

Welcome back!

Pleasant Times is a newsletter of Mount Pleasant Golf Club not seen for many years.

With so much happening at the Club and also the introduction of new competitions and changes to the handicapping system we thought it would be good to resurrect it.

The aim is to provide a means for information to flow readily within the club across all sections, Men, Women, Seniors and Juniors.

In future we hope to bring regular news on the progress of the new 9 Holes and the proposed new facilities and to include some of the following:-

- Competition Results
- Course Updates
- Club Matches – including county leagues
- Any successes in external competitions
- Updates on the World Handicapping System
- Rules Reminders
- Social Events & Fundraising
- Coaching/Pro Shop news
- Club History

This is just a taster to see whether it is worth doing. So please give us any feedback, any articles or ideas for future content! Please contact Di Little via the Pro-shop

New Captains

Captains Drive-in January 2020

Captains Drive in on 28th January was very well supported.



- Junior Captain- Jenifer Webb-Tocha
- Club Captain- John Finnigan
- Lady Captain- Ann White
- Senior Captain- Brian Sapsed

This year's Vice-Captains are Joshua Simkins, Laurence Johns, Karen Clark and George Bond

Winners of the foursomes competition were Jay Macanaspie and Alex Briggs with 19 points, on count back from Doug Park and Steve Poulsen.

In keeping with tradition there was a sweep to guess the combined distance of the Captains' first drive. This was 543 yards, with Jenifer showing the others how to hit the green!

The raffle raised £350 for the Club Captain's Charity and the £260 from the entry fees will be

split between all the Captains' chosen charities, namely the British Heart Foundation, Parkinsons UK and Essex & Herts Air Ambulance.

Club Away Day

Club Captains Away- Day at Brocket Hall.

John has organised a great deal for his Captain's Away Day at Brocket Hall on Friday March 27th, open to all members. The cost is £65 to include coffee and bacon rolls on arrival, 18 holes on the Melbourne Course and a 2-course meal. With over 70 people already signed up on the Men's noticeboard, don't miss out.

New for 2020

Summer leagues for Monthly Medals/Stableford

Competitions: - The results from these competitions held on the 3rd Sunday of each month will be combined to give an over-all 18-Hole Summer League Winner, using your best 5 results from the 8 competitions.

New entry criteria for the major club championships: You must have a competition handicap and play in at least 2 competitions between March 1st 2020 & the championship. **For details please see the Club Handbook and diary.**

Captain Pro Challenge returns: You and your playing partner can take on the Club Captain and the Pro Tom Mead. Who can beat

them? Sign up on the Men's noticeboard. Hurry as spaces are filling up fast.

Mary Peilow Championship:-

A new competition on Thursday 31st July, for Senior Ladies with handicap of 40 or less for a new trophy in memory of Mary Peilow.

New look to Club Nights: -

Support for Club Nights last year dwindled so there are some changes to encourage participation. Please see below for more details

Revitalising Club Nights

Changes to Club nights

Club Nights run every Wednesday evening from 1st April to 23rd September with the tee reserved for Club members from 16:30. The first Club night in the month is a 9-Hole stableford competition, with a sign-up sheet on the main competition noticeboard. The results from these are combined to give an over-all 9-Hole Summer League Winner, using your best 4 results from the 6 competitions.

The third Wednesday in the month will be a specific Club Night Event including a Ryder Cup competition, a Tony Triner Memorial Competition and a Green Keepers' Revenge, all with sign-up sheets on the main competition noticeboard.

The first, on Wednesday 15th April, is a Masters Par 3

Competition. The rest of the dates are listed in the new diary.

The remaining Wednesdays will be the usual Club Night Roll-up. Just turn up on those nights between 16:30 and 18:00 and join up in 3-balls with whoever is on the tee. These are meant as times for Club members to mix and also help encourage new members to integrate. So please don't always just play with your mates, help others to get to know us.

Please support Club Nights or we could lose them!

Junior Section

A message from Jenifer.



2020 sees changes to the Junior section, with 2 new organisers, Natasha Tocha & Ian Comerford. Tom Mead plans to have regular junior coaching between 11 & 12 every Saturday morning. The most exciting news is for the first time in 5 years we will be competing in the Tavistock Cup, a county junior competition. There will be team training at 10 am every Saturday morning.

We have been focusing on bringing more juniors to the club via junior competitions & the recent Half Term Golf Camp. Despite the bad weather we were full on 2 out of the 3 days. A great success in having so many juniors take part & gives promise for the rest of the year.

We hope to make an impact on the rest of the club soon when we take back the Captains' Trophy!!

Results

Winter Competitions

Sunday Winter League:

Unfortunately, the weather has affected the Winter leagues this year so there were only 3 counting competitions. The winner, best placed over 2 out of the 3 of those was Jay Macanaspie, with Luke Fensome as runner-up and Neil Cole in 3rd place.

Winter Eclectic: There were 331 cards submitted and the winning score was a fantastic nett 49.

- Overall Winner Neil Cole
- Div 1 Winner Paul Curley
- Div 2 Winner Steve Plumb
- Div 3 Winner Barry Ottolangui
- Ladies Winner Di Little

Winter Pairs Betterball: The finalists are Andrew M'Nulty & Darren Jones and Alan & Barry Ottolangui. This is a competition with 4 divisions, with winners & runners-up going into the knockout rounds.

Winter Foursomes Knock Out

Matchplay: The finalists are Steve 'Flat Cap' Poulsen & Matt 'How many shots?' Goddard and Luke 'Past Captain' Fensome & Doug '?' Parks

18 and 9-hole Winter Texas

Scrambles: These were new for this winter. Mixed Teams played one scramble a month over winter. The closing date has been extended to Monday 9th March due to the weather, Thanks to George Bond and Steve Barr for organizing these. It certainly got us out there whatever the weather, with many keen to take part again!

Congratulations to Paul Curley

& Kevin Morton who beat their John O'Gaunt opponents in the first round of the inter-club foursomes.

Belated congratulations to

Jean Cameron winner of the 2019 Ladies Matchplay which was delayed due to injury.

WHS Update

New Handicapping System from November 2020



For several countries around the world, the World Handicap

System (WHS) came into effect on January 1st 2020. While it won't be implemented in the UK until November 2nd 2020, it's still worth getting prepared for the change.

The WHS is designed to give you a handicap that is portable and easier to understand. It will provide a more accurate reflection of your current playing ability by calculating your handicap based on the average of the best 8 of your last 20 qualifying scores.

Each golf course will have a Slope Rating which indicates its difficulty for a Bogey Golfer compared to a Scratch Golfer.

Each time you play a different course you will have a different playing handicap, depending on the Slope Rating of that course. For example, if you go and play at Millbrook you will have more shots than if you play at Mount Pleasant.

We will be providing more information about WHS over the coming months. Most of the change-over will be automatic but there are a few things we can all do to make the transition easier.

Your handicap under WHS will initially be calculated from your last 20 qualifying scores, going back 2 years if necessary.

Of the 280 MPGC Members with a handicap, only about 100 players have 15 or more scores

in their records since January 2018. These players play in competitions regularly and are likely to have at least 20 scores contributing to their handicap by November 2020.

However, the remaining 180 of you have far fewer cards in your records and your new handicap is unlikely to be an accurate measure of your ability. This could be unfair to you or your opponents. If you have few cards in your record your handicap will be based on an adjusted average and it could be lower than you expect!

England Golf are strongly advocating that such players return as many competition or supplementary cards as possible between now and the end of October, before the WHS becomes fully operational.

More details can be found on the England Golf Website <https://www.englandgolf.org/handicaps-rules/whs-2020/>

Over the years, have you stopped playing in competitions because you can no longer play to your handicap? Do you struggle to compete with your peers or win the swindle money? Maybe your handicap is too low? Under the present system it is hard for the handicap committee to modify your handicap without evidence. Now is your opportunity to submit cards and have a handicap to match your current golfing ability from November.

On Course

Its wet, wet, wet! So 'Mud is all around'.

But the swans love the full pond.



Gavin's Report:

The course is currently very wet. We have had to close for 5 days in February, 3 for wet conditions, 1 for snow and 1 for wind!! We really need some dry days to allow the course to dry out so the greenkeepers can carry out some routine maintenance.

Hopefully, with spring around the corner, conditions will improve quickly.

We are planning to hollow core the greens as soon as conditions improve, which would ideally be on 16th March following the March Medal. We plan to hollow core all the greens, collect the cores in one day, and then follow as soon as possible with sand topdressing to fill the holes. The greens should then be set up for the coming season.

Course Extension: Due to the wet conditions we have not been able to even walk over the new holes during the winter. This hasn't been a problem yet as there isn't much we can do until things dry up. There are still 2 greens and about 5% of the area to be seeded. The work left will

take a month or so to complete. This cannot start until the ground is dry enough to be worked on but the contractors will start as soon as possible.

We are looking to purchase a new tractor and mower combination in the next month or so which can be used to cut the rough on the existing 9 but mainly cut the new holes throughout this season.

Some tree and shrub planting will take place later this year in preparation for opening in spring next year.



The new pond and stream to the right of the 7th tee are filling up well and will provide a great reservoir of water for those hot summers ahead! The geese certainly like it.

Practice Area



Meanwhile the new practice area between the 8th Tee and 18th green is beginning to bed in.

In future it will be marked as out of bounds when playing the course.

Upcoming

Golf dates for March: -

Club Singles and Pairs

Matchplay: Don't forget to sign-up for these in the Pro-shop. They start on 29th March and you must have a competition handicap to enter.

All Day Medal Competition 7th & 8th March

Club Medal Sunday 15th March

Seniors Competitions 20th & 31st March

Junior Competition 7th March

Ladies Competitions 5th & 19th March.

All these dates and more can be found in your new club diary, available to collect from the Pro-shop or to view on-line via the club website home page.

What to look out for in April: -

- **First Club Night League**
- **Masters Par 3 Competition**
- **Past Captains Invitational**

Club Matches

Senior matches start in March, Men's and Ladies' matches start in April.

If you are interested in playing in the club matches please indicate your availability on the Men's, Seniors' and Ladies' noticeboards.

Rules Stuff

Importantly in current conditions:

Sand & soil are not loose impediments & can only be removed from on the green!

Loose means loose & are you sure it is a worm cast?

(See Rules 13.1c & 15.1)

Loose Impediments are any unattached natural object such as:

- Stones, loose grass, leaves, branches & sticks,
- Dead animals & animal waste,
- Worms, insects and similar animals **that can be removed easily**, & the mounds or webs they build (such as worm casts and ant hills), &
- Clumps of compacted soil (including aeration plugs).

Such natural objects are not loose if they are:

- Attached or growing,
- Solidly embedded in the ground (that is, cannot be picked out easily), or
- Sticking to the ball.

Special cases:

- Sand and loose soil are not loose impediments.
- Dew, frost and water are not loose impediments.
- Snow & natural ice (other than frost) are either loose impediments or temporary water, at your option.
- Spider webs are loose impediments even though they are attached.

10 Years Ago!

Going back to February 2010 -

Lee King, Kirsty Reeves and Barry Mackellar had just been elected as Captains at Mount Pleasant.

This was our Clubhouse then, with the Pro-shop in the grey port-a-cabin alongside! It could be quite scary with everyone watching your shot on what was then the first tee but is now 10th tee.



Meanwhile the new Clubhouse, was rising spectacularly from its foundations.

And guess who this was with 2010 Lady Captain Kirsty?



He was half his current age, and perhaps half his current height!

Social Events

What's been & what's to come!

January Quiz Night: A very successful evening with new Quiz Masters Cliff & Jan Hayes. They enjoyed themselves so much they are willing to come again, despite not being golfers!

The evening raised £300. The quiz was closely fought with the triumphant team including former members Andy 'I'm rejoining' Courtney and Roger 'Odds on' Smith.

Next quiz: Friday 17th April.

Games Night March 13th 8pm – Teams of 6, taking on challenges such as the Giant Buzz Bar, Countdown, Catchphrase, Music and Film Clips etc. Please sign up on the Social Committee noticeboard. (£4 per person)

Jazz & Tapas Friday 3rd April from 8 pm. Sold out!



Funk 'n' Soul Friday 1st May

With the Jazz & Tapas Evening fully booked come and chill out to music from Soul Debonair whilst enjoying New Orleans themed food.

Why not get a group together and book a table?