



Tiverton Golf Club Newsletter

Club Email: tivertongolfclub@lineone.net

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Captain

What a change in the weather ... it has been wet, windy, dry, cold, sunny. Unfortunately, during the last month it has been very poor as far as grass growing is concerned. The result is bare fairways and surrounds. However, Steve Baker assures us that soon, warmer weather with a little rain will enhance growth. The 2nd and 15th fairways are undergoing a trial period for divot filling. Andy Pryce goes into more detail in his Greens report in this edition of the newsletter. Please help by taking bags and filling divots on your round. Congratulations to Steve Garland and John Hanson who are through to the 3rd round of the Daily Mail Foursomes. I shall be away from 25th April until 2nd May with some fellow club members on a trip to Turkey which was delayed due to volcanic ash cancelling flights. Hopefully, by the time I return there will be a few more names on the team sheets for the May matches. I look forward to seeing more members playing if you are available.

Colin Carey
Captain

Ladies

At last Spring has arrived and what a difference it has made to our competitions and matches. Sue Norris and Annette Cardwell are through to the third round of the Daily Mail Foursomes after beating Fingle Glen at Tiverton. Sue Persey won the Kirkman Dish final with +2. The runner-up was Elizabeth Marriot on par. The County Medal Finals were held at Sidmouth. Our qualifiers were Carolyn Maynard, silver, and Chris Young, bronze. Carolyn came third on count back from two other ladies who also had a net 75 and Chris had a net 79. We were blessed with excellent weather for our Spring Meeting and a great day was had by all, especially Oki Northwood who returned a net score of 69. In all, 72 ladies played in the competition and 69 attended a most enjoyable meal in the evening. The county inter-club matches have begun with the Sheelah Creasy team getting us off to a great start with a win against Tavistock, so good luck to all the teams. Shirley Turner, our junior girls' organiser, is looking for assistance on Monday evenings between 4.30 and 6.30, to help supervise some of the younger girls on the course. If you are able to help would you please contact Shirley.

Sue Probetts, Ladies' Captain

Greens

Following an excellent suggestion from a member, we are going to trial a new system for divot filling. We will be targeting specific holes and placing small sacks of divot mix on the tee. We would ask each player to take a bag along with them and fill divots until the mix is used up. We hope that after a couple of days on each hole, the fairway divots will be filled. We will be using plastic sacks for the trial, but if successful we plan to make some sacks from hessian as a permanent solution. Please support this initiative to improve our fairways. It is almost unbelievable, but it seems people have been playing from within the GUR area on the right of the 3rd fairway. We cordoned this off to protect the area in the winter and have enforced a local rule which most people adhere to. However, the number of new divot marks inside and just outside the GUR tells me people have been ignoring it and this infuriates the greens committee. We will now have to change this area to semi-rough for it to recover. A strip of semi will be allowed to grow along this full length, wide enough to ensure both left and right handers have a similar drop from the path. It is unfortunate we have to do this, but we can see no sensible alternative given the circumstances. It is also worrying that there are divot marks on the newly laid 4th tee – not sure how that could happen! Unfortunately, this settled sunny weather has also had a cold side to it with a stunting northerly wind. This is preventing good grass growth and prevents us from getting the course in the condition we would like. Hopefully, we will get some warmer weather, with warm rain, and things will improve. Would gentleman members please change the location of their regular toilet breaks away from the holly tree behind the 14th tee. It is becoming rather unpleasant near there with the dry weather and will not improve unless habits change.

As always, please feel free to offer me feedback, positive or negative, but ideally constructive, either via email (andrewpryce@yahoo.co.uk) or on the mobile (07971 001286).

Andy Pryce, Greens Chairman

Veterans

April has seen a marked change in the weather from being wet, ideal for playing 'target' golf, to hard and fast conditions.

But it is very nice to have some warm sun on our backs which, to us more mature players, is an absolute boon!

The final Duckworth Salver stableford was played on the 23rd March and was won by Max Sercombe with 39 points, beating Mike Hurley on count-back. Trevor Parker was once again in the prizes with a score of 38 points. The Duckworth Salver was won by Mike with a final three-round score of 117 with Ian Wilson 113 and Derrick Barrett 112 lying second and third.

I am sorry to report that we have been knocked out of the Emerton Court competition for Devon seniors. Having arrived at Staddon Heights to play the second leg with a 4/1 points advantage we lost 6/4. Not our most spectacular performance!

The Veterans' matches started well with an away win over Taunton & Pickering and halved matches against Staddon Heights and East Devon. At home the Honiton match had to be postponed due to weather and the loss of the match against Enmore was balanced by a win over Burnham & Berrow.

The next Veterans' competition is the Frank Edwards Cup which will be played on Tuesday 11th May. This will be followed by a meal which is available to all Veterans whether or not they have played in the competition.

The entry sheet for the Veterans' Captain's prize is on our competition board in the changing rooms.

I would like to remind all male members aged over 60 that they are entitled to play in these competitions.

There are likely to be changes in the near future in the administrative arrangements for Veterans' inter-club matches.

Members are requested to keep an eye on the match noticeboard and indicate availability or otherwise for any match you have been selected to play in as soon as possible.

Gerry Franklin,
Veterans' Captain

Golf Foundation

I am delighted to inform members we are to receive the Gus Payne Award, presented to the club that makes the largest donation to the Golf Foundation.

A donation of £1,430 was collected with members' subscriptions during 2008/09.

The award will be presented during the BMW Championships at Wentworth this month. We will also be presenting a further cheque for £1,359.

Richard Jessop, General Manager