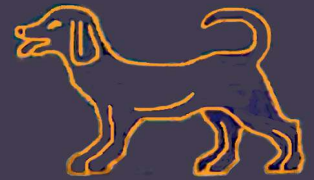


Eaton Outlook

No 41 July 2011



Secretary's Report

Further to the report in the May edition, I was overwhelmed by the support received in my quest to raise the last of the funds needed for the Clock and any excess for Breast Cancer. I am sure that you will all agree that the new clock looks great....there is no excuse now for not being at the tee on time. I was so pleased to have been able to send a cheque to breast cancer research for £1430.

The monies for the clock also came from a generous donation from a group of members who wish to remain anonymous, and from the 200 Club. The chairman, on behalf of us all, would like to offer our very grateful thanks to the group who made the donation which enabled us to repair the clock this year. Please note that following a power cut the clock restarts 12 hours after loss of power.

The email register for all those who have agreed to share email addresses has been compiled and circulated. If you would like the opportunity to take part in the next circular email sent, please speak to the office.

Congratulations to Cheshire who beat Durham during the **County Match** which was hosted by Eaton on the 2nd July; more details on page 3. Many favourable comments regarding Eaton were received during and following the event.

Club Championships: well done to Graham



Roberts and Ros Longson on winning the Men's and Ladies Club Championships, respectively, this year.

Dress Code:

The ruling for men's socks was changed in June 2010. Men 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

are not permitted. I would like also to remind the male players that shirts must be tucked into trousers/shorts at all times.

The Clubs **first aiders** are: Russ, Bill and Bryn.

The Men's Chester Festival took place at Eaton on the 21 May and had one of its largest fields. The presentation was held in the Chester Amphitheatre with prizes being presented by the Mayor.

Charity Days at Eaton:

Christ the King Handicapped Children's Group raised £3000 towards the cost of taking Special Needs Children to Lourdes during Easter next year.

The McNamee/Stanford charity event raised £9300 which will be split between the Captain's charity Samaritans in Chester and Muscular Dystrophy.

Parking: please do not bring cars forward of the car park. This includes driving to the Pro's shop or the front door during normal hours.

Kerry Brown

Water Voles?

Holes have been found in the bank beside the 16th bridge where we propose to support both banks with sleepers, the work is due to start in early August.

Water voles, pictured above, are a protected species so we are not allowed to disturb their habitat. It was crucial to find out if these holes had been made by water voles as this would mean altering our plans.

A member of the Cheshire Wildlife Trust was called in to check whether we had such voles. In fact, the banks were found to be riddled with bank vole burrows. Bank voles, (right), are much more



common and are not a protected species; also they tend to locate their burrows higher up the bank and will therefore be less affected by the sleepers. The main difference between the two types of burrow is size: you can fit three fingers into a water vole burrow but only two into a bank vole burrow.

Cheshire Wildlife Trust reported that the brook is an ideal habitat for water voles and asked that we keep an eye open for any signs during construction. They are happy for us to continue with the work as we are providing alternative areas of suitable habitat elsewhere on the course. The Cheshire Wildlife Trust provide us with this type of advice as we are a Corporate Member.



Spring Greens
 Every spring members become impatient for our greens to perform at summer levels. Some other courses seem to have lush deep green carpets in April but Eaton stubbornly drags its feet, often late into May. Why is that?



grasses need more like 10°C. Until grass has started to grow it cannot take up nutrients or water however much we might shower on it. In fact, using cold irrigation water simply sets growth back. We just have to wait. This year, with the deep frosts of winter and early

Greens differ from course to course. Eaton's were made with fine grasses – bents and fescues – with a base and root zone to match. These grasses are deep-rooting, slow-growing, economical, hardy, disease-resistant. They tolerate extreme weather, need little feeding and watering, and can produce fine putting surfaces all year round.

Other greens are based on annual meadow grass which is shallow rooting and vigorous but vulnerable and high maintenance. Suitably looked after it can also provide excellent putting surfaces from early in the season. But, it needs frequent watering and costly feeding. It is difficult to avoid a layer of 'thatch' (dead grass and root material) building up just below the surface. This keeps water and roots near the surface, leading to spongy greens prone to disease and it is likely they will have winter greens in regular use.

High Stimp speeds on meadow grass can be achieved by cutting extremely short (2.5mm!) but the need to feed and water, plus the risk of disease, is greatly increased – as is the cost of maintenance.

Meadow grass starts into growth at 5°C. Our finer

morning ground frosts continuing well into spring, our greens only got above 10° in early May.

This year, for the first time in 6 years, we hollow-tined and top-dressed the greens quite heavily, nearly 2 tonnes per green. On many courses it is an annual event. Hollow-tining relieves compaction and improves turf quality as well as improving the roll. The greens took a long time to recover because of the lack of growth.

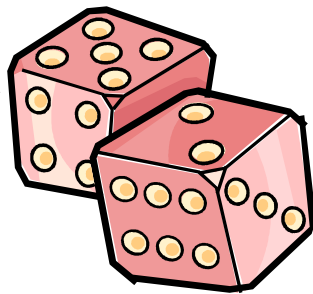
We already have excellent greens according to our agronomist advisors STRI. Our focus over the next 3 or 4 years is to increase the proportion of fine grasses by overseeding and reducing scarification. Dressing and rolling, coupled with a more quantified assessment of performance, will improve their speed and trueness year round.

Last year the greens routinely averaged 8' 2" on the Stimp meter through the summer, with 10' achievable for special events. This year they are averaging almost 9'. For the County match they were over 10' and were described as 'exceptional' by one official. We can't keep them at that level – it's bad for their long-term quality. That speed excludes many regular pin positions, which would further stress the available locations.

Alan Wood, Course Committee

200 Club Lottery

July is the date for joining or rejoining our 200 club. This is the time when we hope that those of you who are not paying by Banker's Order will make your renewal with Russ at the bar, or in an envelope to The Office; it costs £60 for a year and can be paid in cash or by cheque. Alternatively, you can get a banker's order form off our website.



The mid summer draw at the end of July has a 1st prize of £250. Be in it to Win it !!

We usually take on some extra members at this

time of year, some new to Eaton, and for them we explain that the 200 Club aims to raise funds for useful Golf Club projects which are not on the Board main budget. Our current project is to provide an additional Trophy Cabinet so that the full range of cups and trophies can be displayed with a bit more space and better presentation. At present they are squashed in and some older ones have been removed to make room for new.

If you are a member of the 200 club you can make suggestions of what we should spend the monies on.

Don't miss your opportunity to win the first prize. See Russ, or Charles Pritchard 01829 732046 charles.pritchard@virgin.net if you would like to join us.

Charles Pritchard

Visit to Clwyd Special Riding Centre

On a warm sunny Tuesday in June, a group of Eaton GC ladies visited the riding centre. They were made most welcome by the manager, Julie Sergeant and other staff members including Ann Mayfield an Eaton GC member. It was rewarding to watch the young people enjoying their riding lessons. The 45 minutes or so on a pony give them so much confidence, improved self esteem as well as helping their physical problems. Each individual has a program devised to suit his or her individual needs. The final class was in vaulting where, as well as being impressed by the prowess of the young people, their discipline in the ring was outstanding. The highlight of the day was meeting Ben, the pony we are hoping to sponsor next year with money raised for my charity this year. One could only be uplifted by visiting the centre. This fine afternoon finished with a tasty meal in the local pub.



Lady Captain

Barn Owls For the third year running, one of our three barn owl boxes has housed a healthy brood. This year the box on the 9th was found with two female owlets which have been duly ringed and recorded.



Barn owls depend mainly on field voles for their food and these in turn depend on long grass as their habitat. It is due to the way we keep our golf course with plenty of long rough that the owls are doing well.

Unfortunately our family of little owls has disappeared, although this appears to be generally the case locally.

Our owl boxes, which have also housed families of kestrels and stock doves, will need replacing within the next 12 to 18 months and we hope to raise the funds to do this amongst ourselves. We welcome your ideas on fund raising.

Micky Moore, EWG

Club Championship 2011

The Men's Club Champion for 2011 is **Graham Roberts** with a best overall gross of 151 (76+75).

Best overall nett was Bernie Turner with 143 (70+73).

In round one Nick Kaye won best gross *and* best nett with 77 and 66 (72-6).

In round two, best gross went to James Aiston, 74 and best nett to Luke Harrison, 71 (76-5).

The Ladies Club Champion is **Ros Longson** with an overall gross of 174.

Overall best nett Roanne Paul with 148.

Round one best gross Chrissie Latter with 85, best nett Carol Swaffield with 73 (93-20).

Round two best gross Denise Lamont with 90, best nett Sue Parkes with 75 (90-15).

County Golf: Cheshire vs. Durham



For the first time the CGU brought one of their inter-County matches to Eaton at the beginning of July. It followed a successful hosting of the County Match-Play championship in 2009.

Although Cheshire, in yellow shirts, came into the day with a strong record this season the match was very close. Cheshire eventually won 10-8, thanks mainly to a strong finish from their tail.

The quality of golf was high, unsurprisingly, since the poorest handicap was + 1. Reportedly when the top match ended on the 15th the winner was 7 under par. Although the longer hitters reached most of the par 4's with a short iron second shot and made the 14th par 5, in two, the Black course stood up well, with indifferent striking paying the price and quality golf being rewarded.

The course was much praised, with one visiting official describing the greens as 'exceptional'. They were running around 10' 6" on the stimp meter and very true.

Eaton's course quality will be further recognised when we host the CGU's premier event, the County Stroke-Play, in 2013.

Alan Wood

The Summer Ball

It started with drinks, on a pleasant evening, with gentlemen in their dinner suits and ladies in their finery.

A welcoming speech was given by the Captain and an excellent selection of delicious food was on offer thanks to Carol.

As darkness fell, everyone began to let their hair down, dancing and singing along to well remembered songs. Entertainment was delivered by Wall Street Klash. It was a very enjoyable summer ball.

Many thanks also to Alison and Joy who arranged the most beautiful flower displays.

The picture shows the arrival of the promised royal guests, William and Kate.



Bill Bowler, House & Social

A short story!

During one Ladies Wednesday, someone dropped Sandra McBernie's gold plated, diamond encrusted marker down the hole on the 5th green. Spending as long as they dared, they just could not retrieve it, much to Sandra's dismay. Returning to the clubhouse, Sheila put the wheels into motion and within an hour Sandra was reunited with her marker thanks to the greens staff.

How lucky we are at Eaton to have such wonderful staff!

Indoor Bowling

Ever tried Indoor Bowls? Never? Well here is your opportunity. Eaton's new season will begin in October. We welcome new faces to boost numbers. Everyone will be very welcome, you do not need to have bowled before, inside or out! The evenings are good fun and, of course, provide that bit of extra exercise some of us need during the Winter months. We play on Thursday nights from 7.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. Just come along, or contact me first if you want more information. Look forward to seeing you in October.



Sue Goodyer

Mixed Committee

The weather has been kind to mixed competitions so far this summer and entry to all competitions has been high. Mixed knock out competitions are proceeding with few problems. Entrants are reminded that mixed foursome semi finals must be played by 4th September 2011 and Gruesomes semi finals by 28th August 2011. Finals should be played during finals weekend 24/25th Septemeber if at all possible. Any players who have to arrange their final at another time must organise a referee.

The Mixed Open is on August 14th, volunteers are needed for starters, desk and halfway house. Please sign up on list in hall, thank you.

Jen Russell, Chairman Mixed Committee

New Rules for the Mixed Exchange Day

In the past there has been a rush to get names on the list for the Mixed Exchange Day. This has disadvantaged members living some distance from the course.

This year the list was on the board in the foyer for 2 weeks and if over subscribed there would have been a ballot for tee times. In fact there were just enough tee times and no ballot was required. Exchange Day is on Sunday, 21st August at Rhuddlan.

Lady Captain's Day

LLC's day was a day of two halves; sunshine and smiles in the morning and wringing out soaking clothes in the afternoon. Hilary Watson was a worthy winner, as were many ladies, thanks to a most generous Lady Captain.



Roanne maintained her smile under the umbrella which was caught magnificently by Terry Oliver. A good sense of humor was a must and we ladies had it in shovel loads! More pictures can be seen on the website and the ladies locker room!

Ann Mayfield