



Southwold Golf Club

Established 1884

Southwold Rabbit

Christmas 2020 The Myxomatosis Edition



Congratulations to Jean Halil for a Hole in One on Breakout after Lockdown

Congratulations to **Jean Halil** on hitting a Hole in One on Wednesday 14th May 2020 – her first golf round after lockdown. Playing with her husband, **Harold**, she took her Driver on the 4th Hole and saw the ball go down the hole. This is **Jean's** third Hole in One, the others were at Diss Golf Course on the Twelfth Hole. Since the Club House was closed, **Jean** had to wait until it opened again to buy the Ladies a drink to celebrate her achievement. A lovely start to our return to golf after some 8 months. So far there is no news of anyone else achieving a Hole in One when we restarted playing again on Wednesday 2nd December 2020.



Within days of Liverpool winning the Championship League, the Club Flag changed colour and a new logo appeared, any ideas as to the culprit?

The Joys of Lockdown

MATT



'It's so depressing. I could be stuck in a bunker, swearing at my golf ball and trying to snap my club in half'

Cartoon used with permission from Telegraph Media Group



Ros Self sporting her Christmas Hat in the Ladies Christmas Competition.

Wishing You a Very Happy Christmas and a Healthy 2021

Message from the Chair of the Executive Committee

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Dear Members,

As we approach the end of this very difficult year it's time to take stock and look forward to a much better year ahead. At least we are back on the course again and able to play and I'm glad so many of our traditional Christmas Competitions can take place.

As I write this it's very nearly time to say goodbye to **Gareth** and his team. As I said previously, **Gareth** has provided amazing service to this club and we all wish him all the best as he takes on his new challenge. It's a real shame that we can't all be there to see them all off as we usually would have done, but our allocation to

Tier 2 has meant that we could not open the clubhouse. The Executive will be recognising **Gareth's** service and this will be announced in a global communication.

Alan Day and **Becky Lee** have been training and planning to take over their new roles. As soon as we can let's make sure we can give them all the support we can.

In the meanwhile, we have been getting down to work on a feasibility study for a desperately needed re-vamp of the Professional's Shop (the building is in need of quite a bit of work) and also planning for the swing room. Our thanks to **Nick Haward** who has helped with putting a plan and drawings together. We will keep you updated as we progress towards making a decision if we can move forward with these developments.

Again, as we returned to golf, we found the course in excellent order. A big thank you to **Sam** and the Greens Staff for taking the opportunity of a quiet course to get so much work done.

Richard continues to run his lottery and Christmas draw and these are being well supported.

Finally, thank you to all you members who have continued to support the club through such difficult times. I hope you all keep well and enjoy the Christmas season as much as we are allowed to.

David

Chairman & CEO

Message from the President



Ho Ho Ho.

What a year we've experienced.

The good news is Mr Johnson says it's going to get better !

This time last year I invited my good buddies from Halesworth and Eaton including our Professional **Richard** to attend the annual Halesworth v Southwold Christmas all stars match followed by a sumptuous Christmas lunch kindly arranged by **Gareth** and Hospitality 19.

Little did we realise we were going to experience the COVID 19 global pandemic with lockdowns and various Tier restrictions. We should however take time to be mindful of the sad loss of loved ones due to the virus and the on-going pain experienced by so many families.

Please respect the restrictions and act responsibly at all times to help prevent further infections of this awful disease. Our thanks go to the NHS and all Front line workers in Industry and Education that have worked continuously throughout the pandemic.

A year on and **Gareth** is leaving the Club after 11 years in office. We send our best wishes and sincere thanks to **Gareth, Lucy** and The Team for all their sterling work. We also send our best wishes and sincere thanks to **Ladies' Captain Barbara** and wish her happy golfing in retirement.

As we say farewell and thanks to **Gareth** we welcome **Alan Day** as our newly appointed **Secretary/Manager**. **Becky Lee** as the newly appointed **Catering Supervisor** and our **Club Professional Richard** as **Director of Golf**. We also have two recently appointed Trustees **Derek Self** and **Richard Frost** following the recent passing of **John French** and retirement of **Tom Turney**. I'm sure you'll join me in wishing all new appointees every success for the future and kindly ask all members to give them a huge support.

My sincere thanks go to all members for supporting the club during these challenging times. Since 1884 Southwold Golf Club has been through many turbulent periods and I'm sure the Club will sail through these stormy waters. With the COVID vaccination program now underway, we thank the medical research Scientists for their dedication and expertise in the development of a successful vaccine.

On behalf of the Members we send our thanks and best wishes to CEO **David** and the **Executive Board** who have practically restaffed our Club, well done !! Thanks and best wishes to **Club Captain Adele, Ladies' Captain Barbara, Seniors' Captain Nigel** and **Junior Captain Reuben** and their Vice Captains for a successful 2021. We thank **Terry** and The Golf Group including our **Green Staff Sam, Michael** and **Roger** for looking after the course during lockdown.

Hopefully we can now look forward to enjoying happier times together and focus on Club Competitions, inter Club matches, County Matches, charity and social events including the highly popular Lunch Golf. Meanwhile please take care and stay well Love and kindness to all Members for a happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas.

Swing well for 2021.

President Millsy

Here goes, Captain's Year, take 2, I've had the practice run now let's hope the re-run goes well.

Christmas is almost here and the usual club festivities sadly won't be happening but we still have our golf. Let's make the most of it.

For me, Christmas Eve will be spent travelling to and from London twice and then all being well Christmas Day will be spent in the usual way, breakfast, open presents (if we get any), 9 holes of golf and then back home to sort out Xmas dinner and just chill.

A few years back I can remember a certain person who will remain nameless saying to her mum, 'look there's even idiots out there playing golf on Christmas Day' and then as we got a bit closer to where she lives she said 'those idiots are **Adele and Michael**'. She now walks up and meets us for a quick chat on the 2nd, this year, if she can get away with it, she may become one of those idiots!

In the previous Rabbit I suggested if you are bored to write a short story, it appears we only have one budding novelist amongst us – well done **Margaret!** (See Page No. 10) A cake of your choice will be heading your way.

On the subject of books, if you want a good laugh have a read of Too Many Clubs and not Enough Balls. I read this whilst on holiday in Tenerife a few years ago, I found it extremely funny and can remember **Michael** kept saying to me, 'what are you chuckling about now?'.

Hopefully 2021 will be an improvement on 2020. I am hoping that County matches will go ahead and myself and **Trevor** will be able to support our county teams, Festival of Golf Week will go ahead and the rest of the golfing year will have some form of normality to it.

Wishing you all a happy Christmas and a great golfing 2021.

Adele



Ladies' Captain's Report

I hope everyone has a good Xmas, we will all look forward to the New Year with more golf and promises of golfing life moving forward to normality. I would like to wish **Gareth** well for the future and to the two **Lucys**. As everything has been very serious lately this is an amusing story and a poem.

A country club didn't allow women on the golf course. Eventually there was enough pressure to allow women on the course during the week. The ladies were satisfied with this arrangement, formed a ladies section and became active. After 6 months the club board received a letter complaining about men answering the call of nature on the course. Naturally they just ignored the matter. After another 6 months they received another letter reminding them of the previous letter and demanding action. After due deliberation they sent the ladies a letter advising them they had been granted equal privileges.

The Perfect Swing

Address the ball with a confident air
Grip your club gently but waggles with flair
Keep your head still, an immovable sphere
Do what you must to keep your mind clear

Tuck in that elbow, keep the other arm straight
Think of your hips as a smooth swinging gait
Balance your stance and when all's right below
Bring the club back, not too fast, not too slow

A gentle exhale is just the right thing
To begin the flow of your downswing
Follow through as you finish your pivot
Then pray that your ball goes at least past your divot.



Another thought, the reason the club professional tells you to keep your head down is so you can't see him laughing.

Happy new year and best wishes to **Alan** and **Rebecca** for the coming year and to all golfers everywhere.

Barbara

Ladies' Captain



Seniors' Captain's Report



Whilst it has been a difficult year for all of us, we have been fortunate to be able to escape to the golf course when we haven't been in lockdown. Unfortunately, all our friendly matches were cancelled but we have enjoyed the camaraderie of the Senior Roll-ups and a number of Seniors' competitions which **Nigel Johnson** and **Richard Smith** kindly organised for us. We managed to play the majority of the annual Seniors' major competitions, albeit without the usual enjoyable lunch & banter afterwards. I set out below the main results:

Harry Wilkins won the **John Kennedy Shield** on count-back with 41 points and **Gordon Stuart** was runner-up. The over 65's Cup was won by **Roger Emmerson** with 41 points with **Conrad Swan** and **Alan Adlington** runners-up on 40 points. The Seniors' Summer Shield, a medal competition off the white tees was won by **Peter McNally** with an impressive net score for the 2 rounds of 132, **Derek Self** was runner-up with 139.

The 3 Clubs and a Putter competition was won by **Richard Peck** with 41 points, runner-up **John Pywell** with 39. The other clubs they normally carry in their bags are obviously surplus to requirements. The Summer knock-out was won by **Andy Robinson** who beat **John Morris** in extra time after a hard-fought contest. **Andy** is obviously rather good at Matchplay having won the Winter knockout as well, I hope I don't get drawn against him again next year.

The Spring Challenge was actually held at the end of October in driving rain and strong winds. As these can be normal spring conditions in Scotland **Gordon Stuart** triumphed with 40 points followed by **Steve Potter** with 35 points.

We are fortunate to be back on the course again and we have 2 team competitions to look forward to in December, the Texas scramble and the Yellow Ball. Don't forget your Christmas hats for the 22nd December competition. I seem to remember the only person to forget last year was **Nigel Johnson**. It will be the first competitive opportunity to use our new handicaps!

Hopefully by the Spring we will be returning to some form of normality and our programme of friendly matches can go ahead as planned. Our first match is away at Thorpeness on 17th March.

Finally can I thank **Gareth** on behalf of the Seniors for the huge support he has given to the Seniors' Section and wish him every success in his new role.

Happy Christmas & New Year to all Members of the Club and your families.

Nigel Brown

Senior's Captain

Message from the Junior Captain

Hello All,

2020 hasn't been the best year for golf, but I am looking forward to the New Year and what comes with it.

Kind regards,

Reuben Harvey Junior Captain



Fame in the FT for Southwold Golf Course

On 7th November an article entitled 'Dreaming of the Green' appeared in the Saturday edition of the Financial Times. **Andrew Martin** commenced his article with the following words:

I like to think that my abiding memory of this summer will not be any moment of Covid fraughtness. It will be the image of my lonely golf ball casting a shadow longer than itself on the last green of the links at Southwold, Suffolk. The sun is setting; gulls are wheeling overhead; my car is the last one in the car park beyond.

He goes on to say:.....There's a footpath alongside the course, Southwold being on common land, which is used by dog walkers who are touchingly confident of my ability to hit the fairway and avoid them.

We know we are lucky to have such a lovely golf course, and it is interesting to hear how others are enjoying it as well.

Dear Members

With just 2 weeks left at Southwold GC it is a good opportunity to reflect on our 11 years with the club.

Taking over from the previous caterer presented some challenges and we were swiftly welcomed by club members. In the early days my position as Steward and Caterer had me running around wearing many different hats throughout the day- thankfully, as our trade increased we expanded our team and welcomed some key staff. In particular **Lucy Mewse** and **Rebecca Lee**.



After 6 successful years catering and managing the Clubhouse I was appointed as **General Manager** which was a real privilege. I have thoroughly enjoyed every challenge that this role has presented. No two days have ever been the same and I look back at the last 5 years with fondness. As for highlights, the successful appointment of **Richard Smith!** Richard's professional approach and business focus has resulted in him being a real asset to our club.

I must thank **Simon Flunder** and **David Kent** for their commitment to the club and myself during their terms as Chairman of the Executive Committee.

My wife **Lucy** and **Lucy Mewse** have managed the catering for the club in more recent years and I am exceptionally proud in the way they have managed the daily demands of a members' golf club.

2020 has been the biggest challenge which none of us could have foreseen. The restrictions placed on us as caterers presented a whole new challenge. With no government support, and a desire to continue trading, the team set up "The Southwold Food Co", delivering meals to the local community. We are exceptionally grateful to all who supported this initiative and this will now be the main focus for the team moving forward from our new premises in Southwold.

As you may already know I have been appointed as **Secretary Manager** of **Rookery Park Golf Club** and I look forward to this new chapter in my career. I am sure our paths will cross in the years to come with inter-club matches being played between the two clubs.

A final thank you to you all for your support over the last 11 years. I am proud to say the club is in good shape despite the turbulent year we have had. I wish **Richard, Alan** and **Rebecca** and the Club every success moving forward.

Best wishes for a more successful and enjoyable 2021 for us all.

Gareth, Lucy and Lucy!

Lady of Vice

I seem to have earned this name from the Golf Competitions that I imposed on the ladies from May 2020. Although some ladies felt that we should be playing more Cup games or even all the Cups, we decided to adopt a balanced programme. And I don't mean 1 hours golf followed by 2 hours coffee. Tempting. Firstly we aimed to play Social golf followed by qualifiers and Cup games, finishing with the Christmas competition and the Pre and Post Christmas Wizz – an individual stableford game involving a number of chucks. Naturally there are no prizes for hitting anyone!

At the end of the year I was really pleased to see so many ladies enjoying the course and the amazing weather. Much to my surprise we had a full turn out, week after week even when we had those dreaded medals.

Our thanks to **Sam** and **Michael** for a wonderful Course and the Club Team for providing such welcoming food. When you've been in Lockdown, not able to eat out, the takeaways were a real treat. Those fish and chips on a Friday evening were delicious.

Special thanks to **Richard** and **Nick** for their patience when constantly being asked, "What time am I playing" and for trying to guide us through the new handicap and slope system.

The under-statement of year must be – "The new World Handicap System is designed to make handicapping easier to understand"

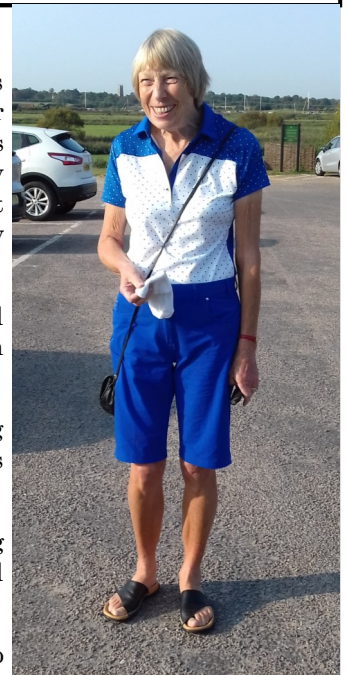
Has anyone else had 3 new handicaps without hitting a ball?

All those Phone calls to play golf were a real morale booster until I read -

A good golf partner is one who's always slightly worse than you are.....that's why I get so many calls!

Pam Bolton

Ladies Vice Captain



Pam Bolton finally wearing her new summer golf outfit



Nigel Johnson has joined the Executive Committee. **Nigel** is well known in the Club and in his current position as Secretary to the Seniors' Section is very active in keeping them on the ball.



Jonathan Sutton has recently returned from East Africa where he has been working for the last 20 years. He started playing at Southwold many years ago with his Father-in-Law, **John Miller**, and eventually joined as an Overseas Member. **Jonathan** is an Irish Chartered Accountant who has a broad range of experience including establishing and running a number of companies in East Africa as well as sitting on the Boards of a number of not-for-profit organisations. When he was in Kenya, he was appointed as the Irish Honorary Consul, a position he held until Ireland opened an Embassy!

New Appointments to the Club House Team



Alan Day

Congratulations to **Alan** for his appointment as Secretary/Manager of Southwold Golf Club. Although many of us have only just met him, he comes with very strong ties to the Club and the local area, having grown up in Southwold.

Alan has played golf since early childhood, and was a Junior Member of Southwold, achieving a 10 handicap, but then work got in the way. He became a PE teacher at the English School in Kuwait and Qatar, working abroad for a number of years. When Kuwait closed the schools due to the Pandemic in April 2020, **Alan** decided to return to the UK to be nearer to his family, and he started work at Southwold Golf Club in a temporary job. He felt at home in the Club, with familiar faces and received a very warm welcome from the members and enjoyed the environment. When **Gareth** announced he was leaving, **Alan** applied for the job.

Alan's Father, Richard (Dickie) Day, was a prominent member of the Club. He was Captain in 1973, with a single-figure handicap and his name is on the Silver Challenge Cup Board as winner in 1969 and 1970. He was also responsible for the course, which at that time had no sand bunkers. As Captain, he decided we needed them and got them built. (Note- After a bad round having visited the bunkers, members should desist from taking this out on **Alan**!).

Apparently **Alan's** golf clubs are on the way back from Kuwait, so we hope to see him on the Course before too long.

Rebecca Lee

Congratulations to **Rebecca Lee** for her appointment as Catering Supervisor. **Rebecca**, or Becks as she is often called, is well known to the Club. Her Father was a member of the club for a number of years, and her brother was Junior Captain. Over the last 10 years she has been a familiar figure behind the bar, and we will all have a friendly face to greet us when we come in after a challenging round.

In commenting on her appointment, Rebecca said she had enjoyed working with **Gareth**, **Lucy Jones** and **Lucy Mewse** and wished them well for the future. She is looking forward to taking up her position with **Alan Day** and providing social and golfing hospitality events when things return to normal once lockdown is over.



Ladies AmAm Despite the Lockdown, the Ladies' Section managed to hold their AmAm, which was much appreciated by the team from **Gorleston** (left) and **Woodbridge** (right).



Goodbye to Barbara

Barbara Hurr being rewarded by **David Kent**, CEO of Executive Committee, on her retirement from Bar Steward at the Club for over 14 years. She will be much missed, particularly by the Seniors and Gents, who were greeted by her smile and encouraging words on Tuesday and Sunday mornings, after recovering from a challenging round. **Barbara** received a generous voucher for the Pro Shop and is enjoying her new clubs – despite the Driver taking some time to get used to her!



Seen on the 9th Hole, this visitor was thought to be an Adder, making some members anxious, but later was named as merely a grass snake—so no danger to golfers.

Happy Ninetieth Birthday to Alf Wolton

Congratulations to **Alf Wolton** who celebrated his 90th birthday in November. **Alf** is a familiar figure on the golf course on Mondays and Fridays, and always at Lunch Golf. He tells me he has never had a handicap, as although he has enjoyed playing golf for most of his life, his career in engineering took him abroad to a number of countries in West Africa and the Far East. This meant he never played regularly at a club to get a handicap. Despite this, he has been a winner in Lunch Golf playing off 28, and also he won the **Jimmy Jordan Trophy** that is an interesting competition played by the Seniors which gives an age allowance. The older you are, the more points are added to your Stableford score. With members now in their nineties, they may have to extend their range!



Ladies Christmas Competition



Jenny Pywell in her Christmas Hat



Pam Bolton, Ladies Vice Captain hat was well decorated with Christmas bling



Well, it's been a very different year. Back in March, I wondered what was going to happen to the club and my business and by Mid July I was thinking Covid was the best thing ever to happen to the golf industry. I have never seen golf and golf courses as busy as they have been this summer. We as a club have had days where we have been unable to accommodate any more golfers.

When we came out of lockdown in May we established the tee-booking system which has now incorporated an online booking feature. This has been a massive step forward for the club and I have seen an increase of members playing golf.

This year I was able to invest in a Trackman launch monitor. This is an amazing piece of technology, which I am able to use for club fitting, coaching, and distance measuring. This will also be used in the coaching room when that is finished in the near future. If you want a lesson or just know your yardages please come and see me and book a session.

December will be a sad month as **Gareth** leaves us. **Gareth** has been a fantastic support to me since I joined Southwold and it will be a massive loss to us, however, I wish him luck at Rookery. It will also be sad that **Lucy Jones** and **Lucy Mewes** are also leaving us. They are a brilliant team and will be a great loss to the club. I wish them luck with their new ventures.

Also in December the Professional Shop Christmas raffle will be drawn. There is still a few numbers left if you fancy the chance to win a Powacaddy FX3 Trolley and many other prizes.

Finally, I just want to say a massive thank you to everyone who has supported me this year, whether that has been via the savings club, playing the professional shop lotteries, or by having lessons. It means the world to me and I am very grateful. As always I am here for you and your golfing needs.

Director of Golf Report

Well, it was a great honour to be appointed DoG of Southwold Golf Club and I hope I can do a good job in helping look after this beautiful golf course.

Firstly I would like to say a well done to **Sam**, **Michael** and **Roger** for the excellent work they have done this year. The course has been amazing and is a credit to them.

It wasn't the best start having been appointed to start on the 1st November and the course is forced to close on the 4th. However, the forced lockdown helped **Sam** start and finish some winter projects.

Sam has rebuilt the left greenside bunker on the first and visually made a big improvement, the bunker is now closer to the green, a little deeper, and a different shape. Also behind the green, we have made the trolley park and path a little bigger and removed a dead tree.

Winter mats have now been placed on the 7th, 8th, and 10th tees. These mats, along with the 5th/14th and 16th, will help with wear over the winter.

The Gents' white tee on 13 has been lowered and doubled in size. **Sam** will turf this in the near future and be ready for the summer season.

Sam will be looking at ways to improve the path on the 9th to make it a little easier walking down the hill.

We do have a small problem and I would like all members to get involved. We all need to fix our pitch marks on the greens. If you don't have a pitchfork please come and see me, I can sell you a nice one or you can have one FOC from the golf club. If you don't know how to repair a pitch-mark please come and see me and I will show you how.

2nd November saw the start of the World Handicap System (WHS) It hasn't been a great start for it but I am sure we will all get our heads around it at some point. If you have any questions about the WHS please come and see me.

We launched the online booking app this November and it has been a great success, we have gone from zero users to 140 in a month, hopefully, we can get this to 200 by the end of the year. We aren't booking competitions online yet but this will be reviewed.

If you have any suggestions, problems, or questions please see your section Golf Group Rep or email **Terry Broome** or me and we will do our best to help.

Thank you for your support over this tough year. Please repair your pitch marks and enjoy your golf over the festive season.

Richard Smith

Director of Golf

Weeks in solitary confinement, well not quite, I still have the boss directing operations and keeping me on my toes. Golf, can you remember what that is?

Roll-up days, draw for partners and then:

Place a ball on a tee and hit it, (you hope) and then exclaim ‘which way did that go’. When the rest of the group have teed off the next problem will be to remember where all the balls went. Two in the bushes, one in the long grass and there’s a surprise, one on the fairway. Next hit your ball to the green. First try is a fresh air shot, second shot topped, third shot shanked into the bushes again. Another drop, what do you mean that’s more than two club lengths, we are not playing a medal round. The next stroke lands the ball in the green side bunker, ‘Oh Blast and Bother it, I hate bunkers’. Two practice swings removing a ton of sand before driving the ball into the face of the bunker. I think it may be a plugged ball, I will place it to the side. What do you mean? I should drop it, if I do it will run back into the bunker, waste of time I will place it. Chip shot fly’s across the green, one more chip shot plus a putt gets the ball on the green to much applause from the rest of the group. Only three putts and the ball finally drops in the hole. ‘How many was that?’ I think it was one over, next hole please.

Isn’t golf fun

Back to Rules:

Please remember all obstacles on the course are fixed while the pandemic lasts.

This includes Hoops, markers, posts and ropes.

Nearest point of relief not nearer the hole plus a club length. No penalty.

If you do not take relief as stated and remove the obstacle you will be playing from a wrong place. Two shot penalty.

Our New Handicaps

After a waiting what seems a very long time, we have been allocated our new handicaps and almost all of us seem to have gone up. It looked as if that would result in some good scores, but it was not always the case.

The first time the Ladies played off their new handicaps, almost everyone came in reporting they had had a very bad round. Our Lady Captain – whose handicap is 20– said she had never played so badly since she started golf.

The Seniors were unfortunate to have bad weather on their first attempt with their new handicaps, so we are yet to hear how they fared.

Fearing the effect of the new inflated handicaps, a Scottish Past Captain requested the Seniors’ Secretary to make the following request to the Executive Committee:

“In the light of the proposed new WHS handicaps, most of the car parking spaces at the Club should be replaced with water troughs and railings so that those bandits with their new handicaps can tie their horses to them.”

Nigel Johnson, the Secretary, thought hard about this request and decided before submitting the item for the agenda he should consult **President Millsy**. He reports that the President fully supported its inclusion, but speaking to him on Zoom, he could see the holster at his hip and the newly purchased cowboy hat on his head.

It is understood this is now Work in Progress!

WHS Day 2nd November

Eagerly awaited, and so heavily criticised by some, the new handicaps came into effect for Seniors in their first outing in the Roll Up on Thursday 3rd November.

I have to say that there was much banter on the putting green when I arrived to play. It varied from a certain member sidling up to me to tell that under no circumstances was he playing with the greatly inflated handicap he had been given (and he didn’t!) to another who told me that clearly, he had not been increased enough (as his round score that day endorsed!). One member even told me that he had only played three times in two months, but had gone up three shots!!

There was much disbelief concerning handicaps and offers to give the members with the highest handicaps the money before they teed off! However, as with all matters with the Seniors, spirits were high, fun was to be had, Company was enjoyed and the levels of new handicaps largely ignored, although there were a number of comments regarding those who received two shots on the par 3’s!!

It remains to be seen how the new system will settle down and whether Seniors find that those with their new handicaps around the 30 mark(!) will indeed “...*take the money*...” Hopefully these members will find they come down just as rapidly as they have gone up, as they find success out on the course!!

Nigel Johnson

By Margaret Beckett (Any resemblance to familiar golfers is purely coincidental)

Mack was arriving home after a day working on the greens at the Golf Club and looking forward to a quiet evening. As he opened the door, Audrey, his partner greeted him with a sour look.

‘How did you play?’ he asked. He knew Audrey had played Marina in the finals of a knockout competition.

‘Don’t ask’, was the reply. ‘Once again my card was ruined by that stupid bunker on the right of the 4th/13th green. It’s just in the wrong position. If you get into it, it’s hell to get out of. In fact it made me swear and that offended Marina. Next week it’s the Easter Cup and I want to win that and get my name on the board over the bar this year. I need your help’.

‘Mine?’ replied Mack. ‘What can I do about your game?’

‘I’ll tell you later’, was the reply. Audrey was the first lady to be appointed Captain of the Club and so far this had not caused any problems between them. After dinner she brought up the subject again.

‘It’s on the 4th/13th Hole. If you cut the grass on the approach to the green very short it allows the ball to run down into the bunker. But if you leave it long, including the grass inside the bunker, there is a possibility it will stop my ball going into the sand, and I will have a chance of a par or even a birdie. So if you could just omit cutting on the right that might help a lot.’

It wasn’t the first time Mack had been tackled about the 4th/13th hole. He knew the bunker well that Audrey was referring to. Only last Sunday his ball had narrowly missed running into it. In fact Jack, his golfing partner that day, had congratulated him on the condition of the course, but followed up with a question.

‘Can I make a suggestion? This hole can be tricky if you land just short of the Green on the right, your ball is tempted to run into that bunker, and you lose the chance of getting a good score. It looks as if I will be playing my old adversary in the Easter Cup and he always veers slightly to the right, whereas I aim left to avoid it. If you cut the grass down on the approach to the bunker and put the hole on the right of the green, I can avoid it and he will probably go into it, as with a close cut there is a good chance his ball may run down into the sand.’

As an employee of the Club, Mack enjoyed his job as one of the green keepers and was proud of the condition the course was in after a long, wet winter, and now he was being asked to compromise his position. He couldn’t please both of them, even if he was prepared to help in any way, and what was the position about refusing a request from the Captain of the Club? Did that over-rule an instruction from the Head Green-Keeper? How does one know the pecking-order?

After a sleepless night, he still could not decide what to do. Should he be fair and cut as usual, or avoid cutting it again to leave it slightly longer. That may help to stop balls rolling into the infamous bunker and also calm the situation at home.

Audrey had reminded him of her request. ‘Have you had a look at the hole since we spoke? We only have a few days for the grass to grow.’ His schedule meant he was due to the cut that hole on the morning of the finals of the Easter Cup. This year, due to how the numbers fell, they had already played the semi-finals the previous day, leaving both the final matches to take place that day.

The Ladies were due to go out first, and Audrey had made the finals and was playing against a very competent player. It would be a challenging match. The men would play their match following on from the Ladies, and Jack had also got into the final group, playing against his old adversary – who had won the competition three times.

The Ladies’ match was played in sunshine and Audrey was hitting well. Despite the wind that had got up by the time they got to the 13th hole, she managed to miss the bunker and won the hole with a par, that put her one hole ahead. She hadn’t time to notice how rough the approach was and whether her partner had acceded to her request. On the 17th she won the competition and the Easter Cup – just what she wanted. Now her name would be up in on the board – the year of her Captaincy – quite an achievement.

The Men’s competition started off in good weather, but storm clouds were brewing. By the time Jack and his partner had got to the 13th a thunderstorm with lightning broke out. Jack was on the tee box preparing to drive when the horn was blown and the match had to be called off. It was scheduled to be continued the next day.

Mack had been waiting in the Club House to see the end of the match come in. When he heard the horn he checked his schedule and saw he was not due to make the early morning cut the next day. So his dilemma about how to cut the hole in question was solved. It was somebody else’s problem, and however it was cut – Jack could not blame him.

He went home looking forward to seeing Audrey and celebrating her win. Since she had not hit short of the green and threatened to go into the problem bunker, she would probably never know if he had tried to help her or not.

On arriving home he was greeted by an enthusiastic partner.

‘Guess what? They have asked me to continue into next year as Captain. What do you think?’

Mack headed straight for his favourite beverage and poured himself a treble!

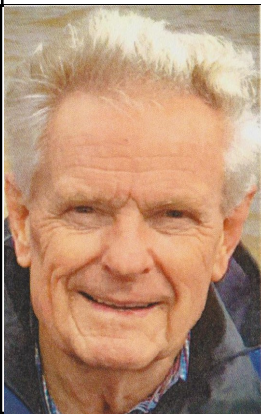


Ellen seen her with Past Captains
l-r Di Spring, Ellen Bayliss, Jenny
Heil, Shirley Oldman and Margaret
Dinn (in front row)

Ellen Bayliss

Ellen Bayliss is well remembered by the Ladies Section. Having served as Handicap Secretary, she was appointed Ladies Captain in 1991, and members recall that she was a very good captain, and was very strict on rules of the game. She took part in County Competitions and was always very keen to support our teams.

Ellen was a member for some 30 years, and before coming to Southwold was Ladies Captain in a Club in Essex. She was also a very keen Bridge player, but sadly she had problems with her eyes that meant she could not play later in her life. She passed away during lockdown at the age of 97 years, and will be missed from the Past Captains meetings when they – hopefully – resume after we come out of lockdown.



John French

John French served as a Trustee for the Golf Club for a number of years. He was an Overseas Member of Southwold until 1993 when he moved back to the UK and became a full member. In addition to his membership of Southwold Golf Club, where he was a regular player at Lunchtime and Supper Golf, he was also a member of Aldeburgh.

John's Mother-in-Law's Brother, **Arnold Brown**, donated the Putter for the President's Putter Competition played with Eaton Golf Course in Norwich. Due to health problems **John** had purchased a golf buggy but never used it and this has been donated to the golf club, which is much appreciated. Our sympathy goes to his family for their sad loss.

Malcolm Davies

Malcolm was a very well-known and much loved member of the Seniors' Section. He was loved for his sense of humour and will be missed for the pleasure and enjoyment he gave to his fellow golf partners. Our sympathy goes to his family for their sad loss.

Mary Hopkins

We are sad to report the passing of **Mary Hopkins**, a former member of the Ladies Section. The wife of Dr Hopkins, a local doctor, they came to Southwold in the 1950's and more recently were social members of our club.

ITEMS REQUIRED FOR CHARITY

Mick & Jenny Heil are collecting good used items for the Charity Hope & Aid Direct a non-profit Charity founded by Charles Storer the son of the late Jack Storer of Southwold.

The items most needed are BLANKETS, (Sorry no Duvets) TOWELS, SLEEPING BAGS, WALKING SHOES TRAINERS, WARM OUTER & GENERAL CLOTHING, ANY HYGIENE ITEMS,

SOAP, TOOTH BRUSHES & PASTE, SAFETY RAZORS & SHAVING PRODUCTS, HAND SANITIZERS. If you have any such items please phone Mick or Jenny on 0150272534 or call at 57 Wangford Road Reydon. Thank You.

2021 Diaries

The 2021 Diaries are available for collection from the Pro Shop. Let's hope these ones will prove to be Fact and not Fiction!

Thanks to all who have sent me contributions to fill this issue; to **Steve Wolfenden** for working his magic on the photos, and to **Keith May** for proof-reading

Happy Christmas to everyone—and Stay Well in 2021.

Margaret Beckett—Editor