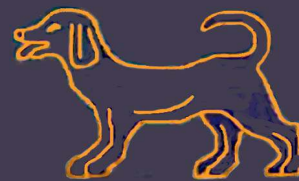


# Eaton Outlook

No 39 February 2011



## Secretary's Report

The **AGM** will take place on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March in the Clubhouse at 7.30pm. Nomination sheets are on display in the hallway until the 14<sup>th</sup> March. Current vacancies are as follows:

Board of Directors	4 Vacancies
Men's	3 Vacancies
Ladies	1 Vacancies
Course	1 Vacancy
Membership	1 Vacancies
House & Social	2 Vacancies
Mixed	2 Vacancies

The Board of Directors set the budget for 2011 showing an anticipated small loss of £3.7k. Full details of the budget can be found on the main notice board in the hallway.

This year the **Eaton Summer Ball** will be held on Friday 1 July. This is the biggest mixed social event of the year and the Captain, David Pickering and Lady Captain, Roanne Paul, host the Captains and Lady Captains of the three Chester Clubs. The House and Social Committee spend a great deal of time and effort on organising this function and it is hoped that as many of you as possible will show your support to the Committee and Captains to ensure a successful evening.

The **road blocker** is out of order awaiting a replacement submersible pump. I have been advised by the manufacturers that they are out of

stock and the earliest a pump can be delivered to our maintenance contractor is the end of February. At times members leave their **cars parked on the car park** whilst they go off site. Whilst this is perfectly acceptable, if you are doing so can you please ensure you have advised a member of staff. This is so that when they are closing the club they are aware that a vehicle is being parked up and that nobody is stranded on the course. If, following a function, you leave your car, please do not return for it until the club is open the following morning. Doing so would disturb the Steward who would believe that undesirables have gained access to the site. Your cooperation in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Members are advised that there has been a **course closure policy** in place for many years. A copy of this policy, setting out the criteria, is on the notice boards in the club house. The decision to close the course is not taken lightly and is always done for the protection of the course. This being the case, once a decision has been made by the greens staff or our professional, members should not approach them directly to try to get the decision over-ruled. If you have an issue over the course being closed at any specific time you should raise the matter with either the Chairman of the Course Committee or myself.

Kerry Brown



## Wild Flowers Update

In 2007/08 we planted some 500 bluebell and narcissi bulbs, mostly in the 1st and 2nd woods, and these are still establishing themselves. Last year, with the Captain's support, we planted 500 snowdrops, some aconites, cyclamen, narcissi and a further large number of bluebells "in the green", ie as small plants, mostly in woodlands and under hedges around the course.

This year we have started a wild flower nursery, consisting of an area of 25m by 4m in the long



grass area between the 12th green and the 17th tee. The area has been sprayed with Round Up to remove all existing vegetation and will be cultivated in March: a seed bed will then be prepared and a "traditional wildflower meadow mix" sown, followed by a selection of annual plants to give some colour.

The intention behind this nursery is to establish an area, which not only produces a splash of colour but also becomes a centre for propagation of wild flowers around the course. If the area is successful, another could be started near to the 14th tee.

EWG

## Eaton Course Project 2008 – 2011

Towards the end of January the final strips of turf were laid on the new 8<sup>th</sup> tee, thus ending the construction part of the course project which began 3 winters ago. Irrigation will be installed in March. Despite severe weather conditions last winter and again this year the project has been completed a full playing season early and comfortably within the original £34,600 budget. We hope that it will be in play for the Cheshire Golf Union friendly against Eaton's finest on the 27<sup>th</sup> of March.



All of the work has been done in-house. Staff have built 7 new tees and 8 new bunkers (and reshaped 8 more). Since November they have shifted and laid 150 tes of gravel, 160 tes of rooting medium and 840 m<sup>2</sup> of turf. We are hugely indebted to head greenkeeper Gavin and his team who have worked so hard to bring the project in ahead of time and cost.

The course staff have been, and continue to be, strongly supported by a very committed Course Committee and friends, who put in many hours of time and effort on a weekly basis.

One of the club's craftsman members has made new wooden tee markers and tee yardage posts which are being sealed and painted by course committee members. We have found someone to copy the existing tee plates to maintain the Club style.

The Board's objective in choosing to spend members' money in this way was simple: to

enhance the reputation and therefore the attractiveness, of Eaton Golf Club. We were known as a high quality but perhaps untesting course. No longer! The new 'Black' course measures 6714 yards, an increase of 134 yards, making it one of the longer inland courses in the area. We are in a premium group of courses where the SS exceeds par. What is most pleasing is that Eaton can now offer competition golf at 4 levels of challenge which is appropriate to a full spectrum of men's and ladies club and County play.

There is already good evidence that the strategy is working. Our membership is relatively strong; our scratch team is ascendant; we have the Standard Scratch assessments; and there is an increasing amount of County and Regional golf coming to play at Eaton. Most prominently, we have the Men's County Stroke Play coming in 2013.

The Men's committee have planned competitions for the Black course this season. As with the White course, we propose to open the new course for general play for all members.

What next? Hardly a week goes by without someone offering an idea to 'toughen up the course'. Why would we want to when it is already expected to play above par? For the immediate future we want to focus on improving some of the weaker areas, such as the Practice Ground, some areas of fairway, and local drainage issues. And we plan to keep improving our (already highly regarded) greens.

Alan Wood

## Lady Captain's Drive-In - 5th January

*1. With a nurse on your left  
And a rhino on your right  
You raised clouds of smoke  
Teeing off with all your might!*

*2. The Ladies played 9 holes  
With weather cold but fine.  
You welcomed them all in  
With a glass of hot mulled wine.*

*3. Hot soup and cheese topped  
bread  
And cakes of many sizes  
Was followed by your speech  
And lovely Chinese prizes.*

*4. Thank you Lady Captain  
And all good wishes too  
For sunshine and good golfing  
Throughout the year for you.*



Thanks to the ladies from Lady Captain for your good wishes.

## Reminder: The Ladies coffee morning and draw for Invitation Days takes place on 9th March

### A Word from your Pro'

It's the start of the golfing season once again and a good time to get your game into shape with a lesson, some new equipment or just some new grips. I have recently invested in a state of the art video camera which can show you your golf swing

in amazing detail, why not give it a go? The Pro shop is filling up with new stock. Lots of new Ladies summer clothing is coming in March. We now have a new ordering system which is proving to be successful. I'm here to help you all. Good luck and have a happy season.

Bill

## Ladies News

The Ladies update meeting on 9th February included reports from Lady Captain, the Handicap and Competition Secretaries, along with a reminder on

rules on the course from Mrs Val Leonard. Val explained rules on bridges and paths within a water hazard using a towel and some large candles as visual aids. She fielded questions from the 50 ladies present. Her contribution will assist our play and the smooth running of competitions this year.

### Lady Captain's Charities

One of these is the Clwyd Special Riding Centre (CSRC). We are sponsoring a 19 year old horse called Ben, who was the first horse used by Ann Mayfield for hippotherapy. Ann explained this as physiotherapy with the patient on the horse, where the walking gait of the horse creates specific, normal movement patterns in a patient



who has suffered brain damage and lost these movements. The patient could be a baby or an adult. A road traffic accident for example might be responsible for brain damage to an

adult. The CSRC caters for children as young as 2 years with the hippotherapy. At the other end of the scale two 75 year old adults are catered for with a pony and trap especially adapted for their wheelchairs giving them a new experience.

Many disabled people learn to ride, go to competitions and may become paralympic riders. Ben has taught many riders and won rosettes for them. The CRSC is a place dedicated to improving Quality of Life.

Lady Captain's second charity is the Bren Project, which helps local people with learning difficulties to find work.

Many Eaton ladies have commented that they like the idea of supporting local charities. Thanks to Lady Captain for her organisation of a very informative and enjoyable day.

Ann Mayfield



### Mixed Committee

The mixed season started with a very wet lunch and 9 holes on 16<sup>th</sup> January which saw almost more attending the lunch than playing but thank you to all who took part both golfers and diners.

### Knock-out Competitions

Members are encouraged to enter for the two mixed knock-out competitions. Rules for these are posted on the hall notice board and entrants are reminded that an active handicap for 2011 is required for both the Gruesomes and Mixed Foursomes. It is hoped that the finals of both these competitions will be played during Finals Weekend, 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> September, but this is not compulsory this year. Finals can be completed by the end of September; this new arrangement is for a trial period in conjunction with Men's and Ladies running competitions to see if more entrants are recruited.

**Men's Standard Scratch** - Following last year's course review and an increase in the men's standard scratch to 72, ladies will now only receive a 1 stroke addition to their handicap when playing off the men's card in mixed competitions. This applies to the AM/AM, Calcutta Cup, and



### Page Trophy.

### Prize - Giving

The timing of prize-giving following mixed competitions has always been problematic. It is virtually impossible to set a definite time for these prize-givings as it depends on the format of competition, speed of play, number of entrants, complexity of cards, occurrence and resolution of disputes, timing and format of meal, Captain and Lady Captain's availability (and digestion!).

As a rough guide prize-giving usually occurs 3<sup>1/2</sup> to 4 hours after last tee time. At least one member of winning teams is required to attend prize-giving or money will be put into Captain's charity.

### Supper Competition handicap reduction

Those of you who are skilled enough to win a first prize in a supper competition will unfortunately have 1 point deducted from your handicap for subsequent supper competitions throughout 2011. This only applies to individual winners not to team events such as Texas Scrambles. This rule was introduced many years ago, in the early days of supper competitions, to minimise the likelihood of the same golfers winning all the prizes.

Let us hope the weather stays fine for the mixed golfing season 2011.

Jen Russell

## Men's Committee

One matter discussed at this month's meeting was the Knockout Competitions and the issue of arranging and playing matches by the deadline date. It is everyone's responsibility in each round to arrange and complete their matches

within the prescribed timescale. No extensions will be granted. Failure to complete on time results in a toss of a coin to decide the winner; no way to win or lose a game of Golf!

**Men's Summer Knockouts:** Kennedy, Jubilee, Summer Foursomes and Scratch; entries close on 27<sup>th</sup> March. If you get beaten in your first round of



the Jubilee you are automatically entered into the Glenmorangie.

**First Invitation Day** will be posted in the locker room at 3.30pm on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March; the competition is played on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April.

### Introduction

My name is Jim Grant and I have been



co-opted onto the Men's Committee to help improve communication between the Committee, Members and Kerry and Sheila. Having worked in several big organisations communication, too much or too little, was a constant complaint, so just enough has to be my target.

Jim Grant

**The 200 Club** is coming towards the end of its third year and by June will have paid out over £9,000 in prizes and will have raised some £4,000 for distribution. Where has it gone?



The dining room tables were our biggest purchase and we have also made smaller payments to stalwarts who do great things that help The Club. These include the Ladies who Flower, shrubs, vases and new kit for the Bridge members. By June we will have around £1,300 to dispense and good ideas (or reminders) are sought from 200 Club Members.

### New organiser required :

Organiser Charles Pritchard is stepping down in June, after his 3 year stint, and a follow-on organiser is needed, either from within the 200 Club or indeed, a current non-member who likes the idea of the fun of a monthly flutter whilst raising funds for items which are "outside the main spending priorities". It's not too onerous and is very rewarding as a way of meeting a grand group of Eaton Members . We have had a wide range of winners, and very few assassination threats from the rest!

Charles Pritchard

## Mixed Golf Partners

The names of players looking for partners gathered from the lists put up last month can be found in the small ledgers recognised by these pictures, one ledger in each locker room. Add your name in the ledger if you are looking for a partner.



CWG

## Social Events

On 25th February - Curry and Quiz Night in aid of the Macmillan Nurses, 7 for 7.30pm

## The new website

We are gradually getting the Members section up to date and populated with useful information. May we encourage you to use it and let us know if you have any comments.

CWG

## Supplementary Scores

These are intended to provide an alternative option for players who find difficulty in participating in organised competitions, to record qualifying scores towards the maintenance of their handicap.



To register a supplementary score, you need to announce your intention *in advance* by signing in at the pro shop, ladies sign the purple book in the locker room. You must then play 18 holes over one of the club's measured courses and return a properly authenticated card to the handicap secretary. This must be at your home club and only one card per week may normally be submitted, maximum ten per year.

The EGU have made some changes to the regulations for submission of supplementary scores in 2011. The option has now been extended to all players, including Category 1 (previously restricted to Categories 2-5 and those registering 6 or fewer cards in the preceding year).

Les Kirsch