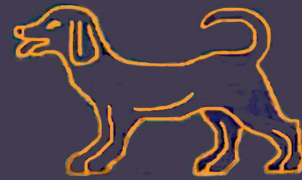


# Eaton

# Outlook

No 42 September 2011



## Secretary's Report

I am delighted to advise you that Ian Russell will drive into office on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January. The entry list will be posted in the Men's locker room in December. The 2012 Captain's Dinner will take place on Friday 13 January. Mrs Jan Robinson drives in on Wednesday, 4th January, 2012.

Following a meeting of the Past Captains, Peter Longson has been appointed to be the Vice Captain in 2012. The Lady Past Captains have appointed Mrs Ros Longson to be the Lady Vice Captain in 2012.

The 2012 subscription invoice will be issued in November. Members are reminded that if they wish to resign from the Club, they must do so in writing by the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011 in order not to be liable for the subscription in 2012.

Entry into the Men's winter competitions is now being accepted by the office.

Feedback and comments from members are very important in letting us know what we are doing, right or wrong. If you have an opinion to voice, please do not hesitate to use the Eaton Voice cards or by all means call into the office.

The Men's Presentation Dinner will take

place on Friday, 21st October and tickets are being sold behind the bar.

The Ladies Pro/Am took place on the 1<sup>st</sup> September organised very competently by Denise Lamont and Jack & Beryl Lever. The event went extremely well, see the article on page 3. On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank Denise, Jack & Beryl for all their efforts in setting this event up. It is hoped that someone else in the Club would like to take on the task of organising this event in 2012.

The shared email register has now been circulated to over 350 members.

Congratulations to Jim O'Sullivan and his assistants during his Charity Event. £3714 was raised for Cystic Fibrosis.

## Important Dates for your 2012 Diary

Monday 26 March	AGM
Saturday 26 May	Annual Dinner Dance
Wednesday 27 June	Lady Captain's Day
Saturday 30 June	Captain's Day

Are YOUR diary details correct?

If not, please ensure that the office are aware so that the update can be made in time for the 2012 diary.

Kerry Brown



## Moore Trophy

A new scratch team competition will take place on 16th October on our Black Course. Teams from Delamere, Frodsham, Helsby, Portal Premier, Chester, Upton, Vicars Cross and Eaton will take part. Devised by Gary Staniford, Mickey Moore and the Captain, you can learn more about it on the website.

## Pocket Panto

This small group of players who have entertained us very successfully in the past two years, will be here again on Saturday, 29th October with a 1940's Extravaganza "Bless 'Em All"!

You can dress appropriately for the occasion or not, though there are prizes for the best costumes! Tickets at £17 per person are available from Russ, behind the bar.

All the social events held at Eaton GC are for your

## Juniors

The new Junior organiser for 2012 will be Andrew Stockton. As you can imagine, this is a demanding but very worthwhile job. He would like to have assistants from both the Ladies and Men's sections. Please get in touch with him or with Kerry if you are willing to help. Our juniors are a great asset to the club, let's help them enjoy golf.

entertainment and the House & Social Committee would be pleased to have some feedback showing what you have enjoyed and your ideas for Social Events in 2012. You can use Eaton Voice cards or see Kerry or a member of the H&S committee to communicate.

Alison Leach, H&S



## When the grass stops growing...

It has been a very busy year for the greens staff. On top of their normal duties three major projects – the new tees, the new irrigation tank, and the 16<sup>th</sup> stream banks – have been completed to the highest standard. Although we don't carry extra resource for this kind of work this year has been unusually cool and dry, meaning less growth. In a warm and moist summer the team do little else but cut grass through the summer!

Winter is when we are able to tackle course improvement items. There are always more options than we can handle, in cash or manpower terms.

This year we will trench drain the area between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, a famously wet spot. To lose a plugged ball off the first drive of the day is not good for the spirits. We will lay 500 metres of trench and pipe through the cut rough area, starting near the 14<sup>th</sup> green down towards the first bunker on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

We also plan to level the fairway drainage depressions, starting on the 16<sup>th</sup>. This is a large and relatively costly piece of work. We don't expect to complete more than 1 fairway per winter, on resource and cost grounds. The covering turf has to be sliced off, soil added, and fresh turf laid. We cannot simply level off with soil: it would take years to achieve a result and damage the mowers in the process.

By the time this article has been published we will have completed the autumn greens programme, including moss treatment, scarifying, solid tining, overseeding and top dressing. Unfortunately this has to be done while the soil is warm enough to encourage good germination. We apply almost £1000 of seed and can't afford to waste it! Last year's overseeding was very effective: the proportion of finer grasses in the greens has visibly increased. Note that the seed is drilled into



the greens: the visible seed is an insignificant proportion of what has been applied.

Our annual programme of tree work involves thinning diseased and overcrowded trees plus general safety work. This year we will also thin out the copse left of the ladies 14<sup>th</sup> tee to give some visibility of the 15<sup>th</sup> green from the tees and tidy up the area. More of the cornus stands around the course will be severely pruned back.

We plan to reshape the mound around the (probably disused) septic tank cover at the top of the first to make it less prominent.

We are very reliant on our mechanical equipment; time spent during the winter avoids expensive emergency work during the summer. Unsurprisingly, therefore, a significant part of our budget is spent on servicing the course machinery. This happens during the winter and takes several weeks. Machines are stripped down, filters and seals replaced, bearings checked. Mower blades are precision ground: they have to be when mowing heights can be calibrated to 0.5 mm! We are getting significantly increased working lives from our kit, enabling depreciation to be reduced. Diligent maintenance is a major factor in that.

Alan Wood, Course Committee

## Bridge Group

On **Friday October 28th** we are holding a Bridge Social at the club. It will be a friendly Chicago format with separate tables for 'beginners'. Bring your guests. Along with a Hot Pot Supper and prizes it is a bargain at £9 per person. Details are on the notice board in the foyer, sign up with Russ behind the bar.

On **Monday 28th November** our usual afternoon Bridge will start again.



Come along then if you wish to join us. These sessions are non competitive practice sessions usually based on some theme following a few 'bon mots' thrown in on the subject.

Last year we played against Vale Royal G.C. (now called Round Tower Bridge Club) in an **Inter Club Match** and scored a comfortable win! Hopefully we can repeat the process this year with another club. This has yet to be organised.

Nick Mayfield

### Club Entrance Improvements

Update! A new hedge will be planted to hide the wooden fence on the left as you enter and the hedge on the right will be allowed to grow high enough to hide the wooden fence behind.

Options for making the club entrance more obvious as it is approached from either direction on Guy Lane are being considered, any suggestions are welcome. The car park lights have been removed (in more ways than one) and the electric supply has been made safe. Any constructive ideas for replacing the lights would also be welcome.



Bill Bowler, House & Social Committee

### Cameron's Celtic Climb

A young golfer has been making waves across the UK U-13 golf scene in recent weeks, with a sterling performance at the Ryder Cup Wales Junior Open following on from a very successful season at his home club.

Cameron Tye (13), member of Eaton Golf Club, qualified for the finals of the tournament, held over the 2010 Ryder Cup course at Celtic Manor. This followed a score of 32 Stableford points off a handicap of 15 over the championship links of Royal St David's Golf Club, Harlech, which is deemed to be the toughest test of golf in Wales. After attending the Ryder Cup in October of 2010, Cameron had realised his dream of competing over the same holes where he saw Colin Montgomerie's European team beat the Americans to take back the Ryder Cup. Cameron's performance, over a golf course designed to bring the best to their knees, was full of quality as he

### JUNIOR WALES OPEN



pieced together a round of 28 Stableford points, off a handicap of 11, to finish Runner-Up in the U-13's section, containing some of the strongest players of that age in the UK.

This experience has capped what has been a great season for Cameron, decreasing his handicap from 17 to 11, winning several events at his home club of Eaton, and even taking the time to shoot a personal best gross score of 78 (just 5 over SSS) from the clubs new Championship Black Tees course which measures a formidable 6714 yards.

Cameron has been part of the Cheshire County Academy Programme which sees him receive coaching at Eaton, one of 9 clubs which were involved in the England Golf Academy initiative. Cameron says "I am very grateful to the members of Eaton for all their support and think the quality of the course will continue to help me improve my game."

Bill Tye

### The Ladies Pro/Am, 1st September

28 teams entered this year; there were 27 last year. The teams were made up of amateur ladies from 22 different clubs from as far afield as Poulton-le-Fylde, Preston



and Huddersfield. 23 lady members from Eaton played in the event. We were blessed with good weather on the day and everything seemed to go well. There were many good comments about the condition of the course and the food. Thanks to the Greens staff and to Carol.

This year we were able to negotiated a sizeable reduction in the PGA's fee which enabled us to show a small profit for the first time albeit only £114. I would question whether this amount of profit is adequate and sustainable.

You can see the results under "Latest News" on our website.

Jack Lever

### Congratulations to Tom

Our new assistant pro' Tom Way-Rider is now fully enrolled on the PGA training programme Diploma course following success in the recent test of playing ability at Bolton Golf Club. Aspiring professionals, who need to be 4 handicap or lower to register with the PGA, play 2 rounds under tournament conditions. Tom who had a handicap of 0.6 before turning pro', breezed round the parkland course with 2 rounds of 73 and 72, comfortably inside the required score. He is now a registered assistant pro' and will carry out 3 years of training with Bill. At the end of this he will receive a degree in golf which will add to the one he already has in English and American Literature following 3 years at Keele University. We wish him well.



Bill Tye

### A Robinson Crusade

It would seem that Eaton Golf Club has found its answer to the Molinari brothers, with Willington based pair Matt and Mike Robinson causing quite a stir at the Club.

Matt, (16), playing off a 3 handicap, has been with the club for 2 years having started playing at the age of

11 at the nearby Pryors Hayes. His development as a player has been remarkable, showing ability and maturity beyond his tender years, with inevitably more to come. This season alone his playing handicap has been reduced by 3 shots, with a best gross score of 68 (-4) in a club competition, setting him apart from others in his age group. This level of form has seen Matt be catapulted into the Cheshire U-16 setup, where he has already represented the county on 3 occasions. "The standard is extremely high and despite the matches being ultra competitive I feel as though I have fitted into the team nicely and I'm looking forward to getting a few more games under my belt before moving into the U-18's next season." The quality and challenge of the testing Eaton layout has undoubtedly helped with his game. However, there is another Robinson who has



Matt



Mike

equally as much potential.... Mike, (18) is a 4 handicap player at Eaton, whose own progression has too been impressive, reducing his playing handicap from 6 to 4 in a few short months. Alongside this improvement he has recently completed his A-Levels, achieving 2 A's and a B, and is about to embark

on his University degree at Loughborough University, reading Economics. Mike has other sporting interests away from Golf, representing Boughton Hall Cricket Club 1<sup>st</sup> XI at a Semi-Professional standard, as well as having played for Cheshire from U-10 to U-14 levels. He has his eyes fixed on a spot in the Cheshire Development side, with a view to progress to the Cheshire Elite Squad. With such a level of desire it is little wonder why Mike holds such passion for his Golf, and in spite of his cricketing commitments, he has a desire to become part of the Loughborough University Golf squad, who compete at a high level on the Midlands BUCS Golf scene. Everyone at Eaton Golf Club wishes both boys the very best and we look forward to seeing how they continue their fine development over the coming years as part of our club.

Bill Tye

### Mixed Committee

There are still mixed competitions to take place before the end of the year. The final supper competition will be a step aside Texas Scramble on 1<sup>st</sup> October. There will be numerous prizes and the Mixed Foursome cup and Gruesomes tray will be presented.

In line with the new approach to finals weekend, the final of the Gruesomes has already been played and Ann and Peter Dyos were the winners with Denise and Ramsay Lamont worthy runners- up.

The Deas/Steggles trophies were competed for on



August Bank Holiday. Prior to awarding the trophies Ann Dyos explained how the competition was devised in memory of her late husband, Jack Steggles, and Ken Deas, late wife Jean Deas. Many new club members had been unaware of the origins and naming of this competition and Ann's explanation was very helpful. The worthy winner of the Steggles trophy was Malcolm Barley and

of the Deas trophy was Denise Lamont. Further mixed competitions to be held are the Page trophy on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October, Turkey Trot on 20<sup>th</sup> November and Christmas 9 holes and lunch on 11<sup>th</sup> December.

Jen Russell



**Eaton in Bloom** We have all been delighted by the brilliant flowers, in Club colours no less, in the tubs on the Clubhouse patio. For this Olwen Oliver takes centre stage, still assisted by Sheila John who ran it for the last 3 years, herself in succession to Sue Pickering. They water, snip and adjust almost daily. In the Autumn a new planting will be done to run through Winter to keep us bright 'til Spring comes round. So "Thanks indeed " to the pleasure given by our Patio girls!