

## Bumper Edition!

Pleasant Times is a newsletter of Mount Pleasant Golf Club.

What an amazing month at Mount Pleasant? We have staged all the Club and Handicap Championships, enjoyed the Captains' special club nights, (the Greenkeepers certainly got their revenge) and staged the first event on the new course.

September also saw a hole-in-one and WHS is nearly upon us.

Please make sure you read the sections about WHS & Score entry.

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## Test Event

### New Course Test Event ...

Huge thanks must go to those vengeful Greenkeepers and all the Clubhouse staff that worked so hard to make the new course ready for

150 of us that ventured out in the wind on Saturday to experience the future Mount Pleasant.

It was definitely a chilly morning as Course Director, Gavin Simkins took the first tee-shot on the new course lay-out.



Course Director - First Tee Shot on the new Course

He was joined by his son Sam, Club Captain John Finnigan and Pro Tom Mead.



The first socially distanced 4 ball to tee off.

Laurie was keeping a low profile near the Land Rover, before taking videos for the archive. Using his mask to keep warm?



It was amazing to be out there with so much open sky. It is a great contrast between our usual quite narrow fairways to have all that space to aim at. But then you might find yourself playing from a down slope or a side slope. Golf in 2021 is going to be interesting!

The new greens are bedding in well. They are much more varied in shape and contour than the existing greens, making you have to think more about approach shots. It made you realise how much you can rely on your golf watch for distances.

There were some really good scores, with some people able to cope with wind, rain and change in green speeds.

- Winner Josh Moss 40pts
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Paul Curley 40pts
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Alex Briggs 40pts

It was a family affair, with Steve Moss winning nearest the pin on the new 150yd 7<sup>th</sup>, over a pond. Then Harry Guile won the nearest the pin in 2 on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

The tee shot from the men's tee on the 18<sup>th</sup> looks pretty challenging and could make or break rounds in future.

Thanks to everyone who joined in the raffle. The top prize of a Land

Rover for a weekend was won by Ian Comerford.

Please provide any feedback about the course while it is still fresh in your memory. Email Gavin at [coursedirector@mountpleasantgolfclub.co.uk](mailto:coursedirector@mountpleasantgolfclub.co.uk)

## Club Captain

Thank you all so much for supporting the Test Event so generously on the day, for all your kind words and braving the weather that turned very cold & wet during the day.

I wanted to share again my thank yous. Firstly, to Tara & Gavin for hosting such a fabulous event through what has been such a testing time.

To Tara, thank you for all your time and efforts organizing ahead & personally ensuring the smooth running of the day.

To Gavin & the Greenkeepers, thank you for the course being in such amazing condition on the day. Gavin, Lee, Harry & Steve have done a fantastic job under very difficult circumstances this year to keep the 'old' course looking great & getting the 'new' holes ready & such a joy to play. We all appreciate your hard work.

To Laurie & Tom, thanks for your help & especially on the day to keep it all running well.

To Trace & the bar & kitchen staff, thanks for looking after us so well.

I look forward to seeing you at the Club soon. **John Finnigan**

## Clubhouse

### Track & Tracey.....

Please follow the latest COVID-19 restrictions now in place in and around the Clubhouse.

If you enter the Clubhouse please enter your details on the track and trace register.

Masks must now be worn in the Pro shop and when moving around in the Clubhouse.

If you are dining then it is table Service only. Please take your seat at your table and the Staff will come to you.

Please continue to make use of the hand-sanitiser.

### Opening Time Changes

As Club Nights have come to an end, the Clubhouse will not be open on Wednesday evenings but will instead be opening on Saturday evenings. We are also extending our kitchen opening times and closing at 5pm on all other days. More information will be emailed shortly.

### Annual Club Dinner with a difference

Saturday 14 November

From 6:30pm

In a Covid-19 secure environment, following Government guideline Menu and more information to follow soon.

## Pro Corner

The Proshop is a different place now that Leeds FC are in the

Premiership. Just be sure to know their latest results before entering!

## Trees & Shrubs

### Ian's looking for volunteers.....

If you are someone who's commented on the need for trees on the new extension to the Course...then concentrate. Tree stuff coming up.

We are obtaining trees and shrubs from a number of sources and are looking to get planting in November. Our shopping list looks something like this:

- 420 'whips' (Hawthorne, Rowan, Blackthorn, Silver birch, Hazel & Oak) coming from the Woodland Trust,
- Di and I have identified approx. 150 saplings in plantations on the existing Course, which will be transplanted to give a slightly more mature array of saplings for hedges and the like
- Some members have offered home-grown saplings. (More always welcome)
- Gavin has been promised 50 more mature trees from the Hitchin Round Table.
- Some mature trees will be moved using a 'spade' from existing places on the Course.
- The landscape fund is also pretty healthy and Gavin will be sourcing additional specific varieties of trees, also shrubs & bushes, e.g. gorse, rhododendron & lavender.



**Gorse, a kingdom for my gorse!**

We can now discuss definite activities.

During the afternoons of Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> November we are inviting children from some local schools to come and help us plant our Woodland Trust whips, and you are would be very welcome to come along too and get a couple of saplings into the ground. Come alone, bring your children or even your grandchildren!!

Tree planting events are fun and uplifting events and it will prove no difficulty in doing it in a Coronavirus safe manner. If you intend coming along please let the Club know by e-mailing

[tarasimkins@mountpleasantgolfclub.co.uk](mailto:tarasimkins@mountpleasantgolfclub.co.uk)

We would also like to be able to get a few small work parties organised in November to dig up some saplings from the existing course, that Di and I have been tagging, and plant them on the new Course to create tee-box hedges and other barriers/hedges. If you feel you'd like to help with this please also e-mail.

[tarasimkins@mountpleasantgolfclub.co.uk](mailto:tarasimkins@mountpleasantgolfclub.co.uk)

Some of you may feel that it is unreasonable to ask for help with

the digging and planting, but folks the Greenkeepers can only do so much. Myself, Di, Gavin, Johnny and others have done a lot of the preparation work but the time for talking about it is pretty well over and the Di and I are looking for some help from folk who are happy to get their hands dirty.

Ian Comerford

## Pay Back Time!

### Green Keepers Revenge Club Night Competition ...

Well if you weren't there you missed an evening to remember! Gavin and the Greenkeepers excelled themselves. They looked like they enjoyed it too.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> hole there was a row of machines to go over. Made more difficult by having to tee-off from thick grass on a downslope!! If you were lucky you might not be heckled by green keepers at the same time.



**1<sup>st</sup> Obstacle Course**

There was peace and quiet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tee until Lee, hidden in the bushes, blew a horn just as you launched your drive.

What's that? it looked like a tractor tyre raised on bricks in front of the

green, with the flag on the green right behind it. No, the flag & hole was right in it.



**2<sup>nd</sup> Alison playing snooker.**

Having avoided the truck in the middle of the 3<sup>rd</sup> fairway, a good shot to the flag right at the front of the green was to be rewarded, surely. But no that was the wrong flag. The right flag, about 30cm high, was at the very back of the green at least 2 putts away!!



**3<sup>rd</sup> No, not this one!**

Hole 4 held us all up as we tried to putt on the side of a hill. The pin was carefully positioned on the slope of the 4<sup>th</sup> green between the tiers so you could miss it again, again and again!





**4<sup>th</sup> How many?**

Firstly, you had to avoid the extra penalty area in the middle of the 5<sup>th</sup> fairway. Then your route to the 5<sup>th</sup> green was blocked by a row of sleepers with a small gap in them. You could also only putt in from the side of the hole facing the timbers. Alan Little, putting from the far end of the green, decided he would bounce his ball off the timber back into the hole. Only, to see his ball sail through the gap in the timbers 30 yards back up the fairway!



**5<sup>th</sup> Timber!**

The short par 3, 6<sup>th</sup> hole had the flag directly behind the left-hand bunker which was marked as a penalty area. Oh! Strangely enough an outside agency, otherwise known as a green keeper, accidentally kicked your ball into the bunker!



**6<sup>th</sup> Go for it & go in it!**

For the 7<sup>th</sup>, we drove off from a tee on the new course so had to cross the big pond.

Once we had negotiated that the rest of the 7<sup>th</sup> looked to be pain free until you got the green. Wrong! You were then subjected to the whims of Mr Moss, who used the leaf blower to blow your ball towards or away from the hole on the putting green, as he saw fit. He seemed to be enjoying himself too much as he blew leaves and twigs all over your putting line!



**7<sup>th</sup> A gust of wind from Mossy**

We had to hit our tee shots on the 8<sup>th</sup> from a strip of astroturf laid on top of the new ladies' tee that is currently a lumpy pile of earth and rubble.

The flag for this hole was in the left-hand bunker, which was raked diligently, between groups, by Harry. Just when you aim to go in a

bunker, your ball kicks right and bounces on to the green!!



**8<sup>th</sup> If only it was always there?**

The first problem to overcome on the 9<sup>th</sup> was the tee position, - half on and half off the tee box.

Then onto the 9<sup>th</sup> green which was covered in small red immovable flags, that meant there were no direct putts to the hole. While you were figuring out your way through this maze – someone would take great delight in turning on the sprinklers!!



**9<sup>th</sup> The Watering Hole**

All this was accompanied by heckling, hooter and horn blowing by green keepers racing around in buggies!!

Thanks to everyone involved for a brilliant competition. Apologies to those not there for all the detail but it has to go down as the best competition yet!!

## WHS and You

### WHS approaching fast.....

Here's a bit more detail about how WHS will impact you.

The WHS starts on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, when you will have a new Handicap Index, based on an average of your best 8 scores from your last 20, since January 2018. (Don't worry there is an algorithm to cope with players with less than 20 scores). A Handicap Index can go up to 54 and is given to 1 decimal place e.g. 10.6 or 29.3.

Your new Handicap Index should be visible on Masterscoreboard from 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

We will have a Course Rating and Slope Rating for each set of tees on our course. These will be temporary ratings until we open the new course in 2021 and it is officially re-rated.

If, for example the slope rating for our course was to be 125 for men off the white tees: -

- Albert, with a shiny new handicap index of 15.4 would have a course handicap calculated as follows;

$$\text{Course handicap} = 15.4 * 125 / 113 = 17$$

If the slope rating for our course was 129 for Ladies off red tees

- Tabatha with the same shiny new handicap index of 15.4 would have a course handicap calculated as follows;

$$\text{Course handicap} = 15.4 * 129 / 113 = 17.6 \text{ rounded to } 18$$

Fortunately, you do not have to do this calculation. Knowing your Handicap Index, you will be able to look-up your Course Handicap either on a chart posted near the first tee, on Masterscoreboard on your phone or on the computer system in the Proshop.

When you play at Clubs with higher slope ratings than ours, you are likely to have a higher course handicap. For example, if Albert was to play in a club match at Millbrook, off the white tees, where the slope rating is 134 then his course handicap for the match would be calculated as follows: -

$$\text{Course handicap} = 15.4 * 134 / 113 = 18.26 \text{ rounded to } 18.$$

(Note: 113 is just a reference slope rating against which all courses are compared.)

Because your handicap will be based on an average of the best 8 scores from your last 20 recorded rounds, your handicap can change each time you submit a competition or general play card so it is important that you check your Handicap Index before play.

### Competition and General Play cards

For a score to count towards a player's handicap under WHS, it must

- be played in accordance with The Rules of Golf (e.g. no gimmies)
- In an authorised format of play

- With at least one other person
- On a course with a current Course Rating and Slope Rating

Authorised formats are

- Pre-registered general play 'social' scores
- All individual competition rounds, both 9 and 18 holes, whether played at home or away

Therefore, you can submit scores from general play as long as you pre-register them on the system in the Proshop and you play to the rules of golf. (This will replace the current supplementary score system).

As now, scores from competition formats such as 4BBB and matchplay etc. will not count towards your handicap.

### Submitting your scores promptly

Your handicap under WHS will be updated centrally by England Golf each night just after midnight, therefore it is important that all scores are submitted as soon as possible after your round. It is impossible for Club officials to enter all scores on the day that is why under the new system you will be expected, wherever possible to enter your own scores.

There are more aspects to the WHS not covered here e.g. adjustment to scores for playing conditions, handicap allowances for different formats, adjustments to handicap for exceptional scores, caps to stop a handicap rising too quickly etc.

But fortunately most of us do not need to worry about those.

Just remember: -

## It's as easy as HCP

- Check your **Handicap Index**
- Look up your **Course Handicap** for the course/tee you are playing
- **Play** golf

If you want more information please go to the England Golf website [www.EnglandGolf.org/whs](http://www.EnglandGolf.org/whs).

Or if you have a specific question please feel free to email me [di.f.little@gmail.com](mailto:di.f.little@gmail.com). We will be creating our own FAQ for questions specific to MPGC.

## Score Entry & No Returns

Please make it easier for us...

### Return your score AND your scorecard

The Competition Committee ask that if possible, you enter your own and/or your playing partners' scores either using your phone or the score entry system in the Proshop.

This will be mandatory when the WHS starts so it's best to get used to it now. There is always help in the Proshop if you need.

**YOU MUST ALSO PLACE THE COMPLETED CARD IN THE BOXES INSIDE OR OUTSIDE THE PROSHOP FOR CHECKING.**

Unfortunately, some cards are being returned incomplete or are indecipherable.

Please write the following **CLEARLY** on the scorecard, before returning it.

- Competition name or supplementary or for new handicap
- Date
- Name of player
- Gross score for each hole
- Marker's signature & marker's name printed underneath

**A winning score? If we can't verify it on correctly completed readable scorecards.....no prize!**

### No Returns

Not completing a round if you are ill or injured is completely understandable but please, either submit your card with a note to say so or inform the Proshop so your score can be completely disregarded.

Not completing a round because you are playing poorly is not acceptable. Firstly, you may be taking the place of someone else who could not get into the competition & secondly it is inconsiderate to your playing partners. All you have to do is put a NR in for the hole(s) you mess up & then play & score the rest of the holes as normal. You can be penalised for submitting no returns without reason.

## Roll of Honour

It helped if to be little or Little .....



**Club Champions**  
**Shane Cowie & Di Little**



**Senior Champion**  
**Harry Stone**



**Handicap Champion**  
**Tony Connolly**





**Ladies Handicap Champion Chris Kermath**



**Senior Handicap Champion Alan Little**

## Club Competition Results

Round up of the results.....

### Tom James 9-Hole Championship (Medal)

- Winner Noel Loftman
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Andy Everett
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Craig Pearce

All on net 30! There were 55 entrants on 12<sup>th</sup> August.

### Monthly Medal 16<sup>th</sup> August

- Winner Div1 Andy Stroomer 63
- R/up Div1 Mark Karls
- Winner Div2 Luke Fensome 70
- R/up Div2 Michael Browne 71
- Winner Div3 Russell Bragg 80
- R/up Div3 Alan Little 81

### 9-Hole Qualifier 2<sup>nd</sup> September

- Winner Jim McLaren 24pts
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Jay Macanaspie 21pts
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Graham Barsdell 21pts

### Mens Club Championship

- Winner Shane Cowie 146
- 2<sup>nd</sup> James Curley 148
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Kit Sangha 151

### Ladies Club Championship

- Winner Di Little 175
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Jenifer Webb-Tocha 178

### All-day Medal 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> September

- Winner James Curley 65
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Ben Peilow
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Darren Ambrose 66

- 4<sup>th</sup> Steve Gordon 67

### Handicap Championships

- Winner Tony Conolly 68
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Will Stone 68
- 3<sup>rd</sup> John Finnigan 69

### Ladies Handicap Championships

- Winner Chris Kermath 74
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Nicola Newman 74

## Saturday Swindle

### Swindle Championship....

Apart from a short period of rain, the sun shone on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Swindle Championship held at MPGC on September 12<sup>th</sup>.

21 players took to the course, which was as usual in great condition, with Steve Plumb coming out the winner with 39 points. Steve Gordon came second (and also came in with the lowest gross score of 75) with Mike Longmire in third place. Pete Flynn won both the nearest the pin and the nearest the pin in 2 prizes. Steve Gordon won the longest drive, with many competitors finding difficulty in keeping their ball on the 12<sup>th</sup> fairway.

A special prize is awarded to the person with the lowest Stableford score. The winner of this prestigious prize shall remain nameless but I will be joining the queue for a lesson with young Tom. It is I believe a club tradition that the winner of a competition one year comes last the following year.

Apparently, Noel's playing partners decided to abandon him on the tee

## Diary Refresher

### Upcoming Club Competitions

- Pairs Championships Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October
- All -Day Stableford 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> October
- October Club Medal Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October

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

Details of the winter competitions, e.g. club winter eclectic, winter league and winter foursomes are currently being finalised to take account of the change to the WHS.

when he went to play his 4<sup>th</sup> provisional ball. Hope springs eternal and his first ball was eventually found.

On completion of the event, a delicious lunch was served following which the prizes were presented by Sam (Samantha) Hutchinson who has sponsored the event since 2019.



A great event on a beautifully presented course with great food and friendly competition. Big thanks to all involved.

PS: We all logged our scores onto the pro shop computer to avoid the wrath of Mr Bennett.

Andrew Snoad

## Club Nights

### Club Nights with a difference...

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the 3 club night specials.

The Par-3 Competition was interesting to say the least: -

- Playing from the 5<sup>th</sup> fairway over the trees to the 4<sup>th</sup> green
- Driving over the new large pond to the 6<sup>th</sup> green.

(Karen Clarke claims to be the first to play from that pond.)

Everyone wanted to go around again. The winner was Sarah Lambert with a nett 21. £175 was raised for the Parkinsons UK, the Lady Captain's Charity and £175 for the Club Landscape Fund.

Club Captain John Finnigan raised £290 for the Club Landscape fund from the 2 Clubs and a putter competition which was won by Darren Ambrose.

There was much chuntering on the 10th tee as Members had worked out their club choices assuming we would start play from the 1st!

As already described the Greenkeepers Revenge was brilliant. £290 was raised on the night for the Senior Captain's charity, Essex and Herts Air Ambulance. Loz Johns won with Grahame Barsdell runner-up.

The last Club Night this year was on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September— I hope you ran round before it got dark!

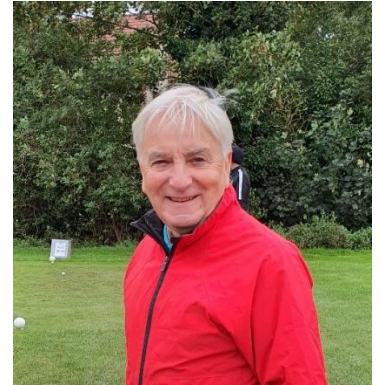
## Senior Section

### From the Seniors...

The roll-ups on a Tuesday and Friday morning continue to be well attended with a number of new members joining the regulars. Anybody else who would like to take part please contact Brian Sapsed for further details.

### Seniors Handicap & Veterans Trophy (21<sup>st</sup> August)

- Winner Alan Little 67
- R/Up Brian Sapsed 69 (CB)
- Veterans Trophy Dave Mollon 69



Dave Mollon

### September Stableford (1<sup>st</sup> Sept)

- Winner Div1 Michael Longmire 42pts
- R/up Steve Plumb 37pts
- Winner Div2 Christopher Young 39pts
- R/up Michael Murphy 38pts

### Seniors Championship (11<sup>th</sup> Sept)

- Winner Harry Stone 76
- R/ Up Paul Curley 79 (CB)
- 55-62 age group Steve Poulsen
- 63-69 age group Harry Stone
- 70 + age group John Bennett

### Upcoming Senior Mens' Competitions

- Senior Stableford 6<sup>th</sup> October
- Senior Charity Day Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October (COVID-19 restrictions permitting)
- 18- Hole Texas Scramble Winter League

The 10 O'clock Club and Ladies are again joining in a winter 9-Hole Texas Scramble League Please sign up in the Proshop.



## Two became one

### Senior Hole in One Challenge...

Seniors Captain, Brian Sapsed is running a hole-in one competition, if there are no aces then an eagle could win the prize.



**Tony Freeman**

On September 8<sup>th</sup> Tony Freeman raced into the lead with an eagle on the par 4, 12<sup>th</sup>. Who could beat that?

Well, 9 days later, on 17<sup>th</sup> September, he beat himself with a hole in one on the 15<sup>th</sup>!

He judged his shot perfectly to bounce off the back of the bunker to curve gently round into the hole!

What can beat that? A hole in one on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup>, or 10<sup>th</sup>? Or maybe 2 holes in one?

## Junior Section

### Junior Championships & Texas Scramble

The Junior Championship will be held on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October with tee time from 9:15.

Why not Join the Juniors and the Mount Pleasant Captains in the

afternoon for a Texas scramble starting at 2:15pm?

Sign up in the Proshop.

## Ladies Section

### Ladies news ....

We have been pleased to welcome new lady members all through the summer. and that has continued. A number of Ladies have joined us from Knebworth GC. Maybe we should employ Jean Huckle as our recruitment manager! It is lovely to see so many of you out each Monday and Thursday.

### Captain v Vice Captain Team Matchplay

As we have not been playing any interclub matches Ann, Karen and Tania organised an internal match. The Captain's team took on the Vice Captain's team and won 6½ to 1½.

It was a great opportunity to introduce those newer to golf to the joys of matchplay. A wonderful sunny day enjoyed by everyone, so much so that they want a re-match next year. Thanks to the Team Captains for the goodies (golfing and edible).

### Matchplay League

The 9-Hole matchplay league is now underway. Please fit in all of your matches before the end of October.

### Results

#### August EG Medal

- Winner Karen Clark 71
- R/up Kathy Harris 71

(All on count back from Jean Cameron & Di Little)

### September 18-Hole Stableford

- Winner Barbara Murphy 44pts
- R/up Karen Clarke 34pts

### September 9-Hole Stableford

- Winner Sue Whitaker 18pts
- R/up Sue Jenkins 18pts

### September EG Medal

- Winner Val Cooper 75 nett

Good Scores all round!!

### Remaining 2020 Competitions

- 18-Hole Stableford 1<sup>st</sup> October
- 9-Hole Stableford 15<sup>th</sup> October

### Remaining EG Medals Days

- Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October
- Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October
- Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October

Remember you need at least 4 EG Medal scores in a year to be eligible to earn a place in the regional finals.

### Ladies Winter Eclectic

The Ladies winter eclectic starts on 1<sup>st</sup> October, be sure to enter. Details from Tania Barr.

### Mixed Texas Scramble Leagues

This year's 9 Hole Texas Scramble League with the ladies and the 10 o'clock Club will commence from the 1st November.

Please sign-up in the Pro Shop by Friday 16th October.

Sue Jenkins is the administrator for the 9 Hole Texas Scramble

The Senior Men are also organising an 18-Hole Texas Scramble league

and ladies are invited to join in.  
Please see the notices in the  
Clubhouse.

There will be no Thursday 18 hole  
or 9-hole stableford competitions  
over winter. Tania will be  
organizing the Thursday tee times  
through November & December.

Chris Kermath is the contact for  
the Monday tee-times.

## Next Issue

**Deadline: - 23rd October 2020**

Thanks to Gavin, Tara, John  
Finnigan, John Bennett, Ian  
Comerford, Andrew Snoad, Andy  
Stroomeer & Alan Little for help with  
this issue. [di.f.little@gmail.com](mailto:di.f.little@gmail.com)