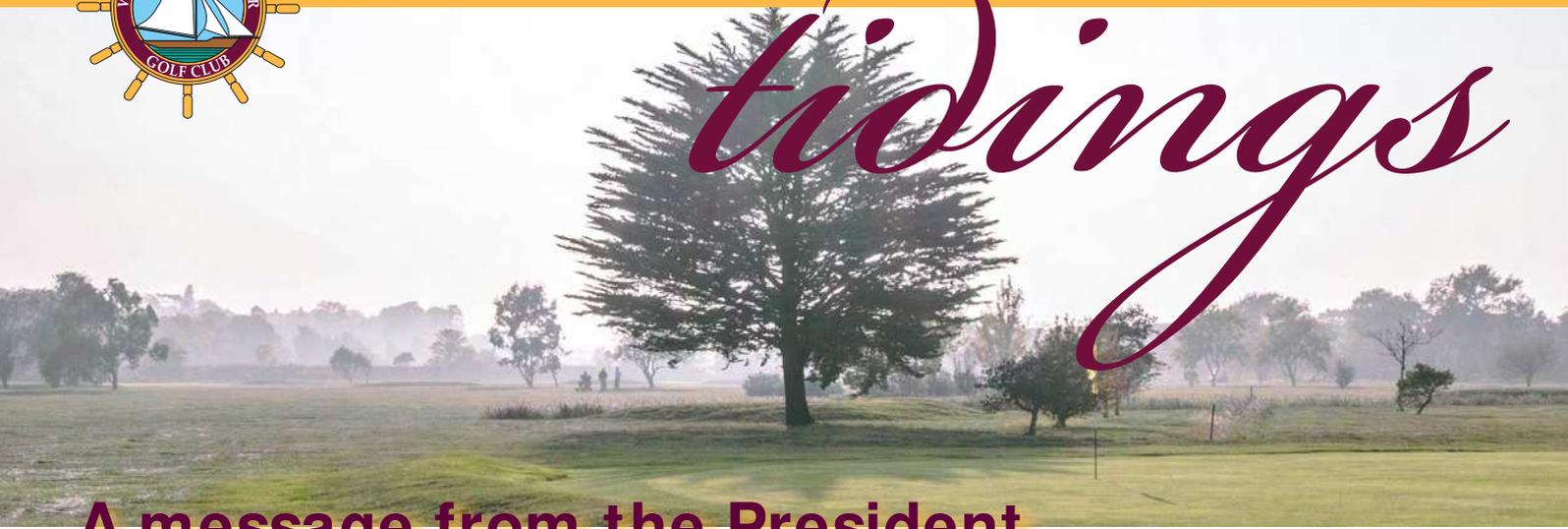




tidings



A message from the President

Photo Courtesy of Red Banana Media Ltd

Hello everyone.

Firstly I would like to wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year, and hope you had an enjoyable Christmas, managing to avoid the dreadful bug that was going around.

As you may or may not be aware, I, like many other members try to keep an eye on my weight and am conscious of eating healthily. So I am glad to say that I only gained 3lbs over the whole Christmas period. Everything was going so well until a phone call this morning from a past member of our golf club, Les Biggs, who had great pleasure in telling me I have won a box of chocolates (oh oh) in the Whitstable Town football club Christmas draw. Haven't seen them yet so have to make a decision when I do.... For those of you that purchased tickets you will be pleased to know that Les Biggs' wife won the £250 first prize.

I trust you are all handling the winter weather which this year seems to have produced darker and darker mornings. Still we are now past the shortest day so I am now looking forward to spring not being too far away.....

A big thanks go to our green staff for keeping the golf trolleys on the course, other years would have seen us carrying by now. The greens by the way are excellent so well done.

As you are all aware our past Captain Gary, during his successful year, raised money for a very worthwhile charity Evelina Children's hospital which is a part of St Thomas's Hospital. Gary and all his family worked tremendously hard for this worthwhile project and with the support of the club members raised a fantastic £14,734.73! I am sure the hospital will use the funds for vital equipment required in saving children's lives. So give yourselves a big slap on the back and a well done. Keep an eye on the notice boards as Gary is arranging for a representative from the Hospital to come down to receive the cheque in the very near future.

Lastly I would to thank all those members who gave up their time in putting on all the events over the Christmas period, the children's party in particular and the ladies for decorating the clubhouse.

See you again next month for a newsy President's message, regards to you all.

John



Becky, Connor and Cohen being presented with the 'big' Charity Cheque. A brilliant effort from Gary and all his family!

Please send me all your photos and stories for inclusion

... and from the Captain

I hope everyone had a fantastic Christmas and New Year

The adults' party was a good night, it was unfortunate that it was not supported by many members! You missed a good evening but I appreciate it's a busy time of year with work parties etc.

The children's party was so busy you could not move, maybe next year we will get a kid's entertainer for the adults' party with jelly and balloons.

It was a great effort by everyone that helped especially John and Sue for sorting 40 presents and wrapping them up amongst other things. Sue also deserves credit for the hard work she put in helping to organise all of us. Father Christmas was also very busy - well done. New Year's Eve was a good evening to finish the year off

The weather has not been kind for the golfers for a couple of weeks with snow one week and frost the following week then the temporary greens. Roll on the Spring!

Happy golfing

Howard

Men's Section - Captain Howard Gordon, Vice-Captain Richard Davis

The Captain's swindle played at the start of December finished with Jon Perkins on 40 points, one shot clear of the rest of the field. Despite several dropped shots on the closing holes, his final score was good enough to leave the lesser places to be decided between a group of five players who all finished with thirty-nine points. Following count-back Ian Horton ended runner up with Tony Taunton in third place.

In the Christmas Eve Texas scramble, results were generally close with the smallest of margins separating the majority of teams, though two teams finished well ahead of the rest. The team including Callum Buchanan, Tony Hart, Martyn Silverton and Ray Emmerson ended clear winners on net 55.6, a whole shot clear of the second place group Paul Guilfoyle, John Stokes, John Clarke and Richard Davis.

The Boxing Day Captain's Brandy Stakes, with mince pies, sausage rolls and potato soup provided courtesy of the captain, ended with an impressive performance from up and coming youngster James Bennett. He finished the easy winner with forty-two points, four points clear of second placed Lloyd Foster and six points clear of third placed Sam Holiday.

The final Captain's swindle of 2017, played on New Year's Eve, saw Jon Perkins winning his second competition of the month. On this occasion he bettered his previous winning score finishing with forty-two points overall. Duncan Palmer ended just two points shy of this total to take the runners up slot and John Wegner finished in third place with thirty-nine points.

Derek Bates

Clubhouse Project Update for January 2018 Tidings

Work is now proceeding at quite a pace with the full monies being paid to us by the developer on or around the 18 th January.

Our discussions with 4 construction companies continue, they are all in receipt of a formal tender document, and we expect to receive detailed quotations by the end of February. The Board of Directors have employed a specialist building works costings consultant to help negotiate with the companies to ensure that prices received are the best possible and all are quoting on the same terms. The consultant will also oversee the project to its completion. It is anticipated that if a satisfactory conclusion to the negotiations are made during March then building works can commence in April/May 2018.

The building works will have an impact on the 1 st /10 th tees, the putting green and car park. Whilst the construction is taking place there will be a tee change. The existing 10 th tee will be located adjacent to the 1st tee. It is hope we may be able to offer a temporary putting green for the period of construction.

Ladies Section - Captain Sue Pout, Vice-Captain Louise Tucker

The ladies Christmas Coffee morning was well-supported as always. Stalls included a raffle, tombola, bottle tombola, plant stall, cake stall, 'Guess the name of the Dog' and a raffle and craft stall in support of the Air Ambulance. Thanks as always to everyone who helped, donated prizes or presents or contributed time or money on the day.

Our last stableford of the year was played on a grey, dull day. Winner of Division 2 and overall winner was Maureen Davison with 34 points, Helen Foad was second with 31 and Jean Hudson third with 29. In Division 1 the top 3 players all scored 31 points, Sue Goodall beating Sheila Wyles and Louise Tucker on count back.

The annual Christmas lunch was, as always, lovely. Thank you to Sue for the very welcome Mulled Wine, Harry for the good food and Sue and her committee for organising the prizes, games and table decorations. After lunch prizes were given out for the Christmas Competition, best 3 stableford scores from 4 counting. Mia Waddingham was overall winner with a total of 104. Joint second on 101 were Sally Lawson and Penny Perkins. The result of the Summer Eclectic was also announced, winner Helen Foad, and the England Golf Medal, winner Mel Bashford with 275 (on special count back from Louise Tucker with the same score).

The annual pink ball was played on a very frosty, festive December morning. The winning trio, with 63 points, were Inge Parry, Madge Harris and Marie Hood. Second with 57 points were Sharon Mills, Jean Hudson and Fran Price. We were then joined by many more of the ladies for the usual "wot" coffee morning, a perfect way to see out the year.

Looking forward to much more golf and good times in 2018.

Louise



Sue's modelling career seems to be taking off!

WINTER TEES

Now that the white tees have been taken in for the winter, to allow qualifying competitions to be played over the next few months we have had the winter course (mats) measured and certified by Golf England.

The course is 4976 yards with a par of 66 and a SSS of 64.
All stroke indexes remain as the existing 18 hole course card

IF THE WEATHER STAYS DRY DURING THE COMING WINTER THEN WE HOPE TO RE-INTRODUCE THE WHITE TEES IN EARLY/MID MARCH 2018

Old Salts' Section - Captain Colin Holton, Vice Captain Malcolm Cane

The December 7th nine hole Old Salts Christmas cup competition was a rather muted affair due to the inclement weather reducing the turnout, however the hardy souls that did play returned pretty good scores with Sid Silk triumphing with 37 points. 2nd with 34 points was Dave Rigden with 34 points. 3rd on count back was Malcolm Cane with 34 points.

This was followed by the Christmas lunch which was a lively one as usual and the 48 members present enjoyed a very good lunch and the entertainment was supplied by Tommy Cooper (AKA Peter Shearing) it was 'Magical' 'Just Like That' !!

Round 2 of Colin's Caper's was played on a freezing 14th December, The results were close, 1st for the Players was Micky Dunne with 37 points, 2nd was Malcolm Cane and 3rd was Dave Rigden. In the Gentlemen's division the winner was the mercurial Brian Pratt with 36 points, 2nd was the ever reliable Alec Parrett with 35 points and 3rd on count back Peter Smith with 35 points.

The Captain's Challenge was a 'toughie' as usual with the challengers Brian Pratt and Micky Dunne triumphing by 4 and 2 against Captain Colin Holton and Vice Malcolm Cane. A most enjoyable pre Christmas Texas Scramble was played on December 21st, in 3rd place were Captain Colin Holton, Brian Ridley. Anthony Trevett and Ray Emerson, 2nd were Paul Lithgoe, Ron Cooper, Alec Parret and Barry Broadbent but the winners were Malcolm 'Pancho' Cane and his band of renegades Fred Stokes, John Allen and Brian Daw.

Finally,

The Old Salts Section wishes all members and their families A Very Happy and Healthy New Year for 2018

Brian Ridley

Midweeker's Section - Captain Alan Fowler, Vice Captain Dave Hodgson

The first competitions of the month were the Tony Bensted Cup and the Pat Bensted Christmas Trophy. The 18 hole Tony Bensted Cup was successfully defended by John Wegner with 39 points second was Alan Humphry with 38 points and third Andy Short with 37 points. Charity sweep winners were Robin George, Ray "Topspin" Thomas, and Ian Moyes.

There were birdies on the 6th/15th holes for John Wegner, Eynon Price and Alan Humphry, and on the 8th/17th holes for John Wegner and the club captain Howard Gordon. John and Howard generously donated their birdie money to the captains charity. The Captain also won the captains challenge against John Clarke and Howard Gordon.

In the Pat Bensted Christmas Trophy Ted "stix" Backhouse successfully defended the Trophy with Eynon Price the runner up.

The second competition of the month was the Tony Love December Trophy this was won by Don Crawford with a very creditable 44 points, runner up was Anthony Furnival with 39 points and third was John Allen with 38 points. Charity sweep winners were Tony Love, Ray Emmerson and Anthony Furnival. The day saw a total of 14 birdies in all too many to mention individually in fact. One can only surmise that the greenkeeper cut a larger hole on the 6/15th where there were 9 in total.

Mel Bashford and Callum Buchanan teamed up to take on the captain and David Hodgeson in the captains challenge but lost by 5 points.

After the competition there were complementary mince pies and a brandy to go in your coffee for those who so desired.

December also saw the members enjoy a Christmas Lunch followed by a bit of a sing song, backing track supplied by Eynon, this was supported by nearly 40 members and a good time was had by all. It just remains to wish everyone a "Happy New Year" and may all your handicaps be halved!

Ian Horton

Greens Committee Meeting Agenda and Notes

11 am Tuesday 9TH January

Present; John Stokes, Malcolm Kent, John Rosser, Steve Suttle, Seth Devine and the Captain by invitation.

Apologies; Bob Davies

Matters arising;

8th Tee area, matting to be improved. Further prices to be obtained. Original quote for matting was £3000+ and unacceptable.

Machinery repairs update;

Awaiting servicing of some machines.

Course fencing repairs/ improvement.

Fence adjacent the 8th Green/9th Tee. All in place and totally satisfactory. Adjacent turfing now completed.

Green Keepers Report. January 2018

Greens

Greens are now being mown at their winter height of cut of 6mm. During mild weather we are still cutting thrice weekly. In December and early January, we have had some substantial rainfall with the inevitable result of five greens reaching field capacity. This results in surface flooding after any significant rainfall necessitating the use of the prepared temporary greens. These greens are only needed for a day or two if it doesn't rain again in the time being.

General

The fairways have taken the rainfall so far without any flooding issues and we have not had to issue any type of trolley restrictions to date.

The winter work programme has gone well. We managed to complete all the bunker refurbishments before the end of the year. These were on holes 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7, a total of 9 bunkers. To the left of the 5th green we have refurbished the mound and softened it and put down a hard-wearing turf as it is sure to receive plenty of traffic once in play. We have turfed the soil bank beside the new fence on the 8th hole with a low maintenance fine turf. At present we are physically removing fairy rings behind the 2nd and 8th greens and also from the 9th tee.

Steve Suttle, Head Greenkeeper

Ongoing Work

Fairy Rings update. See green keepers report above.

Winter Bunker schedule. See green keepers report above.

4th green drainage pipes. Trial holes in main drain pipe to be excavated. It is felt the pipe into the dyke may have a back fall.

New Clubhouse issues.

1. Storage by water tank/nets. (out of bounds posts). To be created behind tractor shed and O.O.B. posts to possibly be moved.
2. Storage by green keepers shed schedule. Reserved parking to be moved to allow dressing storage. April time.
3. 1st/10th Tee changes. Temporary Tees to be created near existing 10th Tee.
4. Putting green-temporary location. To be investigated when building security fence position established.
5. Car parking. Parking bays to be maximised by moving plant and tidying area furthest from club house.
6. 2 irrigation points to be moved prior to building works commencing.

A.O.B.

Green keepers Forum. February 10th, 10am-11am. See notice content below.

2018 staff training needs. Health and Safety, First Aid and Chemical use to be researched.

Rabbits. Ok at the moment.

Pond; Ted Henderson. No information.

Winter Tees; Slip signs. Installed.

5th Tee; Frosty location. Flat mat at end of pathway to be installed.

Adjustable Penstock level discussed for later in the year.

Hire buggies to be put in tractor shed. On investigation, not enough room.

Much discussion took place regarding the closure of some greens on Sunday 7th January. Please see overleaf.

Temporary Greens

We are taking this opportunity remind all members about the protocol with regards to the use of temporary greens and the rationale behind their necessity.

The golf course at Whitstable is built on London clay and the greens are of push-up construction i.e. they are of native soil and have none of the artificial drainage installed in most modern courses. Exceptions are the double green and 8th which have shingle underneath them. The course is managed in an austere manner and this includes incorporating a minimal watering policy. This means that the greens go into the winter period as dry as possible. With a clay based soil natural drainage is slow and in the winter period the rootzone will eventually become saturated with water. This state is known as 'field capacity'. Any additional rainfall after this state is reached will result in surface water. When this is evident the surface is very susceptible to wear and damage to the structure of the rootzone from compaction. This is when the decision is made, usually first thing in the morning to use the temporary greens. The only practical alternative to this is to totally reconstruct the greens to a modern specification at vast expense. This is not a viable proposition so there is no alternative to using the temporary greens when necessary.

During the months December, January and February any scheduling of competitive golf is optimistic and is destined for disappointment at any course with clay based greens, bearing in mind the aforementioned. These measures have been in place for the past 10 years and there have been no changes to this policy during this time.

Next meeting will be on the Tuesday March 6th.

PLEASE REPAIR ALL PITCH MARKS, AND OTHERS YOU SEE, PROPERLY.

GREEN KEEPERS FORUM

SATURDAY 10TH FEBRUARY 2018 10- 11 AM

The Greens Committee are pleased to advise members that they will have the chance to ask questions to Steve Suttle our Head Green Keeper on the date above.

It is the chance to talk to Steve about the course and listen to the explanation about what goes on during different times of the year.

We would be grateful if you could advise us of the questions you are intending to ask in advance to ensure that if any information needs researching, it can be carried out to allow a full answer to be given.

Either send questions to the Secretary by email, drop in the office or put into the suggestions book in the lobby by Thursday 8th February.

We trust members will see this as an opportunity to learn more about our course and understand the efforts that are made to improve the playing area.

Greens Committee 10th January 2018

Introductory Membership

Whitstable & Seasalter Golf Club

In April 2015 the Club introduced a new category of membership titled Flexible Membership. The category has introduced a number of members to the Club since then.

For the membership renewal date of April 2017 the terms of this membership was reviewed, so that such membership would not be available from April 2018. Members would either have to become Full Members, or take the option of not re-joining the Club.

In order to attract potential new members, the Board have taken the decision to introduce a category of membership titled; Introductory Membership.

This membership is available to new members for 1 year ,in order that they can play the course and determine whether they would wish to become Full Members.

The membership will be limited to 30 rounds of 18 holes (60 tickets of 9 holes issued) for use during the subscription year.

A handicap can be obtained, and the course can be played on the same conditions as Full Membership. The fee for this membership is £350.00, to be paid in one payment. There is also the obligation to buy £100.00 in Club shares (redeemable on leaving)

100 Club subscriptions for 2018/19 are due and should be paid as soon as possible, please or by 20th January at the latest. Steve Wood has the list behind the bar and is collecting subscriptions.

If you have not already paid your £12 for 2018/19 please bring your £12 next time you are at the club and give it to Steve to mark you as paid.

I am contacting 100 Club Members for whom I have an email address. As I do not see everyone at the club I would be grateful if you would mention this to your golfing colleagues and help spread the word so everyone who wishes to re-new their 100 Club subscription can do so to ensure they are included in all the draws for the coming year. If you have already paid - thank you, but please mention it to others in your group or section in case I don't see them or contact them personally.

The monthly prizes of £30, £20 and £10 with a double draw in December, will stay the same and I hope to have a £50 Golf Week Bonus prize again this year depending on the numbers of "paid up" members. All this for £12 for the whole year!

Also it is worth remembering that the 100 Club donates it's surplus to the SGC to help towards the cost of purchasing useful items around the Club for the benefit of all members, such as the defibrillator, golf cart and now the golf shoe and trolley cleaning system.

Thank you for your support and good luck.

The winners of the 100 Club draw for January are:
1st £30 Penny Perkins, 2nd £20 Brian Pratt, 3rd £10 Len Mills

Congratulations to the winners. Prizes may be collected in person from behind the bar.
Subscriptions of £12 are due for next year.

To be included in all next year's draws please pay £12 to Steve behind the bar as soon as possible.

Regards,

Ryn Hudson - 100 Club

TEE RESERVATIONS

Below are days and times where sections of the Club have tee reservations in a normal week.

Monday(B.S.T)	17.00 TO 18.30 JUNIORS (1 ST and 2 nd holes)
Tuesday	08.00 TO 12.00 LADIES
Tuesday (B.S.T)	16.00 TO 17.00 GENTS SOCIAL
Thursday	08.00 TO 12.00 OLD SALTS
Thursday (B.S.T)....	13.30 TO 14.00 LADIES SOCIAL
Sunday.....	08.00 to 12.00 GENTS

The Mid Weekers have two competitions per month (usually middle Wednesday and last Friday of month) where the tees are reserved from 08.00 to 11.30 .

Both 1st and 3rd tees are reserved for the above, with the exception of the social golf where it is the 1 st tee only.

Members should be aware of this and endeavor not to impact on the smooth running of the events and fixtures.

Members should be aware of tee closures for Club matches, friendly matches, and the occasional society, which are all advised by way of the fixture list posted in the clubhouse, the outside notice board, and by way of the course sign situated by the entry to the course.

GOLF ETIQUETTE

The General Committee have been made aware of breaches in normal golfing etiquette by some members which are not acceptable such as:

Bad language, Excessive noise on the patio whilst players are putting out,
Slow play, Non repair of pitchmarks, Gentlemen not tucking shirts in trousers,
Not properly raking bunkers/Placement of rakes,
Not turning up for competitions,

Not entering score after competitions or handing in cards after playing,
Not using bins for disposal of cigarette "butts"

Golf etiquette is an integral part of the game, defining golf's core values.

It describes the manner in which the game should be played

TO ENSURE ALL GAIN MAXIMUM ENJOYMENT.

In short it's about respect!

Respect the course...leave it how YOU would like to find it.

Respect other players..be polite and sportsmanlike.

Respect the game...play to the rules.

If a player consistently disregards the basics of golf etiquette over a period of time then the Committee can take disciplinary action against the offending player(s).

It could be the disqualification from a competition under Rule 33-7

Or even a suspension from playing for a period of time.

Please consider your actions whilst at the Club.

We all play here because we enjoy the social and friendly environment, please work together to maintain standards, within the framework of golfing etiquette.

LOCAL RULE PREFERRED LIES

Effective Saturday 7th October

Until further notice

A BALL LYING ON A CLOSELY MOWN AREA THROUGH THE GREEN MAY BE LIFTED WITHOUT PENALTY AND CLEANED. BEFORE LIFTING THE BALL, THE PLAYER MUST MARK ITS POSITION. HAVING LIFTED THE BALL, THE PLAYER MUST PLACE IT ON A SPOT WITHIN 6 INCHES OF AND NOT NEARER THE HOLE THAN WHERE IT ORIGINALLY LAY, THAT IS NOT IN A HAZARD AND NOT ON A PUTTING GREEN.

PLAYER MAY PLACE HIS BALL ONLY ONCE, AND IT IS IN PLAY WHEN IT HAS BEEN PLACED. IF THE BALL FAILS TO COME TO REST ON THE SPOT ON WHICH IT IS PLACED RULE 20-3D APPLIES. IF THE BALL WHEN PLACED COMES TO REST ON THE SPOT BUT SUBSEQUENTLY MOVES THERE IS NO PENALTY AND THE BALL MUST BE PLAYED AS IT LIES, UNLESS THE PROVISIONS OF ANY OTHER RULE APPLY. IF THE PLAYER FAILS TO MARK THE POSITION OF THE BALL BEFORE LIFTING IT OR MOVES THE BALL IN ANY OTHER MANNER, SUCH AS ROLLING IT WITH A CLUB, HE INCURS A PENALTY OF 1 SHOT. **NOTE:-** 'CLOSELY MOWN AREA' MEANS ANY AREA OF THE COURSE, INCLUDING PATHS THROUGH THE ROUGH CUT TO FAIRWAY HEIGHT OR LESS. PENALTY FOR BREACH OF LOCAL RULE; MATCH PLAY- LOSS OF HOLE.

STROKE PLAY- 2 STROKES. IF PLAYER INCURS THE GENERAL PENALTY FOR A BREACH OF THIS LOCAL RULE NO ADDITIONAL PENALTY UNDER THE LOCAL RULE IS APPLIED.

General Committee

All submissions, comments and photos welcome