

Welcome Back!

Pleasant Times is a newsletter of Mount Pleasant Golf Club.

It was like watching a load of new lambs skipping down the fairway when the gates reopened for golf at Mount Pleasant just over 3 weeks ago.

Announcements are made with little or no notice and it is difficult to respond immediately as extra measures have to be put in place at each new stage of the easing of the lockdown as it affects golf clubs.

Thanks must go to the Management, Staff and Volunteers who worked really quickly and tirelessly to ensure that Mount Pleasant could open as soon as possible.

Welcome to all our recently joined new members. One of whom achieved a hole-in-one with her very first shot playing with the Thursday Ladies Roll-up.

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On Course

Latest from Gavin – he still wants more rain!

As you have probably heard May was the sunniest month ever since records began. We measured only 7mm of rain and 6mm of that fell on the 1st!! Needless to say, it has been a very dry spring which has resulted in the course drying out much earlier than usual. We have reduced the cutting regime and most areas are now being cut once a week. The greens are being cut four days a week and rolled on the other days to help reduce the stress on the grass.

The irrigation system has been working better since the spring issues were sorted out and it is being used at least 5 days a week to keep the greens healthy. There are a few dry patches which appear due to the sprinklers not quite overlapping properly and we then hand water these when needed.

The bunkers have all been tidied up from the lockdown and are now in play. Obviously, there are no rakes out so please repair your footprints etc. as well as you can to leave the bunker as you would be happy to find it, thank you.

We have been receiving some great feedback on the course condition since re-opening, which is very nice to hear and has made all the hard work during the lockdown period by the greenkeepers worthwhile.

Our fingers are crossed for some much-needed rain as this will help the course get through the next 3 months of summer.

The metal golf ball cup-lifters worked well at first but are proving to be too flimsy and bend too easily.

We currently have some alternatives on order, which we hope will prove more robust.



The pillbox now blends in on the course extension

Extension News

Unfortunately, the dry weather has now started to affect the growth of the new holes. The 2 areas that were seeded in the spring have struggled to get decent growth and now are full of weeds!! These should die back once we get cutting more regularly. Also, the 2 greens seeded in the spring are a bit behind the others and should improve after the fertiliser application last week.

The other 7 greens were cut for the first time today and this should stimulate some good growth. We are irrigating them twice a day to stop them drying out, but some proper rain would be a great help.

All the other areas have been growing well and have great grass coverage. This week we have started watering the tees on a 2-week program to keep them alive.

All the bunkers have now been cleared out and we are looking into having them lined ahead of putting in the sand.

The good news is that we are on schedule for opening in spring 2021.

Gavin

Clubhouse

Take it away.....

Thanks to everyone who has tried Chef's frozen meals. Feedback has been great. The trial fish and chip evening also had fantastic reviews. Keep an eye out for our emails for any new ideas.

We are now busy looking at ways of reopening the Clubhouse once we are given the go ahead to do so...

Tara

Practice Facilities

Partial reopening.....

Putting green is now open for warming up before play for a maximum of 2 people at a time. Please use your own balls and don't hog the green for lengthy periods.

Putting green is **not open** for general putting practice. Please

do not visit the club just to practice putting.

Chipping area – open for lessons only.

Practice nets will remain closed until further notice.

Trees & Shrubs

A green fingered Club Captain?

Club Captain, John Finnigan is heading up a group, with representatives from all sections of the Club to look into planting of trees and shrubs on the new and existing holes.

The aim is to plan planting so that it enhances the look and fits with the playing of each of the new holes but also helps blend them in with the existing holes.

Perhaps we should aim for the Augusta look!

What next

Initially 9 holes for 2 balls, now 3 and 4- ball. What next....

We need to see how 3-4 ball flows around the course after having been used to a gentle 2-ball pace.

Assuming all goes well then, we will move to allow 18-hole rounds from 15th June. As you can imagine this will need careful management and we would ask for your patience and co-operation as we sort out the best way to manage the increase in flow of golfers that need to remain 2m apart. as we move to 3-4 ball and then to 18 holes.

Watch out for changes to routes from the Clubhouse to the 1st and 10th tees.

Reminders

We need your help to make this work.....

Pre-booked golf only

Please arrive no earlier than 10-15 minutes before your tee- time.

Follow route marked routes around the clubhouse and first tees.

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 will be 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

Local Rules update for COVID-19

There are some modifications to the local rules owing to changes on the course and to take account of COVID-19 guidelines.

Bunkers

Bunkers are now in play but rakes are not allowed to be left in bunkers. Please use your feet or clubs to smooth out the bunkers after playing out of them.

Holing out

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

Obstacle Stakes

Yellow or red stakes marking Penalty Areas must not be touched or moved and are now deemed to be immovable obstructions. Free relief may be taken from them under Rule 16.1. Please avoid touching any stakes on the course.

Out of Bounds 4th/13th (Rule 18.2)

Beyond the course side edge of the white markers to the right of and behind the 4th/13th is now out of bounds. (Rule 18.2)



Out of bounds behind and to right of 4th/13th green.

There are some areas marked GUR behind the green please take free relief these abnormal course conditions under rule 16.

Out of Bounds 7th/16th (Rule 18.2)

Beyond the course side edge of the white markers to the right of the 7th/16th hole from tee to green is now out of bounds. Note: this includes the new deep pond



Out of bounds to right of 7th/16th hole from tee to green, including the new pond

Out of Bounds 9th/18th (Rule 18.2)

The new practice area in the trees to the right of the 9th/18th green is out of bounds.



Out of bounds new practice area to right of 9th/18th green.

A full set of Local Rules will be posted in the Pro-shop. Cards will not be updated at present.

Competition Restart

Providing all goes well with the easing of lockdown and the transition to 18-holes then we plan to restart competitions in July.

There have to be changes to the way we handle sign-up, sign-in, entry fees and scorecards in light of COVID-19.

In short,

- Sign-up for competitions via the Pro-Shop or your Ladies competition contact.
- On competition day please sign in with your own pen/pencil
- If possible, have the correct change for the entry fee.
- **Scorecards must not be swapped at any time.**
- After play gross scores must be verbally agreed with the marker.
- Only the marker's signature is required.
- Email or text a photo of the scorecard you marked to the committee asap after play.
- Marker keeps the scorecard in case of query.

You will be receiving an email detailing these changes shortly.

The first competition will be a 9-hole non-qualifying club night competition on Wednesday 1st July. Just so everyone gets the hang of the new system.

Please see the next section for the diary of competitions for July. If all goes well, then we will put competitions in place for the following months, to include Club, Ladies and Senior Championships.

This is assuming that there is no need to backtrack on the easing of lockdown.

Diary for July 2020

Provisional diary for July 2020

Club Competitions

- Sat/Sunday 11th/12th July All-Day Stableford
- Sunday 19th Monthly Club Stableford
- Friday 31st All-Day Medal

Senior Mens' Competitions

- Friday 3rd July 18 Hole Stableford
- Friday 24th July 18 Hole Medal

All of these will be qualifying for handicap purposes.

You will be emailed an updated diary for July and August showing the dates of the competitions and the dates from which entries to those competitions can be made.

You **MUST** sign up for all competitions in advance.

'Sign up' for all of these competitions is via the Pro in the Pro-shop. **Please do not visit the Club just to sign up for a competition.**

Ladies Competitions

Ladies qualifying competitions will begin again in July. Liz Everett is the contact for sign-up.

- Thursday 2nd July 18-Hole Stableford
- Thursday 16th July 9-Hole Stableford
- Thursday 30th July Inaugural Senior Ladies Championships.

Club Nights

Club Nights with a difference.....

Club Nights will restart on Wednesday 1st July.

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.

All Club nights in July will be non-qualifying for handicap purposes. However, there will be 9-hole qualifying competitions in August.

Senior Section

From the Senior Captain...

After 17 Senior Roll-Ups in 2020 so far, the current league leader is Ed Clutton, whose roll-up handicap has been adjusted accordingly!

I would like to thank Don Hales for the £331.10 raised from the quiz he ran last Christmas, which he has donated to my charity, the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance.

Senior Roll Ups will return to 18 holes on Tuesdays and Fridays from the week beginning 15th June, contact me for details.

Brian Sapsed

Ladies Section

Hole in one with her first shot!!

Congratulations to new club member Lynn Barker who playing for the first time with the Mount Pleasant Ladies scored a hole in one on the first.

Lynn, handicap 27, previously from Royston Golf Club, was playing with Jean Cameron. Neither of them saw it go in. It was a classic "I can't find my ball; I'll look in the hole just in case!" and there it was!!

Ladies Thursdays "Roll-up"

Please contact Ann White by Monday each week if you wish to be included in the roll-up draw for the following Thursday. 18-hole play will be possible from June 17th please make it clear if you wish to play 9 or 18 holes.

Ladies Monday "Roll-up"

Please contact Sue Jenkins by Thursday each week if you wish to be included in the roll-up draw for the following Monday.

Ladies Thursday Competitions

Entry for the July 18-hole stableford competition opens on 18th June. Please email Liz Everett after this if you wish to enter.

Entry will close on Sunday 28th June.

Entry for the July 9-hole stableford competition opens on 2nd July. Please email Liz Everett after this if you wish to enter.

Entry will close on Sunday 12th July.

We will let you know in due course the conditions of entry for the Inaugural Senior Ladies Championships in memory of Mary Peilow on 30th July.

Finally, welcome to all our new Lady Members. Sorry we can't all welcome you in the club house but we look forward to meeting you on the course. More hole-in-ones would be good!

Junior Section

There are no specific Junior competitions scheduled as yet. Juniors with handicaps up to 54 may enter All-Day competitions. Boys with handicaps up to 28 and girls with handicaps up to 36 are eligible to enter all other applicable club competitions.

England Golf/WHS

EG and World Handicapping System Update

England Golf, although working with a skeleton staff, believe they are still on course for the change over to the World Handicapping System on November 2nd 2020.

Counties are now being allowed to carry out Course Rating provided they follow social distancing rules.

Charities

Playing golf and we can still raise money for charity

Winner of 'Name the golfer' quiz was Chris Kermath. She kindly

donated money to St John's Hospice, Moggerhanger.

The Ladies are continuing to raise money for Parkinson's UK from the sale of rainbow ball markers and face masks, the latter made by club member, Barbara Brown.

Club History

This is very recent history but I thought we better not lose this record of Gavin with a beard.....



Gavin Simkins Course Director

Answers to last months "What do you know of Club history? "

What year was this? (2010 Captains Dennis West, Les Dimmock and Alison Stroomer)

Name the players who have held the Junior and Club Championships at the same

time. (Gavin Woodgate, Charlie Day, Matt Baxter)

Name 3 members who have been both Club and Senior Captain. (Don Hales, John Pearson & Brian Sapsed)

What year did the 4th hole change in length to incorporate the then new pond? (2002)

Who do you recognize from the first Lady Captain's Day in 1993? (To name a few - Ruth Simkins, Eve Gallagher, June Wischhusen, Mary Marshall, Alison Stroomer, Kath Brown, Pam Carter, Sandra Spavins, Rebecca & Charlotte Baxter, Ginny Brown, Caz Wright, Betty Barnard, Elaine Stellan).

On a golf break we had to impersonate another MPGC member. Who was impersonating whom?

(Mark Karls- Alison Stroomer)

Next Issue

Next time in Pleasant Times

Guided tours of the new holes?

Diagram showing future course layout?

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

Thanks to Gavin, Tara, Brian Sapsed, John Bennett, John Finnigan, Laurie Rosewell, Alan Little & Ann White for help with this issue.

P.S Some ancient history from the archives- the results from the some of the first ever monthly competitions held at MPGC!

MOUNT PLEASANT GOLF COURSE
LOWER STONDON, BEDS SG16 6JL
TEL: 0462 850999

**STABLEFORD
COMPETITION RESULTS
16-8-92**

| MEN | POINTS | LADIES | POINTS |
|-------------------|--------|-----------------|--------|
| 1st G. SIMKINS | 37 | 1st M. MARSHALL | 16 |
| 2nd A. BUCK | 37 | 2nd C. WRIGHT | 16 |
| 3rd G. LEADBEATER | 36 | 3rd D. LOOB | 15 |
| 4th L. BRISTOW | 35 | 4th E. HENRY | 10 |
| 5th L. THOMPSON | 33 | 5th K. BROWN | 4 |
| 6th K. BROWN | 32 | 6th P. CARTER | 2 |

OTHER SCORES IN ORDER OF PLAY

| POINTS | POINTS |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| A. GRIFFITHS 21 | A. HAY 25 |
| A. CROMPTON 31 | A. MIDDLEDITCH 27 |
| R. JAY 24 | R. GODDING 18 |
| T. ROBINSON 26 | R. CASTLE 16 |
| B. ELLIS 30 | S. BATES 17 |
| J. GIRDLER 28 | H. ECCLES 29 |
| M. CANAVAN 26 | D. SIMKINS 8 |
| T. FREEMAN 29 | A. DANDO 27 |
| B. LATCHFORD 25 | D. BOND 19 |
| M. ELLINGHAM 20 | C. AYRES 32 |
| J. TALBOT 30 | M. SPAVINS 27 |
| P. WEST 28 | A. BROWN 18 |
| J. ALLOM 17 | R. AYLOTT 26 |
| M. FURR 25 | M. CORNISH 28 |
| N. KENDALL 26 | |

MENS PRIZES
A. BUCK wins an 18 hole round at anytime.
G. LEADBEATER wins a 9 hole round at anytime.

LADIES PRIZES
M. MARSHALL wins a 9 hole round at anytime.

PROPRIETOR DAVID L SIMKINS VAT No.197 1302 00

**STABLEFORD
COMPETITION RESULTS
20-9-92**

| MEN | POINTS | LADIES | POINTS |
|----------------|--------|-----------------|--------|
| 1st M. CANAVAN | 41 | 1st D. LITTLE | 31 |
| 2nd J. GIRDLER | 40* | 2nd M. MARSHALL | 27 |
| 3rd D. JENKINS | 40* | 3rd G. BROWN | 23 |
| 4th A. BUCK | 39 | 4th K. BROWN | 19 |
| 5th B. ELLIS | 39 | 5th C. WRIGHT | 16 |

OTHER SCORES IN ORDER OF PLAY

| POINTS | POINTS | POINTS |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------|
| L. THOMPSON 33* | A. LITTLE 26* | |
| T. MINTON 22* | R. AYLOTT 17* | |
| K. SHINNER 37* | D. THOMAS 29* | |
| M. WEBB 30* | A. DANDO 34* | |
| C. EVERETT 37* | C. GRAVETT 22 | |
| D. HALES 20* | M. CARTER 20 | |
| M. COX 25 | P. CARTER 6 | |
| A. HARTON 27* | R. BROWN 31 | |
| R. GIBBS 34 | M. CORNISH 26* | |
| R. NEWMAN 25* | L. BRISTOW 23 | |
| M. HODGSON 18* | N. CADY 27 | |
| B. SAPSED 30 | K. CASTLE 19* | |
| I. SAUNDERS 29 | A. MIDDLEDITCH 33 | |
| A. SAUNDERS 17 | G. LEADBEATER 26 | |
| T. ROBINSON 28 | A. CROMPTON 34 | |
| M. MILLER 32 | H. ECCLES 17* | |
| R. JAY 32* | T. EARL 25 | |
| M. ELLINGHAM 26 | G. HENDRICKS 36* | |
| B. LATCHFORD 31 | J. KEARNS 31* | |
| M. FURR 23 | E. HENRY 16* | |
| A. HAY 33* | D. QUIRK 26* | |
| K. DEAR 22 | B. KEAY 20* | |
| C. AYRES 29 | S. MUGGLEWORTH 29* | |
| P. BOXALL 36 | P. JEEVES 34* | |
| J. LUCAS 32 | C. FAIGE NO CARD | |
| A. LITTLE 26* | | |

* = CARD WRONGLY MARKED, SEE RECEPTION.

MENS PRIZES

M. CANAVAN wins an 18 hole round at anytime.
J. GIRDLER wins a 9 hole round at anytime.
D. JENKINS wins a 9 hole round at anytime.

LADIES PRIZE

D. LITTLE wins a 9 hole round at anytime.

COMPETITION RESULTS

15-11-92

| MENS | POINTS | LADIES | POINTS |
|----------------|--------|-----------------|--------|
| 1st G. Simkins | 39 | 1st D. Little | 31 |
| 2nd N. Smith | 39 | 2nd M. Marshall | 24 |
| 3rd B. Ellis | 38 | 3rd E. Stallan | 15 |
| 4th A. Baxter | 38 | 4th K. Brown | 9* |
| 5th S. Barnett | 36 | | |

Other scores in order of playing :-

| POINTS | POINTS |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| T. Earl 21 | A. Little 32 |
| R. Jay 31 | D. Thomas 31 |
| J. Girdler ABSENT | B. Bailey 27 |
| J. Taylor 26 | H. Eccles 26 |
| K. Shinner 32 | J. Lowe 22 |
| A. Wharton 17 | B. Clayton 31 |
| I. Saunders 27 | S. Watling 27 |
| P. West 31 | M. Hodgson 12 |
| N. Cady 34 | S. Haynes 18 |
| A. Saunders NO CARD | E. Henry ABSENT |
| M. Furr 27 | A. Middleditch 32 |
| M. Canavan 30 | G. Smith 26 |
| L. Bristow 31 | M. Cornish 24 |
| B. Sapsed 31 | R. Godding 20 |
| G. Barnett 10 | R. Brown 29 |
| T. Freeman 28 | M. Spavins 28 |
| S. Leadbeater 29 | T. Williams 18 |
| R. Newman ABSENT | B. Seymore NO CARD |
| R. Aylott 9 | M. Carter 26 |
| C. Ayres 27 | A. Hay 33 |
| D. J. Bond 31 | P. Collier 8 |
| A. Wellings 30 | K. Dear 26 |
| L. Thompson 31 | A. Griffiths 21* |
| T. Minton 26 | J. Randall 33* |
| M. Cox 26 | D. Simkins 9* |
| G. Leadbeater 26 | J. Ellingham 26* |
| D. Jenkins 34 | C. Gravett 22* |
| | D. Mollon 18* |

* = Did Not Finish.

PRIZES

MENS

G. Simkins wins £13.50 'pot' money.
N. Smith wins £8.10 'pot' money AND £10 voucher to spend at M.P.G.C.
B. Ellis wins £5.40 'pot' money AND £7.50 voucher to spend at M.P.G.C.
A. Baxter wins £5 voucher to spend at M.P.G.C.

LADIES

D. Little wins £7.50 voucher to spend at M.P.G.C.