

The Henley Saga

May 2010 (No. 7)

Editorial



At long last winter has departed and summer time has been heralded in by the sighting of the first golfer in shorts – not a pretty sight. A few grumbles have been heard from ‘southern softies’ about the cold north-east winds but since it comes from the promised land it can’t all be bad.

A new local rule is that balls are allowed to be lifted and cleaned if covered by volcanic dust!

Max Jones



April Results

6th April – Stableford

Div. 1 – 1st Alan Foxwell 37 pts (BB9), 2nd Steve Perring – 37 pts.

Div. 2 – Eileen Bennett – 30 pts, Ian Purves – 28 pts.

12th April – Pairs Stableford.

1st – Rick Bailey/Chris Johnson – 36 pts.(BB9)

2nd – Alan Foxwell/Martin Shalley – 36 pts.

Walker Cup – 19th April.

The women’s team ran out easy winners over the three men’s teams by 15 points! Twelve ladies scored 30 points or better.

Individual results.

Div 1* – Alan Foxwell – 37 pts (BB9), 2nd – Jim Griffiths – 37 pts.

Div 2 – Alan Cooke – 40 pts, 2nd – Peter Bristol – 39 pts

Div 3 – Diane Elsegood 39 pts (BB9), Peter Duck – 39 pts.

- An appeal was made by Jim Griffith that the winner should be disqualified due to the fact that he does not look old and decrepit enough. The appeal was turned down due to the fact that Alan was given dispensation for playing during the school holidays and would be back in school uniform!



Senior men’s team

6th April v Ingon Manor

This is a traditional losing opening fixture for the men and Henley’s perky pensioners did not disappoint going down 5-3!

8th April v Widney

This was almost a clean sweep Henley winning 6-1. The lone defeat was down to that pugnacious pairing Ray Chapman and Paul Cooper who, after being four up with six to play, snatched defeat from the jaws of victory!

15th April v Warwickshire.

The Warwickshire are probably the strongest team we meet and so it proved with Henley going down 5.5 to 3.5. First pairing out of the starting gate was Healing and Jones who were determined to lead by example but seven down at the tenth was not the example they had in mind!



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20th April v Wishaw

The expected easy victory turned out to be a hard fought draw 4 – 4. The Wishaw team had the usual good, bad and the ugly and the statutory sprinkling of bandits. Patrick 'I was robbed' Baggaley commemorated his, and Paul Cooper's demise by writing a poem 'Ode to a Bandit' which was read at the post-dinner festivities.

Winter Pairs

Brian Parkin and Brian Hiorns lifted the trophy after a long winter campaign made all the more laborious by the fact that global warming made the course look like the Somme! The disconsolate losers in the final were the perky pair Phil Newman and Alan Mobbs. As Shakespeare once uttered 'It is better to have loved and lost than have never loved at all.' This quote was totally lost on the couple sobbing in the corner of the bar.



Nine days after the final and Phil still can't see the positive side of the winter pairs final!

Summer Pairs

This competition is now in full flow and a huge cheer was heard in the bar when the competition's 2009 champions and favourites Clarke/Baggaley were knocked out in the first round by giant-killers Elsegood and Wilson.

Summer Singles

Don't forget that the person giving shots gives those shots off the opponent's stroke index.

Cheers emerged from the ladies section as Max Jones bit the dust at the hands of Pauline Maycock. Max stated that the result was a fluke and that if Pauline had not had 18 lucky drives and 18 lucky putts he would have halved the match and probably have lost the play-off!



May Competitions

4th May (Tuesday!) – Texas Scramble – organiser Chris Cooper.

10th May – Stableford – Peter Walker

17th May – Pairs Stableford – Eastwoods.

24th May - Kent and Jarrett Cups – Roger Flood

Don't forget that the competition is a shotgun start followed by a lunch. Good to see that thirty members attended the Walker Cup lunch – a figure to beat on the 24th.

A reminder to the elders of our frisky pensioners that on **June 1st** the Veterans Trophy (over 70) will be held alongside of the Monday Stableford. Last year Dave Chatterley won the event but never found the trophy – does anyone know its whereabouts?



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Senior Men's Open – the entries are thus far poor and home entries would be welcome. Roger Flood is the organiser,

Profile of the Month – Ray Chapman

Occupation (previous if retired) - Teacher

Home town/village. Nowhere really. Brought up in RAF family all over the place!

Birth town - Taplow, Bucks

Present handicap - 21 Best ever handicap - 19

Best moment in golf - The first day of a golfing holiday

Worst moment. Taking 14 at the Henley 11th in a medal (playing with Greg Barber and Terry Darby)

Honours won. Peter Roberts Trophy. Stote Dunsmore (plate) Cycle proficiency. One width backstroke certificate.

Strongest aspect of your game. Probably my height.

Weaknesses. Bunker shots - without a doubt

Tip for the inexperienced player. Put bad shots behind you and move on

Most like about Henley senior golf. The people and ham baguettes

Most like to change. Nothing really.

Favourite course. West Course at La Manga

Favourite player (present) - Westwood. Past Ballesteros.

Make of your irons. Adams

Driver. Wilson

Putter. Wilson

Preferred ball. Titleist (don't ask me why)

Other interests (past and present) Walking, literature, Times Crossword, and grandchildren

Motto in life. Carpe Diem

How and when did you take up the sport of golf?
When I finished cricket at about 55. I took it more seriously (believe it or not) when I retired three and half years ago. You are never too old!



Leading by example on the first Ray shows his best side to the camera!



Captain's View from the Bridge

A busy time is had by all! 67 played the Walker Cup. Four men's matches completed with moderate success. Many new members fitting in quickly. Summer pairs and singles criss-crossing the fairways. Away day over subscribed. And decent weather for a change!



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Advance warning for a week in July when we have 3 men's matches. July 6/7/8. Availability will be appreciated.

Next lunch is after the Kent/Jarrett Cups. May 24. Please make a note.

Les Ness spotted on the course last week. Welcome back. Also great to see Margaret Kent playing again.

Enjoy your golf medal on Monday. I expect the Okehampton party are devastated at missing it!!

Ben Hogan

"The only shots you can be dead sure of are those you've already taken."

Byron Nelson

"Golf is more fun than walking naked in a strange place – but only just."

Buddy Hackett

The Henley Ash! (R.I.P)

The eagles have landed!



The sighting of an eagle is rare indeed and so are eagles on the golf course. Barbara Jones recorded a two on the 11th (6th April) and Rick Bailey a three on the 15th (12th April).

Senior Men's Player of the Year.

The titanic struggle begins with 2009 joint winners Scrimshire/Ginns defending their title. Compiler Derek Healing gives points for winning and drawing in senior matches with the emphasis on away wins. David Knowles is first out of the blocks with an average of 4 points from three matches closely followed by Flood (3.67), Griffiths (3.67), Griffith (2.67) and Chapman (2.25). but there again with 25 matches to go the early leaders usually come to a sticky end and a few tortoises slip by!



May Quotes.

"I play with friends, but we don't play friendly games."

Max Jones



Remember!

Ash - 'Fraxinus excelsior'

Originally the tree was damaged on an Easter Friday due to strong North Easterly winds while in full leaf. As the centre was hollow and the tree surviving from just three inches around one side, the damage was fatal!

If the tree had been solid, a metal strap system could have been used, but when hollow, there is nothing that could be done than to reduce the top weight of the tree.



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The decision was taken in February to remove all of the remaining stump around the base, as there were more signs of rot and due to the position of the stump and members/guests/visitors being in the close proximity, it was taken down completely.

The hump which is left will be levelled this Winter and the area re-turfed.

The other reason to remove it was that it was a magnet for wedding guests to have their photos taken under it. After all the work involved to create the gardens at the side of the Beaudesert Suite, I wanted to give the members the patio back and keep the wedding guests away. It also stops the guests migrating from the stump onto the 18th! Health and Safety does not allow them to mix!!!!

It seems to be working well so far!

Graham Waller