



## THE GEM IN THE FEN – MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

**Message from the Chair** - To all at our wonderful little club may I wish you all a great golfing year in 2018. For me personally 2017 was particularly challenging but now I have finally moved into March hopefully all will settle down and I can concentrate on my golf and March golf club in general. I will endeavour to do my best on behalf of you the members of the golf club. The make up of our new management team really excites me as I can feel real enthusiasm and drive from each one of my team. We seem to have such a great range of expertise that can only be good for the club and all of our members. Each of the sub committees have a blend of personnel with the expertise to take us forward. Happy healthy golfing in 2018 and we are all looking forward to the warmer weather.

**Captains Update** - Welcome to the first edition of The Gem in the Fen newsletter. Hopefully you'll have had an enjoyable Festive break; I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a belated happy New Year and great success in your golfing ventures. The purpose of our newsletter is to disseminate information to you the members in as many ways as possible, it is the intention to have a monthly edition, and we intend to post it upon the Club website, as well as a printed version. The Newsletter will be a means for all sections within the Club to be kept abreast of the goings on from outside of their section. You the Members hold the key to the success of the Newsletter, it will be used as a means to inform, update, congratulate and entertain. The newsletter will have updates from all sections (Senior's, Men's, Lady's, Committee and Green keeper's). We intend to be informative as well as light hearted. I would very much like to take this opportunity to thank our Social committee for the very good work undertaken in putting our New Year's Eve party together. I along with many others enjoyed, what was considered by so many, the very best Club New Year's Eve party. This Club has so many good people with the Club's best interests at heart and we are so very lucky. I would welcome from any members stories that may be considered of interest (clean and inoffensive) for print.

### **Seniors update – Les Forrester (Captain)**

March Golf club has a vibrant and proactive section. To qualify you must be 55yrs or over and semi or fully retired, however for our rollups we would not discriminate should you still be working.

During the summer months we hold rollups every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, turn up by 07:50hrs (ball in the bag) for a 08:00hrs 1<sup>st</sup> tee time, (cost £1). We also conduct inter club Matches with other clubs from as far afield as Girton to the south, Brampton to the west, Tydd St Giles to the north and Ryston Park to the east.

During the winter months we have rollups every Monday and Friday turn up by 07:50hrs (ball in the bag) for a 08:00hrs 1<sup>st</sup> tee time, (£1).

Wednesdays during the winter months we conduct Seniors Medal and Eclectic competitions, (cost £1.50). Handicaps within our section are varied and competitive, from single figure right through to 28, we always welcome to our section new golfers of all standards.

**Lady Captains Update** - The ladies section at March is a lively and friendly group and we have welcomed many new ladies to the club in the past few years. We now have 36 full members a few summer members. The competitive season starts with the coffee morning, which this year is on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March. Prior to this we meet on Tuesdays at 12 for 12.30 and we play a friendly, relaxed 9 holes of golf and it's an opportunity to meet and play with different people. We draw across the handicaps and its usually great fun. Afterwards we have a cup of tea or coffee (or soup) and hand out the winnings! The coffee morning is an opportunity for everyone to get together and meet new and old members, eat cake and find people to play with. It's also an opportunity for me to introduce my charity, the East Anglian Air Ambulance and I have invited a guest to let us know what the service does and how our donation can make a difference. This year we are introducing set tee times for all our competitions and signup sheets in the ladies changing rooms. This has come about because newer members have said that they often find it difficult to find someone to play with and we hope that this will ensure that everyone who would like to enter a competition can find someone like minded to play with. It also helps other members to be aware that there is a ladies competition on and when we are teeing off. We hope this will help other players to decide the best time for them to play and will help with keeping up the speed of play. We have also increased the number of weekend competitions this year as demand is rising, which is great news. We have many competitive competitions throughout the season as well as mixed matches, County events, and many of our ladies enjoy getting a group together and playing at other Ladies Opens. We have an active facebook page which is a great way to communicate. Search for March Golf Club – Ladies Page. We currently have 23 members so not all of us are on there. If any lady would like to join please let me know. I look forward to a great golfing season and meeting and playing with some of you!



**Professionals update** - Happy New Year and firstly. THANKYOU. You should know what for, you have all been great. I still need a little time to sort some affairs out but by the time we have come back from Turkey on the 27th February you can rest assured that come 1st March I will be at the club more than ever and I hope you ask me to play golf with you on these coming spring and summer evenings. We have the new range of Cobra arriving shortly as well as a Ping G400 restock and a top up of our club crested wear either from Greg Norman or Glenmuir. so many of you really were proud to wear your "club colours" last season. Going forward most clothing stocked will be Island Green which is the fastest growing apparel company in the world. I have lots of it myself - modern clothing, nicely fitted but minus the phenomenal price tags. Finally, my message to you for 2018 is Ask and Communicate. I have been here now over 13 years and know so many of you better than you imagine... You have shown me such wonderful empathy over the last seven weeks, so now let me return the favour and help you with your game and make the time you spend at our club most enjoyable. Ring the shop, hit me on facebook messenger or email me if you need or want something. Best regards, your club pro, Alex

**Committee Update on Management Meeting after AGM on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017**  
 The management members are as follows: **Chairman:** Barry Cracknell, **Vice Chairman:** Malcolm George  
**Club Captain:** Mick Russell, **Vice Captain:** Alan Jones, **Past Club Captain:** Ivan Roberts  
**Lady Captain:** Lydia Molyneux, **Lady Vice Captain:** Sandra Russell  
**Other Committee Members:** Nigel Goude, Gary Neugebauer, Ken Roberts, Tina Roberts, Baz Smith, Brenda Softley & Fiona Wood.  
 The sub-committees were agreed as follows: **Finance Committee** – Lydia Molyneux, Malcolm George & Ken Roberts. **Promotions Committee** – Alan Jones, Lydia Molyneux, Alex Oldham co-opted, Baz Smith, Fiona Wood & Michal Simpson. **Greens Committee** – Ivan Roberts, Gary Neugebauer, Nigel Goude, Ken Roberts & assisted by Barry Cracknell. **House & Bar Committee and Social Committee** – these were agreed to be separated but under the same umbrella – **House & Bar Committee** – Malcolm George, Brenda Softley & Tina Roberts. **Social Committee** – Tina Roberts, Brenda Softley, Malcolm George & Michal Simpson. All sub committees will elect their chairman at the next management meeting and we will inform of any changes.

**Recent Events:** The annual Club Captains' drive in took place on Saturday 6th January 2018. The day was very cold with icy conditions and played on temporary greens. For the 20 + spectators (who had got up early enough to see the drive off at 08.00am) saw Club Captain Mick Russell stand up to the challenge and he sent the ball well on its way travelling 208 yards which ended up on the right side of the fairway. Lydia Molyneux (Ladies Captain) sent her ball travelling 156 yards and also ended up on the right side of the fairway. There was a prize for those that judged the distance of both Captain's drives which was won by Fiona Wood who got the distance right for the Club Captain and Mark Athow who judged the Lady Captain's drive correctly. A very well supported event in which 43 players turned out to play either a 9 hole or 18 hole competition throughout the day. The competition was very close and the scores were great considering the conditions although the course was playing very well. The winners of the 18 hole competition were as follows: 1st - Steve Campbell ocb with 41 pts, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Danny Daniel 41 pts 3rd - Paul Wood ocb 40 pts, 4th - Les Forrester (Seniors Captain) 40pts. The winner of the 9 hole competition was: 1st - Fiona Wood with 14 pts, 2nd - John Wood with 12 pts. The great team spirit of the day continued with refreshments in the club room. What a great start to my year as Club Captain..... A total of £58 was raised for both Club Captain's charity and the Lady Captain's charity.

**Welcome to New Members in January:** David Watts who has rejoined as a 5 day member and Terry Monk. We wish them both many happy months of golf ahead.

**Handicap Improvements**  
 Nothing to report this month



**Player Profile for the month** - Lewis Hearn was Alex's choice this month for January. Alex says "I have spent a lot of time with Lewis and can see he is a real student of the game". Lewis enjoys practicing, playing and reading and watching the game. His handicap decrease and improving skill set is down to a number of driving range visits and Virtual Golf aside from the times you see him at the golf club. Lewis started a few years back and has become a valued member of the club, creating "community" and bringing together golfers who have played as singletons prior. Lewis is 24 years and his handicap is now down to 13, he is looking forward to his first trip on the annual golfing holiday to Turkey in a few weeks and also has many other days away planned including the Captain's Away weekend at Thorpeness. Lewis has invested both time and money in his game and currently plays a full line up of Cobra equipment.

**Any Other News** - All the Club's PR will be taken care of by Sandra Russell (so please let her know of anything that would be useful to the club to be sent to print in the local papers – email sandra2153@sky.com)  
 Diary dates to look out for: Fine Dining Lady Charity Event 17<sup>th</sup> March – details on the social board. August 4th Black Tie Ball  
**UPDATE Captain's Day NOW 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2018**

**Course Update** – no information available this month.

