

We are so lucky!

Pleasant Times is a newsletter of Mount Pleasant Golf Club.

Not only are we lucky to have golf as our sport which we can continue to enjoy in these unprecedented times but we have a new 9-holes to look forward to. Many members have been out walking the new course and there has been a lot of positive feedback.

Competitions are coming up thick and fast now as we try to pack everything into a short season.

We have a new self entry score system for competitions and supplementary scores. Please give it a go and help us test it out.

Find out how the Saturday Swindle started.

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On Course

Latest from Gavin.....

It looks like we are heading into a dry spell. Both June and July had 65mm of rain which meant they were our wettest months so far in 2020! Following the dry April and May this welcome rain really helped the course recover, green up and keep growth consistent.

The greens have been in good condition all summer but the recent hot temperatures have put them under stress. Once temperatures go over 30°C the grass wilts during the day causing stress. We have generally been mowing the greens 5 days a week and rolling on the other 2 days to try and give the grass a break but keep the surfaces smooth and true.

Unfortunately, we do not have irrigation to other areas so these will dry out until rain comes.

We are now in preparation time for the Club Championships which this year moved to 5th and 6th September. After this we will start our autumn program to set the greens up for the winter and then aerate and fertilise the other areas to encourage recovery.



Just checking the new practice green.....

Extension News

The rainfall we had in June and July really helped the new holes mature. The greens in particular have improved. We are now cutting them with our tees hand mower at 15mm and will be slowly reducing the height once the high temperatures have rescinded.

We have hired a small tractor with a rotary mower and collector to help us reduce the heights of the tees and green surrounds over the coming weeks and remove the cuttings.

We have committed to holding an 18-hole test event on 26th September which has helped us focus our minds on getting the new holes as ready as we can. However, the greens will not be ready for great putting but the idea is to give the Members a chance to play the new layout ahead of opening in May 2021.

There is currently an enforcement order on the new holes from Central Beds Council. This is in respect of the mounding and the surrounds of the pillbox. We have lodged an appeal through Oakland Golf, who were responsible for the building of the extension and we hope it will come to a conclusion without any remedial work being required.

Gavin

Clubhouse

Open for business.....

Welcome back! It has been nice to see you back in the Clubhouse and thank you for your continued support. As you can imagine times are tough and we have unfortunately had to say goodbye to some staff, reduce hours and deploy some to other areas of the business, however, Trace is enjoying his new role as Operations Manager and being out front for a change!

The Government Eat Out to Help Out scheme is working well and we hope that trade continues once it finishes at the end of the month. We would like to say thank you to all the staff that have returned to work, the continued efforts that you are making are ensuring customers feel safe in our environment during these uncertain times.

Tara

Walk the Course

So, what's it like...

120 of us have now walked the new 9 holes in groups of 5 with a tour leader showing us the way. We were often treated to a display of speed by the hare that uses the new fairways as its own private racetrack.



Everyone was surprised that after the initial uphill walk to what will be the Par 3, 4th there is little change in elevation once you are out on the new course.

The greens are quite different in shape and size and the fairways are definitely undulating.

Perhaps Laurie and Tom could do a good line in group lessons in how to play from sloping lies.

The 6 extra ponds provided discussions points and there were lots of questions about where there would be trees, whether the pillbox will be in play etc.

One question yet to be answered is how do companies like Garmin get the updated course information. We'll let you know when we find out.

Practice Facilities

Opened but keep your distance....

The putting green, chipping green and nets are now open. Please use your own balls and don't hog the facilities for lengthy periods, especially when competitions are in progress.

Please remember to keep to social distancing guidelines.

Pro Corner

Always there for us.....

Huge thanks must go Laurie and Tom who have been ever present in the Pro-shop over the past 3 months, helping us find our way through this situation.

Not only that, this week they have been busy running Junior Golf Summer Camps, in the heat and thunder storms.

Trees & Shrubs

Local schools to help with tree planting.....

Ian Comerford has arranged for us to receive 400 young native British trees to plant on the course. This is on the understanding that we involve local schools in the planting of those saplings, and the Club has sent invitations to 5 local village schools.

We will be looking for volunteers to help with the planting when the time comes later in the year, most probably late November.

You may also have seen some strange people lurking in the woods around the back of the greens on the current course! Di and Ian were out looking for slightly more mature saplings and labelling them ready, so that we can transplant them, again later in the year. Over 100 saplings of hawthorn, blackthorn, field maple, hazel, beech, rowan and ash have been identified so far, and they'll 'wake up' on the new course in the Spring.

Discussions continue as to the type and positioning of trees and shrubs on the new course with the Club Captain, John Finnigan making his charity this year to help fund landscaping on the new course. It's our opportunity to help shape our club.

Handicaps go Global

.....well at least something is going global these days apart from the dreaded coronavirus!

On 2nd November this year the golfing world will adopt the 'World Handicap System (WHS).'

The new system standardises the slightly different approaches used around the world. It is also intended to make it easier to get and maintain a handicap and to provide a way of relating handicaps at different courses (so the likes of Royal St Georges and Augusta will get to fully respect the relative strength of the mighty Mount Pleasant).

The WHS brings together a number of different elements:

- Course Rating, measuring the playing difficulty of a golf course
- Slope Rating, this measures the relative difficulty of a course between scratch and bogey ('normal') golfers
- Your individual Handicap Index, which will now be calculated as an average of the best 8 scores from the last 20 rounds
- When you play a different course, the course/slope ratings are applied to your handicap index to derive a course handicap

- For some formats there may be further allowances to derive a playing handicap for specific competitions

If all that sounds complicated.....DONT PANIC!! Most of the changes will be transparent and straightforward, and the handicap committee will keep you informed. Hopefully you will already have seen material from England golf in posters around the club and on Mount Pleasant social media - that will continue over the coming weeks.



See www.Englandgolf.org/WHS

(Please see Issue 003 of this newsletter for a description of how courses are assessed and given their course and slope ratings.)

Social distancing permitting, we plan to organise face to face presentation and Q&A sessions for club members after the summer to go through the specifics as they relate to Mount Pleasant. In the meantime, please use the posters and publicity material to raise your awareness so we are ready as a club to adopt the change to the new system as smoothly as possible.

Andy Stroomer

Reminders

We still need your help to keep everyone safe.....

Pre-booked golf only

Follow route marked routes around the clubhouse and first tees.

We still need to keep our distance.

It's busy now so please make sure you are ready to play when it is your tee-time.

Maintain a sensible pace of play. It is no good playing 9 holes in 1¼ hours and then expect to start your 2nd 9 straight away.

Equally slow play will cause problems, so let people through if you are struggling to keep up.

There are more golfers starting and finishing at the same time. So, when you finish please obey social distancing and group limits on the terrace and make way for those finishing behind you.

Rules Stuff

Clarification of Local Rules for COVID-19 for holing out....

Flagsticks **must** be left in when putting. Please avoid touching them.

To hole out the ball **must come to rest** in the hole with part of it below the level of the ground.

The ball sometimes hits the black ball-lifter and bounces out. This is just bad luck and the ball in this case is not considered holed within the rules of golf.

When a flagstick is bending or leaning, you may request a player to hold the flag upright using their putter or other club.

Score Entry System

Please enter your own scores into Handicap Master if possible.

As we approach the introduction of the World Handicapping System it is important that scores can be entered swiftly as handicaps will be updated overnight. Therefore, we are asking that wherever possible people now start to enter their own competition and supplementary scores into the system. This will help everyone get used to the process and iron out any problems before November.

This can be done on the system in the pro shop or on your own phone or similar device. Either of these methods provides a way for you to safely submit your scores post-round in these COVID-19 times.

Entering a score in the Pro-shop

Enter your score and/or your playing partners score(s) in the system in the Pro-shop. Please wash/sanitize your hands first. There is always someone at hand to help.

Entering a score using your phone or other device

John Bennett recently sent out an Email describing how to access Master Scoreboard, the handicap system we use, from your own phone or other devices.

Up until recently you were able just to view results and your playing record. Now, there is a new icon on the system called **SCORE ENTRY**.



The system allows you select a competition or a supplementary score to enter your own or your playing partner's score.

Please try it out. It is simple and straightforward to use.

Whichever system you use, we still need your scorecards so please continue to fill them out and sign them as the marker. It is important that you verbally agree your gross scores hole by hole with your marker.

After you have completed entering a score please place your score card in the box in or outside the Pro-shop for later checking.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SIGN THE CARD AS MARKER AND TO ALSO PRINT YOUR NAME UNDERNEATH.

Some signatures are impossible to decipher!!

Club Competition Results

Round up of the results so far....

2019/20 Winter Foursomes finally comes to a conclusion....

Winter foursomes final played in the middle of summer whatever next? Sadly, for Luke Fensome and Doug Parks the result wasn't quite worth the wait. After a close match in which both teams took the lead, Matt Goddard and Steve Poulsen scored a fantastic birdie on the 17th to win 3&1.

Winter Eclectic Results

- Winner: Neil Cole
- Div1 Winner: Paul Curley, R/Up Jason Macanaspie
- Div 2 Winner: Steve Plumb, R/Up Luke Fensome
- Div 3 Winner: Barry Ottolangui, R/Up Chris Gravett
- Ladies Winner: Di Little

2019 Pairs Winter League results:

The winners were Barry & Allen Ottolangui who beat Andrew McNulty & Darren Jones.

Now back to the summer....

All-day Stableford 11th /12th July

- Winner Brian Whitfield 40pts
- 2nd Luke Fensome 39pts
- 3rd Gary Gray 39pts
- 4th Shaun Cadwallen 39pts
- 5th Mark Karls 38pts

Monthly Stableford 19th July

- Winner Div1 Bryan Ellis 42pts
- R/up Div1 Alex Briggs 40pts
- Winner Div2 Grahame Barsdell 37pts
- R/up Div2 Leigh Smith 35pts
- Winner Div3 Brian Whitfield 34pts
- R/up Div3 Chris Gravett 31pts

9-Hole Qualifier

- Winner Andy Stroomer 21pts
- 2nd Louise Baxter 20pts
- 3rd Paul Curley 20pts (On count back from Pauline Barton).

All Day Stableford 8th/9th August

- Winner Dave Ellis 42 pts
- 2nd Jay Macanaspie 39pts
- 3rd Petar Preocaniin 39pts
- 4th Gary Gray 39pts
- 5th Alex Briggs 38pts

Saturday Swindle

How it all started....

The Saturday Swindle started around 12 years ago as a regular get together of members of the (now defunct) William Ransom Golf Society. It was a group of hard-working gentlemen (using the term loosely) who got together early on a Saturday morning for a social round of golf, to swap stories and recharge their batteries and glasses with David Miles doing the organisation. Many were not members of any club but

gradually migrated towards MPGC and signed up.

Although much has changed since the early days, the Swindle is still a friendly group of players, happy to welcome club members and guests. In fact, over the years, many of those guests have become members and continue to rise ridiculously early on a Saturday morning, ready to tee off at 07:16 to be rewarded with sunshine, wind, rain and hail, capped off by a savage handicap cut if they play really well. Some even turn up when snow or frost is on the ground, praying for a rapid thaw. I know – I'm one of them.

A massive thanks must go to Gavin, Tara, Laurie and the team who have always been happy to accommodate our ever-increasing Saturday morning numbers and make our special events – Ryder Cup (Mount Pleasant vs Letchworth, started in 2011)



Swindle Championship, Swindle International and Birthmas - very special.

I started playing in the Swindle in early 2011 and in 2012, was press-ganged by said David Miles and Gadge Grocott into organising the weekly Swindle which, at the time, added to a

very heavy workload but, in fact, provided a welcome relief. Nothing better for the psyche than cutting other peoples' handicaps and occasionally your own!



Over the years, I have personally benefited from the warm welcome and support provided by the Swindlers and the club and hope that new joiners and long-standing Swindlers feel the same.

A final mention for our special penalty for late arrivals or misdemeanours on the course – Cheesy Chilli Chips. A favourite end of round treat which has been introduced to many other clubs as a result of our tours.



With a big thanks to all Swindlers – past and present – and MPGC.

Andrew Snoad

Diary Refresher

Upcoming Club Competitions

- Wednesday 2nd September Club Night 9-Hole Qualifier Men/Ladies
- Sat/Sunday 5th h/6th September Mens & Ladies 36-Hole Club Championships
- Sat/Sunday 12th/13th Sept All-Day Competition
- Sunday 19th September Club Men & Ladies Handicap Championships

You MUST sign up for all competitions in advance via the Pro-shop.

Not forgetting: -

Saturday 26th September New Course Test Event

Club Nights

Club Nights with a difference.....

Club Nights restarted on Wednesday 1st July, and have been really well supported ever since.

Tee times are available between 16:30 and 18:30 and must be booked in advance. Please make use of your member's 15-day advance booking privilege to book tee times. Any tee times not filled 5 days before the Club Night will be released to non-members.

The first Wednesday Club night in the month is a 9-hole qualifying competition.

Wednesday August 5th saw the first of these. It was fully booked

with 57 members taking part. The next one is on Wednesday 2nd September.

As there will be no Captains' Days this year the Captains are each hosting a special Club Night event to raise money for their charities.

PAR 3 COMPETITION Wednesday 26th August

Hosted by the Lady Captain, Ann White, in aid of Parkinsons UK and the club's landscape fund.

2 Clubs and a Putter Wednesday 9th September

Hosted by the Club Captain, John Finnigan, in aid of the club's landscape fund.

Greenkeeper's Revenge Wednesday 16th September

Hosted by the Senior Captain, Brian Sapsed, in aid of Essex and Herts Air Ambulance.

Senior Section

From the Seniors...

Senior roll-ups are continuing to be very well supported as too are the qualifying competitions with 56 entering the July Stableford!!

July Stableford

- Winner Div1 Andy Stroomer 37pts
- R/up Peter Elliott 36pts
- Winner Div2 Andy Walker 39pts
- R/up Roy Brown 37pts

July Medal

- Winner Div1 Bob Parker 65

- R/up Paul Curley 67
- Winner Div2 Peter Carroll 60
- R/up Keith Middleton 65

August Stableford

- Winner Div1 Michael Longmuire 41pts
- R/up Paul Curley 40pts
- Winner Div 2 Rob Wainwright 47pts
- R/up Roy Brown 42pts

Some fantastic scores leading to some severe handicap cutting..... 😊 😊 😊

Upcoming Senior Mens' Competitions

- Friday 21st August Senior Handicap Championships & Veterans Trophy
- Friday 11th September Senior Club Championships

Ladies Section

Remembering Mary ...

Mary Peilow Trophy 2020

Mount Pleasant Ladies were pleased and proud to play their first Senior Ladies Championship Competition on Thursday 30 July in memory of their first Lady Captain, Mary Peilow.



Congratulations to the winner Di Little, 2nd Nicola Newman and 3rd Alison Stroomer. Mary was a founder member of Mount Pleasant and contributed greatly to the success of our club. She was a lovely lady, played great golf, always supported and encouraged other players, involved in County affairs and was our County representative for many years.

We had a good day remembering Mary and trying to emulate her excellent course management style, straight down the middle, avoid all bunkers, chip close and don't 3 putt.

Thanks to Ben Peilow for providing a perpetual trophy.

July Stableford

- Winner Jean Cameron 33pts
- R/up Chris Kermath 32pts

July 9-Hole Stableford

- Winner Nicola Newman 18pts
- R/up Jean Cameron 18pts

EG Medal

- Winner Kathy Harris 64
- R/up Alison Stroomer 69

Up-coming Ladies Competitions

Liz Everett is the contact for sign-up for the following: -

- Thursday 2nd September 18-Hole Stableford

- Thursday 16th September 9-Hole Stableford

Don't forget to sign up in the Pro-shop for the Club and Handicap Championships.

England Golf Medal Dates

- Saturday & Sunday 12th /13th September
- Thursday 24th September

For these please book your own tee-times or use your roll-up time slot and enter your name in the EG Medal Book in the Pro-shop before you play.

Matchplay Leagues

The Ladies are planning to run a 9-Hole matchplay league competition between now and the end of October. Please contact Margaret Budgen by 18th August to enter this competition.

Ladies Thursdays "Roll-up"

Please contact Tania Barr via email or phone by Monday each week if you wish to be included in the roll-up draw for the following Thursday. Please make it clear if you wish to play 9 or 18 holes.

Ladies Monday "Roll-up"

Please contact Chris Kermath by email or phone by Thursday each week if you wish to be included in the roll-up draw for the following Monday. This is for 9 holes only.

Club History

This is history

Sorry, there is so much else to write about I haven't got room for Club History this month except to apologise for an error in the answers to the quiz in Issue 003.



The answer to 'What year was this photo taken?' should have been 2011 not 2010. Thanks to Barry McKellar for spotting that.

Next Issue

Next time in Pleasant Times

Club Championship Results.

Anything from the 10 o'clock Club, please?

If anyone has anything they would like us to include next time, please email to di.f.little@gmail.com.

Deadline: - 15th September 2020

Thanks to Gavin, Tara, John Bennett, Ian Comerford, Andrew Snoad, Andy Stroomer, Luke Fensome & Alan Little for help with this issue.

Meanwhile please stay safe and alert.

We should still keep 2m apart or if that is not possible at least 1m apart with extra precautions.

Let's not become a hotspot.