



Menzies Welcombe Golf Club

Winter Newsletter 2011

ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

Friday 2nd December sees our Annual Club Dinner Dance in the Welcombe Suite at the hotel. Following the dinner, presentations are made to the club's major honour board winners with the opportunity to then dance the night away!



Limited spaces still available so please contact Dan Hacker if you wish to support the club and enjoy a lovely evening with fellow members and partners.

CHRISTMAS SPA SHOPPING EVENTS

If you need Christmas gift ideas come along to our late night shopping evenings to purchase gift boxes and treats for Christmas. Spend over £30 and receive a 25% off treatment voucher.

Enjoy a glass of mulled wine and mince pie and book a treatment within December and get a free 15 minute free pamper on the day and a goody bag to take away.

SHOPPING EVENT NIGHTS:-

Thursday 24th November, 1st, 8th & 15th December 2011

Extended hours on Thursday 24th November, so join us from 12pm – 8pm and 1st, 8th & 15th December 2011 – 6pm-8pm



CHRISTMAS GIFT VOUCHERS & GIFT BOXES

Gift wrap a present for a loved one this Christmas with a Welcombe Spa Gift Voucher. Upgrade and include a Beauty Gift with your voucher so they can indulge, relax and enjoy the gifts straight away. Gift Vouchers can be purchased from the Spa, minimum £10 spend.

SUNDAY LUNCHES

Many of our members have requested specific dates for our Sunday Lunches at the clubhouse throughout the winter. We are delighted to announce Sunday 18th December and Sunday 29th January as the first two dates.



Please invite friends and family to reserve a table and enjoy an afternoon at the club. To reserve your table please contact a member of the clubhouse bar team on 01789 413 845.

CLUBHOUSE FACILITIES

Please remember that when using the clubhouse, our facilities are available to members to hire.

Membership benefit for 2012

Free room hire when spending a minimum of £15 per person, based on 50 people or more.

So when thinking of a venue for birthday celebrations or conference meetings look no further than the Golf Club. Our Golf Events Co Ordinator Tracey Bannister can be contacted on 01789 413 843 or email

welcombe.golfsales@menzieshotels.co.uk

MAJOR VICTORIES

The Autumn saw some fine golf played in the major events commencing with John Burton winning the Presidents Putter in October with 39 points, narrowly edging out Oliver Birlenbach and David Bromley by a single point on 38.

John continued this form having reached the Summer Pairs knockout final with brother Andrew. However, he was not to experience repeat success after seeing the young pairing of George Balfour and Sam Whittingham triumph on the last hole...and in the dark! (see image) – great golf George and Sam, now for the Winter Pairs!



The Singles Matchplay Final was even tighter with a maiden victory for Richard Woodman over Elliot Rance. Richard made a monumental comeback from three down with three to play and snatched victory from the jaws of defeat on the 20th hole.

Throughout 2011 we have introduced an Order of Merit trophy. This is where points are awarded to leading nett scores in all main Medal and Stableford competitions, and then entered into a points table. This has 'ebb and flowed' throughout the season (unlike the Motor Racing Formula 1 table!). Both Paul Barker on 530 points and Mark Wilkins on 550 couldn't quite contain Club Champion Joe Harris on 580.

The final honour board event of the season is the Winter Pairs which is played throughout from November to March. The first round has just been played on Sunday 20th November. Richard Johnson and Geoff Winters have opened up a four shot lead with an excellent opening Foursomes score of 43 points over Patrick Jordan and Mark Derrick and Karl Green and Mark Williams. The pair with the highest accumulative four scores from the five events will be the winners. The second round is to be played on Saturday 10th December in fourball format. Pairings must enter their names in each event on the notice board. All results are on our club page on www.howdidido.com.

VICTORIOUS WELCOMBE IN PRO AM

Each October we are proud hosts of local solicitors Shakespeares (formerly Needham & James) annual PGA Pro Am. It turned out to be quite a day for the club with assistant David Cranage returning a gross 71 in very trying conditions for his maiden victory as a Professional. David has now completed his training and becomes a full member of the PGA from 2012 – well done! In addition, vice captain Scott Deacon and fellow members Mike Seys and Dave Whittingham won the team event. Looks like local knowledge paid off on the day!

Our annual Christmas shop raffle will be open to enter with some fantastic prizes for the winners! Winning tickets will be drawn on completion of the Turkey Trot on Saturday 17th December. The Turkey Trot is members teams of four with the entry sheet on the club board. If you do not have a team of four please still enter your name.



GOLF SHOP

The Golf Shop is now fully stocked with this winters latest clothing and accessories. Galvin Green and Footjoy lead the way in our waterproof range with Oscar Jacobsen having now been added. The latest equipment from Titleist, Level 4 crested accessories and Powakaddy are also available. We are offering Christmas Golf vouchers for both the shop and tuition so if you see anything you may need please send friends and family to the club and we will do our best to look after them for you.

Receive our **free festive fitting** throughout December on all Titleist irons, woods and wedges. This includes the new 712 series in our Demo Cart.



COLIN BLINKHORNE MEMORIAL TROPHY

As we are all sadly aware we lost Colin Blinkhorne very suddenly this year. In his memory and in aid of the Stroke Foundation we will be competing for the Colin Blinkhorne Memorial Trophy on Saturday 10th March 2012. This will be a yearly honour board event.

This will be in Stableford format with a fundraising event in the evening with live music where members and partners are all invited. Please reserve this date in your diary for such a worthy cause.



Captain's Corner

Sadly the summer is now behind us, and various shapes of golfers are squeezing themselves into the obligatory skin tight compression tops, as we begin to embrace winter golf. I think the last few events of the season were a great success, with a strong showing for the Invitational, and an excellent turn out for the President's Putter. My Captain's Away day to North Wales was notable for slightly breezy conditions, with some golfers being troubled by the 70mph gusts at Conwy GC, following on from the positively tranquil 30mph winds the previous day at Royal St David's GC. The Welcombe members are made of stern stuff however, and a great time was enjoyed on and off the courses, with only a few minor cases of wind burn and sand-blasted faces to report.



The quality of our greens has been a highlight of the summer, and has drawn lots of positive comments from visiting clubs, and participants in the Invitational. As you will read elsewhere, Dan, John and the team are now into the winter programme which I am sure will reap benefits next year. Let's hope we do not see a repetition of last year's snow and the disruption and damage which it led to!

We finished our club matches in October, and ended the season with a report card of W6 D4 L4. There were some well battled matches, and despite our shaky start, I think we closed the year with a decent run of performances, which would have put us comfortably in the top half of any league table. I will post a separate review on the notice board, but as ever the highlight was the number of members who played on matches, with over 40 people playing their part. Thanks to those that have turned out, and we will raise a glass at the Dinner Dance in a few weeks' time. In the meantime it's time to dig out the mittens, and stock up on hand warmers, and I hope you all enjoy the Winter Pairs League and the good banter on cold mornings which is what winter golf is all about!

GOLF COURSE WINTER PROJECTS

We are delighted to inform our membership of prioritised winter maintenance projects on the course. Re levelling of the 7th, 9th and 14th tees will be carried out prior to Christmas giving them the best opportunity to be available for play at the start of the 2012 season. We will also be expanding the 17th tee which sits over the lake. The steps on the 8th tee are to be replaced with the sleeper step design already carried out on the 5th and 16th tees.

Our successful feeding and maintenance programmes are to be maintained throughout 2012. Our fairway irrigation system has been upgraded and will be fully functional offering finer fairway surfaces and improved course definition.

With all of the above projects being carried out we sincerely hope to continue in improving and offering a most enjoyable Golf Club to play and be part of.



HOTEL REFURBISHMENT

The hotel is currently undergoing a multi-million pound refurbishment. All the bedrooms in the Garden Wing have already been redecorated in a bright contemporary style with each room featuring a stylish Apple iMac - incorporating a flat screen TV with Sky Channels, internet connection and Skype.



All public areas including the restaurant, bar, lounge and meeting rooms have been refurbished, restoring the hotel back to its former glory as a magnificent four star country house hotel. The remaining Main House rooms will be refurbished in the New Year.

NOVEMBER SPA OFFERS

Ladies Party Packs

Mini Facial
Mini Make Up
Nail File & Polish
Treatment Time - 75 minutes
Price £55

Mens' Party Pack

Back Cleanse
Back Massage
Mini Facial Groom
Treatment Time - 75 minutes
Price £55

Plus there is 20% of all Waxing Treatments

Offers available throughout November, Monday – Friday.

To book contact the spa on
01789 413 810.



For further details please contact Dan Hacker at the club
on **01789 413 800** or email **welcombe.golfpro@menzieshotels.co.uk**
www.welcombehotelstratford.co.uk