

Eaton Outlook

Issue 34 February 2010



Secretary's Report

The **AGM** will take place on Monday 29th March in the Clubhouse at 7.30pm. The nomination sheets are on display in the hallway until the 14th March. There are currently vacancies as follows:

Board of Directors	1	Ladies	4	Membership	2	Mixed	2M, 2F
Mens	2	Course	1	House & Social	3		

The Board of Directors set the **budget** for 2010 showing an anticipated small loss of £2.2k. The process was difficult in October 2009 in view of the rent increase, much reduced interest income and the recession. Full details on the budget can be found on the main notice board in the hallway.

The Board has embarked on the development of a 5 year business and financial plan that will take a more strategic view of the issues the Club faces and the initiatives we might adopt in order to maintain and enhance Eaton as the local premier golf club.

A leak in the roof has caused considerable damage especially in the ladies locker room. Due to the extreme weather conditions it took some time for the repairs to be made. These have now been taken care of but the wall needs to dry out, the remaining paint and plaster taken off, then replastering and repainting can take place.

Ladies Weekend Medals - not all mentioned in the Handbook for 2010

There will be two medals when both the men and ladies will be able to play in any combination during the tee times 8am to 12.30pm, Sunday 6th June and Saturday 28th August. The prizes will not be mixed.

Lady members will have the tee reserved on Saturday 24th April from 10.30am to 11am and Sunday 27th June from 10am to 10.30am.



Time slots within the men's medal competitions will be reserved for ladies on Saturday 29th May from 10.30am to 11am and Sunday 8th August from 10am to 10.30am.

Distance Measuring Devices

Players are now entitled to use DMDs at any time on the course provided that they measure distance only. Any device that also offers other facilities eg gradient, wind speed, temperature, are not authorized and these DMDs are banned from the course regardless of whether any of the additional functions are used or not. Any player in breach of this Local Rule will be subject to the disqualification penalty.

Centralised Database of Handicaps (CDH)

During 2008 the EGU, in conjunction with CONGU, Licensed Handicap Software suppliers, have been developing the new EGU Central Database of Handicaps (CDH). The CDH has now been launched to clubs across the country and Eaton has been registered. Each playing member at Eaton has been allocated a lifetime ID which will enable them to access their latest exact and playing handicap as long as they are registered with Golf Central, www.englishgolfunion.org/golfcentral. This ID number is available from the office, the Professional or the Handicap Secretaries.

The new Eaton Golf Club website will be launched on 1st March.

Kerry Brown

Birch Trees for Bob

A little gathering of members took place on Tuesday 9th February. They gathered on the right of the 15th fairway to watch three trees being planted in memory of Bob Shepherd. These trees were specially chosen by Ann Shepherd, in conjunction with the Course Committee. The small group of Bob's golfing friends helped to make this a very special moment. Ann, with her son Ross, completed the planting. The trees are Jacquemont's birch; they have a very white bark which makes them stand out at a distance.



The Signs are Showing

Health and Safety certainly does get a bad press. We've all seen the headlines. "It's bureaucracy gone mad!", "They don't want us to enjoy ourselves", "They've even stopped the kids playing conkers!"

Many of these stories are just myths, although there are instances where health and safety has been used as an excuse to justify unpopular decisions such as closing facilities. But behind many of the stories there is at least a grain of truth - someone really has made a stupid decision and somebody has been hurt or even killed.

We look after the safety of ourselves and others all the time - while driving, crossing the road etc. We do these things successfully because of our experience and our ability to use the visual information available to us.

We do this most of the time on the golf course.



We don't drive off when people are in range because we can see them! However there are instances when you don't have enough information to make a sound assessment of the risk. This is the reason that we have placed a few signs on the course to

remind you. Are they really needed? Well, have cars on the road by the 2nd been hit? Have people slipped and fallen in the 12th ditch? Have balls landed on the 15th fairway without warning? Yes!

Are we just covering ourselves? Yes we are, but for the right reasons. We are required by law to protect you and the public from harm. There could be Club and individual penalties - potentially severe - if it were shown that we had failed to do so.

In the future if we can see a way of eliminating the necessity for a sign then we will remove it.

Enjoy your golf but take care!

Keith Birmingham, Course Committee

200 Club Lottery - Major Purchase

We have to tell you, because you won't notice it otherwise, that we have bought all new circular tables for the Dining Room. Their variation in size is a delight to Carol for flexible seating also their ease of set-up and take-down has put Russ over the moon.

You probably didn't know that the old ones were a cobbled up job and had to be screwed and wedged each time they were moved, they were a real pain. Quotes requested from Russ and Carol brought the same immediate response, "**Brilliant!**"

We have a broad based "Spending Projects" sub-committee and it was Past Lady Captain, Denise, who raised this need from eagle eyed observations over her year. She sourced the tables and bargained for a superb deal to make it all happen.

We like the fact that so many club members can benefit and we are working on other comparable



thoughts for the spending of our balance.

Come and join us and have a monthly flutter, to mutual benefit. You can get details from Russ. There are 12 draws in the year, of which July and Christmas are of bumper size. Winners' names are posted on the "Social" notice board by the doors to the locker rooms.

Charles Pritchard and Robin Goodyer.

The Hospice of the Good Shepherd

Our support group is celebrating 26 years of fundraising this year. The Hospice itself is celebrating 21 years of existence. Thank you to all our supporters at Eaton Golf Club who have been there for us whenever we ask. Last year we raised £13,500 and we continue to go from strength to strength. We are particularly pleased that both captains of the club, Val Cunningham and Mickey Moore, have chosen us as their charity for the year. Lady Captain is already organising a **fundraising Ladies Lunch at the club on 9th April** -£15 per head, get your names down, Ladies, sign the list in the locker room or contact Sheila John for tickets.



Maureen Hastings, Waverton/Christleton Support Group

Course News

By the third week in December we had not had any 'Course Restrictions' at all this winter, despite a very wet October and November. Then the freeze came, lasting almost 4 weeks. We were forced onto temporary greens because traffic around the holes was causing wear damage and we were unable to cut new ones. Unlike many clubs we normally permit play on frozen greens.

Deep frost blocks our surface drainage, and as the thaw commenced ponds formed all over the course. It took 4-5 days for the greens to clear completely; the frost was 8 inches into the ground. We were then surprised and delighted to find a dry course underneath all the snow. It continues to play well with not even a power trolley ban. Marvellous!

Despite the weather planned course works are progressing well. The bunker phase of the Project is almost complete. The new bunkers will be commissioned in March, and there will be some minor reshaping of the 8th and 9th greensides. We have achieved more than we hoped with the 'minor' drainage work. We need to see how that performs before prioritising other planned improvements later in the year.



Other activity scheduled for this spring includes opening up the hedge right of the 7th green to reveal a clearer view down the canal. A new and tidier hedge will be planted there. The annual tree planting is due shortly: this includes a small landmark stand of trees in the open space between the 15th and 14th fairways to create perspective. We will also widen several existing copses towards the fairways, especially the wide open space up the left side of 16. This will complement the new bunker and add definition and visual character to the hole.

Alan Wood, Course Committee

Rules

Q. A player's ball is hit into a bunker. On reaching the bunker, the player finds that it is covered by leaves and the ball is not visible. Knowing that he is not permitted to touch or remove loose impediments from the bunker, how can the player proceed?

A. The prohibitions on touching or removing loose impediments in a bunker under Rule 13-4 are overridden by the permission granted under Rule 12-1, Searching for Ball; seeing Ball, which specifically authorises touching the ground in a hazard while probing or raking for a ball. Indeed, the player can remove as many loose impediments or as much sand as will enable the player to find and identify the ball. There is no penalty if the ball is moved during this process, however, the ball must be replaced before playing. Once located, the ball must also be covered again so that only a part of it is visible in order to avoid penalty.



Trevor Jackson

The Mail on Sunday National Golf Club Classic

Eaton drew Upton away in the first round of this competition. The match was scheduled to be played at Upton on Sunday 7th February, alas Upton was fog bound so according to the rules of the competition the match was moved to Eaton. The team did us proud and won 3 ½ to 1 ½. Our team is John Jones, Mark Manton, Mike Weston, Mark Hughes and James Aiston who were all Eaton Trophy



Winners in 2009. We wish them well in the next round.

House & Social

The Annual Dinner Dance will be held on Saturday 24th April. This is the biggest mixed social event of the year and the Captain and Lady Captain, host the Captains and Lady Captains of the three Chester Clubs. The House and Social Committee hope that as many of you as possible will show your support to ensure a successful evening.

For all current Course Information ring 01244 335885 and select option 1. The message covers playability of the course, possible restrictions such as trolley bans etc. The information is updated daily from 8.30am.

Open Weekend - on the 15th/16th May

We are opening the golf club to visitors to show them what a gem we have at Eaton. The plan is to attract golfers, potential golfers, juniors, people new to the area and golfers who are unhappy with their current club.

We will provide a tour of our facilities, an introduction to our green keepers and the equipment they use, offer a few holes of golf, chipping, putting, nearest the pin, longest and straightest drive competitions. Bill Tye and his team of professional golfers will be on hand with a variety of offers for beginners, juniors and experienced golfers.

The City of Chester has been chosen by the Golf Foundation as one of their 2 towns to receive special attention this year and we will be able to

benefit from their experience.

There will be some fun activities for both adults and children. Any donations received will be given to the

Hospice of the Good Shepherd which is this year's charity for both the Captain and the Lady Captain.

We will be asking members to volunteer to give a couple of hours of their time to support this weekend and we will be able to show visitors what a friendly club we are.

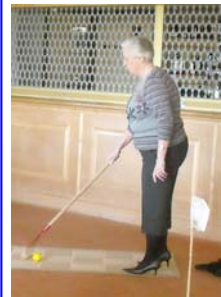
Visitors will also be able to sample Carol's excellent food and find out why Russ was voted the best steward in the UK.

CWG/Marketing



Ladies Highlights

Lady Captain's Drive-In, due to take place on Wednesday 6th January, was postponed for a week because of an unprecedented amount of snow, the most seen at Eaton since the new club opened. Despite the inclement weather more than 60 ladies turned out to see Lady Captain's most unconventional Drive-In, under the club flag, on Wednesday 13th January. After a very strenuous quiz a hearty lunch was served, kindly hosted by Lady Captain.



On Wednesday 10th February we held our Update Meeting which this year concerned the rules of golf relating to bunkers. Thanks again go to Val Leonard for providing a wonderfully graphic display of what we should be doing in and around bunkers.



Margaret Steward, Ladies Committee

Roadblocker

If you approach the roadblocker and find the barrier down and the red light showing, care is needed to avoid damage to your car. You should **not** proceed over the roadblocker. Go to the intercom system and call a member of staff for instructions.

Priority will be given to the first incoming vehicle. The driver will be advised when it is safe to drive over the flat barrier despite the red light. The next vehicle **must** wait until the car in front is clear of the roadblocker and the barrier has come back up. Vehicles may then enter in the normal way. It is

then also safe for outgoing vehicle drivers to swipe their card and proceed on the green light.



*This circumstance can be avoided if **drivers do not tailgate** or enter the loop prior to the roadblocker resetting. The loop for entry starts just after the raised speed bump so stay behind this until the barrier is in the upright position.*

Bridge

Monday, 1st February, was the date of our annual Charity Bridge Drive. This is always a very successful event with tickets selling quickly. The day was slightly marred by a heating system break down on a very cold day and we were reduced to playing in our coats! However, by lunch time the system was back to normal. Eaton members went on to win first & second prizes. The event raised **£450** for Lady Captain's charity.



Mavine Gomersall