



THE GEM IN THE FEN - MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Captains Update - Here we are another Newsletter and from the comments received from you the membership it appears we have a success that has developed from a one sheet newsletter to on occasions 4/5 pages full of what we hope is useful information. The newsletter will of course only evolve with the help of you the Membership, you can send into the Editor (Sandra Russell, Lady Vice Captain) your comments, stories or more importantly photos. They may of course be of interest to a variety of golfers new and old. Many of you know that I had been absent from duty for quite a number of weeks well now I'm back and very much looking forward to getting back into the swing of things. To you the membership Sandra and I could never ever thank-you enough for your kind thoughts, messages, cards of sympathy and the flowers received. It is now time for us to try to concentrate on things we enjoy and get back with those friends whom have been so supportive. We still have a good period of the summer season left and many competitions to compete for. The summer has been one of extreme heat and little rain as can be seen from the parched fairways and quickly drying ponds, however I believe from the comments I have received from many members that they think that the course is holding up very well, the greens especially. They may of course be a little slower than normal but of course in this heat, if they were cut too short we could lose them. I for one support our greens team whole heartedly (it can't be easy working in those conditions constantly). I'm sure that many of you will have noticed that we are beginning to have a few new intermediate members joining; this can only be good for our club and its future, for this we have to thank our Promotions committee, (Vice Captain Alan Jones, Lady Captain Lydia Molyneux, Baz Smith, Fiona Wood, Michal Simpson & our Pro Alex Oldham), they between them have done an amazing amount of work. It must be remembered that our committee members do these jobs on our behalf, in their own time, free of charge, and often with no gratitude. Many of you have in the past, at some time been on the Committee yourselves, so will appreciate that you never please all the people all the time but you always do at the time what you believe to be the best for the club. I'm still in the planning stages for Captain's day (Sat 22nd Sept) but can assure you it won't be too long before it will be announced, we already have in place a Disco for the evening and I have a few prizes in place already.

Professionals Update: It's too hot, too dry.....! You won't hear me complaining although when it gets so warm the traffic at the club does die down a little. The greens are drinking every day and look healthy - far more so than some of our local counterparts. Enjoy the summer, play the events that are organised for you and support the social functions - the bbq was great!! First up as we head towards the winter? Is that I have booked 12 - 16 places at our usual Sueno golf resort from Saturday 17th November for 7 nights on a 5* all inclusive basis with unlimited golf for under £500 per person including some prize money. Flights are on top so nip in and discuss as there are one or two options. For those that have shown interest, please tell me again to make sure as I don't want to miss you. Again I have booked an identical offering in late February so again get in touch if you are interested please. If you are reading this you are invited so come and talk to me in confidence please. Thankyou. The used golf item sale has gone well and has allowed many of you to pick up a bargain so on it will stay for the foreseeable future. Gents can also bag lovely island green shirts at just £20. Top quality, styling and fit from the fastest growing apparel brand in the world. I also have shorts and trousers too at £20 not to forget a £10 rail also. Ladies you haven't been forgotten and there is a handful of pleasant offerings in the shop from £10 per item. I had a lovely few days away last week and am due at the club pretty much every day now until November except for some pro ams. Lessons are increasingly busy and I am seeing one or two instant success stories with golfers undergoing tuition which is very pleasing. "Fending for myself" these days means I have to nip out to the banks, cash n carry, post office etc myself so if you do want to see me please ensure I am in the shop so you are not disappointed. I can always leave things behind the bar and with bacs payments I don't have to be here to take payments. Just to emphasise technology - mobiles, what's app, messenger, emails, pics and videos on phones - all here to make life easier. Don't forget our seniors open on Friday 24th August and our mixed open in October. A discount will apply to home pairings so come in and reserve your place ASAP please. Molinari was a gracious and humble winner of the open. A model professional whose expression rarely changes from good to bad shot. I did notice he had a shorter shot to the 18th hole than Tiger so it's not all about thrashing the club at the ball as hard as possible. Significant distance and control gains can be had by applying the club to the ball correctly - if you would like to learn how and to apply these skills then come and invest a small amount of money and an hour of your time with me. You might just enjoy the game more. Best wishes and continued thanks to all who support me morally and commercially - Alex

ARE YOU PREPARED?

NEW R & A RULES Update – Please click on the link to find out about the new R & A rules that will take effect from January 2019

<https://bit.ly/2NNbqV8>

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: I am always looking for content for the newsletters so please do not be afraid to send in pictures or stories that might be of interest to the members. (email: sandra2153@sky.com).

Also can I ask that you try and support the mixed events. We do seem to have a problem in getting a team together. We have 2 more mixed matches to the end of the season 5th August against Ramsey at home and 16th September against Ely at home. These matches are a great way to build relationships with other clubs in our area and are good fun.



Introducing the Management team – This month Fiona Wood



I married my husband John in 1988 and shortly after that we moved from Scotland to March. We have two wonderful daughters, Rebecca, and Emily. When I'm not with my family, you'll probably find me on the golf course! After years of carpool and mum duties, I finally managed to find the time to take up golf. I have been playing for about six years and I've really enjoyed being a member of the golf club. I especially enjoyed being Lady Captain last year. I look forward to playing more golf as well as being involved with the club in the future.

******* MARCH GOLF CLUB JUNIOR ACADEMY *******

FREE JUNIOR GOLF OPEN DAYS

March Golf Club is holding THE LAST FREE Open Day for boys and girls of all abilities aged between 8 and 15.

Friday, 17th August 5.30pm

Your FREE lesson with our PGA Professional, Alex, will give you the chance to try out the game of golf. To register for your free lesson please email alexoldham@btinternet.com or phone Michal on 01354 652364 Grange Road, March, PE15 0YH (off the A141 bypass)

If you would like your child to attend the next Junior Academy Open Day then please email Alexoldham@btinternet.com for more details. We offer FREE membership for juniors under the age of 16 with a full adult membership (not necessarily a relative) or just £49 for unlimited golf a year.



Course Update - So... only a newsletter or two back I was mentioning the unusually copious amount of rain through late winter and spring that we were experiencing and how that was affecting the course. While, at the time, I'm sure we all hoped that this soggy spell would soon end I don't think any of us expected a run of heat waves with no rain at all. Great for topping up the tan and lighting the barbies, but not so good for the course. We have been putting plenty of water on the greens and these seem to have held up pretty well – much better than many other courses that I have played recently, however, the 7th green continues to have its issues in the dry as it has done in previous years, although it gets

about 3 times the amount of water than most others. On the subject of water, thank you to those who have mentioned issues that they have seen around the course concerning the irrigation system. The pipework and valve stations have been installed for quite a number of years and it is inevitable that fair wear and tear will lead to problems, the causes of which are not often easy to identify. Over the past couple of years we have tried engaging with several irrigation specialists, but these have not been as fruitful as hoped. We have now been in contact with a company based in Lincolnshire who have carried out a minor health check and have made some recommendations including replacing both the maintenance and solenoid valves at each valve station. Clearly, our financial position doesn't allow us to carry this all out in one hit, but it may be that we can plan the most urgent first and then schedule the rest over the next years. I must apologise for the state of the retired putting green at the front of the clubhouse. The grass is growing (on most of it) but it still needs further TLC, but please be assured that this has been addressed with the greens staff. On that subject, suggestions for how to utilise that space have not exactly been flooding in so come on all you budding Percy Throwers, let's have some propositions for planting and maybe some light landscaping to getting it looking great – I'm convinced there are some brilliant ideas out there. Lastly, please do continue to take good care of yourselves during this dry spell. Dehydration can occur very quickly and the effects of even the slightest heat stress can be quite unpleasant. You can't drink too much water...Stay safe all Ivan

Welcome to New Members

David Deaw 7 day
Matthew Powell 7 day





Player Profile for the month – Bruce Frost.



Bruce has been a member since 2004 with a small absence of four years when he tried swaffham golf club. Of course we were pleased to have him back when he retired fully in 2012. His handicap is currently 20 and participates in most seniors events. Bruce has been a valued customer and friend and plays pretty much a full line up of cobra gear with ping short game clubs. His latest purchase was an f max 28 degree hybrid that helps him from about a 150 yards. Bruce loves the game and is a charismatic member of our club.

It wouldn't be the same without him.

Recent events: **March ladies** played the next round of the Jean Wilkinson against Girton on Thursday 28th June won 2 matches and lost 4. **March men** played a friendly again Sutton Bridge away on Friday 29th June resulting in 2 all draw. **Derek Burridge semi final March v Brampton Park** at Brampton Park was played on Sunday 1st July. Unfortunately the result was Brampton got through to the final. Well done to the team, the first time March had played in this competition and beating tough opposition to get to the semi final. Results of the **Mens Stableford Comp** on the 2nd July . First Anthony Hutchins 41pts handicap now 25.7, 2nd Andy Lilley 36pts and in 3rd place Lewis Hearn with 35pts. The **Ladies played the Jean Wilkinson** on Thursday 28th June at home and won 2 matches and lost 4. The return game is on Monday 23rd July at Girton. **Lady Captains Day** was a great success on Tuesday 3rd July Good weather, good food and good company. First place went to Carole Wood with 41pts, 2nd Pam Wallis 38pts, 3rd Rose Humphrey 35pts, 4th Shona Kent 35pts, 5th Viv Shushall 33pts ocb from 6th Jean McAuliffe with also 33pts, 7th Jean Alterton 31pts. Viv Snushall beat Jean on countback but as there was one prize per person and Viv got nearest the pin she gracefully allowed Lady Captain to give 5th Place to Jean. The other nearest the pin was won by Victoria Collett. The Captains trophy was won by Pam Wallis as she had the highest score for a past Captain. Shona Kent helped out with refreshments and Lady Captain made cakes. **Ladies Medal** was played on 5th July 1st place Sandra Russell with nett 73, 2nd Fiona Wood with nett 77 and 3rd place was Jean Alterton with nett 78. Sandra's new handicap is 20.2 **The BBQ Cup** was played on Saturday 7th July in glorious conditions and a good turnout considering England were playing to get through to the semi final in the world cup. The result for the Ladies was: 1st Emma Norman with 36pts, 2nd Fiona Wood with 35pts and 3rd Jean Alterton with 33 pts. The results for the men were: 1st Jonathan King with 38pts, 2nd Ray Pescud with 37pts ocb from 3rd Kenneth Hocken also with 37pts. **Mixed match** against Sutton Bridge took place at home on Sunday 8th July good company good food and the weather glorious. March won 5 out of the 6 matches.

The ladies played a friendly match at Old Nene on Tuesday 10th July. 4 Pairs took part in the 4bbb match which resulted in Old Nene winning 3 to 1. **The Ladies** played in the Grannies/Non Grannies Cups on Thursday 12th July. The winner of the Grannies Cup was Penny Gilbert with nett 73, 2nd Audrey Bond with nett 74 and 3rd Pam Hawes with nett 76. The Non Grannies Cup was won by Victoria Collett with 27 pts , 2nd was Valerie Cook with 23pts and 3rd Glenis Jones with 20 pts. **The Seniors v Old Nene (A)** was played in overcast conditions on Thursday 12th July. 6 pairs took part in the match which resulted in March winning 3.5 to 2.5. The last **inter club league greensomes** match of this season was played against Meridian at March on Saturday 14th July. After a very close match March was very unlucky to lose by only one hole. **Ladies Medal** on the Sunday 15th July. Winner Fiona Wood nett 66. 2nd place Pearl Moss nett 74. The 2's was won by Sandra Russell. **Seniors Stableford** was played on Monday 16th July the results were as follows: 1st Tom Dean with 39 points, 2nd Les Forrester with 39 points and 3rd Tom Robertson with 35 points. **The Ladies played the Garthwaite Cup** competition on Tuesday 17th July and the results were as follows: Winner Jean McAuliffe nett 69, 2nd Fiona Wood nett 70 , 3rd place Margaret Butt nett 71 just beating Michal Simpson on c/b nett 71. Tina Roberts had a 2 on the 6th hole and and Jo Rowlett a 2 on the 2nd hole.



The ladies held the first **Sarah Oldham Salver** on Thursday 19th July with 75% of the ladies section taking part. Thank you to all supported this inaugural event! With 36 points and winning the salver was Sarah's old regular partner Penny Gilbert and "form girl" Carole Wood. Three points further back were three couples with 33 points and taking second place on count back was Roz Humphrey and Glenis Jones.



Nearest the pin was won by Sandra Russell. A lovely days golf finished off with Pimms and afternoon tea in the clubhouse.

The **Professionals Mixed Prize** competition took place on Saturday 21st July. It was a well supported competition with both Ladies and Men playing. The results were as follows: For the men 1st was Danny Daniel with 41 points, 2nd Mark Athow with 39 points and 3rd Les Forrester with 38 points. For the Ladies the winner was Shona Kent with 42 points, 2nd Michal Simpson with 37 points and 3rd Emma Norman with 33 points. **Mixed friendly** against St Ives away took place on Sunday 22nd July. It resulted in 4 games to 1 to St Ives. **The Ladies** played the return match of the Jean Wilkinson at Girton on Monday 23rd July. March scored 6 points to their 8 which is a good result for March away. **The Ladies** played the shorter trophy on 24th July with the results as follows: 1st Emma Norman, 2nd Pam Hawes and 3rd Pam Wallis. **March men** played a friendly against Ramsey on 25th July. The result was an outstanding win March 4 /0 Ramsey. **The Seniors** played a friendly against Girton at home on Wednesday 25th July. Six pairs played and March won 5 1/2 to 1/2. **The Ladies** played the Clarks Stableford Trophy in very hot conditions on Thursday 26th July. The result was: Sandra Russell with an outstanding score of 43 points, in 2nd Place Pearl Moss with 30 points followed by Emma Norman 27 points and Fiona Wood 27 points on c/b. Sandra's handicap is now 17.4.



The Friday Night Event on 27th July had a great turnout but was unfortunately a wash out as the picture shows. Players ended up soaked to the skin after so many days of sunshine we had a months rain in a few minutes with a great storm. For those that were brave enough to go out and play there was some consolation in the fact that a BBQ awaited them.

Upcoming Men's Club Fixtures & Competitions - August 2018

Wed 1	Seniors Shillings Shield (tee closed 08.30am – 09.45)
Sun 5	Mixed v Ramsey (H) 1pm 6 pairs (tee closed 12.45pm – 13.45pm)
Wed 8	Seniors v Ely
Fri 10	Mens Medal (no start sheet)
Wed 15	Seniors v St Ives (H) 08.30am 6 pairs (tee closed 08.15am – 09.30am)
Sun 19	Selby Taylor (see start sheet on competitions board for tee times)
Fri 24	Seniors Open (COURSE CLOSED until approx 1pm)
Fri 24	Friday Night Event (see start sheet on competitions board for tee times)
Sun 26	Mixed Clapham Cup Family Foursomes (no start sheet)
Mon 27	Texas Scramble (see start sheet on competitions board)
Wed 29	Seniors Mickey Dutton-Wells Trophy Stableford
Thur 30	Mens Stableford (no start sheet)

Upcoming Ladies Club Fixtures & Competitions – August 2018

Sun 5	Mixed v Ramsey (H) 1pm 6 pairs (tee closed 12.45pm – 13.45pm)
Tues 7	Ladies Gold Crest (tee closed 09.30am – 10.30am and 2pm – 2.30pm)
Thur 9	Ladies 9 Hole Stableford (tee closed 09.30am – 10.30am and 2.00pm – 2.30pm)
Sun 12	Ladies 9 Hole Stableford (tee closed 12.00 – 12.30pm)
Tue 14	Ladies Andrews Trophy (tee closed 09.30am – 10.30am and 2.00 – 2.30pm)
Sun 19	Selby Taylor (see start sheet on competitions board for tee times)
Tue 21	Ladies Medal (tee closed 09.30 – 10.30am and 2.00 – 2.30pm)
Thur 23	Ladies Past Captains v Ladies (tee closed 12.45pm – 1.45pm)
Sun 26	Mixed Clapham Family Foursomes (no start sheet)
Tue 28	Ladies Medal/Phil Potter Scratch Cup
Wed 29	Ladies v Ramsey (H) 1.00pm (tee closed 12.45pm – 1.30pm)

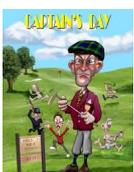


Black Tie Ball 4th August – NEW TIME 6.00pm for 6.30pm 5 course meal and dancing to the 59ers, seating will be available in the clubhouse or in a marquee on the patio. For those that have not yet paid please pay as soon as possible.

Selby Taylor Cup – Sunday 19th August – (see competitions board for tee times)

The 24th August is the Seniors Open and entries are invited from our members at a reduced cost. Enter in pairs as it is a fourball better ball event

Friday night events – 24th August – Friendly 9 hole competition followed by a BBQ. Bring your spouse!!!!



Captain's Day 22nd September 2018 – details to follow

The 14th October sees the Mixed Open take place having been rescheduled due to the Ryder Cup. Again a discount is available for entries from our "home" players.



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

Are you looking for a great venue for your or a family member's forthcoming wedding? Then why not choose your Golf Club? We can offer you a flexible package, that's tailored to your personal needs. Clubhouse hire is free to members, only a small staff cost applies. Please contact our Club Secretary Michal for further information, either by e-mail secretary@marchgolfclub.co.uk or by phone on 01354 652364 (between 9am and 1pm weekdays)

Bar Opening Hours: April to July Weekdays 11.30am to 8.00pm, Saturdays & Sundays 11.00am – 8.00pm

If you have any good photographs of the course or clubhouse, please send them to Michal, she's always looking for good photographs to use in promotional material.

If you are a Twitter user please follow [#MarchGolfClub](https://twitter.com/MarchGolfClub) in order to have instant notification of the course status and other Club matters. If you are a Facebook user please "like" the March Golf Club and March Golf Club Functions pages in order to receive up to date communications on your news feed. Please share posts to these pages with your friends as an excellent and free marketing tool for the club