



Bush Telegraph

April 2019

Number 128

‘WARM AND WELCOMING’

is how I want us to be, says Billie

SPRING is coming and the golfing year will soon be in full swing. I am asking members to please welcome new golfers to the Club. The Captains and I hosted an evening inviting new members to attend. It was very interesting hearing their views. Those who joined knowing existing members all seemed happy and felt integrated in the Club. Others had less pleasant experiences and this is something we need to understand so that we can instill a culture where we treat everyone at the Club with courtesy and respect.

I want Bush Hill Park Golf Club to be known as a welcoming, friendly place where new faces are warmly greeted, whether they are playing members, golf visitors or social members.

The highlight for me since the last Bush Telegraph, was the opening of the Club bar. What a night! The bar was packed and the last stragglers left just before 11.00pm. Simon Greenfield served various canapes, my favourite being the rare roast beef in a mini Yorkshire pudding. With the Club taking the catering in-house, there are opportunities for change. Members' views are needed to ensure their happiness. As an example, Sunday lunches were originally served downstairs, but not all members approved, so now the meal can be taken in the restaurant as well as in the club bar.

The social sub-committee produced a leaflet explaining the advantages of joining the Club and

these were delivered in the local area and resulted in about 50 residents becoming social members. With this growth, the fantastic club bar and 20% off food and drink on Friday Club Nights we hope to see many more members attending these evenings.

Marketing

With Jenny Benges' departure, her role is being split into administration and marketing. I welcome Dawn Careford back as a member of staff. In her earlier days, Dawn was a smiling member of our bar staff. She left, took various courses and worked in offices of local companies. She is now upstairs doing administrative work but thankfully is still just as



cheerful.

Mentioning departures, Tony Brookman is standing down from Bush Hill Park Golf Club Ltd. He's been Chairman for the last ten years. Tony has spent many years giving his time and experience to the Club. I would personally like to thank him for all his many contributions and wish him a happy retirement.

I welcome Judith Pons who will be joining next month to fill the part-time marketing role. The Club needs more members and needs a professionally qualified person to promote and market what we have to offer.

The Club is in a strong position. The new irrigation system, the swing studio, the soon-to-be-completed practice area and of course the refurbished club bar are all great pluses. With friendly members we must be the top choice in the area!

BILLIE NEWLAND, CHAIR OF MANAGEMENT

125th Anniversary

Plans are progressing well for our celebrations to mark the Club's 125th anniversary in 2020.

Our celebrations will begin with the Annual Dinner on Saturday March 15th followed by a special golf event on Sunday 16th March to mark the day 125 years ago that Mrs Aveling, the wife of a committee member, drove in on the official opening day of the Club.

The main event in the 2020 calendar will be a golf festival week to take place in the week commencing Sunday 21st June. A number of golfing events are being planned including a Pro-Am on Thursday 26th and the week will culminate with Captain's Day and a Gala Dinner on Saturday 28th June.

The golf festival week aside, the Captain's social sub-committee will be organising a series of special events, both golf and social, throughout the year to mark this special occasion in the Club's history.

Our Club historian, Dave Dickinson, is compiling a history of the Club that will be made available to all members in booklet form.

Important message from the Trustees

see pages two and three



Friday Club Nights

Every Friday from 6:30 p.m. 'til 11 p.m. 20% Double Discount on Food & Drink all evening - Food available until 8 p.m.

Book Online or Call 020 3146 9890 to reserve a table or just call in for drinks if you're passing

Message from the Trustees

Club structure?

Trustees suggest ways to face current challenges

Club structure

We, the Trustees, would like to open up the debate to all club members regarding the structure of the club and within that structure the role of the General Manager. For those of you who read the golfing press this is a bit of a hot potato!

We, like many clubs, are suffering from a decline in membership as the 'bulge' of 'baby-boomers' hanging up their golf shoes gradually reaches a peak. Our perception is this has not been helped by the rise in the number of golf courses in lots of exotic locations as well as an attitude change in younger members to belonging to a club.

Another result in this gradual decline in membership is the number of members offering their involvement in the running of the Club. As most will be aware we have three platforms within the Club to provide the governance of the club –

1. The Board (a limited company) – consisting of six directors responsible for safeguarding the land and buildings.
2. The Management Committee (an unincorporated body) – consisting of seven voting members and two non-voting members. Three of the delegates are designated Trustees of the Club – the Chairman, Captain and Treasurer. They accept and sign a lease every seven years from the Limited Company passing all responsibility for running the club to the committee
3. Captain's Committee – ostensibly to run the golf and social aspects of the club.

Historically, the Club, from 1919, was managed by Bush Hill Park Golf Club Ltd (the Board). In the 1950s the Board relinquished control to the Captain and his committee. In late 1990s, the Management Committee was formed to manage the Club. Three significant events have occurred to question whether the current structure, established over twenty years ago, is now the best fit for purpose –

1. The appointment of a commercial manager.
2. The Auditors questioning the

potential liability of the members belonging to an unincorporated entity – Bush Hill Park Golf Club.

3. The difficulty in obtaining members with the necessary skill to help run a small and complex business. Currently six on the Board plus another eight on Management Committee and a minimum of five on Captain's committee.

The General Manager

Employing a full time commercial manager was meant to lessen the input of committee members! Duncan Collins was the first to recognise the need for change when the Club Secretary was not replaced and tried to run the Club through the Committee. This was superseded by appointing Lee Fickling as Club Director.

Unfortunately while we believe he was on the right track Lee was wearing too many hats! Consequently the committee led by Nick Balnave opted for a Commercial Manager where the playing of golf was not his first concern but was the management and administration of the Club. This step change is meant to see the General Manager taking a greater leading role in managing the club on a day-to-day basis. We are aware that a few members believe the manager has too much control. This does not mean we, the committee, have got it wrong only that we have to change that perception and improve the controls over the General Manager.

First, it does not make sense to employ an experienced and expensive manager and not provide him with the authority to meet his responsibilities. It is impossible for him/her to answer to every Committee and Board member let alone every Member. Secondly we the Committee have to ensure the General Manager receives the approved guidance and direction from the Club by way of –

- A clear Club strategy
- A detailed five-year plan
- A detailed annual budget
- Financial governance on what he is allowed to do and the

financial limits of his actions.

Matters of concern or policy should be directed to the General Manager by way of the Chair, Committee Members or email/letter to the Committee for consideration and reply. This does not exempt informal chats to the GM! The days have passed when Committee members had the time and/or the inclination to run the club plus the job has become more difficult with increasing legislation covering ever greater areas of our activities and the need to make important decisions on a day to day basis. It is impossible for eight/nine people to be involved with or micro-manage the General Manager meeting once a month for three hours. (See article in The National Club Golfer 1 March 2019 – this is a 'devil's advocate' type of leader but makes some useful points and the responses are worth reading too!)

Incorporation of the operating entity of Bush Hill Park Golf Club

Last year the Auditors, Hillier Hopkins made the following observation in their management report –

The club is currently an unincorporated entity, as such it cannot legally register its ownership of land. The land and buildings of the club are registered to Bush Hill Park Golf Club Limited who hold the land of the club on trust for the club.

Having separate entities creates additional administrative burden, whilst under the current structure the members of the club may not be safeguarded from individual litigation in the event of any legal action.

They recommended transferring the trade, assets and liabilities of the club into the company limited by guarantee.

We, the trustees would like to endorse the proposal of a SINGLE Limited entity for the following reasons –

- A clear and simple structure which the members can relate to and more easily understand the roles and responsibilities of the officers
- Provide a more dynamic, responsive managerial process
- Eliminate the small but real risk of liability of individual members in the event of a serious incident
- Remove the requirement for Trustees, together with the small but potential individual risk associated with the post

- Remove the requirement for the Lease arrangement currently in place
- Simplify 'third party security' arrangements, providing a clear and visible liability on a single balance sheet
- Small financial saving by instructing only one audit
- Improve and clarify the working relationship between the 'club' and the General Manager
- Clearer management control structure over all aspects of the club promoting more involvement of members on specific sub-committees without recourse to being on the board
- Simple and clear route to the board for interested members
- Total number of board members reduce to around seven whereas the existing board plus management committee totals approximately fourteen.

While there are one or two potential disadvantages in this proposal such as a claim for negligence or the company failing to be a going concern these would be covered in clauses in the Memorandum and Articles of Association the main advantages being simplicity of structure and the reduction of roles required of members.

Structure

The structure we envisage is –

The Board

The board will consist of six/seven members including the General Manager. The Directors will be well respected members of the club with recognised qualifications or/and experience vetted by the Board but duly elected by the membership. They will be directed by the Constitution – a detailed document providing the governance of the Club. Effectively the Board will replace the Management Committee.

The Captain's Committee

Its primary function will be to organise the golf and social functions within the club. This committee will be responsible for the Rules of the Club. Before we are able to take the next major step in our development it is important we accept and agree – compromise – on what we are trying to achieve. The future is a more dynamic fast moving place than the past and it is important we adopt a management style to cope with the challenges.

The change

Therefore we are proposing one Board and a Captain's Committee

continued on next page

MESSAGE FROM THE TRUSTEES

continued from previous page

for the future.

The importance of the board will be to co-operate with the manager in providing the financial strategy, forming the five-year plan and annual budget and then monitoring performance of the GM and his team on a regular basis (monthly) and reporting to the members (quarterly). The Board will be available to provide support to the General Manager as and when required on an ad hoc basis and not micro-manage him or get involved in the management of the club on a day-to-day basis

The Captain's Committee will control all aspects of Golf and Social and should be set up accordingly. Although called the Captain's Committee we would suggest it is constituted with stability and continuity in mind and not based on an annual membership.

It will be difficult to move forward until we have the concept of the Club's Management agreed, however, we propose the following should be included in the Constitution – Governance of the Club protocols for the Board and

General Manager, and the Rules – Guidelines for the members.

See A Governance Guide for Golf Clubs -

<https://www.gcma.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Club-Governance-Guide-1.pdf>

Once there is a general agreement on the corporate structure and Governance we shall be able to move forward and achieve the type of changes Nick Balnave was seeking and started campaigning for four years ago. We intend to explain in detail the proposed structure changes in early summer when we present the five-year plan.

This is a working document meant to promote serious debate among those members who wish to be involved in taking the club forward in an efficient, business like and optimistic way. Your views would be much appreciated either by talking to a committee member or by email.

THE TRUSTEES

CHAIR – BILLIE NEWLAND

CAPTAIN – RAY RIPSHER

TREASURER – MARTYN LAINCHBURY

27 MARCH 2019

Rabbits great turnout for Bucks Plate

THE Rabbits held their first event of the year when the Bucks Plate was keenly contested with Richard Blyth winning the event on count-back from Norman Carey. We had a great turnout with twenty-four players determined to win. The winner of the guests' prize was Martin Anderson with 27 points.

I want to thank everyone who took part, and look forward to your support this year.

MARK STEVENS

Results

Winner

Richard Blyth 38 points

Runner-up

Norman Carey 38 Points

Nearest the pin at the 5th

Norman Carey

Nearest the pin at the 13th

Richard Blyth

Nearest the pin at the 16th

Ray Hurding

Longest drive

Mark Stevens



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friday music club night

music from 8-10 p.m.
Food Served until 8 p.m.
Bar Open Until 11 p.m.

Friday 3rd May

Solo Music Act

Live Music with Alan Lovell
Lead Guitar/Lead Vocal from the Swinging Blue Jeans



In addition to our usual Friday Club Night, we will also have a solo music act from the Swinging Blue Jeans Singer & Guitarist - Alan Lovell

20% Double Discount from 6-11 p.m.
Food available until 8 p.m.

*Alan started his career in Wales in the early sixties. He has toured and recorded over the years with many notable acts such as - Marty Wilde, F0 Paddy, Danny Lister, & The New Yorkville Band to name but a few.

He has toured extensively with The Swinging Blue Jeans and hopes to continue to do so with this chapter of The Swinging Blue Jeans history.

www.swingingbluejeans.co.uk

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or Call 020 3146 9890

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Martin inspires Rangers

- poised for the new season



THE Rangers made sure they would be in fine fettle for the season ahead by playing their highly prized Eclectic competition through the chilly winter months - and what a result! The quiet and unassuming Martin Janu defeated one of the club's best and most dedicated players to take the Eclectic title to prove that anything can happen in the crazy world of golf.

Martin's success goes to prove to the rest of his fellow Rangers that there's every reason to be optimistic about the coming year. Last year the Bush Hill Park Rangers had some mixed fortunes. The "beast from the east" caused chaos with some matches having

to be rescheduled and so having some knock-on effect to the later fixtures. Nevertheless we managed to complete home and away fixtures against 12 golf clubs coming out with overall wins against 5 of them.

The 2019 season which runs from April to October will see us play against Aldenham, an addition to our normal opponents. This has come about because Essendon have made changes to their list of opponents which resulted in Bush Hill Park Rangers being removed. A shame but we do have a new course to play.

The Rangers have a pool of about 40 players which is not enough so any members who are aged 55+ would be welcomed. The matches are played in a good, friendly spirit usually made up of teams of 16-a-side followed by a lunch. As the matches approach then invitations to play sheets are put on the notice board in the gents changing room or alternatively you can contact me by mobile or email. You will find our full fixture list for 2019 on the notice board.

So have a good summer and some great golf.

JOHN STRADLING

Captain's Report

Ready to face challenges



PURELY for inspiration and with the hope of not repeating myself, I read through my report in the last Bush Telegraph. Whilst I can't go through the percentage calculations for you again, I can inform you that, by chance, I am now virtually half way through my year of captaincy. You may well be thinking, 'crikey, is that all', but to me it's incredible to already be at that stage.

Back when my last report was written, the bar refurbishment was all ahead of us, Simon Greenfield was a blip on the horizon and the implementation of the New Rules of Golf still seemed improbable and possibly just a figment of Robbie 'Rules' Martin's wild imagination. Remarkably though, here we all are, pretty much into April and all of the above have come to fruition, with the astounding fact that it has all been implemented perfectly. Putting with the flag stick in, is now the norm, the West End setting of the bar is taken for granted and Simon Greenfield is merrily cooking away.

Winds of change

Not only that, Jenny Bengé escaped our clutches, Alasdair said goodbye and was last heard of somewhere in deepest Asia but worse still, the long-serving and ever reliable Annie is flying off to rural old England, better known as Exeter. I can hear the deep mutterings of 'whatever next?' but of course, if I did tell you, I would have to kill you. However, needless to say, even as we speak, the winds of change are whistling around the ramparts of Bush Hill Park Golf Club.

With all of what we have recently endured, which I think we now generally enjoy, what really could still change for us at Bush Hill Park? Well firstly, at an undisclosed time in the reasonably near future, a brand new practice facility will

rise out of the mud. Much of this can already be seen from the vantage point of the white tee on the first hole. Graham Careford and his team, together with the beady eye, (no offence intended), of Mark Watts, a brilliant new facility will have been produced for a very low cost indeed. But more on that from Mark in due course. Also, exactly when did the marvellous fountain on the 13th lake arrive? I certainly can't remember. It is amazing how quickly the new becomes the old. Remarkably, somewhat similar to the content of my last report, we still really do have it all in front of us. With the utterly relentless passing of time, Spring will arrive for the golfing fraternity and perhaps, not before time either. Regardless of how benign the Winter may have been, Spring and the closer onset of Summer is a pleasing proposition. For me personally, I am now looking forward to the part of this job which brings, almost unbridled, and seemingly endless golf. But others may not share quite the same view.

Well positioned

Someone who immediately comes to mind is our very own Professional, Danny Hill. One of my objectives this year, is to emulate the golfing feats of one of our great, past-captains, David Morris (268). Dave decimated his handicap during his year of Captaincy, which was a marvellous achievement and testament to his skill and depth of character. The broad shoulders of Danny Hill have now been charged with achieving the same result with my handicap. Yes, I know, Danny is a great coach but not a magician, but you never know, miracles can happen. So, as a club, we are rapidly heading toward the cusp of our 125th Anniversary, which is pretty damned good if you ask me. Like the majority of golf clubs, we face stiff challenges to survive, let alone progress. However, we are well positioned to take on the challenges and we are setting in place plans and proposals to ensure that we have absolutely the best chance of not only survival but blossoming, like the very best Spring that you can remember.

Therefore, once again I am sorry Dave, the future at Bush Hill Park is not Orange but an ever more vibrant Green.

RAY RIPSHER, CLUB CAPTAIN

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Members give new bar 'thumbs up'

Club's exciting innovations - Stewart Judd reports

IN the last Bush Telegraph I finished my article with a reference to our plans to commence the bar refurbishment and our vision to transform the bar into 'a modern, contemporary environment for members and guests to enjoy food and drink'. I hope that you will agree that we now have a beautiful new space that certainly meets our modern, contemporary objective. Feedback has been really positive, and we must thank a few key people for enabling this project to come to fruition.

Firstly, Roger and Pippa Munyard, who set the ball rolling with a very generous donation and without this we would not have been able to even consider this project. Marstons Brewery have given us an 'advance of discount' loan, which is effectively a free borrowing paid off through our continued trading with Marstons. We have a strong working relationship with Marstons and this does not affect the prices that we pay for our drinks and therefore, will not impact on our bar prices charged to members.

Thirdly, we used some of the Club's funds from the Limited Company in the form of an interest-free loan, which will be paid back to the Limited Company account over the next five years. Ray Ripsher was also instrumental in driving this project and carried out most of the negotiating with contractors. Ray effectively project-managed the refurbishment, giving up a huge amount of his personal time. When you consider that he has already extended his commitment to the Club by taking on the Club Captaincy this year, this is a major additional personal investment in time and energy.

Our building contractor CCB Services also quoted the project pretty much on an 'at cost' basis and they worked seven days a week to ensure that we hit the scheduled opening night, completing the project on time and on budget. The Opening Night met all expectations and aspirations with over 200 people in attendance and a real buzz and club atmosphere to celebrate our new refurbished bar.

Food and Beverage

As expected, bringing the catering in-house has been a steep learning curve for us and there have been a

number of changes with our service operations and menus with varied feedback. We have been trying to react and respond positively to all member feedback and we will continue to adapt as this new revenue stream and service continues to develop.

Raising standards

We recognise that there is a requirement for better process and procedure and staff training is a key to ensure that we set and raise our service standards.

The trial of Sunday Lunch in the downstairs bar area has had mixed reviews. However, it has enabled us to attract a new profile of member, who seem to prefer the more relaxed feel downstairs. It is now clear that we have enough demand to provide a Sunday Lunch service in both the upstairs restaurant and also the bar downstairs and this is having a positive impact on weekly bookings.

Club nights

The on-line restaurant booking system is also being used to good effect and in the first two months we have taken over a thousand bookings through our restaurant software which is more than double the same period last year. This is really encouraging.

The Friday evening Club Nights have been growing steadily with an average of 25/30 dining each week and more attending to use the bar facilities with the double discount running all evening. We are planning to incorporate some live music with the Lead Guitarist and Lead Singer from the Swinging Blue Jeans in early May and I am sure the Fridays will continue to flourish as the weather improves and longer daylight hours will also bring the terrace back in to play. We have a greater focus from the Captain's Committee to drive members' social events and we will be introducing Thursday themed evenings soon. We are also exploring available Saturdays where we can also organise member social events to enhance the social calendar. This is all with the aim to make the club more member-focussed, which in the long-term will reduce our reliance on outside function business.

Membership Renewals

Our early renewal incentive has been well received with, at the



Stewart Judd, General Manager

time of writing this piece over 70% of our members taking advantage of the early renewal incentive. Many thanks to everyone who paid early. This has a positive effect to our cash-flow during our quieter business months. The new season is now only a few weeks away and with the extended daylight hours providing a greater opportunity to enjoy your golf the past winter will soon be well and truly behind us.

Bag Tags and Vouchers

The new bag tags are on order and there will also be the various club vouchers for your use throughout the year. This year we are also offering free room hire so if you have any special family birthday or celebrations planned in 2019/20 there is an added incentive to use your club to host your event.

Membership Recruitment

Our recruitment of new members has been positive for the start of this year with 19 golfing members and over 55 social members joining the club. Social membership is now free with the only requirement being £150 bar credit with the added benefit of 10% discount on all food and drink. Please encourage family and friends to join and a larger social membership will provide a better opportunity for greater support of the bar, catering and social events, which in turn, will start to drive the club towards a more member-centred model.

Member Referral Scheme

In order to continue to grow our membership we have introduced a strong members referral incentive, which will run throughout April and May offering £500 worth of added value for any member referring someone new to our full membership categories. The £500 will be made up of £100 Pro Shop credit, £200 bar credit and £200 worth of guest green fees. Please

contact the office for further details and make sure the new member references *you* on their application form so that we can allocate your vouchers correctly.

Staffing

Following Jenny Benge's departure in December we have been reviewing our staffing requirements to ensure that we have administrative cover and also to ensure that we have a dedicated marketing manager to ensure Bush Hill Park is marketed and promoted locally and to a wider community. Dawn Careford has now returned to her roots and is covering administrative support in the office and is working from Monday to Friday 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Marketing

We have also appointed Judith Pons as Marketing and Communications Manager. Judith will be starting towards the end of April. Judith joins us with extensive marketing, social media and brand strategy experience having worked with several luxury brands and clients including Burberry, Harrods and Selfridges. Judith will play an integral role working with me to raise the Club's profile and to attract new members and new business. Kind regards

STEWART JUDD, GENERAL MANAGER



Do you mind if we play through?

The Treasurer's Report

Bar cheers amid tough numbers



WHILE we have not completed the final figures for the financial year 2018/9 I will give you a preview of our results based on the February 2019 figures.

Income

Membership – the projection is we will be down another £14k on last year. This is largely due to a migration to Lifestyle and the loss of temporary membership. We believe the introduction of Lifestyle was an important step to offer flexibility to the member. There are still edges that require refining and flexing apart from the necessity of our software provider to offer a better product for recording purposes.

Green fees – down £14k on the previous year. Most of the difference emanating from April to June last year.

Bar – a significant improvement during the winter months and control of expenses will see an improvement of at least £5k net profit over last year on reduced membership.

Catering – as most are aware the Club brought the catering function in-house during January. Apart from being down on last year at the end of December by about £6k set-up costs in January also will contribute to a reduced performance of £12k. It is important to note, February, a notorious poor month for us was a positive figure.

Outside functions – very comparable with last year. Overall our total income was down approximately £45k.

Expenditure

Course – expenditure was up £21k. This was largely due to the increase in equipment hire and lease £13k and depreciation on the irrigation system £12k.

Fabric – an increase of £11k over last year exclusively due to the need to replace the boilers.

Administration – Up £13k on last year mainly due to salaries and advertising increasing.

Overall – an increase in last year's loss of £10k was reduced from £106k to approximately £53k by a windfall VAT refund from HMRC of £53k.

Our Accumulated fund at 28 February is £53k which is expected to decrease further in March however a reasonable surplus is still anticipated.

The current year has been a demanding year with a new General Manager and Professional finding their feet in their first full years. The introduction of Lifestyle has been significant as well as bringing catering in-house. Capital expenditure on the club with the refurbishment of the new bar, swing studio, improvements to the course and work on the pond have had a significant effect on our cash flow.

With little chance of windfalls in 2019/20 we have set a break even cash budget. This will, however, because of the investment in the club mean depreciation will result in the Accumulated fund falling further next year unless the drive for new members and the social activities reach and exceed our expectations, which are conservative.

I continue to point out the Limited Company still hold £100k at present and completing 2018/9 without having to draw on this resource was an achievement. At this point I would like to thank the unsung heroes of the Accounts team – Jo Blake a long-term stalwart of the team, with an in depth knowledge of all aspects of the club. Then we have Jon Vincent our independent Qualified Account who reviews and prepares our monthly information. This is apart from VAT and Tax reporting. He is a committed Bush Hill Park member working way beyond the hours we pay him as well as his social contributions to the Club.

This brings me to my own situation – I have threatened to resign before! I am now into my fifth year as Treasurer and while I feel I have not achieved all I set out to, now is the time to pass on the role and retire gracefully. I would be happy to complete the current financial year to March 2020. However I think succession planning is crucial and a new Treasurer at the next AGM would be able to take over the financial work on the five-year plan and 2020/2021 Budget and would provide a seamless takeover.

MARTYN LAINCHBURY, TREASURER

Lady Captain's Report

Juniors join us

I CAN'T believe we are already in April and already halfway through my year. Since Christmas we have been playing a matchplay ladder and the winner was Sue Agapiou. Our first cup was the Bisque Salver which ended in a draw, so we are awaiting a play-off between Alison Towndrow and Rita Kapur.

In February Danny hosted a show of golfing attire for the new season permitting our intrepid shoppers to have a good spend. We also hosted a coffee morning to promote Middlesex Golf which was well supported by our ladies. Each week Irene has been presenting us with one of the new rules with illustrations and has proved very helpful. This culminated in a list of the main twenty changes in brief, a copy is also posted in our locker room. Well done Irene.

We are very pleased to welcome three new junior members to our section: Saskia Owen, Jessica Brown and Maisie O'Shea. They are promising members of the County team and we look forward to integrating them into our friendly section.



Our Bridge team has done well this winter - winning most of our matches. It is great news that Billie has been running beginners Bridge classes for our golfing ladies and these are proving to be very popular. Some ladies are already joining in our monthly Friday bridge drives.

The summer season will soon be upon us and began with the Captain v Vice - a 13-hole greensomes match followed by lunch. This kick-started our season. Then on 31st March twenty-four ladies came on my away weekend at Bowood in Wiltshire ably organised by Sue Collins where we enjoyed some good golf and great fun.

Happy Golfing, CHRIS



Sunday Lunch at the Club



Enjoy Sunday Lunch in our Upstairs
Restaurant or Downstairs Bar

2-Courses - £14.95

3-Courses - £18.95

Children Under 5 Eat for Free (5-10 yrs. £9.95)



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The Course

'Letting in the sunlight a major benefit' says Mark

- cutting back trees improves greens and tees



WITH spring on the way the greens team have been focusing on improving air circulation and allowing more light to some of our tees and greens. The overhanging branches at the back of the 5th were causing a drip line at the back of the green and have been cut right back to the fence, the group of Leylandii at the back of the 5th have been removed which had the immediate effect of bathing the green in sunlight. This should be a major benefit especially in winter when the sun is low (unless someone builds a block of flats there)!

Problem tee

The trees at the back of the 16th tee are due to be topped to increase light and aid growth to this problematic tee. The tee is relatively small and although some members don't like it, I think we

need to retain the mat at the back of the tee to use when the grass is getting cut-up and stressed. Carrying on with the tree theme, the Leylandii on the 1st tee are also being reduced in height to give more light to the front of the tee.

Last year we intended to hire a tree spade (courtesy of the tree fund) to move some lovely small trees which are hidden to the left of the 8th and 9th fairways and replant them between nine and ten adding more definition to the 10th fairway. We were advised that ground conditions were too wet at the end of last year so we are hoping to start this project in the spring when it is drier.

Clearer view

The large bush at the back of the practice putting green caused problems last summer with its roots growing under the green and causing dry areas. So, if you notice you have a much clearer view of the 18th from the terrace its because it has been removed. Our head greenkeeper Graham Careford will be posting a detailed report for members to see our programme of works. We have a course policy document in place to ensure continuity in how the course is set up throughout the year. So if you are interested in cut heights of greens, tees, fairways, rough and other technical specs, it's all available on the website. Enjoy the course.

MARK WATTS

We wish Annie well



Annie is sadly leaving us for pastures new and moving into the depths of Devon after serving us for almost ten years. She will be sorely missed by all members and we wish her well in her new home.

Marketing

Judith has big plans: more members is her aim



Judith Pons appointed Marketing and Communications Manager

JUDITH Pons is our new Marketing and Communications Manager and she has already formulated some exciting new plans with General Manager Stewart Judd to promote Bush Hill Park as a modern and inclusive club. Just what we need in the competitive world of member-recruitment when every other club in the area is fighting to build membership.

Judith has been well prepared for the task in hand having worked in 'brand strategy' for big names like Burberry, and before that worked for Chanel in retail design (hear that Ladies? Chanel!) She trained in Industrial Design to Master level and also received a Bachelor's Degree in Fashion, so I daresay she'll also be keeping an eye on how we all look as we swish around our newly re-designed Main Bar!

These days she lives in Finchley but says she hails originally from Barcelona, so can expect to see Paella turning up on the club's menus before long. Ole. Judith says that she was particularly attracted to join us because she could see our

potential for growth and the 'open-minded approach' that was required for the role. She's not a golfer yet, but surely, by being surrounded by such enthusiasts as the Bush Hill Park members, it won't be long before we see her venture on to the course dressed in the height of fashion and, perhaps, wafting a little of that exquisite Chanel as she makes for the first tee. She is very welcome and we wish her great good fortune as she sets about her new job. FRANK FARMER



Let's be having you and get those names up!

OUR 2019 season commenced on Friday 5 April under the captaincy of Philip Cobden. The usual fixtures: Army, Navy and RAF Cup are being held, together with a Guest Day and an event with the Ladies. The season will culminate with the Annual luncheon to be held in November.

Start sheets are available on the Bush Nationals notice board in the gentlemen's changing rooms and, as usual, we encourage members to bring along another club member as a guest. Do not forget that non-playing members are welcome to come along to the dinner in the evening. If non-players (or even players) cannot manage the stairs to the changing rooms they are more than welcome to contact Peter Smith and he will ensure that their name is entered on the appropriate sheet. It is sad to record that one of our members, Don Hughes, passed away earlier in the year.

Stand by your beds. Captain present!

It was 34 years ago that the Bush Nationals were established under the captaincy of Glynn Wilson. It is now my honour and privilege to follow him and many other distinguished members' footsteps as your 2019 Captain. I am looking forward, with your help and support, to the start of yet another enjoyable season.

COBDEN P - L / CORP. ROYAL PAY CORPS (RET.)

Annual Dinner 2019

members rise to the occasion



THE Annual Dinner for Bush Hill Park members is always one of the year's great highlights, and the 2019 event was no exception. Captain Ray Ripshir was on great form throughout the evening and was there to greet members as they arrived - everyone 'Dressed to the Nines'! As always, the ladies brought their special kind of glamour and style as they paused for a picture - most with

a glass of sparkling Prosecco in hand. New Chef Simon passed his first major test as the food was pronounced 'excellent' (The wine wasn't bad either . . .) The music for dancing wasn't exactly of the Victor Sylvester variety but the floor was soon crowded as members showed that whatever their performance on the golf course, there's no holding them when it comes to the 'twinkling of toes'. FF





Mark looks forward to busy and exciting year

I CANNOT believe how fast this year is going, as you can read below, we have a very busy year ahead. On a personal note, I want to thank everyone who helps me, also to all the players in the various groups. I still enjoy arranging these matches and look forward to your continued support. With regards to teams, please let me know if you are available as soon as you can, this will greatly help me. Many thanks.

Rabbits

Firstly, I would like to congratulate Rob Morgan, in winning the Rabbits Winter Eclectic with a fantastic nett 50, the numbers were down this year but hopefully this was due to the weather! Our first event was the Bucks Plate, this was held on the 19th of March. Our season starts in early April, playing against Enfield, Finchley and Crews Hill. I have put an availability sheet for April, on The Rabbits Board in the Gents' changing room. Full details regarding dates are on the clubs website under Teams/Rabbits. Rabbits matches are played on a home and away basis, first tee time starts from 1.30/2.00pm with a two-course meal afterwards. Normally jacket and tie but some clubs prefer smart casual and the cost is £20. We are a very friendly group and are always looking for new players to join us. Please contact me for more details at: bhp.rabbits@btinternet.com

Foxes Abrey Cup

2018 was our first year competing in this competition, and after a fantastic run we managed to get to the final - a great achievement. Jon and I are very excited for this year, and hope we can rely on your support. Our first Abrey Cup Match is on April 15th against Mill Hill playing at West Herts. This is a nine man team, playing singles matchplay, first tee time is 2.00pm. If your handicap is between 9 and 18 and you are available to play, please contact Jon or myself at: bhp.foxes@btinternet.com

Foxes Bullivant Bowl

Our first match is against West Middlesex, due to be played by 30 June. More details regarding dates will follow. The Bullivant Bowl format is a knockout competition, played home and away with six players. Matches will comprise of three games, played on a fourball better ball match play basis off scratch. This is open to players with a handicap between 7 and 12. If you would like to be part of the team, please contact Mark or Jon at bhp.foxes@btinternet.com

Mixed

Janet and I are feeling very enthusiastic for this year and hope you will join us for a great 2019.

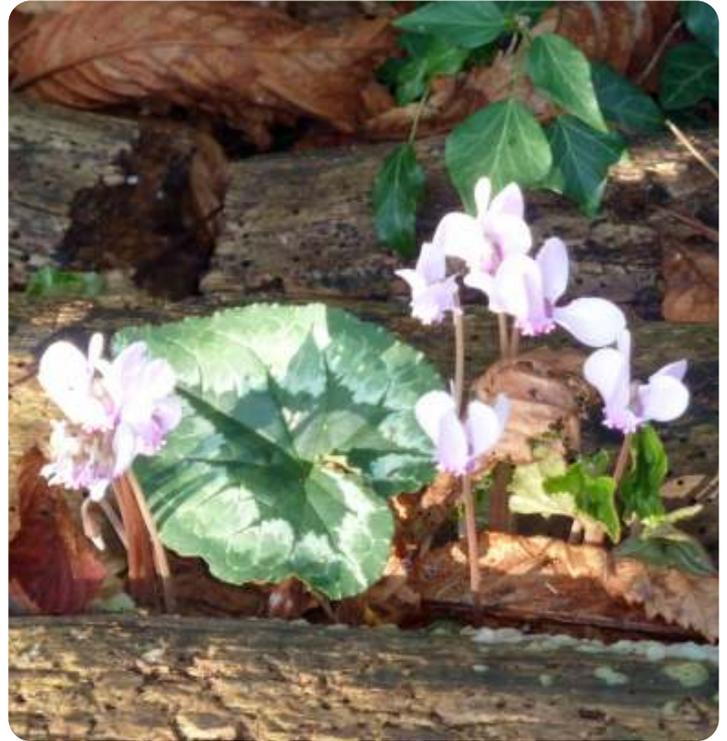
Dates for your diary:

- The Brasted Trophy - April 14th
- The Spring Trophy - April 28th
- The Maytime Greensomes - May 26th
- Friendly v Enfield at Bush Hill Park - June 23rd
- American Cup - September 8th
- The Lambert Trophy - October 13th

We are always looking for new players to join the mixed section so for more details please email Janet or Mark at: bhp.mixed@btinternet.com

MARK STEVENS

Out of death comes beauty



Isn't nature wonderful? Or perhaps it's the ambience of our beautiful course. As this picture shows, a rotting, fallen log provided the perfect place for this gorgeous Cyclamen to root, then burst into flower close to the 8th fairway. Who says that our club isn't the next best thing to the Chelsea Flower Show?

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Fire brought big changes

It was Frank Lee who came up with the idea. Mr Lee had been Captain and President in 1949 and 1950 and now the board invited him to attend a meeting to describe his plan. On February 8th 1958 Mr Lee carefully explained his proposal, emphasising that he would not accept any fee, other than out of pocket expenses, if his scheme was not successful. The board deliberated for only a short while before unanimously agreeing to appoint Mr Lee and instructing him to proceed immediately with his plan.

His first task was to apply to three local boroughs for permission to develop part of the club's land, in particular the frontages on Bush Hill, Old Park Drive and Old Park Ridings. Three applications were made because the club at that time fell within the boundaries of Enfield, Southgate and Edmonton. By June all three councils had replied refusing permission for the club to build on its land. This was hardly surprising because the club had been scheduled as 'open land' and building would therefore not be acceptable. Mr Lee could now initiate the second part of his plan. He filed an application to each council claiming compensation for the club's loss of development rights.

This took a little while but in March 1959 the club received news that the claims had been successful and that they would shortly be receiving compensation. From Edmonton council the club received £8,114-5s-9d, from Southgate £21,314-5s-9d and from Enfield £44,857-2s-10d, amounting to a whopping £74,285-14s-4d! Suffice to say that the board wasted little time placing the full amount on deposit.

Mr Lee, who at the time had been living in Felixstowe, was paid £371-8s-6d for his efforts and the board now had the enviable task of deciding what to do with this amazing windfall. Sensibly it resolved that the existing loan of £5,050 should be repaid immediately. Further plans were then discussed including extensive drainage to the course, extending the car park and general

improvements throughout the clubhouse. There was also a proposition to construct a bowling green as a revenue-producing amenity.

Whilst the club discussed and argued over how best to spend their windfall, fate made their minds up for them. In the early hours of the morning of the 22nd April 1959 a fierce and devastating fire broke out in the main bar. The alarm was raised by Mr. Herbert Harrison, the assistant resident steward, and all occupants of the clubhouse had to evacuate. The smoke was so dense that fire crews were forced to wear breathing apparatus and the building suffered extensive damage but thankfully nobody was injured. Furniture was destroyed, in particular some of the leather armchairs, and many wines, spirits, beers, glasses, cigarettes and tobacco were lost. The floor and the electric wiring were so damaged that the bar had to be locked because of the potential danger. The cause of the fire was never discovered, but it forced the hand of the club and extensive rebuilding of the clubhouse had to be undertaken. This was to be a long and tortuous process and would engage the attention of the club and its committees for the next four years.

A sub-committee was formed to prepare plans for the reconstruction work and the club decided to take the opportunity to reorganise the layout of the club. The dining room was moved from its position on the ground floor, where the ladies' locker rooms are now, to its present location on the first floor; two steel joists had to be fitted to support the floor of the new restaurant. The basement was converted into locker rooms for the men and the ladies moved into changing rooms at their present location. The main bar was completely refitted and the picture windows that we see today were installed. In fact it was the Bushguards society which paid for these windows. There was also at this time a bell tower on the roof, which can be clearly seen in



all pre-1960 photos of the clubhouse. Reluctantly, however, this had to be dismantled as it had become dangerous and the expense of repair was prohibitive. The committee also took the opportunity to make other changes, some of which had been under discussion for a while. The stables were converted into a professional's shop, the car park was extended, drainage was installed in the far field, fencing was erected down Carrs Lane and urgent repairs were made to the clock tower. They also started to clear the ground behind the green keeper's house to make a practice ground, though the proposed bowling green never did see the light of day! The cost of the reconstruction and changes came to more than £36,000, though the insurance claim amounted to little more than a few thousand pounds.

The reconstruction was extensive,

entailing literally hundreds of plans and diagrams. Dozens of amendments had been made to the original plans; so much so that the architect reneged on his promise of a reduced fee of 3% and said that an additional charge of 10% would be added to any new alternative schemes. The committee, however, agreed that the architect had done 'a wonderful job', and were unanimous in saying that any increases were in fact justifiable. After what I can only believe was a disruptive and unsettling time for everyone, the new clubhouse was finally opened on 15th June 1963, more than four years after the fire. It was only then that the clubhouse, particularly the interior, would have resembled what we see today and, though they may not have realised it, a flourishing and prosperous era was just around the corner for Bush Hill Park Golf Club.



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Integrity lies at the heart of golf

Without it there is not much of a game left

FOOTBALLERS can steal a few yards for a more advanced throw-in, a batsman can stand their ground after edging to a wicketkeeper and a rugby player sneaks offside to disrupt the opposition and none suffer any great damage to their reputation. There is no such latitude for golfers. Breaking a rule to gain an edge is deemed unacceptable at any level of the sport. Every professional seeks to use the rules to their advantage and that has always been the case. It is why matters of intent will need careful policing, which may not prove entirely straightforward. It is worth remembering this central tenet as we head into a landmark year for the sport which will be played under a radically overhauled rulebook. Many of the changes place an increased dependency on a player's integrity. Intent is a key fundamental in the shake-up, which reduces the number of rules from 34 to 24 to make golf easier to understand and quicker to play.

More latitude

Alterations, such as allowing the flag to remain in the hole for putts on the green and dropping from knee rather than shoulder height, have grabbed most attention. But also buried in the new regulations are important guidelines on intent. This is vital because there are no longer penalties for "accidentally" moving your ball (as long as it replaced to its original spot) and there is much more latitude for gardening on putting surfaces.

The phrase "virtual certainty" crops up throughout the new rulebook. It does, though, create a grey area that could be abused by less scrupulous players. There is a somewhat nebulous feel compared with previous editions, where precision was paramount. "Known or virtually certain means more than just possible or probable," it states. The book goes on: "...all reasonably available information shows that it is at least 95% likely that the event in question happened." For most golfers that should suffice for questions such as whether a ball was moved accidentally or whether it went into a penalty area but, in reality, how do you measure 95% certainty?

Welcome change

This is 100% subjective and when you move into such realms there is always scope for argument and controversy. To borrow from football, 'was it ball to hand or hand to ball?' Nevertheless, the changes should be broadly welcomed. The updated regulations are easier to comprehend, and should make the game quicker and more enjoyable to play and watch. "The new rules are more in tune with what golfers would like and are easier to understand and apply," said David Rickman, the R&A's executive director of governance. But there are a couple of areas of concern. Previously players were only allowed to repair ball pitchmarks on greens, now

damage including spike marks becomes fair game.

"That worries me a little for slow play," commented Open champion Francesco Molinari. "But it depends how guys take it. "Hopefully people will have some common sense and will not be tapping down the whole way in from 15 feet."

Scope for abuse

It is worth remembering that it is now enshrined in the rules that players should aim to take no more than 40 seconds over a shot, so extracurricular gardening on greens would eat into this time. But there is scope for abuse, particularly on the PGA Tour which is more lax in penalising slow play than its European counterparts. "I think it is one we are going to have to watch," said US veteran Steve Stricker. "It may take some extra time on the greens, which we don't want."

On the flip-side, allowing the repair of spike marks means players will not need to be as careful about stepping on "through lines" beyond the hole. This means holing out short putts should be faster.

Flag in or out?

Allowing us to putt with the flag in rather than waiting for a playing partner to attend the pin should save time too. But there will be those who will prefer to have the flag out and those who prefer it to be in the hole, which could lead to a general increase in 'faffing about'. American Bryson de Chambeau,

the self-styled golf physicist, reckons there is an advantage to be had putting with the flag in the hole if the stick is soft enough - I kid you not.

The pin being removed, then replaced, then taken back out of the hole may become a tiresome process for other golfers and watching galleries.

More certain is the fact that all golfers should download the apps available from the R&A and US Golf Association to equip us for the new 2019 golfing landscape. In the meantime, here is a top ten of the main changes:

1. Penalty and free drops to be made from knee rather than shoulder height.
2. Only three minutes rather than five allowed to search for a lost ball.
3. A damaged club, even as a result of abuse in anger, can be repaired and used in remainder of round.
4. No penalty for hitting flagstick in the hole with a shot played on the green.
5. No penalty for accidentally moving your ball as long as it is replaced to the correct spot.
6. Spike marks can be repaired on the green.
7. No penalty for an accidental double hit.
8. It becomes possible to take a penalty drop out of a bunker.
9. Loose impediments may be removed in bunkers and the sand can be touched with a club prior to a stroke from the hazard but not in a practice swing, on the back swing or to test the surface.
10. Water hazards are now known as "penalty areas" as can other areas of courses be if so deemed by the committee

President Trump's rules: 'I do it my way!'

WHAT a happy coincidence! Just as we read and digest the revised Rules of Golf, the President of the United States says: "They cheat, I cheat. I expect you to cheat!" This insight on Donald Trump's attitude to the great game comes from Rick Reilly in an extract from his book "Commander-in-Cheat" and he reveals that Trump carries four balls in his pocket and has been seen to drop a spare ball close to where his drive has landed in deep undergrowth or in a lake. He kicks, throws and takes "gimmees" when his ball is still eight feet from the hole, takes "floating mulligans" when it suits him and simply subtracts shots when its time to write down the score. Rick Reilly says that "Trump believes that rules are for other people." Perhaps our Committee should bear that in mind in case The Donald applies to join Bush Hill Park Golf Club?

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Len Palmer new chairman of Board

'We are here to protect the Club's assets'

LEN Palmer has been elected the new Chairman of the Board of Bush Hill Golf Club Limited but his first words in his new role were to give heart-felt thanks to Tony Brookman who served twelve years on the Board and ten in the important position of Chairman and is now stepping down. That's a long time in anyone's book and the whole of the membership would join Len in showing our appreciation for such dedicated service.

Our new Mr Chairman, who has served on the Board for two and a half years, explains that its role and constitution is quite straightforward. It is there to protect the assets of the club and that of course means the freehold of the estate. Quite a responsibility when you think about the size of the area and the historic value of the clubhouse.

Our land

One of its key tasks is to constantly protect our boundaries which means a good deal of regular patrolling to make sure that neighbours do not quietly make incursions, although there are occasions when 'a bit of nudging



Len Palmer who has previously served as both Captain and President of the Club

into our territory' as Len puts it, can be to our benefit. In fact not so long ago it led to an agreement to sell a bit of our land for £7,500 and we are in a current negotiation for a piece of our territory which lies at the bottom of our practice ground near Salmon's Brook which could result in a useful injection of £37,500 into our funds. Len is hopeful that the deal could go through fairly soon.

The Board is fortunate because we enjoy the services of two highly qualified members - Andy

Henderson, a solicitor who keeps a legal eye on things that could become very complicated, and Chris Hollins whose expertise is in the fine art of Surveying and it is Chris who is currently walking our boundaries and updating the records and documenting the exact extent of our land-holding. Useful chaps to have around!

key role

The Board is, of course, the club's prime source of capital when required, and the recent high expenditure on the clubhouse meant that an interest-free advance of £20,000 was made over five years with the first installment of the repayment due fairly soon. So although the Board goes about its job in a quiet way, it is clear that it plays a very important part in the successful running of the golf club and we are grateful that certain of our senior members take on that responsibility. We wish Len the very best of luck as he embarks on another key role which we confidently expect will greatly benefit the golf club and its members now and in the future.

FRANK FARMER

Quiz League

MIKE CLARKE, Quiz-Master-in-Chief, steered ten teams through to the last round of this season's battle of wits and it was 'Still Credit Crunched' who took the title. Sadly, regular captain Len Palmer was not there to enjoy the accolades because he was struck-down by a nasty virus on a recent golfing trip to Mallorca. His wife Sue shouldered the responsibility and saw her team through to victory. Congratulations!

'The Tits' ably led by Dave Turner came last (again) but far from looking crestfallen, they received another big supply of 'Smarties' which they almost demand as their right.

Anyway another Quiz season has drawn to a close, our thanks once again to Mike Clarke, and I am sure that those of us who took part are much wiser for the experience.

FF

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