



Bush Telegraph

January 2019

Number 127

New chef is set to join us *Alasdair: thanks and farewell*

I AM pleased to report that we have now made an appointment for our in-house Head Chef position. Simon Greenfield will be joining us on 14th January ahead of Alasdair's departure towards the end of January.

Simon has over 25 years' experience as a chef and we are already in regular contact with him as we prepare to bring the catering in-house. Simon is currently Head Chef at the 'Two Brewers' in Chigwell and he also understands the nuances of club catering, having previously been kitchen manager at the Victory Services Club in London: he has also been Head Chef at a golf club.

As outlined in the previous issue of Bush Telegraph bringing the catering in-house will present some challenges, but also bring a new revenue stream to the club and a greater control of menus, pricing and the opportunity for improved staffing efficiencies. I trust that you will embrace this change by supporting the Club's food and beverage offering and we would welcome your on-going

feedback as we make progress with this exciting new venture.

Pastures new for Jenny

I am sorry to see Jenny Bengé leave the Club to take up a marketing role with a technology firm. Jenny has been a key member of the team during an important transitional period and she has been instrumental in



marketing the club to a wider audience, as well as assisting with the implementation of a number of technological developments over the past 18-months. This is an important step in her chosen career-path and we wish her every success in her future endeavours.

2018 review

2018 has passed quickly and I appreciate that memories can be short, so I thought I would list just a few of the positive things that we have seen at the club in 2018. Strictly speaking, it was late 2017 when we employed a new Head Professional ready for the start of 2018. Danny is a great asset for the Club and he, Nicola and Max are now integral to the team at Bush Hill Park.

We built a new state-of-the-art swing studio in the early part of the year, which is a great new teaching facility and Danny has now coached over 130 individual golfers with an even mix of members and non-members. So more new faces and potential members to the club.

Our early renewal incentive was a

big success with over 90% of our playing membership taking advantage of this offer and, for the first time in a number of years, 2018 has seen a growth in our membership numbers.

We also introduced a number of vouchers with your membership renewal, these were well received and many have been redeemed. We plan to build on these offers and also to include partnerships with local businesses providing exclusive Bush Hill Park offers. This year's renewal pack will also include free room hire for any event or function. This is with the sole aim to get more member events taking place at the club, so that we can start to reduce our reliance on external events and move towards a more member-centric business model.

The introduction of Lifestyle membership has retained many members who may have otherwise left the club. It has also enabled us to recruit many new members. We have had a healthy number of past members return this year and I feel this is in response to recent structural and directional changes that were initiated by Nick Balnave and the Management Committee. The management of the Lifestyle credit system has been a new challenge for Danny and his team, however it has been evolving and will only get stronger going forward.

Our new irrigation system could not have been better timed and the investment in the system paid dividends through one of the hottest summers in decades.

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Our generous members

I HAVE now been Chairman for three months and it has been a steep learning curve. Thanks for all the goodwill messages and offers of help. This report will be short: Stewart has summed up the progress made in 2018 so I don't need to repeat his good message. Under Stewart's guidance the greens staff have worked with renewed energy and the course has benefitted from their efforts. Having a full-time experienced manager means the Management Committee is less involved in the running of the club and can concentrate on strategy and forward planning.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those members who are generous with either their time or money or both. Mentioning a few: the person who paid for the Members' bar to be redecorated; the member who runs the 200 club; the ladies who planted masses of daffodils, weeded flower beds and put up the Christmas decorations; Frank Farmer and Peter Smith who have been editing and producing the Bush Telegraph for many years and the many more members who contribute to improve the course and clubhouse. A special mention for the married couple who are purchasing furniture for the main bar. Their reason is that they have enjoyed many years at Bush Hill Park Golf Club and want their family and themselves to enjoy the benefits. On that topic, I have been asked to suggest that other members may like to follow suit and either give money now or make a legacy. If you are interested please speak to Stewart Judd.

There will be staff changes next year and these bring opportunities. Jenny Bengé starts a new job with an IT company so I wish her good luck. Alasdair, after many years providing excellent food, is leaving in January and I wish him every success.

Lastly, I wish you all the very best for 2019.

BILLIE NEWLAND

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NEW CHEF SET TO JOIN US

continued from page 1

Graham and the greenkeeping team are learning the intricacies of the system and there is no doubt that we will see its benefits for years to come.

We also installed additional drainage and made improvements to the pathways and bunkers in response to feedback from our recent survey. We have also started improvements to our practice facilities, also in response to feedback from the survey. This phased project will continue into 2019. The course has been in great condition this year under the management of Graham and the team and this has been widely recognised through comments from members and visitors alike. The in-house project to remove the silt from the top lake has vastly improved the visual impact of the course and the new fountain sets it off perfectly. Completing the works using our greenkeeping team saved huge amounts of money and the end result is visible for all to see. Participation at Club events has grown steadily - the introduction of the Friday Happy-Hour has been well supported - and generally golf and social events have been successful in 2018. Our prize-giving was a great event and the calendar ended the year with all Christmas and New Year celebrations sold

out. Ray Ripsher has grasped the nettle to make social events more prominent and he has engaged the support of a number of members to drive social through a sub-committee, which should see social flourish further.

Our decision to bring the catering in-house was also partly influenced by the member survey responses to improve consistency and value. However it also brings greater control and a new revenue stream. I hope that more of our members will support this venture by bringing family and friends to eat and drink at the club. The bar performed well in 2018 and we are also seeing increased member spending which is something we are keen to grow further, with improved member engagement and by being more member focussed.

Continued Improvement

2019 will start with a complete refurbishment of the main bar and visuals are available for review in the clubhouse lobby. The end result will provide a modern, contemporary environment for members and guests to enjoy food and drink and this is just the start of our vision to upgrade the clubhouse facilities. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very Happy New Year.

STEWART JUDD, GENERAL MANAGER

Captain's Report

Changes - and more to come



FOR those of you who like percentages, I am about 25% through my year of captaincy. If you don't like percentages, I am about one quarter through. Whichever way I view it, I find it amazing. The time has really flown but it is really too soon for retrospection. One of the highlights for me so far was the look on the faces of the children at the club Christmas party. Certainly, that ranks with one of my best ever moments at the club. Absolutely splendid!

Actually though, thinking about it for a second, quite a lot has happened since I took the office of Captain at the end of September. We had seen some pretty heavy duty changes over the previous couple of years, which makes it all the more fascinating that there is still plenty more to come. I think that it would be reasonable to suggest that almost none of us like change or the prospect of change. This can be a self-defence mechanism, whereby when change has arrived and become real, it is often not the huge impediment that it had appeared and very often soon becomes the norm.

Next year - January in fact - we will welcome Simon Greenfield as our new in-house head chef and we will have said goodbye to Alasdair and also to the bright and charming Jenny Benge. Stewart will find himself stretched more than a very stretchy rubber band, spearheading the new catering arrangements and considering the best way to replace Jenny. This will not be an easy task as Jenny will be a tough act to follow but Stewart, now having been our 'new General Manager' for around 18 months has a good understanding of what will be

required.

Bringing the catering in house presents risks but coupled with tremendous potential and genuine excitement. Naturally, we all thank Alasdair for his work and commitment over the last 13 years or so and wish him all the very best in his next venture.

For a little more change, we can look forward to the bar refurbishment, which will include new furniture, courtesy of a very generous and welcome donation from two long-standing members of the club. This project has absorbed a good deal of time in planning, finally culminating with the works scheduled to start on Monday 7th January and completing Friday 25th January. This period is almost the only foreseeable time when the bar will have sufficient down-time and we shall be closing the bar for the entire period. This will be disruptive and your patience and understanding is requested during this period please, which I know will be generously forthcoming. Stewart will be producing a schematic which will provide information on the works that are planned and it will be available for your inspection.

John Bottoms, Chair of Fabric, came to this project late but is keeping himself abreast and involved, so if you have any questions regarding the works please contact John, Stewart or myself and we will try to provide you with all of the answers.

Next year brings more change in the form of golfing rule changes. The club has sent out some information on this together with links within our website which provides the basic information that we will need. In early January, Robbie "Rules" Martin will host a seminar style session, assisted by the evergreen David Dickinson, which will help to reinforce the basics and also to swim into the deep unknown of the more esoteric and wonderful world of the full rule changes.

I know that Graham Careford and his enthusiastic team, like most of us, are already looking forward to next year when they will continue their programme of work and beautification of our course, in tandem with our ebullient chair of greens, Mark Watts.

I think it is safe to say, to the total chagrin of Dave (268) Morris, the future at Bush Hill Park is not Orange but a fresh, vibrant Green. Best wishes. RAY RIPSHER, CLUB CAPTAIN

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The Treasurer's Report

Happy New Year as HMRC hand back £53,000



THE Committee continues to drive the Club forward with change, investment and commitment to the future. This quarter we have been fortunate with another windfall from HMRC of £53k due to a recovery of VAT on Course expenditure over the last four years. This was further helped by the new auditors Hillier Hopkins revisiting our capital allowances on recent year's capital expenditure and saving the Club a further £8k.

While there has been a further small decline in subscriptions we believe the introduction of Lifestyle has prevented members leaving as well as attracting new members and one or two returning. With roughly a third of our membership over 75 years old it is imperative we are flexible in our approach to attracting new members.

Despite a small decrease in membership and green fees the General Manager and his team have managed to increase income from food and beverage. The net result to the end of October is a decline in revenue of £40k.

With regard to expenses keeping course expenditure on track has been difficult with the extra depreciation on the irrigation system plus the fact that most of our machinery is made by John Deere in the USA and the £ has not exactly performed well against the \$. Fabric is under control despite replacing two boilers at a cost of £9k. Administration costs are up slightly mainly due to an increase in staff costs and advertising coming in at £14k more than last year as at the end of October. Overall without our VAT refund I would be reporting a loss of approximately £90k as at the end of October whereas this figure is £40k. However our accumulated surplus carried forward remains positive at £50k as at the end of October.

Going forward I am confident the

Club can survive into the next financial year without drawing on the Limited Company's resources with one exception. Over recent years there has been a lot of debate concerning the format and furnishing of the lower bar. Under the guidance of Stewart, Ray (last year's Fabric Committee member) plus input from a few other staff and members a complete refurbishment will take place in January. The response from some members has been can we afford it! Our stance is that it is important to do it well and not half-heartedly and therefore a budget of £60k has been agreed. This has been made possible due to a very generous donation from a member, advantageous financial help from our new brewers and hopefully a five-year loan from the Limited Company of £20k. I believe as a consequence we will benefit from an investment of £60k with a repayment requirement of £30k. This will provide us with a lower bar that is great deal more flexible in usage than at present.

For next year's subscriptions we have agreed an increase of approximately 2% to most categories. As last year a discount to this year's level if paid by mid-March. Details to follow soon. Again I was grateful to all those who paid early and hope you repeat your dedication to club again this year.

We are in the process of finalising next year's budget with the emphasis on achieving a cash positive result! While I think this is a challenge I have a lot of confidence in the Manager and a new approach to food and beverage selling, Billie introducing new incentives and Ray and his newly constituted Social Team to produce a vibrant atmosphere to the club. The budget for 2019/20 and the five-year plan will be presented again hopefully by the end of March.

On a more delicate and sensitive matter we would like to ask members to consider leaving a legacy to the club. This is a request, and paperwork will be available in the office in the New Year should anyone feel so disposed.

I think there has been a lot of positives in 2018 and hopefully we can strive for better in 2019.

A Very Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year

MARTYN LAINCHBURY, TREASURER

Lady Captain's Report

'Miraculous' start for new Lady Captain



I AM honoured to be Lady Captain for the coming year and hope it will be an enjoyable one for everyone. We are lucky to have a very friendly ladies' section and have welcomed several new members.

My year started with the drive-in on October 10th when by some miracle I managed to get my first drive away cleanly. We were blessed with lovely weather and were able to eat outside in the sunshine. It has been a busy start just when I thought the run-up to Christmas would be a doddle. Firstly my loyal band of helpers decorated all five Christmas trees and the clubhouse making it look very festive. Then preparations for our Christmas Fayre were underway organised expertly by Lucy Bidmead. There was a good turnout and we made over £2,400. Thank you to all the ladies who donated so generously towards this very successful event and also thanks to the gentlemen who

allowed themselves to be fleeced for our raffle. I am glad to say that the first prize of a huge hamper went to one of these gentlemen. We had a great night at our Oscar themed Christmas party with lots of fun and hilarity. The decibels rose in the evening reaching a crescendo with Dancing Queen. Congratulations to our Oscar winners, Pauline Platt for double booking, Janet Connor for Chatterbox, Helen Constantinou for sartorial elegance and Sue Collins for much travelled. The meal was superb and the staff were excellent. I wish you all a very Happy New Year and some good golf.

CHRIS ROBERTSON

Not an inch of space

THERE wasn't an inch of space left in the restaurant as members and guests got down to the year's biggest treat - the Club's annual Dinner and Dance. Nevertheless, the waiting staff did their usual brilliant job and the festive food was served perfectly. Throughout the meal we were entertained by two talented performers (get names from Debbie? or Stewart) who must have got through the entire 'song-books' of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Andy Williams and their voices cleverly took on those familiar sounds which made many

believe that those famous stars had actually dropped-in to remind us of their greatest hits! (It has to be said that there were one or two mutterings from the audience, who complained that they couldn't chat with their fellow diners because the sound was quite loud) Nevertheless, the whole thing went with a 'bang' and the dancing went on until Cinderella's carriage appeared at mid-night. Great dinner; great music, great evening. What more could we ask to get Christmas off to a flying start?

FF

Robert Burns
Night Supper

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THE GENTLEMEN

Winter League Winner
James Chard

Kruger Sovereign Spring Winner
Iain Lanario

Shillingford Bowl Winner
Graham Edwards

Victory Cup Winner
Andrew Garrad

Bushguarders' Trophy Winner
Kieran Costello

Grandfathers' Cup Winner
Michael Clarke

Luther Smith / Field Cup
Graham Dickens

Club Championship Winner
Clive Prior

Division Two Scratch Winner
Graham Dickens

Senior Scratch Quaich Winner
Mark Stevens

Wally Gatward Memorial Winner
John Mather

George Low 32 Winner
Kevin Lewis

Coronation Cup Winner
Kieran Costello

Kruger Sovereign Autumn Winner
David Boothroyd

Final Stableford
Iain Lanario

Playing Fields
Winner Ethan Cameron
runner-up Neil Hurst

Final Medal Winner
Ethan Cameron

Final Scratch Medal
Ethan Cameron

Rafferty Cup
Winner Ethan Cameron
runner-up Se Banim

Scratch Knockout
Winner James Chard
runner-up John Guiney

John Shaw Bowl
Ethan Cameron

Wilson Putting Vase
Jon Copley

Committee Cup
Jon Copley

New Members Trophy Winner
Sharon Saunders

Club Championship handicap
Se Banim

Holm Oak 4BBB
Neal Avent /Neal Hurst

Edgar Collar Fourball
Winners
Nigel Bidmead and Jim Craggs
runners-up
James Chard and Gary Flanagan

Prize presentation 2018



THE LADIES

Bisque Salver
Winner Sue Palmer
runner-up Lisa Martin

Foursomes Salver
Winner Billie Newland/Alison
Towndrow
runner-up Angela Balnave/Janet
Andrew

Vets Cup
Winner Sarah Carver
runner-up Pauline Platt

Victory Cup
Winner Sarah Rees
runner-up Billie Newland

Centenary Salver
Winner Umar Annaradnam
runner-up Louise Fickling

Wright Cup
Winner Louise Fickling
runner-up Irene Dickinson

Angora Cup
Winner Lisa Martin
runner-up Pam Brookman

Grandmother's Cup
Winner Pat Turner
runner-up Chris Robertson

Senior Grandmother's Cup
Winner Chris Robertson
runner-up Una Kilgallon

Bushguarders' Cup
Winner Sue Coates
runner-up Billie Newland

Autumn Cup
Winner Lesley Stephens
runner-up Sharon Saunders

Kay Steel Salver
Winner Sue Collins
runner-up Marie Hollingworth

Committee Cup
Winner Pauline Platt
runner-up Chris Robertson

Rafferty Cup
Winner Sue Coates
runner-up Lesley Avent

Club Championship
Winner Lesley Avent
runner-up Sue Coates

Handicap Championship
Winner Irene Dickinson
runner-up Cela Selley

Chinchilla Cup
Winner Lisa Martin
runner-up Sarah Rees

Iris Sumner
Winner
Irene Dickinson and Lisa Martin
runners-up
Sue Coates and Sue Collins

Spring Cup
Sarah Rees

Bronze Scratch
Winner Chris Robertson
runner-up Janet Connor

Silver Scratch
Winner Sue Coates
runner-up Cela Selley

Copper Scratch
Winner Rita Kapur
runner-up Hazel Goodyear

John Shaw
Winner Sue Coates
runner-up Louise Fickling

Greensomes Goblet
Winners

Varnavas Christofi and Graham Evans
runners-up
Martyn Lainchbury and John Hayes

G Cup Foursomes
Winners

Gary Flanagan and James Chard
runners-up
David Morris and David Boothroyd

K Cup 4BBB
Winners

Graham Corr and Richard Blyth
runners-up
Kevin Lewis and Ethan Cameron

Family Foursomes
Winners

Iain Lanario and Ethan Cameron
runners-up
Graham Allen and Jack Allen

Rosebowl Mixed Foursomes
Winners

Norman Selley and Cela Selley
runners-up
Paul Robertson and Chris Robertson

Captain Pro Challenge
(George Low Memorial Trophy)
Mark Watts and Paul Millard

Captain's Putter
Nick Balnave and Martyn Lainchbury

The Course

Greens team: Pond, paths? All in a days work



THE golf course during 2018 underwent many changes, all of which benefitted the golf course to provide a better experience for our members and guests. Last winter saw the installation of the new Rain Bird irrigation system which involved heavy plant trenching lines for over three miles of pipework to be installed. Work started in October 2017 and continued throughout the winter until completion in March. We have experienced a few teething problems along the way which have now been resolved, but overall the Rain Bird system has worked admirably, providing excellent coverage and reliability during one of the hottest summers since 1976.

Drainage works

Last winter also included the installation of drainage to the 12th green - probably the wettest green on the course prior to the works. Drainage was also installed in the area in front of the 5th green which was prone to becoming wet and extremely muddy during the winter months. All work was completed in-house at a fraction of the cost of using outside contractors.

Paths

Two new paths at the 7th and 12th were constructed. The new path at the 12th allowed golfers to exit the hole to the rear of the green, which avoided walking on the approach where large bare areas appeared through foot traffic. The new location of the path has helped the approach recover and allow golfers to leave the green much quicker, thus speeding play. The second was an extension to the path at the 7th leading directly to the tee. The path creates a far better walking experience to and from the tee and prevents this area turning to mud in the winter.

Clearance work

One of our favourite jobs in the winter is clearance projects to enhance overgrown areas of the course and help speed up play. This year we carried out extensive clearance to the area behind the 5th tee. It was choked with vegetation and dead wood that built up over the years. Once the vegetation was cleared, we lightly rotovated the soil and sowed wild flower seeds that we trialled for the first time. With careful nurturing the seeds started to germinate and before long this once drab area was transformed into a burst of colour creating interest during the summer months.

Spring

Other springtime projects included the re-modelling of the 16th bunker that was being continuously damaged by foxes digging into the face. The technique uses recycled astro-turves to form a strong revetted face that foxes cannot penetrate. Work took two days to complete and totally transformed the bunker and the hole in general. We also cleared the banking behind the 16th green and planted it with shrubs using money from the tree fund. These shrubs, once established, will look stunning and give the green a fabulous back-drop when viewed from the tee. In April we undertook some tee levelling - namely the 1st medal tee and the 3rd tee that lost their levels due to subsidence. Turf was removed using a turf cutter and stored whilst rootzone was added to restore levels. Tee levelling is such an inexpensive project to carry out but can make such a big difference to the look and playability of our tees, more work of this nature is planned for the future.

Summer

Our most recently completed project was the de-silting of the 13th pond which was last carried out over 20 years ago. The pond was choked with vegetation and silt and had little water due to the very dry summer. We acquired quotes upward of £25,000 from outside contractors to carry out this work which were way above our set budgets.

A decision was made to take advantage of the lack of water in the pond and carry out this work ourselves using a long-reach excavator and large dumpers to remove the silt.

Work took five days to complete and resulted in over 100 tons of silt being extracted at a fraction of the cost, saving the club many thousands of pounds. Once the pond was filled with water a new fountain was located in the centre and lilies planted to finish off the project.

Practice area

Finally we end the year with another new project in creating a short-game area on the practice area. Ground works will continue

throughout winter ready for the growth in the Spring and Summer. Planned opening will be August 2019.

A busy year

It has been an extremely busy year on the course but also a very rewarding one with many and varied tasks being completed. The greens staff look forward to tackling many more projects to make the course even better and to a produce one we can all be proud of. On behalf of the greens staff we would like to wish all our members a Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you all on the course very soon.

MARK WATTS AND GRAHAM CAREFORD

Graham and his team tackled some big jobs to improve our course



Drainage



Paths



Bunkers



Tees

Bush Telegraph - a brief history

126 issues and still going strong

OUR first issue was produced on a manual typewriter and published in A5 format in February 1986 compiled by the then Club Secretary/Manager, John Stocker. It notified members of the Annual Dinner at the Firs in Green Lanes (now apartments) at a cost of £16.00. It also asked for ideas for social events, and the refurbishment of the main bar was also under discussion. What has changed in 33 years?

Winners of golf competitions included the name of Se Banim – still appearing in winners list today. The second issue requested some 'snippets of news about members - still a desire of the current editor. It included the announcement of some major Society days including Morelli (still an annual event today), plus, amongst others, Spurs FC, Comedians' Golf Society and a Mike Read Charity Celebrity Golf Day. Interestingly there was a welcome for our new caterers, Jacquie and David Smith. Issues 3-21, taking us up to March 1990, were sponsored by Williams Lea who financed both the typesetting and printing of each issue.

The next three issues reverted to typewritten A4 format and included a comment that 'interviews had taken place of many worthy candidates for membership and the committee had decided to offer 5-day, Junior and Social to a number of these candidates'. These issues appeared under the name of Steve Rickwood, a prominent member of the club at that time and a great golfer of County standard. Up to December 2006 (issue No 79) the magazine was known as 'NEWSLETTER', the change of name to Bush Telegraph arriving in April 2007 and the 80th issue. The only advertisement appearing at that time was for Bang & Olufsen



Our current editor on the prowl seeking copy from contributors

who occupied the foot of the front page for five years.

In April 2008 our newly elected Captain, Martin Dench, decided that we should branch out into colour and encourage more advertising. Martin was very successful in cajoling members to advertise their companies and this has continued to this day. We could always do with more advertising, although the magazine is now self-sufficient with advertising covering the cost of printing. Originally the magazine was mailed to ALL members but with rising postage costs and not least the arrival of the club's website it was decided to post the magazine on-line, and to make some printed copies available in the clubhouse. There have been various editors over the years with the current editor, Frank Farmer, pictured, still going strong after taking over the task in 2000. Earlier editors included Elyane Stuart, Bob Ellingham and Bob Crozier. (Apologies if any previous editors have been overlooked). Except for the first two issues and the three that were typewritten all have been typeset and produced, 121 issues in all, by Peter Smith who continues that task today.



How things have changed from the first publication in 1986 to today

Some headlines over the years



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From the Professional



Danny



Nicola



Max

Our year of reflections

THIS month marks our first birthday at Bush Hill Park and what a year it's been! It has been filled with excitement, changes, and a few errors along the way, but overall I've enjoyed settling into my new role and have had the pleasure of meeting some extraordinary people. I would like to take a moment to thank everyone who have helped with setting up the shop, and also funding our state of the art swing studio. I would also like to thank all the members and staff who have been so understanding and welcoming throughout the year. Looking back on 2018 I can certainly say all expectations have been surpassed. From a coaching point of view I have had a total of 137 new golfers taking up sessions. It's become very clear that our members are keen, competitive and strive to better themselves. Now with the swing studio, we are going to be able to keep helping golfers improve, even as the weather outside changes. To book a lesson please visit the club website. The Junior Saturday sessions have seen 15-20 juniors attending each week, with five new junior members joining our access golf

programme this year. Also newly introduced is our Rangers group coaching on Wednesday mornings, and Ladies' group coaching on Tuesdays - this will continue in the New Year, and a full clinic schedule is being produced to give everyone a chance to attend and improve. These sessions are open to members and non-members, and are the perfect way to introduce yourself and meet new people. With the year drawing to a close, my sights are set on 2019 and building on successes of the past year. I hope that the introduction of Lamkin, Green Lamb, Oakley sunglasses, Footjoy shoes and their clothing line will increase the choice for all golfers. Specifically for the ladies, we will be holding a fashion display of the spring/summer collections from Puma, Green Lamb and Footjoy to name but a few. 2019 will also see a new line from Cobra in the F9 wood and iron range, and the new F-Max will also be available for fittings from early January. As always please feel free to drop into the shop at any point for any equipment advice, golf ball explanations, or just to chat golf - we're always on hand. Finally from Nicola, Max and myself, we would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year.

DANNY HILL

Childrens' Christmas Party

FATHER Christmas came to our golf club. He really did. How do we know? Well, apart from this charming picture, our trustworthy Captain Mr. Ripsher was there and swears that Father Christmas, bushy white beard and hooded red cloak and bulging sack of lovely gifts really did come right in to wish those lucky children a very happy Christmas and give to each of them their very own present. Yes, straight from the hand of the actual Father Christmas. Isn't that wonderful?



One little boy said he wanted to see the reindeers but they were way out on the 13th chewing away on some left-over crusts near the hut, while others drank deeply from our fresh and sparkling lake. Oh well! Never

mind, we're sure he'll be back again next year. Oh! and Mr. Ripsher says it was also one of the big highlights of his year. Isn't that nice?

FF

Building bridges



Maureen Coates received the following letter from Jenny Brookman of Hadley Wood G.C. following their recent visit:

"Thank you for a most enjoyable time at the Bridge match. All of our team commented that you all made us very welcome and the match was played in such a friendly manner. They all thought the lunch was delicious.

Please thank all of the members of the Bush Hill team - and well done for winning! We look forward to seeing you at Hadley Wood in January." Thanks Bridge team, and happy bidding!

Bush Hill's hidden talent?

IN order to promote the Club by encouraging members to use the clubhouse and its facilities on a regular basis, and increase membership, a group of volunteers met to 'brainstorm' initiatives. Various ideas were discussed that will be developed, but to take these ideas forward we need your help in identifying talent and some contacts. In the first instance we are looking for members who play a musical instrument or have other entertaining qualities. Members' are aware of some members abilities but I am sure there are others who we are yet to discover! Secondly, we are looking for members' contacts, members' friends who would be prepared to

give a presentation or lecture on their chosen subject. It could be from the sporting world, entertainment, political, the services; the possibilities are far and wide.

Again we are aware of several members who may have these relationships but hope there are others we are yet to find!

If you can help in any way, we would be most grateful and in the first instance please reply to our Captain on his email address or contact the club office.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance. I await in anticipation to hear from you.

With many thanks

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Lots of goodies at the Ladies' Christmas fair - over £2,400 raised



MORE than 120 people attended the event which saw 20 exhibitors packed into the clubhouse. Jo Ireland's clothing and fashion accessories were as popular as ever. So too were the Oil & Vinegar and Old Bakery Gin stalls. Hats4Tails, My Turn Gallery and Hand Made By Hilary were among some of the new stalls this year. One other exhibitor that caught people's eye was the Embroidery stall run by the daughter of Rod Smith (who many of us will know from days gone by when he ran the sports and school outfitters in Enfield). Hannah's embroidery machine never stopped. My thanks go to Hazel Goodyear and Sarah Rees who ran the Home Produce stall; Jenny Pomphrey for baking the cake for 'Guess the Weight'; Janet Beecham for providing refreshments; the bottle stall beauties that are Sue Collins and Una Kilgallon; and Chris Robertson and Janet Connor for organising the raffle (which raised well over £1,000). I enjoy organising this event each year, but the success is all down to you so thank you all for your continued support. **LUCY BIDMEAD**



Wing Commander made the Bush Nationals' Annual Luncheon extra special



Wing Commander Mike Dudgeon

THE Annual Luncheon of The Bush Nationals is always timed to coincide with Remembrance Sunday, but it was a particularly memorable occasion this year because it was held just two days before the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day, and also because we were honoured by the presence of Wing Commander Mike Dudgeon who

gave a speech that was both insightful and amusing about his long service in the Royal Air Force. Mike made light of his days as a helicopter pilot in the Far East, Europe, America and later his service on the staff of NATO's Rapid Reaction Force based in Germany, by lacing his otherwise serious talk with jokes (mainly against himself!). He swore that he frequently arrived at a war zone just as the conflict had ended, but his modesty didn't appear to



Corporal Farmer, Acting-Captain of the Bush Nationals, with his wife Davina, guests Margaret and Roy Clarke and next year's Captain-in-Waiting Philip Cobden with Dianne, agreed that this year's Annual Luncheon was a both highly enjoyable and memorable occasion.

deflect the admiration and respect of the 48 people who were present at this important event. Acting-Captain Frank Farmer (RAF ret.) thanked the Wing Commander for his inspiring speech, which he said was a clear reminder of the debt we owe to

our servicemen and women. The audience showed their appreciation by giving Mike a standing ovation. A great occasion, and one that many of us as former servicemen ourselves, will never forget.



2019 here we come

AFTER having a very successful 2018, I am looking forward to making 2019 even better. I want to thank everyone who helps me run the various sections; I also want to say thank you to all the

players who have taken part in the various teams.

Rabbits

The Rabbits had a great 2018: we played 15 matches, winning 10, halving one and losing only four. John White, with a fantastic 45 points, won the Bucks Plate. Ray Hurding with a great 39 points won the Rabbits Cup. We are always looking for new players, we normally play on a Tuesday afternoon 1.30-2 pm with a meal after, so if you would like to join us please e-mail me at bhp.rabbits@btinternet.com for more information, our year starts on the 26th March with the Bucks Plate. The more the merrier!

Foxes

This was our first year playing in the Foxes Friendly Matches, we played Grim's Dyke, West Middlesex and Mill Hill, and were undefeated in all matches. For 2019 we have decided only to play Ealing and Mill Hill - dates to be arranged.

Foxes Abrey Cup

This also was our first year in the Abrey Cup - all matches were played at neutral courses, we played against Northwood, North Middlesex and Finchley. Winning all rounds to get into the final against Ealing, played at Sudbury Golf Club, with a nine man team. After a fiercely fought battle we lost by four matches to five. Jon and I congratulate all players who took part. We have entered for 2019 and details will follow. If you would like to play for the Foxes and have a handicap between 9-18 you are more than welcome.

For more details please contact Mark or Jon at bhp.foxes@btinternet.com

Tigers Bullivant Bowl

Unfortunately we were knocked out in the first round this year playing against Hendon home and away. We have entered for 2019 and our first match is against West Middlesex home and away; details to follow.

The Bullivant Bowl format is a knockout competition based on a standard bracketed draw, six players per team. Matches will comprise three games played on a fourball better ball match play basis off scratch and is open to players with a handicap between 7 and 12.

If you are interested in playing for the Tigers section please contact Mark Stevens at bhp.tigers@btinternet.com

Mixed

We only managed to play three mixed matches this year: The Maytime Greensomes was won by Janet Connor and Mark Stevens with 43 points, the Lambert Trophy, was won by Ray and Tracey Ripsher with 35 points, We also played a mixed friendly at Enfield winning all five matches. Janet and I are hoping for a better 2019 with the mixed dates to be arranged. We will keep you all informed. If you would like to play mixed golf please contact Janet or Mark at bhp.mixed@btinternet.com for more details.

MARK

Autumn at Bush Hill Park



Photos by Dave Turner



Photo shows the team proudly displaying their runners-up medals.

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OUR HISTORY: War is over now time to rebuild

AS the war receded into memory the club began to think about the future and how to improve its facilities for the members. If we were able to transport ourselves back to the club in the 1950's we would recognise the course but perhaps not the clubhouse. The few cars that were around in those days would have been parked right outside the clubhouse near a small veranda which protected the main club entrance. In the entrance hall there was a huge fireplace which backed on to the fireplace in what we now know as the George Low bar. In the winter great log fires burned in these fireplaces - a welcoming and comforting sight after a cold day on the course, I'm sure. The George Low bar was originally a cocktail bar, called the Shillingford Room after its benefactor, Len Shillingford, a very prominent committee man and President in 1952. In fact the Shillingford Bar was the only bar that the ladies could use. The ladies' locker room was on the first floor and the dining room and kitchen were in the basement.

Men's bar

Where the restaurant is now were two flats occupied by the secretary and the professional. The front of the present main bar was the men's bar, the other end being the men's locker room, the entrance to which was at the side of the clubhouse. There were toilets here also but apparently these were 'old and basic'. The walls of the bar were wood panelled and used as honours boards, and the bar itself was furnished with leather armchairs and settees. I imagine the bar to be somewhat dark, not just because of the wood panelling, but because this was before the installation of the big picture windows which we see today. The atmosphere in the club has been described as, 'like a London Club transferred to a country setting'. The course would not have looked so different to today but for a couple of exceptions. The 6th hole was played to the present 7th green, a 445 yard par 5, and there were no poplar trees down the side

of this fairway; these would be planted in the late 1960's. The only other difference we would have noticed would be a short par 3 (112 yards) played from near the present back tee on the 6th over a copse and a 'ferocious' bunker to a small undulating green. Evidence of this green can still be seen to the left of the present 5th green, now covered with trees.

Magnificently managed

The head green keeper was Mac Webster, who had been appointed in late 1946 on a salary of £6-15s-0d per week and he was granted use of the cottage free of rent and rates so long as he held the position of green keeper. Mac was a dedicated worker and quite a reasonable golfer. He was invited to join the Bushguards and played in their competitions. However he was not allowed to go in the bar and had to drink his beer in the hall. He managed the course magnificently, and without modern machinery or automated sprinklers. He knew the course intimately and in particular knew where all the drains were. In fact much of this knowledge was sadly lost when he died in 1974, still tending the course he loved. It was about this time, 1953, that the New River running parallel with the present 12th was filled in. At the turn of the century three pipes had been installed to take the New River from Southbury Road to Bush Hill Road and the ensuing 'loop' was made redundant. However the loop had to be opened up in 1940 because the pipes had sustained serious damage due to enemy action. When the river was filled in, however, the boundary of the course was no longer clearly defined and a number of the home owners in Whitethorn Gardens took advantage of this and extended their gardens. The club took a magnanimous view, though, and allowed the owners, on payment of one guinea, to cultivate this land for a period of 21 years. Following the death in 1949 of Percy Wyatt, our professional, the club had some difficulty finding a replacement so soon after the war. However, in early 1950 the club



The Shillingford Room now re-named the George Low Bar

appointed Basil Shepard. Basil had been a pupil of Henry Cotton and was a 'sartorially elegant' gent who was to be our professional for the next twelve years. His shop was a long wooden hut at the side of the clubhouse near where the committee now park their cars. The present pro shop was dilapidated stables. In 1949 the clubhouse and course were valued at £200,000, although there was now no likelihood that the club would be sold. However, it seems a lot of work was required, particularly to the clubhouse. Two new boilers were needed, structural repairs were required to the clock tower and maintenance and decorations to both the secretary's and the professional's flats were urgently needed. But it seems the foremost problems during this period were due to damage sustained in the war. The club owned three lodges on the course,

all of which had suffered damage, as did the stables, the veranda and various other outbuildings. In fact the windows of the clubhouse had been blown out by a bomb which landed and detonated near the lake. It was hoped that much of the cost for repairs to all this war damage would be met by the War Damage Commission which had been set up in 1941 to make compensation payments in respect of damage by enemy action to land and buildings in the United Kingdom. Negotiations with the commission dragged on for many years and it wasn't until late in 1954, nearly ten years after the end of the war, when the claim made by the club, to the value of £1005, was eventually settled. All this work would take time to complete but, as we shall see, better times were just around the corner.

DAVID DICKINSON



The front of the clubhouse in 1962 showing the old windows and the veranda. Fire damage can be seen above the main bar windows.

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New rules of golf

Effective 1st January 2019

THE Royal & Ancient (R&A) and United States Golf Association (USGA) have unveiled the new Rules of Golf, which will be effective from 1st January 2019. The process to modernise the Rules began in 2012 and was initiated to ensure that the Rules are easier to understand and apply for all golfers and to make the game more attractive and accessible for newcomers. The extensive review has condensed the old rules, of which there were thirty four, down to a more manageable twenty four. Each Rule now has a Purpose Statement to help the reader better understand the principles behind the Rule. Although the majority of the Rules are essentially unchanged from those we all know and love (?), they have been rewritten in simpler, less legalistic, language and have been reordered into a more logical sequence. There are also a number of significant changes to the Rules, the most important of which are outlined below.

The new Rules and more than thirty "how to apply" videos are available at www.rules.golf and we are all encouraged to study these. New Rules books are available at the Club and in January there will be a seminar run by Robbie Martin and David Dickinson about the new Rules to which we are all invited (Robbie Martin to supply details)

Principal changes in the rules of golf

Some of the most significant changes to the Rules include the following:

- Elimination or reduction of "ball moved" penalties: There will be no penalty for accidentally moving a ball on the putting green or in searching for a ball; and a player is not responsible for causing a ball to move unless it is "virtually certain" that he or she did so.
- Relaxed putting green rules: There will be no penalty if a ball played from the putting green hits an unattended flagstick in the hole; players may putt without having the flagstick attended or removed. Players may repair spike marks and other damage made by shoes, animal damage and other damage on the putting green and there is no penalty for merely touching the line of putt. If a ball that has been lifted and replaced then moves due to natural forces (eg wind), it must

be replaced on its original spot.

- Relaxed rules for "penalty areas" (currently called "water hazards"): Red and yellow-marked penalty areas may cover areas of desert, jungle, lava rock, etc., in addition to areas of water; expanded use of red penalty areas where lateral relief is allowed; and there will be no penalty for moving loose impediments or touching the ground or water in a penalty area.
- Relaxed bunker rules: There will be no penalty for moving loose impediments in a bunker or for generally touching the sand with a hand or club. A limited set of restrictions (such as not grounding the club right next to the ball) is kept to preserve the challenge of playing from the sand; however, an extra relief option is added for an unplayable ball in a bunker, allowing the ball to be played from outside the bunker with a two-stroke penalty.
- Relying on player integrity: A player's "reasonable judgment" when estimating or measuring a spot, point, line, area or distance will be upheld, even if video evidence later shows it to be wrong; and elimination of announcement procedures when lifting a ball to identify it or to see if it is damaged.
- Pace-of-play support: Reduced time for searching for a lost ball (from five minutes to three); affirmative encouragement of "ready golf" in stroke play; recommending that players take no more than 40 seconds to play a stroke and other changes intended to help with pace of play.

Some Rule Changes Differ from Proposed Versions.

During the consultation process undertaken by the R&A and USGA a number of proposals for changes were made that were ultimately not included in the final version, although changes to the old rules were made. We may all have heard of some of these proposals, for example dropping a lifted ball from any height, or measuring relief in inches or centimetres rather than club lengths. For clarity, the final versions of the rules concerned are summarised below:

- Dropping procedure: When taking relief (from an abnormal course condition or penalty area, for example), golfers will now drop from knee height. This

will ensure consistency and simplicity in the dropping process while also preserving the randomness of the drop.

- Measuring in taking relief: the golfer's relief area will be measured using the longest club in his/her bag (other than the putter) to measure one club-length or two club-lengths, depending on the situation, providing a consistent process for golfers to establish his/her relief area.
- Removing the penalty for a double hit: The penalty stroke for accidentally striking a ball more than once in the course of a stroke has been removed. Golfers will simply count the one stroke they made to strike the ball.

Publications

Three new publications are now available from the R&A and USGA to help players, as well as officials, and provide interpretation and guidance in how the Rules are to be applied.

- The Player's Edition of the Rules of Golf: An abridged, user-friendly set of the Rules with shorter sentences, commonly used phrases, and diagrams. Written in the "second person," The Player's Edition is intended to be the primary publication for golfers.
- The Rules of Golf: The full edition of the Rules is written in the third person and includes illustrations. It is intended to be a more thorough version of the

revised Rules.

- The Official Guide to the Rules of Golf: This "guidebook" replaces the Decisions book and contains information to best support committees and officials. It includes interpretations on the Rules, committee procedures and the Modified Rules of Golf for Players with Disabilities. It is a comprehensive resource document intended as a supplementary publication.

The new handicapping system 2020

THE new handicapping system, of which readers may have heard, does not come into operation until 2020 and, even then, the changes are largely administrative and need not concern most players. The key 'news' is that the new system will make handicaps portable around the world and adjustable from course to course through the Course and Slope Rating System. In Middlesex Golf we are still in the process of rating all the county's courses according to this system and should finish this in 2019 (Bush Hill has been done).

ROBBIE MARTIN, DIRECTOR OF COMPETITIONS,
MIKE STEEL, COUNTY REFEREE,
MIDDLESEX GOLF



R&A Rules Update and Q&A

Friday 11th January 2019

The 2019 New Rules of Golf come into force on 1st January and we are running an update and Q&A session to make sure everyone is up to speed with the new rules.

Happy Hour from 6 - 8 p.m.
Rules update from 7 p.m.

#happyhour
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Obituaries

Dennis Moss



I FIRST met Dennis at Bush Hill Park Golf Club when he joined in 1993 and over the following years played many rounds of golf with him. I particularly remember when he had a bad back and his partner used to tee up the ball for him, prior to him driving the ball straight down the fairway, and then his partner had to pick up the tee to save him bending down. In recent years, after Dennis stopped playing golf it was meeting on Tuesdays and Thursdays for coffee and something to eat, and on occasions he would enjoy a small whiskey. Dennis was born in Hackney on 1st March 1929. The family moved to

Chingford when he was nine months old and he lived in Chingford for the rest of his life. He first attended New Road School and then to Nevin Drive School until he was evacuated to what is now Milton Keynes after a land mine badly damaged their family home.

He was a stalwart member of the Boys Brigade and played the bugle in the band. He was also a member of the Church Choir and was part of the Boys Brigade group who performed at many concerts in the Church Hall - the highlight of these concerts being a performance of the can-can. Unfortunately no photographic record can be traced of this major event in Dennis' theatrical career. After leaving school Dennis commenced a printing apprenticeship as a machine minder and he also studied at the London College of Printing. Dennis completed two years National Service in the Royal Engineers, where he was also engaged in the printing process, mainly the printing of maps. He remained in the printing industry until he retired in 1993.

He met Jean at the Church Youth Club when he was obviously seeking a younger woman, he being 16 and Jean just 14. They married in 1951 and lived with Jean's parents until 1961 when they moved into their own house, albeit with bare boards, empty rooms and the remains of an old

Anderson shelter in the back garden. However Dennis practised his do-it-yourself skills - painting, wall papering and even knocking down a chimney breast. This was the only house that Dennis and Jean lived in spending many hours enjoying both home and the garden.

The greenhouse was an important part of his life and even more important for his friends at Bush Hill as during the summer we were treated to a regular supply of fruit, cucumbers and tomatoes. Dennis was fortunate in having a long and happy retirement and he and Jean enjoyed many holidays abroad and latterly completing many cruises including one I personally envy which was making a full transit of the Panama Canal. He maintained a very active life being a friend of Epping Forest, he joined London Walks and was a member of the local Historical Society.

But probably his most important decision was to join Bush Hill Park Golf Club in February 1993 and many of his friends are here today. He worked tirelessly as Team Manager of the Veterans for many years organising matches and, with the help of many phone calls, getting players to the right place at the right time. Sadly his health over recent years deteriorated, although he still managed to play a few holes from time-to-time. Through all the scans, tests and endless waits at hospital he never complained or lost his sense of humour. During this time Jean had the never-ending support of family and friends for which she remains truly grateful.

PETER SMITH

received a direct hit and was completely destroyed. After time at Friern Barnet Grammar school, John left to start work at the age of 14 where he made the tea but also learned the basics of engineering which formed the basis of his future career. At 18 he was called-up for his National Service in the RAF and after basic training he was trained to be a RADAR operator. One of his postings took him to Norfolk which is where he developed a love of sailing which became one of his greatest recreations in later years.

After his military service, John joined his cousin and uncle to set up Tunewell that was the basis of his very successful career in engineering. He continued his studies at Enfield Technical College and achieved his HNC and HND and such was his technical ability that he became the pre-eminent designer in his field. He also served on National and European technical committees - a great achievement for a boy who had left school at 14!

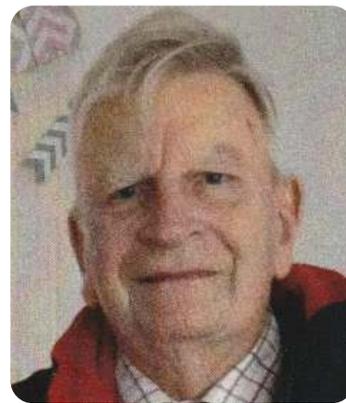
In his early twenties, John met and married a lovely young Welsh primary school teacher. They had many very happy years together and shared lots of adventures - particularly in fast-moving sailing boats. In fact, John became such an expert sailor that he was made Chairman of the British Finn Association and ran the Weymouth Olympic week for four years and was elected to the Council of the RYA.

Sailing was not the only sport that John excelled in. In the winter he played rugby, in the summer tennis, learned to ski and took up motor sport having the distinction of being driven around Brands Hatch by champion Graham Hill. But for all of his love of sport, John remained dedicated to his job and the business continued to expand as offshoots were established in America, although as the years went on he gradually took a back seat to allow his sons to take charge, but he kept up regular visits to the company, such was his interest in business.

As for his golf: John took lessons at night school, played at Trent Park then crowned his golfing career by joining Bush Hill Park representing the Bush Nationals as well as the Veterans (now known as the Rangers) and again he made many friends who mourn his loss. Described as honest, reliable and dutiful, John was faithful to his family and friends and was respected as being fair, reasonable and a good employer. But he is perhaps best remembered for his sense of fun.

IAN TURNER

John Turner



JOHN was born in 1929 to Robert and Ida. He and his younger brother Tom had a very happy childhood, but their father died when John was only nine-years-old. A year later, the second World War broke out. In spite of the many hardships his generation had to face, John developed hobbies such as aircraft recognition and building a collection of shrapnel. As well as a period of evacuation, John went to stay with an aunt in Southgate where during a night-time air-raid the house next door

As we go to press we hear of the sad passing of Dick Barnes and Alf Oliver both long-serving members.

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