



## THE GEM IN THE FEN - MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

**Captains Update** - A very warm welcome to our February Edition. I would like to say via our newsletter a few thank-you's. To Sean, Ken and Blue (our Green keeping staff) thank you, you often get stick from some within the membership, well I strongly believe (having played many courses of late) our course is holding up very well. To the committee thank you for your continued support and finally thank you to you the membership for your support in general (it does make it easier). As the majority of you will know, I made a conscious decision to not have a designated charity this year and all funds collected from the my fund raising activities will be for use by the club for Maintenance and projects to be decided upon by you the membership. I am intending to run a few fund raising activities throughout the year so please watch this space. A reminder that Captain's day has been rearranged for Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September, I would be grateful if you would keep this day free in your diary. Many of you know that club Matches have started and we are always in need of your support, we have teams entered into the Scratch & Inter Club leagues, the Jock Stewart & Derek Burrige Cups as well as Friendly matches for the Men's, Ladies and Mixed sections, so please help out Gary, Lydia, Les and myself by putting yourselves forward. Finally I would like the Membership to Know I play most days and am available to play a round with any member (new or established) should you so wish. - On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> Feb we played our very first Inter Club Greensomes match against Gog Magog at their club. After a very closely fought match on a very windy Wandlebury Course between all four pairs unfortunately March came away having lost 2 holes more than the team from the Gogs so the result being 3/1 to the Gogs. My thanks go to all the team players who did March and themselves very proud. - **Mick**

**Seniors update – Les Forrester (Captain) –** Despite some severe weather conditions, the course has continued to play well, and all our winter competitions have been successfully completed to date. Attendances on all seniors' days have been encouraging with some quite remarkable golfing scores recorded. We look forward to our summer programme and the friendly rivalry with our Cambridgeshire colleagues. I would urge those members, who are debating whether to join the seniors group, to take the plunge. You will be made very welcome, regardless of ability, and I am sure you will enjoy it immensely. There is no obligation to play in any matches, just turn up any Mon, Wed or Fri morning, tee off 0800hrs and have some fun. I very much look forward to seeing you at the club sometime.

**Lady Captains Update** - It's a bit early in the season to have much to report. However I do have to say that I am very pleased to see so many ladies playing on Tuesdays. The homemade soup seems to be well received and is helping to boost the Charity funds. There are also some very good scores being posted and it bodes well for the coming season. The annual ladies coffee morning kicks off the season this year on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March. I have invited a representative of the East Anglian Air Ambulance to tell us about their work and how our donation will help to support this worthy cause. The morning starts at 10am and is designed as a pre-season get together and a chance to catch up with friends. We are not having a cake stall this year but instead coffee and homemade cake for £2 and there will also be a raffle and a fun fund raising opportunity which I know you will all enjoy, so please bring plenty of change! Funds raised on the day will help replenish the ladies section funds. Please do try and come to my Fine Dining event on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March. All funds go to my charity and (I know I'm doing the cooking) but the food should be good. This is the fourth time this event has run and so far they have all been well received and great fun. Tickets are £35 per head and numbers are limited so you will need to sign up quickly. The menu and sign-up sheet is on the Social board.



**Professionals update** - Hello members, I hope you're finding the more regular communications beneficial. Well, the shop is stocked up to the brim and I'm ready now for the season ahead and spending more time at the club. You will notice one or two small improvements and offerings as we start the season, do tell me if you have any thoughts on how I can do better. Firstly may I tell you about the amount of used three wheel push and electric trolleys that I have for sale. They are not all on view but if you are looking for something to roll along the fairways easier and don't want to purchase new, then simply come in and talk to me in confidence. I recently bought another 1000 lake balls and can offer matching dozens from just £5 per dozen. Most are Srixon, Callaway etc at just £10 per dozen. Again, just let me know what you want. Starting 1st March - 31st December is the option of a 10 month club cleaning contract. Simply put, a £30 payment gets you unlimited club cleaning during that period. No small print at all!!! I hope to spend an increasing amount of time on the practice ground this year through some beginner programmes and of course one to one tuition with

yourself. Look at the golfers at the club whose handicaps are reducing, golf improving and having more fun....if you want to join that "club" come and invest your time today. I will improve your play - dare I say I promise. As well as spending more time outdoors, I will be able to play more and Wednesday nights will see a group of us turn up for 5.45pm ready for a 6.00pm tee off. 9 holes, fun, no scoring, just a guarantee that if you want a midweek game then you will definitely have someone to play with. I hope to see you on the green grass of the fairways soon and if not, in the 19th hole! **Alex**



**Rule of the Month** - This month will see us focus on a rule that is appropriate to our club. There could be many more rule changes when the new rule book is printed for implementation on the 1st January 2019. Please do check with myself on the rules of the game - I never or rarely give out a ruling without quoting the rulebook. Do remember that I don't know everything and quite often I am learning (and are amazed at) new scenarios just like you are. We will deal with rabbit scrapings at some other point....

**Q) What happens if you are playing the sixth or fifteenth hole and hole out on the 9th or 18th hole?** (answer at the bottom of the page)



**Course Update** – Happy February everyone!

As the long British winter continues we thank you for your continued co-operation and patience towards the use of temporary tees and greens. These measures are necessary to protect the course as much as possible ahead of the 'normal' playing season, and allows us to help keep the course open. Thank you also for keeping the shoe cleaning area tidy. You will have undoubtedly noticed the improvement with regards to fallen leaf debris this winter. The staff have done well keeping the ground clear using the new blower and by employing a particular technique on the rough cutter with mulching blades fitted. Finally, for now, the new warm-up net is very near completion. I could not imagine that being quite a heavy piece of kit it could not be affected by our weather, but much humble pie was consumed as we had to fetch it from the far end of the practice ground having been blown across by the high winds several weeks ago! I am happy to say that it is now bolted to the planet and with an additional ramp feature to be completed it should be fully functional by the time this newsletter is published. Every day's a school day!!

**Ivan Roberts – Chairperson, Greens Committee**

**Recent Events:** Saturday 27th January saw over 80 attend the traditional Burns Night Dinner at March Golf Club. Doug started the proceedings by blessing the Haggis before it was consumed.....The traditional raising of the glass of whiskey was welcomed by those who part-took in donating a fee for each tot of whiskey consumed which raised a total of £94.40 for the Captains Charity. The evening proceeded with dancing to Back Two and all had a great evening. We hold many functions during the year which are all very well supported.

**Welcome to New Members in January:** None in February

**Handicap Improvements –** None to report this month

**Upcoming Men's Club Fixtures - March 2018**

Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Winter Texas Scramble (see start sheet on notice board)
Wed 7 <sup>th</sup>	Seniors Winter Medal (0815 start)
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup>	Men's Stableford (no start sheet)
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup>	Seniors Winter Eclectic
Fri 16 <sup>th</sup>	CAGU Club Seniors Competition March v Saffron Walden Away
Wed 21 <sup>st</sup>	Seniors Winter Medal
	March GC men v Sutton Bridge GC men (tee closed 12:45 -13:30)
Sat 24 <sup>th</sup>	Men's Captains 4 Ball Better Ball (see start sheet on notice board)
Wed 28 <sup>th</sup>	Seniors John Kirwan Trophy (tee closed 08:30 – 09:15)
Thur 29 <sup>th</sup>	Men's Medal (no start sheet)
Fri 30 <sup>th</sup>	Town v Country (tee closed 12:45 – 14:00) (see competition notice board for entry)

**Upcoming Ladies Club Fixtures – March 2018**

Tue 6 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee Morning 10.00am
Thur 8 <sup>th</sup>	Ladies 9 hole stableford
Tue 20 <sup>th</sup>	Ladies Medal tee closed 09.30 -10.30 & 2.00 – 2.30pm
Thur 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Ladies v Brampton (A) 10.30am (see sign up sheet)

**REMINDER TO ALL BUGGY USERS** - Members using buggies are kindly reminded that while "Winter Rules" are in place they should use 90 degree rule.



**Player Profile for the month** - This month's player profile sees us have Catherine Goakes under the spotlight. Catherine is a younger local March lady who started golf a couple of years ago. Partner Simon is an avid golfer and they are both coming on the Turkey Trip. "Frin" as she is known by her friends knew she had to improve her game before going abroad on the tougher foreign courses and she has invested time at the local driving range the last few months and has blossomed nicely, I believe she is ready and will have a great time. In Frinny's bag is a Cobra Bio cell driver (pink) along with Cobra Baffler xl hybrids and irons. Having entered a competition in ladies golfing media last year, she was fortunate enough to win a Yonex fairway wood which, in her words "she loves". A new putter at the end of last year also added a little more pink to the bag!! **WELL DONE**

**A) The ball must be taken out of the hole under no penalty and dropped from shoulder height as close as possible to the edge of the "wrong hole". You could of course then mark the ball and proceed as you would do on the putting green normally.**



Diary dates to look out for:  
Mothering Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> March, Fine Dining Lady Captain's  
Charity Event 17<sup>th</sup> March , Black Tie Ball 4<sup>th</sup> August



**Captain's Day 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2018**

Please keep your eye on the social board for other up and coming events

**50 years of memories at March Golf Club through the eyes of Mr John Papworth, Club Captain 1968, Chairman 1969-1989 and President 1991-2002.** In the late 1960's March Golf Club was a different place to what it is today. The Clubhouse was an ex Army Ambulance hut from the first world war with a glazed extension. The Ladies changing room incorporated the kitchen where the ladies provided excellent teas for a very modest charge. They also helped out on a voluntary basis with some matches and ladies & men's open days. During the winter an open fire was lit in the clubhouse, which was tended by the late Tom Goddard, a steam railway engine driver who started his career as a fireman and certainly knew how to stoke a fire!! The 2<sup>nd</sup> hole and the first half of the third was incorporated in 1972 on land bought from Mr Albert Deptford, who gave the club 3-4 years to pay for it in instalments. Because of lack of room in the clubhouse meals on open days were held in a marquee erected by the Cambridge Boy Scouts, which was organised by the late Phillip Houlden, manager of Lloyds Bank and club treasurer who never played golf but worked endlessly for the good of the club. Over the ensuing years an automatic watering system was installed and a new clubhouse & pro shop was built. The lounge was named "The Aveling Lounge" in memory of the late Don Aveling as it is still is today. It was opened by the late Don Daglass (Mayor of March) in 1979. Over the past 50 years or so the club has grown from a somewhat basis course into the charming parkland course it is today.