Cup format for the day. The weather was kind to us and 24 ladies took part. Great scores came in on the day with Jean Alerton winning with 40 points, runner up was Viv Snushall with 39 points and 3rd Gail Arnold with 35 points. The Canada Cup winners were Viv Snushall, Penny Gilbert & Pam Hawes. The nearest the pin on 2nd hole was Gail Arnold and nearest the line on 8th was Fiona Wood.

Emma Norman, Sandra Russell & Fiona Wood represented the ladies section in the Mary Cole Rosebowl competition on Thursday 6th September which is a county competition and was held at Brampton Park. There were lots taking part and the winners once again for the third time was Newmarket Links with a great score of 213 points. In second place was Royston this year. It was a great day and hopefully next year we will submit a team once again to take part.

Emma Norman, Shona Kent, Fiona Wood and Sandra Russell also represented March in the County 36 hole greensomes competition held at The Links Newmarket on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September. It was a long day but a very enjoyable one although the weather turned to rain half way through the day. Emma & Shona came 4<sup>th</sup> with a score of 69 points ocb. Well done ladies.

The ladies played their last friendly of the season against Sutton Bridge at home on Tuesday 11th September Captain of the Day was Penny Gilbert whose team consisted of 4 pairs and the result was 2 and half to 1 and half to March.

The Ladies played the Daily Mail Foursomes on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September. Winning pair: Ros Humphrey and Victoria Collett nett 71. Runners Up: on c/b Emma Norman and Jean Alerton nett 77.

The Men played in a medal on 15<sup>th</sup> September. Winner Brian Newstead with nett 67

March played a mixed friendly against Ely on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September. 6 pairs took place and it was a really close game ending in a very friendly draw.

The Ladies played a friendly against Thorney Lakes at home on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September. The result was 2 and a half to 1 and a half to March.

The Seniors put a team in for the Tydd St Giles Seniors Invitational Friday (21st Sept) as we were defending champions. Unfortunately we only came third on count back but it was a good day and the 6 man team did very well on such a blustery day.

Captains Day on 22<sup>nd</sup> September was very well supported with Men and ladies taking part in an individual stableford competition. There were burgers and hot dogs cooked for the players at halfway house along with drinks to keep them going. The weather stayed dry until early afternoon when a few spots of rain appeared but it did not dampen the day. The spirit of camaraderie was evident throughout the day with a great atmosphere. So many people said that they had never seen the car park so full. The results were: Nearest the pin in two on 5<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> was won by Lewis Hearn who also won the bunker competition. Nearest the line on 8<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> by Danny Daniel. Longest drive was won by Tom Sharp on 8<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup>. Nearest the pin on 2<sup>nd</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> was won by Simon Adams. Nearest the pin on 6<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> was won by Simon Moore. Nearest the pin on 9<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> was won by Garry Brinn. The putting competition was won by James Campbell. The winner of the day for the men was Simon Moore with a score of 40pts. 2<sup>nd</sup> was Mark Crawley with 39pts and 3<sup>rd</sup> Barry Grounds with 37 pts. The Ladies results were 1<sup>st</sup> Emma Norman with 31pts. 2<sup>nd</sup> Michal Simpson with 29pts OCB from Viv Snushall also with 29 pts. The Past Captains Day prize was won By John Church. A great day was enjoyed by all which finished in the evening with a disco (JLW Sound) and buffet for all family members and a grand raffle (for which donations were given very generously). The final amount that was raised on the day will be in the Captains Report above.

The Ladies played a 9 hole stableford competition on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September and the winner was Jean Alerton with 14pts, 2<sup>nd</sup> Carole Wood with 12pts and 3<sup>rd</sup> Shona Kent with 11pts.

The Ladies had their Away Day at Burghley Park Golf Course on 25<sup>th</sup> September 23 ladies played in great conditions. The weather was bright and sunny and still quite warm. After a great welcome from Burghley Park and the start to the day of bacon rolls and coffee we went off in our 4balls. Because the group had a variety of handicaps there were prizes for handicaps up to 22 and prizes for those with handicaps over 22. We had some newer members come along which was great to see and they also did very well in the competition. The day finished with a great roast beef dinner and desert with coffee for all. The results were as follows: Handicap range over 22 in 3<sup>rd</sup> place with 25 pts was Pam Hawes, 2<sup>nd</sup> with 26 pts was Michal Simpson (2<sup>nd</sup> place within a few days....) and in 1<sup>st</sup> place with 30 pts was Shona Kent. In the Handicap range of up to 22 in 3<sup>rd</sup> place was Ros Humphrey, 2<sup>nd</sup> with 31 pts (steady scores over the last few days.....) Emma Norman and 1<sup>st</sup> was Jean Alerton (another win within a few days.....) with 32pts. Nearest the Line went to Valerie Cook and Nearest the Pin to Ros Humphrey. Well done ladies – look forward to next year.

Seniors are ending the Summer season on a high beating Tydd St Giles 6-0 on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September and on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September the Seniors had a great victory over Ramsey 5-1.

**Upcoming Men's Club Fixtures & Competitions - October 2018**

Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Seniors Medal
Fri 5 <sup>th</sup>	Seniors AGM
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup>	Seniors End of Season Bash
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup>	Men's Stableford (no start sheet)
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup>	Seniors Winter Eclectic
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup>	Captains v Vice Captains
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup>	Seniors Winter Medal
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup>	Men's Turkey Trot (see start sheet on competitions board)
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup>	Seniors Winter Eclectic
Thurs 25 <sup>th</sup>	Winter Knock out Competitions begin
Sun 28 <sup>th</sup>	Men's Turkey Trot (see start sheet on competitions board)
Wed 31 <sup>st</sup>	Seniors Winter Medal

**Upcoming Ladies Club Fixtures & Competitions – October 2018**

Thurs 4 <sup>th</sup>	Ladies Medal (tee closed 09.30am – 10.30am and 2.00pm – 2.30pm)
Sun 7 <sup>th</sup>	Ladies 9 hole Stableford (tee closed 09.30am – 10.30am and 2.00pm – 2.30pm)
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup>	Ladies 9 hole Stableford (tee closed 09.30am – 10.30am and 2.00pm – 2.30pm)
Tues 16 <sup>th</sup>	Ladies Medal (tee closed 09.30am – 10.30am and 2.00pm – 2.30pm)
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup>	Ladies Turkey Trot ends
Tues 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Ladies 9 hole competition 12.30pm
Tues 30 <sup>th</sup>	Ladies 9 hole competition 12.30pm
Wed 31 <sup>st</sup>	Ladies AGM 7pm

The 14th October sees the Mixed Open take place having been rescheduled due to the Ryder Cup. Again a discount is available for entries from our "home" players. Please see sign up sheet on competitions board

Please keep your eye on the social board for other up and coming events

Are you looking for a great venue for your or a family member's forthcoming wedding? Then why not choose your Golf Club? We can offer you a flexible package, that's tailored to your personal needs. Clubhouse hire is free to members, only a small staff cost applies. Please contact our Club Secretary Michal for further information, either by e-mail [secretary@marchgolfclub.co.uk](mailto:secretary@marchgolfclub.co.uk) or by phone on 01354 652364 (between 9am and 1pm weekdays)

If you have any good photographs of the course or clubhouse, please send them to Michal, she's always looking for good photographs to use in promotional material.

If you are a Twitter user please follow [#MarchGolfClub](https://twitter.com/MarchGolfClub) in order to have instant notification of the course status and other Club matters. If you are a Facebook user please "like" the March Golf Club and March Golf Club Functions pages in order to receive up to date communications on your news feed. Please share posts to these pages with your friends as an excellent and free marketing tool for the club