

WHITSTABLE TIDINGS
The monthly journal of Whitstable and Seasalter Golf Club
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News

Presidents Message

Since the last Tidings we have seen the passing of one of the Clubs most respected members in Bill Dance. Bill was a past Captain on two occasions, plus he had the honour of also being Captain at Belmont.

I always remember that a very good friend of ours David Dalby, had a very deep respect for Bill. Sue and I have an enduring memory of Bill as a fellow attendee at a Murder Mystery party at David's house. Like us, Bill and Margaret dressed up for the part and we still have the photos for our memory.

Like many of you, I attended Bill's Funeral at Barham on Christmas Eve. It was nice to hear the tribute to Bill's service during those dark days of the Second World War. For those of you that were not able to attend the service I include a brief summary of that period.

Bill was involved in engineering during the early part of the war but then volunteered in 1943 to serve in the RAF. He was quickly recognised as officer material and after training, served as a Flight Lieutenant responsible for a six man crew. Bill's most difficult mission was his involvement in the taking of the Rhine. On the 24th March 1945 he flew his Handley Page Halifax of 644 Squadron, towing a Glider full of troops and equipment on the assault. This also involved thousands of other forces from our allies. The whole operation was a success but the squadron lost two Halifax's. Overall the allies suffered 1100 Dead, 1,625 wounded and the loss 50 aircraft and 11 gliders. It makes you appreciate what they did for us all.

Bill's squadron was based at Tarrant Rushton near Blandford Forum and also took a significant role in supplying the SOE and SAS who were working behind the lines in France, Belgium and Holland.

Bill then left the service in 1947 to return to Engineering, the do say that if he had stayed in the RAF he would have achieved an even higher rank.

If you want to look up further information, see the internet for Operation Varsity for the Rhine mission and 644 squadron for Bill's Squadron.

To conclude I would like to wish you a happy and prosperous New Year.
John.

Captains Message

Firstly I would like to add my condolences to Bill Dance's family, I was sorry I couldn't attend the service but I was away for Christmas. I had only known Bill since I joined the club back in 2010 but we became firm friends and crib

players on a Thursday, he had a wicked sense of humour and enjoyed the occasional bevvv. I will miss him as I will miss George and Tony who predeceased him last year a sad end of year for us all.

On a lighter note a very Happy New Year to you all, I hope you all had a fantastic Christmas I know I did, at least I seem to remember so, through the misty champers fuelled days!

I am looking forward to playing plenty of golf in the New Year and have some ideas for new challenges on Sunday mornings, eclectics and betterball competitions with all scores counting for Winter and Summer prizes further details will be posted on the notice board so keep a look out!

We have also reinstated the annual match with Hythe for the Fish Plate, which we currently hold. Hythe GC has changed and is now independent from the hotel, having their own clubhouse and autonomy in decision-making etc. I am also trying to get fixtures with other local clubs so I shall need your support when selecting teams for these days!

Let's have a great 2016 and keep this fantastic club fizzing with energy, there will be some new social functions as well as those tried and tested ones you all enjoyed last year.

We have a couple of new conscripts to the Social Committee who will have an active part in the invention and promotion of future events, with at least one event per month, so keep your eyes open for notices on the Social Notice Board.

Bob Ireland

Adults Christmas Party 12th December

This was a terrific night Mickey Blue Eyes entertained us wonderfully, good food and splendid company, dancing 'til we dropped a great way to get into Christmas!

Childrens Christmas Party 19th December

It was truly wonderful to see nearly 40 small children running about the club having a great time! Pass the Parcel and musical Chairs were played and Reggie Mental did his usual fantastic job of entertaining the kids.

After a teatime treat of sandwiches and snacks. The tea finished with beautiful cup cakes made and supplied by Evelyn Fowler, who provided all those at her own expense, thanks Evelyn we really appreciated it and the kids (and parents/grandparents) loved them!

Father Christmas arrived and ably assisted by his elf distributed presents to all the children there, I would like to personally thank all those who worked so hard to make this day special, John and Sue Clarke, Joan Sykes, Maureen Davison, Gary and Kay Morgan, Derek Bates and Mike Behr, if I've forgotten anyone I apologise but you know who you are!

Future events

Burns Night Saturday 23rd January

Notice of this event is now on the notice board, please enter your name and pay Steve £22.50 for each person in your party.

Quiz Night 27th February

Cudgel your brains night - nibbles and knowledge look out for notification on the Social Board.

St Patrick's Night 17th March

Join in an evening of Irish fun, plenty of Guinness, good food, music and dancing, fancy dress optional although you must wear something green!
Price and date to be advised.

FROM THE OFFICE

John Stokes has now taken over the day to day administration of the Office in conjunction with Fran Price. He has also now taken over as Club Secretary but Brian Best will remain as Company Secretary of Seasalter Golf Club Ltd until he retires in November.

Could you please advise the office if you have changed address or contact details in the last year ,It all helps come the time to send membership renewal letters out in the New Year.

Many thanks John Stokes

BOREHOLE

The installation of the borehole has been shelved for the time being, as, when work started recently, the water level was found to be so high, there was a danger of flooding the course, if the well head had blown during drilling.

The project has been rescheduled for next summer when the pressure in the water table should have fallen somewhat.

The contractor has assured us that this will not effect the cost of the installation.

Website Update

Our new look website is now live .There are video clips of the course as well as some other new items to view. Have a look at and "like" it!

PLANNING PERMISSION

It is thought that the planning meeting to discuss this application will now take place in March, we'll keep you posted!

PROPERTY DAMAGE OFF THE COURSE

We regularly get claims from our neighbours relating to damage caused by golf balls to their property. This is a significant cost to the Club as we have a £350 Excess applicable to this type of Insurance claim, and not many claims exceed this.

Recently there has been a dramatic increase in the number of claims for no obvious reasons – which have come from all sides of the course but mainly from the caravan park where there are often children playing

Please ensure that you shout fore loudly, apologise to those affected and report every incident in the relevant book in the foyer.

Clubhouse Hire

The clubhouse can be hired by members for events such as a birthday party . First call should be with the Club Steward and /or the Office to check availability. There is a hire form that needs to be filled out (copies are available from the office) in advance of the event. Our caterers are to be used for any food requirements.

There is a charge for hire of £100.

MEMBERSHIP

Like most Golf Clubs we are always looking for new Members to replace those who move away or just get too old to play. Our average age is higher than most clubs, which has its effect on our membership.

We will also be offering a **£50 Incentive** to existing Members who introduce new Full Playing Members to the Club. Full details will be available soon – the incentive will be by way of a discount from the next year's subscription. There will be no limit to the number of incentives, which can be earned in any year. So introduce 10 Members for a free year!

Junior Section Captain James Green Vice Captain

Juniors had a great Christmas party, nine holes of golf followed by tea, burger and chips, presentation of the Most Improved Player for 2015, very deservedly won by Adam Davis and then on to the Bowling Alley for two hilarious games of bowling (what else?). We all joined in, adults as well, all showed ourselves up unmercifully and my finger still hurts where you have to stick it in the hole of bowl, my thanks to everyone who joined in and especially to Captain James who had the difficult task of trying to get everyone together on the same day.

Next competition Saturday Jan 9th, 1pm.

Mel

Ladies Section Captain Joan Sykes Vice Captain Maureen Davison Secretary Jean Hudson

Having managed to complete all 4 Christmas Competitions as scheduled- which is virtually unheard of-meant the first Tuesday in December the Ladies played a regular Stableford competition. Jenny Vening had the best round and scored 34 points to win Division 1 from Penny Perkins on 32 and Louise Tucker on 27. Jean Clode won Division 2 with 30 from Maureen Davison on 29 and Molly Furlong on 28.

The highlight of the month for the Ladies Section was the annual Pink Ball Competition followed by Christmas Lunch. The golf was played in teams of

three, many suitably attired in Christmas hats and jumpers. Not all of the pink balls made it all the way round 9 holes, and 2 unlucky trios didn't even get it as far as the second tee! Winners on 63 points were Margaret Barker, Sue Goodall and Sue Maflin. Second place on 60 went to Irene Snowdon, Jean Clode and Joyce Janes. The Summer Eclectic trophy was presented to Helen Foad and the England Golf Medal to Penny Perkins-for the best 4 medal cards in the calendar year. And the winner of the Christmas Competition (best 3 cards of a possible 4) and winner of a lovely bag of festive goodies was Louise Tucker with 96 points. Penny Perkins was second with 92 and Vilma Parrett third with 86. The lunch was lovely and everyone was in high spirits-the mulled wine may have contributed to this! For the second year running we were entertained by the Useless Pluckers who treated us to a fine selection of numbers for us to sing-a-long to-thank you. And this warmed us up for our now annual tradition of rounding of the day with a rousing rendition of 'The Twelve Days of Christmas'. Another happy day of (good) golf, friendship and festive cheer.

Thank you from the Ladies to all who attended and supported the annual Christmas Coffee Morning. As usual, everybody gave very generously both of their time and their money, and over £630 was raised.

As another year speeds to an end we would like to wish everyone at the Golf Club a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful and Happy New Year.

Men's Section Captain Bob Ireland Vice Captain Gary Morgan

The main Sunday morning competition this month was the Captains Bandy Stakes traditionally played after Christmas on Boxing Day. Unusually fine weather for the time of year helped make the competition a more enjoyable experience than usual but the prevailing wet conditions kept scores generally low. The winning score of thirty-nine points from Andy Selwood, helped to confirm his class and all round golfing ability. Andy dropped only six shots and would have done better but for unexpected bogies on the last two holes. David Bowman finished with thirty-eight points to take second place and is starting to show his true potential. David's score would have been so much better but for five double-bogies and it must only be a matter of time before he develops winning form. The ever consistent Trevor Croxton also did well with thirty-seven points to take third place on count-back from Rob Davis who finished with a disastrous back nine after twenty-three points on the opening holes.

Old Salts Section Captain John Wegner Vice Captain Dave Atkins

Old Salts report

The month of December kicked off on the Thursday 3rd with John's Walker number 3... it was well supported with 44 players . Considering the good dry

but windy course conditions, scores were generally lower than expected, first across the line was Roy Percival with a creditable 37 points, he was closely followed by Ian Wingrove on 34 points who just pipped Gary Hartley -Trigg with 34 points on count back.

December 10th saw another episode of the Winter Eclectic series. It was played in increasingly windy conditions , these however did not phase Sid Silk who won with a fine 38 points closely followed by Dave Rigden on 37 points from Brian Pratt on 36 points.

The Captain's challenge resulted in Captain John Wegner and Vice Captain David Atkins losing 2 and 1 to John Allen and Kit Ryan.

The 17th of December saw the unseasonably warm weather continue making the annual 9 hole pre-Christmas lunch day competition a well supported affair, in the end it was a close run race, first to the chequered flag was Gwyn Oakley with 21 points, second across the line on count back with 21 point was Mick ` Pancho' Wyles closely followed by Barry Broadbent on 21 points.

The Christmas lunch was the usual riotous affair attended by 57 members with the much very appreciated entertainment supplied by the 'Five Pluckers' and a good time was had by all.

Christmas Eve was played as a friendly four ball , the small turnout enjoyed a pleasant day's golf.

The last day of 2015 saw a small field of around 24 players enjoy a lovely sunny , windy day's golf.

The Captain's Challenge was played with Captain John Wegner and stand in Vice Captain Colin Holton losing 3 and 2 to the formidable pairing of Fred Stokes and Trevor Croxton.

Fred also had the best score of the day with 38 points .

Well that's it for 2015, here is looking forward to a successful 2016 for all players.

The Old salts Committee wishes all Old Salts a Happy and Healthy New year.

Brian Ridley

Midweeker's Section Captain Ian Horton Vice Captain Don Williams

Wednesday 9th December The Tony Bensted Cup and Pat Bensted Christmas Trophy followed by the Midweeker's Christmas Dinner.

Our thanks go out to all who turned out to play today in memory of Tony who sadly passed away earlier in the year. Our guests of honour included Pat Bensted, President John Clarke, Captain Bob Ireland and Old Salts Captain John Wegner.

The Tony Bensted Cup 18 hole Stableford was won by Alan Fowler with 39 points, beating Ronnie Rumball on countback, 3rd place going to Ted Backhouse with 38.

Birdie prizes were won by Dave Chalk, Mike Cousins, Don Crawford, Ian Moyes, Alan Humphries, Don Williams, Ronnie Rumball, Glenn Snook, Rod Whitehead and Howard Gordon, Ronnie also won a bottle of scotch for a birdie on the 8th.

Charity sweep winners were Peter Shearing, Paul Guilfoyle and John Clarke.

Pat Bensted Christmas Trophy, 9 hole Stableford

1st Steve Matthews, 2nd Roy Lee and third Margaret Barker, charity sweep winners were James Marsh and Alec Parrett, no first prize so that is a rollover until next time.

There followed the Christmas Dinner, a riotous occasion followed by a short display of Tommy Cooper's insanity in the lengthy form of Peter Shearing. Christmas carols were massacred and much wine was partaken of. A great day mainly organized by Eynon Price who works tirelessly for the Midweekers all year and always produces beautiful song sheets for us every Christmas. Ray Thomas provided musical accompaniment and the singing was led by Don Crawford.

Tony Love December Trophy Friday 18th December

A big thank you to all who turned out today especially Tony Love who took time out from his duties at Chestfield to be with us to present the trophy in his name.

The winner was Mark Tilbury with an outstanding 42 points, second on countback James Marsh and third Alan Fowler.

Birdie prizes were won by Derek Bates, Alan Fowler, John Lynch, Tony Love and John Clarke won a bottle of scotch for a birdie on the 8th. The charity sweep was won by Eynon Price, second John Clarke and third John Wegner

Fundraising 100 Club

Two draws in December!

1st £30 Sue Goodall Rod Whitehead

2nd £20 Dave Morgan John Dowle

3rd £10 Geoff Hughes Ian Horton

Congratulation to the winners. Please collect your prizes in person from

behind the bar.

Subscriptions for 2016 are now due please pay £12 for each number you have to Steve and good luck!

What's on for the next two months?

January

Sunday 3 rd	am Wood Trophy Winter Stableford
Tuesday 5 th	am Ladies Competition
Saturday 9 th	pm Juniors Medal
Sunday 10 th	am Captains swindle
Tuesday 12 th	am Ladies Charity Stableford
Wednesday 13 th	am Midweekers Ron Thompson New Years Trophy Medal
Sunday 17 th	am Wood Trophy Winter Stableford
Tuesday 19 th	am Ladies Competition Stablefords
Friday 22 nd	am Midweekers Ray Emmerson Shield Stableford
Sunday 24 th	am Captains swindle
Tuesday 26 th	am Ladies Competition Stableford
Sunday 31 st	am Wood Trophy Stableford

February

Tuesday 2 nd	am Ladies Competition Stableford
Saturday 6 th	pm Juniors Medal
Sunday 7 th	am Captain's swindle
Tuesday 9 th	am Ladies Charity Stableford
Wednesday 10 th	am Midweekers L Fessey Cup Medal
Sunday 14 th	am Stableford
Tuesday 16 th	am Ladies Competition Texas Scramble
Sunday 21 st	am Captain's swindle
Friday 22 nd	am Midweekers Ray Emmerson Shield Stableford
Sunday 24 th	am Captains swindle
Tuesday 23 rd	am Ladies Competition Stableford
Friday 26 th	am Midweekers S Ashworth Cup Stableford
Sunday 28 th	am Captain's swindle

Ebb and Flow (letters section)

The Editor would appreciate your comments or suggestions of ways to improve the club, magazine, web site, social activities, or anything else that comes to mind! Get writing – it's your club say what you want!

If you have any specific questions about the course please direct them to the suggestion book.

Sudoku

Answer to last month's Sudoku

8	6	4	9	2	1	7	5	3
3	1	7	6	4	5	9	8	2
9	5	2	7	8	3	6	4	1
2	7	1	5	9	4	3	6	8
4	3	5	1	6	8	2	7	9
6	8	9	3	7	2	4	1	5
5	2	6	4	1	9	8	3	7
1	4	8	2	3	7	5	9	6
7	9	3	8	5	6	1	2	4

	4	7						
		5	8					4
					1		3	2
		6	7		2		8	
	8		4		5	1		
7	2		6					
1					3	5		
						6	9	

Competition

This was won by Brian Ridley well done! Here are the answers and a new quiz to keep you guessing, all 6 right gets the £20 voucher

Christmas Facts answers

- 1/ Who first set the date for Christmas Day and when?
Answer Pope Julius 1 350AD
- 2/ Who outlawed Christmas celebrations in the 17th century?
Answer Oliver Cromwell 1647
- 3/ What is the best selling Christmas single of all time?
Answer Irving Berlin's White Christmas (various artists)

- 4/ Who invented the Christmas card and when?
Answer John Calicott Horsley 1843
- 5/ According to the song, how many presents in total did "my true love send to me"?
Answer 364 (the partridge in a pear tree counts as one)
- 6/ Who created Christmas Crackers and when?
Answer London sweetmaker Tom Smith 1847

January Quiz

- 1/ Who is January named after and why?
- 2/ When and who first declared January 1st to be New Year's Day?
- 3/ In which year did January 1st see a flag called Grand Union unfurled for the first time and who altered it from its original design?
- 4/ What is the Chinese floral emblem for January?
- 5/ Which date in modernish times did January 1st become New Year's Day and which date did it replace?
- 6/ Which famous signatory of the Declaration of Independence was born in January and why is he famous?

Flotsam and Jetsam **A New Year's story or two**

A New Years resolution is a thing that goes in one year and out the other

I just heard there is a new thing that can turn thoughts into speech-I've had that for years it's called alcohol!

The father asked, "Where have you been all this time? Why did you not write to us, not even a line? Why didn't you call?"

The girl crying replied, "Dad, I became a prostitute."

"Whaaa!!? Out of here you shameless harlot! You're a disgrace to this family."

"OK, daddy. If that's your wish. I just came back to give mum this luxurious fur coat, title deed to a ten bedroom mansion plus a savings certificate for £4 million."

"For me little brother, this gold Rolex and for you daddy, the sparkling new Mercedes limited edition convertible that's parked outside plus a membership to the country club and an invitation for you all to spend a my new yacht in the Riviera, and..."

"Now what was it ye said you had become, again?" says dad.

Girl, crying again, "A prostitute dad!"

"Oh! You scared me half to death, girl! I thought you said a Protestant. Come here and give your old man a hug!"

Beachcomber

Castaways

If you have any unwanted clubs or equipment sell them through this Publication or the Web Site and donate 10% to the Captains Charity! Send the details to my e-mail robert.ireland@gmail.com , by post or place the details on the notice board marked for my attention.

For sale

Yonex 1,3,5,7 woods (metal) irons 6,7,8,9,P/w ,S/w ,Ram 58 degree wedge, Odyssey Putter.

Callaway Bag. Hill Billy trolley, battery and charger. Plus a number of used balls and towels. Any reasonable offer considered.

The person to Contact is Peter Wood on 01227 277134.

A set of ladies right handed clubs consisting of: Driver, 3 and 5 Woods. Irons 3,4,5,6,7,8,9, a pitching wedge, sand wedge and putter, a sky blue and white coloured carry bag and matching umbrella. All in new condition as they have hardly been used.

Price £50.00 Phone: 07836 676469 or 01227 793598

Mitsushiba Verdict 2 oversize iron set; 3-9 irons plus pitch and sand wedges
£20

All clubs are right handed and in good condition. Plus free golf bag.

Beginner golf set (right handed)

£15

Howson Derby 3 wood / Meridian Z3 5 wood / Vantage putter
3,4,5,6,7,8,9 irons plus pitch and sand wedges. Free golf bag

Taylormade Tour S-90 shaft. Nice club in good condition

Ladies black Hi Tec golf shoes size 5. Only worn twice

£8

Men's black Green Friend golf shoes size 9 with soft spikes

£5

Men's Foot Joy golf shoes size 8 with soft spikes.

£10

Some wear but plenty of life in them and very comfortable.

Tel: Ges Jakimavicius on 07963 819604 or 01227 278618

