

Eaton Outlook

No 35 May 2010



Secretary's Report

Following the AGM in March and a subsequent Board meeting, the following roles for the Directors have been agreed:

David Weir	Chairman
Neil Large	Company Secretary
Mrs Sue Goodyer	Membership
Mrs Mary Henry	Communications
Gary Parton	Professional
Dave Robinson	House & Social
Stuart Robinson	Safety, Health and Environment
Geoff Varley	Marketing
Alan H Wood	Course

I am pleased to advise that following the rule change approved at the AGM to allow **Staff membership** at the Club, our Steward, Russ, has now joined.

At the AGM, the Chairman announced that the Club is going to put in place a mechanism to supply documents and **information in electronic form**. This would deliver significant savings to the club in terms of administration, printing and postage costs and have a benefit on the environment. Further details and an acceptance form are available from the clubhouse or by request through the email system.

The **new website** was launched in March 2010 and I hope you all are enjoying the new look. If you have any ideas for improvements, please do not hesitate to put them forward using the Eaton Voice cards. Following the launch, the Club now only have five email addresses which are as follows:

office@eatongolfclub.co.uk
kerry@eatongolfclub.co.uk
sheila@eatongolfclub.co.uk
professional@eatongolfclub.co.uk
info@eatongolfclub.co.uk

The Club is holding a number of **Open Events** throughout the year including a Men's Individual

Stableford in October. Details can be found in the clubhouse or on the website.

The **new TV** has been installed in the spike bar but due to light shining on the screen it will be repositioned back into the corner.

Our painter, Mick, has been busy carrying out **general paint jobs** around the club, including all exterior woodwork and repairs to the ladies locker room wall. The patio furniture will also be treated.

Professionals Day will now take place on Saturday 31st July.

Now that the sunshine has made an appearance, I would like to take this opportunity to remind male members of the current ruling on **socks**. Men may wear knee length hose in any colour or full ankle socks, which must be white, although discreet logos in other colours are acceptable. To avoid any confusion, the anklebone should not be visible so trainer type socks are not acceptable under any circumstances.

Reminder on Klaxon Signals; the procedure for closing the course due to dangerous situations is:

A single prolonged note indicates that play is to discontinue immediately, and players are to take cover. The note under Rule 6-8b will apply in this situation.

Two short notes of the klaxon, repeated, will indicate that play can resume.

Irrespective of the sounding of the siren, players should also discontinue play immediately and return to the clubhouse, if *they believe* there is danger from lightning (Rule 6.8-a (ii) applies).

Note: To keep the signalling simple, the same signal is used for suspending play in all situations, including those that may not be dangerous e.g. course unplayable.

Kerry Brown

Car Park and Entrance Area

The conifers between the two car parks have been progressively dying over the years and now they look worse than ever. Reasons put forward range from the red spider mite to salt on the car park: we really don't know. The problem now is to know what to do with the area, which provides a visitor with his first introduction to the club. The EWG has therefore taken the initiative and asked a retired Landscape Architect to take a broad look at this section and to come up with some ideas for us.



Rupert Thorp, EWG

Rough Justice

Long, i.e. uncut, rough is a fundamental component of a course layout. It provides perspective and definition, plus challenge. Without it we would be playing in a tree-dotted field. It is also at the heart of our ecological objectives.



At Eaton, because of its relatively recent farming history, the ground is still quite fertile. This gives us relatively long and dense rough, creating a 'sudden death' quality in summer: balls just off the prepared surfaces can easily be lost. This is perhaps overly severe, and slows general play.

In recent years the Course Committee has started to tackle this. First, the normal cycle of growth, cut, and rot-down refertilises and encourages growth. We now cut and remove the grass as hay or haylage, annually. Over time this will weaken the growth.

Second, in line with best practice guidance from the R&A, we have been experimenting with scarification to thin and weaken selected areas. A good example of the result of this can be seen at Wilmslow, where they now have almost an entire course of 'wispy' long rough. Balls are quite easily found but the penalty is typically a shot, not a lost ball. Eaton's soil means this will be a lengthy process but we have started and will persevere.

Third, we will this year introduce an intermediate length of rough between the cut and uncut areas. This will be around 100 mm (our current 'cut' rough is 60 mm). This should form a boundary which will restrict balls running through to the long rough and thus provide a more graduated penalty. Ultimately we hope to achieve this effect by scarification rather than cutting, but it will need time and resources to get there.

In addition, there are areas on the course where it is apparent that the long rough margin has unintentionally drifted back from the play line. We can see this from aerial photos from 2000-2002. The bland open spaces thus created, such as left on 16, diminish the rest of the course. This season we shall be experimenting with restoring some of the old lines, but with the intermediate roughs described above.

Alan Wood, Course Committee

Eaton Captains' Charities 2009

Captain of Eaton Golf Club Michael Hague and Lady Captain Denise Lamont were delighted to have raised over £20,000 last year for their two chosen charities *Claire House Hospice* for Children on the Wirral and *Cystic Fibrosis Trust*, also based locally.

The money was raised throughout the year by the generosity of the club's members and also on two charity days at the club. In addition the Lady Captain arranged a Ladies Pro/Am which was one of only three held in the North of England. This was so successful that another has been arranged for 2nd September this year and entries have already been received from Harrogate and Darlington.

Ladies News

The Spring Meeting was held on 28th April; winner of the salver, with a gross of 83 was Sue Goodyer.



A ladies fundraising luncheon in aid of the Lady Captain's charity - the *Hospice of the Good Shepherd*, was held at Eaton on Friday 9th April. We were very lucky to obtain a most prestigious Guest Speaker, Dr Colm O'Mahony from the Countess of Chester and Nuffield Hospitals, who is an international authority in his field of sexual health matters. He proved to be highly amusing and a most charming and entertaining Speaker. The light luncheon was beautifully prepared by Carol and her staff and Russ and his ladies worked very hard too. The luncheon proved to be a sell-out and on the day, with donations, raffle prizes etc raised £1750, coupled with a generous donation of £750 from Barclays Bank which brought the total amount to £2,500! Lady Captain thanks everyone involved in making this such a huge success.

The photo below shows Mrs Maureen Hastings, Hospice fundraiser, Miss Anne Hackett, Barclays Bank Manager, Dr Colm O'Mahony, Mrs Val Cunningham (LC), Mrs Sheila John, Hospice fundraiser.



Ladies - please do not alter any notices in the locker room, consult a committee member.

Spring Flowers

There should be some bluebells in flower in the woodlands on the 1st, 2nd and 15th. These were planted as bulbs two years ago and now look promising. This year we have planted 500 snowdrops, 500 bluebells, 100 aconites and some spring cyclamen, all “in the green”, ie in leaf. These have mostly been planted in woodlands and under hedges around the edge of the course, where mowers can't reach. We look forward to a good display next year.



Thanks are due to the group of members who funded the purchase of the plants and to those who did the planting on a wet and windy March day.

Rupert Thorp, EWG

Communication.

The CWG has a new chairperson, Mary Henry, who takes over from Geoff Varley. Geoff is now going to concentrate his efforts on Marketing. The CWG would like to thank him for taking the communications in the club forward in various ways. Under his chairmanship we now have better upward communications, in particular with the Eaton Voice cards. We also have a new telephone system. Most importantly we have a new and modern looking website. This will be extended and more information included soon.



This edition of Eaton Outlook and the new Eaton Voice cards have been changed to bring them in line with our new image. If you have any opinions of our changes, good or bad, please let us know.

Mary Thorp, CWG



Wildlife
Eleven new members seen on the 1st tee on 28th April!

Mixed Committee

Mixed competitions at Eaton are so popular and well supported that the mixed committee has had to increase its members to cope with the planning and organisation. Three new members have joined the committee, Sarah Adams, Bronwen Guest and Duncan Evans. We have lost Beryl Lever, Mickey Moore and Val Cunningham. The new vice Captains, David Pickering and Roanne Paul have joined us for the next 12 months and their expertise will definitely help. Jack Lever has stood down as Chairman but remains on the committee to guide us through the next 12 months. The year started badly with the cancellation of the first two “9 holes and lunch” competitions due to course closure, however a well supported Texas Scramble was held on a cold Easter Monday and there is an AM/AM on May Bank Holiday followed by a full entry list for the supper competition on May 8th. One of the rules of entry for all mixed competitions states that:

“A prize giving will follow the competition. At least one member of a winning team is expected to collect their prize. Uncollected prizes will be donated to Captain’s Charities.”

The attention of all mixed competition entrants is drawn to this.

The summer knock-out competitions, Gruesomes and Mixed Foursomes, are underway. Details of the draw are on the notice board in the hall. Please check your play-by dates.

The committee asks for your support for our two Mixed Opens. The first is on 23rd May, we are looking for volunteers to act as Starters and to staff the registration desk.

Jen Russell, Mixed Committee

Eaton Voice

Over the last 2 years we have made great



improvements to upward communication within the club with Eaton Outlook, Monthly Highlights and Eaton Voice. If you have an idea, suggestion or complaint that you want to ensure is addressed by the club, then fill in an Eaton Voice card and post it in the boxes provided. There are 2 in the Lounge and 1 in the Spike Bar. You will be advised when your card has been registered and you will get feedback from the party nominated to respond.

Gordon Cook, CWG

Rules

Qu. A player's ball comes to rest on the gravel footway across the stream on the 15th hole. How can the player proceed and is there any penalty?

Ans. The gravel and stone parapets are by definition, obstructions and are not in the water hazard - the water hazard extends up to the yellow



posts on either side of the parapets and does not continue across the footway. Therefore, the player is entitled to either take relief from both under Rule 24-2 without penalty, or to play the ball as it lies. Relief is taken in the normal way by dropping the ball within one club-length from the nearest point of relief, no nearer the hole. Note that the footway is not a bridge - it is constructed in the same way as the 13th and 14th fairways are constructed over the stream, save for the gravel covering. The stream passes through a culvert on these holes, unlike our other holes where there are bridges over the relevant streams.

More information on our bridges can be found in the Rules article of the EO Issue no 29, dated February 2009.

Trevor Jackson

Mens News

The Winter League Final was won by Dave Dawrant & Gary Staniford who beat Andy Scott & Neil Patten. A clubhouse supper followed attended by some 27 participants.

Jonty Little & John Jones beat Ramsey Lamont & Ross Westwood to win the Winter Foursome trophy. Ramsey & Ross said that, in an earlier round, they only just pipped Hugh Aldred & John Davey who have a combined age of 170!

Congratulations to Tony Pudge for achieving a Hole in One On the par 3, 17th hole, using a five wood on Saturday 13th March 2010 whilst playing in a friendly game.

Congratulations also to Bob Clarke who had a hole-in-one on the 11th in the PGA Trophy on 10th April.

Mick Moore, Captain

On - course Toilet Facilities

Members will remember the comments made from the floor at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting last month regarding the on-



course toilets. The Board discussed the issue again at its last meeting and concluded little could be done at the present time.

A working group set up to consider the future development of all the facilities of the Club conducted a survey early in 2009 when the questions were asked as to whether the toilets at the 6th should be upgraded or removed or left as is and whether a new half way house between the 9th green and 10th tee should be considered.

There was an equal number advocating retaining as now and for retaining and upgrading, but with fewer but still a significant number advocating removal - i.e. no clear mandate for any action. The idea of a more permanent half way house did not find favour because of the likely significant cost and the availability of the existing toilet at the end of the clubhouse.

At the time the Board concluded that no action was appropriate partly because of the lack of a clear steer from members and because of concerns as to future subscription income with the impending so called 'credit crunch' Although concerns at membership numbers have reduced, the Board's view is that no immediate change to the on-course toilet facilities is appropriate at this time in view of other projects taking priority for the limited financial resources available. A proposal to improve the provision of toilet facilities on the course will be included in the 5 year plan which is being developed by the Board. The views of members on this subject, and on any others concerning the development of the Club, are always welcome and I encourage members to use the Eaton Voice system to make their views known.

David Weir, Chairman

Open Weekend

This event is a new venture being organised by the Marketing Committee. It's main purpose is to raise our profile as a friendly club with a superb course and excellent facilities. For more details see the website. Thank you to all the volunteers who have agreed to help on the day. Let's hope the good weather holds!

Geoff Varley, Marketing Committee