

Eaton Outlook

No 36 July 2010



Secretary's Report

The *Members Handbook for 2011* is currently being compiled. If you would like to place an advertisement, please contact the office.

Our Professional, **Bill Tye**, has been appointed a 'County Academy Coach' which will involve him coaching some of the County's finest young players. The coaching is designed to aid the player's progress towards representing the County. It will begin this Autumn and take place mainly over the winter, at the Club.

In June, the Board took the decision to cancel the *newspapers* at the Club due to the ever increasing delivery costs which including the papers amounted to over £700 p.a.

In line with the introduction of an online booking system for Opens and Societies (not Members tee-times) which is due to be launched around September, the Club is about to initiate the use of *credit/debit card payments*. A full description of the system and what we can use it for will be posted before it goes live.

I would like to advise that the ruling for *men's socks* has been changed in June this year. They may wear knee length hose in any colour or white sports socks (a discreet logo in other colours is acceptable). Coloured socks other than the knee length hose will not be allowed.

Bill Simpson has designed, built and installed new *scorecard boxes* in the spike bar, I am sure you all agree that he has done a fabulous



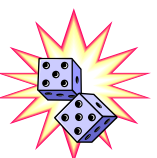
job.

A 32" *TV is being auctioned* by sealed bid, closing date is Sunday 8th August. See the notice board or office staff for more information.

As many of you will know **John Page** was employed as the Club Steward for many years and when he stepped down he continued as a part time bar person

He will pull his last pint on Wednesday 11 August. I am sure all members wish him a long and happy retirement.

The Charity Golf Day held on Thursday, 24th June raised around £5,000 which will be shared equally between Clatterbridge Hospital and the Hospice of the Good Shepherd. Thanks go to all the organisers and to the individuals who donated prizes.



The Scratch League

Friday night, 16th July, saw the final match of the Scratch League; we had to win or halve this to win the league. With the score standing at 3-3 an anxious band of golfers watched as the final pairing appeared on the 18th fairway and a long distance thumbs up signalled the start of the celebrations. Eaton won 4-3 giving them a clear victory in the league and the title, for the first time.

After the supper the Captain congratulated all who had played for the club over the past few weeks. All participants had showed tremendous spirit and had made themselves readily available for selection. He went on to thank Gary Staniford, the organiser, for his dedication and enthusiasm and the encouragement he had given the players. Gary had also played instead of the Captain when other commitments prevented him from playing.

We can be proud of our merry bunch of fine golfers who were:- Captain, Vice Captain, Professional, Graham Roberts, Ben Bristow, Adam Radley, James Aiston, Richard Howell, Chris Sannwald, Scott Lamont, Simon Dangar, Dave Dawrant, Luke Harrison, Mark McNamee, Gary Parton, Ben Parton, Steve Gaskill, Matt Robinson, Neil Large and Gary Staniford.



The 200 Club Lottery

Now is your chance to win up to £300.

For £60 a year you can have your say and have a flutter. See Russ behind the bar for details.

Charles Pritchard

Mickey Moore

Barn Owl News

Our annual inspection of the 3 boxes provided by the Broxton Barnowl Group took place this year on July 13. Barn owls had been sighted by greens staff and members so we were expecting to see some chicks this year.



The box by the 4th tee contained the remains of a stock dove nest. However the box by the 8th tee revealed a pair of mature barn owl chicks. Both were males and weighed in at 350 and 300 grams. Their wing feathers, when measured, showed they were over 67 days old, ie they had stopped growing; at this age they are already flying, but still being fed by the parents, and can be expected to leave the nest and fend for themselves within a couple of weeks. During the day the parents leave the chicks and roost in a nearby tree; at night they hunt for food to feed themselves and the chicks.

The box by the 9th tee contained a stock dove on a nest with two eggs.

Since August 2003, when the three boxes were erected, we have hosted 3 barn owl nests and a total of 7 chicks.

Rupert Thorp

Members' Survey

The Board has asked the Membership Committee to conduct a survey looking at various aspects of the Club.



This means finding out what you like or don't like about the course and clubhouse facilities and the ways in which the Club is run. We will do this through a questionnaire that will be sent out in September and, for the first time, **all** members will be included thus giving everyone a chance to contribute their ideas.

The questionnaire should not take long to complete as many of the questions can be answered by ticking boxes. However, it also provides opportunities to make comments and contribute ideas. All these will be analysed and looked at carefully and, whilst individual confidentiality will be observed, the results will be published to allow discussion and enable committees to take action where appropriate.

Please, take the time to fill in the questionnaire when you receive it in September and return it to Kerry or Sheila promptly. This is **your** club - tell us what **you** think!

Brian Westcott, Membership Committee

Seniors' Section

This is a very active section, open to male members over 55. We arrange matches with eleven other clubs including Bromborough, North Wales, Wrexham and Llangollen. Teams are randomly selected so everyone has a chance of taking part. This year, we have won 7 out of 9 matches to date. In the summer we run two KO competitions with a random draw for partners. We hold three "9 holes and lunch" competitions in March, October and December, run a winter stableford competition, best 8 cards to count and have roll ups on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Contact me if you have any queries.

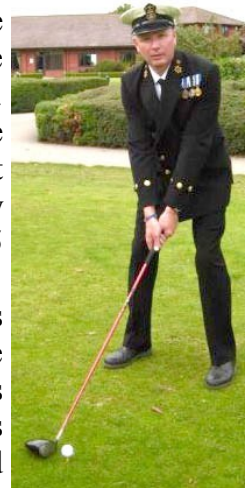
Brian Westcott, Secretary, Seniors' Section

Help for Heroes

We are taking part in the National Golf Club Challenge in aid of Help for Heroes. Over 300 clubs throughout the UK are taking part in this event which is being held nationally over the weekend of 24/25 July.

In order to raise money, Russ is going to play in the 18 hole stableford on Saturday in his full naval uniform regardless of the weather! If you would like to sponsor Russ you can

sign up behind the bar or with the Office. A big thank you for those who have already done so.



Ladies News

The ladies had an action packed week at the end of June, hosting the Chester Festival on the 25th and the first Ladies Invitation Day on the 30th. Both days were very hot and the car parks bursting! In the Festival, 176 ladies from the 4 Chester Golf Clubs played. Denise Lamont, ran the competition, many thanks to her and the ladies who assisted her. Lady Captain presented Irene Cross and Denise, with potted patio plants as a thank you for all the hard work they had done. Margaret Steward's floral display in the loo on the 10th brought many favourable comments. Vicars Cross Ladies did exceptionally well taking all of the prizes apart from the Best Gross, which was won by Eaton's Lesley Kirby and Val Leonard.

On the Ladies Invitation Day we continued to need our parasols. All ran very smoothly thanks to Sarah McGeorge and her helpers.

Ann Mayfield, Ladies Committee

Course Improvements Update

We are nearing the end of the Course Project. It started in January 2008 when we invited one of the UK's leading Golf Architects to review his original course design, 13 years on. Much has changed since the course opened: membership has become a buyers' market, and technology has blunted the challenge of many courses.

After wide consultation with the membership, resulting in some modification of the original proposals, the Board approved the overall Project. Improving the image and appeal of our course is seen as the cornerstone of the Club's strategy to gain and retain members.

The Project, which entailed adding 8 new bunkers and 7 new tees, reshaping 6 other bunkers, and sundry fairway and apron realignments, was approved at £34,900, to be spent between 2008 and 2012. To date all but the new tees are complete, on time and slightly ahead of budget. We have re-thought the new tees to improve their appearance and reduce their costs. They should now cost something under £14,000 against the original plan of £21,000. The overall Project will therefore cost around £28,000, 20% less than sanctioned.

The new tees will be 'championship' style i.e. sized like the back tee on 6. They will be



constructed as other Eaton tees: a foot or more of drained gravel, suitably elevated and levelled. On top of that goes 12 inches of root zone then turf. We expect, barring the unforeseen, that they will be completed by spring 2011, a season ahead of plan.

The new, or 'Black', course will be 6714 yards, 134 yards longer than the current White medal course. 70% of the extra length is on the par 5's to test the long hitters who currently can hit all 4 greens in two shots. Where the Black and White courses use the same tee the distance post and tee markers will indicate that. Other new signage will be identical to current tee furniture. Stroke indices will not change.

The Black, White and Yellow courses will be re-assessed later this summer by the CGU for Standard Scratch purposes. All will therefore be available for competition play. Separately, the Red course is due to be reassessed as part of the national SS review of all courses.

The Men's Committee are responsible for deciding which competitions will be played off which tees. They have already announced that there will be medals off both Black and White courses in summer. Winter qualifying competitions will be played on the Yellow course, as now. Detailed plans will be published in the 2011 Club Handbook.

Alan Wood, Course Committee

Open Weekend - a Great Success

The Open Weekend at the Golf Club in mid-May was the first venture of its kind aimed at attracting people to golf and potential members to Eaton. Over 150 visitors came and we got one new member on the day. It is,



however, too early to judge the success in terms of new members as people will have paid their subscriptions for the year at their existing clubs. Bill Tye, who was very involved in the design of the weekend, has been busy since with golf lessons for a group of ladies and juniors, who are not members and who may well have picked up a club for the first time during the Open Weekend.

This was a big effort by a lot of people, particularly by Geoff Varley and the

Marketing Group, and I want to thank them and all who helped in any way. The clubhouse had a very positive atmosphere, with the Course Committee

display attracting a lot of attention not only over the Weekend but also from visitors in the couple of weeks afterwards when the display was up. The course was in its usual splendid condition and my thanks to Gavin and his team for the work they put in. Undoubtedly the members who came along to assist had a lot of fun during the two days, indeed some, including me, got to find out what a stimp meter looks like.

David Weir, Chairman

Rules

Qu. A ball comes to rest against a rake in a bunker. When the rake was moved, the ball rolled nearer the hole. Under Rule 24-1, the ball may be replaced, but due to the slope and the fact that the sand was firm, the ball rolled closer to the hole when replaced. Under Rule 20-3d, if a ball will not come to rest on the spot where it originally lay, it must be placed at the nearest spot not nearer the hole where it can be placed at rest, however, the spot where the ball originally lay was farther from the hole than any other part of the bunker. Thus, there was nowhere to place the ball at rest in the bunker that was not nearer the hole. How may the player proceed?



Ans. The player cannot press the ball into the sand to make it remain at rest. Therefore, if the player cannot conform with the Rules in placing the ball, he should proceed under the stroke-and-distance option of the Unplayable Ball, Rule 28a, playing a ball as nearly as possible from the spot where the ball was last played, or, in Equity, Rule 4-1, drop the ball under penalty of one stroke, outside the bunker, keeping the point where the ball originally lay directly between the hole and the spot on which the ball is dropped.

Trevor Jackson

The editor would like to thank Trevor Jackson for his contributions to Eaton Outlook. He has provided useful information on the rules of golf for us since February 2005.

Trevor now has some health problems and prefers to make this his final article.

Men's Club Championship 11/12 July, 2010

Club Champion **Richard Howell** with gross of 145, and

Best Nett 137, Best Gross round 1, 72,

Best Gross round 2, 73

Best Nett round 1 John Loughlin 68

Best Nett round 2 Neil Large 68



Ladies Club Championship 7/8 July

Club Champion **Denise Lamont** gross 171

Best Nett **Ann Shepherd** 147

Best Gross Round 1 **Chrissie Latter** 85,

Best Gross Round 2 **Val Leonard** 87

Best Nett Round 1 Kath Baker 75,

Best Nett Round 2, Beryl Lever 73



Captain's Day 19th June

P a s t
Captains have told me how much I would enjoy my big day and how right they were. The support and



consideration given to an Eaton Captain is quite overwhelming and I thank you one and all. I had no need to ask any one person to perform the various necessary tasks, each readily volunteered. My particular thanks go to David Hopkins and Mike Hague for doing the Mens' cards with Mike also helping with the Presentation: Lady Captain and my good wife Jane for looking after the Ladies' competition and for their continual support: Junior Captain, Tom Snodin, for managing the Junior comp, Chris Walley for acting as photographer and last but certainly not least, Irene Cross for presenting the prize table so beautifully. I would also like to thank Russ who is 100% dependable and his wife Karen who kindly organised the hospitality tent. Bill gave me a lot of willing help with Kerry and Sheila laying the foundations to a successful day. Carol and her team, as ever, provided a superb carvery and Cherie's face was a picture as she watched her son Luke collect the Juniors' first prize and perfectly deliver his maiden speech of thanks. She was bursting with pride and rightly so. What a pity our greenkeepers were not there to hear all the compliments which are richly deserved. I was very pleased to receive John Davey's best wishes.

John, although not playing, made the effort to simply attend the Presentation. What standards to aspire to.

You all raised, on the day, about £800 for "The Hospice of The Good Shepherd" so well done everybody.



Denise gave a very nice vote of thanks on behalf of the Ladies whilst Lawrence Kirby spoke elegantly with wit and good content for the Gentlemen.

I am extremely proud to be Captain of such a warm-hearted Club as Eaton and my thanks to you all for making it so.

Michael Moore