

# Dale Hill Hotel and Golf Club

M E M B E R   N E W S L E T T E R

## Club News



Summer 2009 Issue



Welcome to the latest edition of the Dale Hill newsletter I hope that you enjoy reading it.

Firstly I have to say the courses are in fantastic condition at the moment and that Mike Moose and his Greenkeeping team should be congratulated. We are continuing to improve some areas on the courses like the new path on the 3rd green of the Ian Woosnam course, and the bridge on the 15th on the Old Course is due to be replaced in August.

I am also pleased to confirm that we have finalised a scheme that Dale Hill members will be able to play at a discounted rates at certain clubs in the south east. The clubs involved are East Sussex National, Cooden Beach, Copthorne, Littlehampton, Bognor and Willingdon. For further details please see the back of the newsletter.

Later in this newsletter John mentions about giving the Pro Shop a chance to quote for new equipment, I couldn't agree with him more as you will be surprised at how competitive we can be. With the added benefit of our experienced of the Pro Shop team, they will be able to assist you with your purchases, so go on give them a chance !

I hope that you have a great few months golfing particularly as the weather seems to be set fair for the moment at least.

Best Wishes

David

## GOLF

With the season now up and running we can now start to look forward to some good golf and some good weather, we have been reasonably lucky so far.

Hopefully have noticed the changing rooms and corridors in the golf area's have been recently painted, giving them a fresher look. Could I take this opportunity to remind members that the lockers in the changing rooms are not for clubs, anyone leaving them in there do so at their own risk and the club takes no responsibility for anything that goes missing out of the changing rooms.

Some of our board competitions have been already been played, congratulations to [Paul Connolly](#) for winning the Florin trophy, [Dennis Griffin and Tom Connolley](#) for winning the Danny Fowler, [Ian Pether](#) for winning the March Cup, [John Stevens](#) for winning the John Smith Memorial and [Robin Melham](#) for winning the Dinner Cup.

Congratulations to the guys who represented the Club in the Pav-it trophy. They Managed to get to the third round of the competition wining away from home in the first two rounds (away to Tilgate Forest in round one and Peacehaven in round two). We did lose 7-5 to Chichester in the 3rd round but the match was so close it could of gone either way.

Its great to see more and more people entering competitions and club matches in the last few years, numbers are up considerably, and our aim is for this to continue. If you want to play in competitions and don't know what to do, then please call in to the shop and one of the staff can explain how to get involved.

Moving on to the Membership cards, they will be with you soon, a few computer problems have delayed the introduction of them but this will be resolved soon. Your card will need to present every time you wish to receive the food and beverage discount. A levy can be put on the card but I would like to stress that this is an optional levy not compulsory.

For anyone who has not looked recently we do now have a new website for Dale Hill, please check it out.

Craig has now completed his second year of his PGA training with Seb completing his first year they both took their end of year exams in the early part of May and currently await for their results, lets keep our figures crossed for them! Ben will be returning to work with us for a year after finishing his university course and starts on the 22nd June.

With the season now up and running it is our intention to help you, our golfers with your equipment! Over the last few years we have done many club fittings for members and it's amazing what you find in some people's bags! Our aim is to do a fitting day on the driving range where we can assess what clubs you have in your bag, whether these clubs are the correct clubs for you and to give you recommendations as and where needed. The fitting will be free of charge with no obligation to buy. Dates for this will go up on the notice board soon, so please keep looking and let us help you.

Many People feel that as a Pro-shop we cannot compete on price compared with high street retailers and online sites, my answer to that is if you look hard enough there is always likely to find it cheaper somewhere! What we do ask for is the opportunity to compete. A couple of examples of this over the past few weeks have been:

A customer came to me and wanted a Powakaddy, was unsure about buying over the internet as worried about an after sales service, we got the trolley with in a couple of days and beat the price on the internet. Someone else came to me wanting a Callaway Diablo Driver, after asking us we managed to beat the store in Tunbridge wells on price by £30.00.

I can't guarantee we can always beat the price but please give us opportunity to have a go! We can get most items so don't be put off if you haven't seen it within our current Pro Shop range of stock please ask.

John, Craig, Seb, Sonia and Teresa

## MARK WOOD

### Tams – Seniors Roll ups

The new sessions have successfully got under way and many of you are benefiting from the Wednesday and Sunday sessions that Craig and myself are running. The reports back from those of you that are attending is that games are improving and therefore handicaps are improving – great news!

For any Tams or seniors who have not yet attended these sessions please note the following details:

***Wednesday's sessions are 10.00am to 11.00am – with Mark PGA Advanced Professional.***

***Sunday sessions are 1.00pm to 2.00pm – with Craig PGA Trainee Professional.***

***The sessions are run weekly and the cost is just £5.00 per session.***

Please come and join us and improve your golf.

### Ladies group lessons

I run a group ladies session every Thursday at 11.00am to 12.00pm, these sessions are open to any ladies who would like to improve their golf and have some fun while doing so in a pleasant group environment, so please come and join us it costs just £5.00 per session.

A big well done to Rosie Hockey who has just recently reduced her handicap down to 5, keep up the good work!

### Beginner Group lessons

If any member knows of anybody who would like to begin to learn golf then please send him or her my way. From June I will be starting beginner group lessons that comprise of 5 x one-hour group lessons with a cost of £49.00.

### Juniors

We are running junior golf camps throughout the school holidays during 2009, so if you would like your little angels to improve their golfing skills on one of our week- long golf camps then please contact me for more details.

I am also running junior birthday parties, so if you would like a tailored quote please contact me.

The Saturday and Sunday Junior Roll up sessions are being well attended but we always have more room for any budding superstars so if you would like more information please contact me.

### Individual lessons

The six lessons for the price of five offer continues on individual lessons throughout 2009 so pop into the pro shop to book up your next batch. Don't forget that the indoor swing and putting studio is being utilised as of last October and the feedback from clients has been great. It provides a great experience whatever the weather and there are plenty of teaching aids to guide you through your lessons including video analysis, tomi putt and NMS Swing trainer. All providing you with the tools to improve your game.

I hope you are all benefiting from the fortnightly golf tips I am currently providing for the Kent and Sussex Courier and if you have any questions at all please feel free to catch me at the club or email me on [markwood.golf@virgin.net](mailto:markwood.golf@virgin.net).

Mark



## COURSES

After an early start to the spring and some pleasant weather, early growth slowed somewhat due to a dry but cold and windy period and although we were lucky that conditions were dry for hollow coring, recovery wasn't as fast as we would have liked due to those cooler temperatures.

However, time has moved on and I'd like to think that both courses are now in pretty reasonable early summer condition,- that's not to say that we don't strive and hope for continued improvements through-out the growing season!

Since the last news letter, there has been a lot of on-going maintenance work, hollow coring aside. Much of course is seasonal and has included scarification of all fairways and tees plus fertilisation where required, the result, in the main being of dense healthy playing surfaces.

A few bunkers have undergone some refurbishment and sand has been added to a number but as I'm sure you will appreciate this is an ongoing and never complete exercise, not to mention costly,- from an interest view point, the sand types that we use,( both for bunkers and top-dressing ), with the Government land-fill tax included ( ever heard of that one! ) cost us just under £30 per tonne and we'll use over 400 tonnes a year. Whilst on the subject of bunkers, apologies for the delay but work on the 3<sup>rd</sup> bunker on the Old Course has finally started. A lot of very sandy and therefore unstable material has been removed. A new face is being created from stock piles of clay on the I.W.C, the rear edge is being pushed back and the base re-shaped with new drainage being added.

Other planned works for the summer will include some more Lytag banding to improve drainage in certain areas and if time allows, the installation of some more primary pipe drainage.

As is in the diary, Gradening work will be carried out on Greens during August though this is far less disruptive than Hollow coring and recovery very fast.

Other than points mentioned, everything else at present is very much routine,- lots of cutting, selective weed spraying, fertilising,- predominantly on Greens as and when required and including the use of natural and sustainable products such as Seaweed extract plus fungal and bacterial additives etc, which aim to increase overall plant health and improve soil biology,- the longer term aim being to reduce the amount of certain chemicals used and to move towards more natural and sustainable golf course management.

Recently, more signs have been put out to remind golfers to please keep buggies away from Green and Tee surrounds, steep slopes and out of the deep rough. This is to reduce soil compaction on sensitive areas, as people always seem to follow the same routes, to reduce the incidence of accidents and injury and in the case of the deep rough, to preserve aesthetics ( myriads of wheel tracks don't look good ) and also to preserve wildlife habitat, e.g the somewhat rare Skylark, to mention but one nests in our deep rough areas. So thank you in advance for taking note of these requests, they are for your and the overall well being of the Golf course.

On that final note, it remains only to say, let's hope that the weather pundits are right and that the rest of the summer is considerably better than that of last year!

Michael Mosse  
Course Manager

## CLUB CAPTAIN

Things are now starting to get busy on the playing front, and I hope that you all have a great year in 2009 – from what I have seen so far, both courses are looking really good, and I cannot remember the greens ever being as fast at this time of year as they are right now.

We won our match against Woodlands Manor in our winter Suskens League, a good result (3-1) as it is their only defeat of the season. We then had an excellent 4-0 result against Hawkhurst – a rather easier match than our nail-biting victory over them in the Mail on Sunday Classic national knock-out singles competition. Sadly, we lost our second round match against an impressive Lamberhurst side, to whom we wish every success in future rounds. Back to the Susken League, runaway winners this year were Hempsted Forest.

To those who played in the Comic Relief charity day – terrific to see you there, it was a huge success, well done to everyone involved. (Nice to see some new faces, too).

We had a great start in our inaugural Invicta League match, drawing away against Hemsted Forest, our second game was a comprehensive win at home to North Forelands golf club. We had some good results in the Pav-It trophy, If the term "PAV Trophy" means nothing to you, it was previously known as The Davis & Tate Trophy. Format is 36 holes (foursomes morning, singles afternoon) played off scratch. A first round victory at Tilgate Forest was followed up by a second round victory at Peacehaven. Our third round opponents were Chichester Golf Club but we managed to get a home tie on the Ian Woosnam Course. With some of our winning team not being available for selection for this match we knew it was going to be a tough challenge. All of the guys on the day played extremely well with most of the matches going to the final hole, unfortunately we lost 7-5 but we can be very proud of everyone that played.

Since our last newsletter was published, our Vice Captain has emerged from his winter hibernation in Australia, and it is my pleasure to welcome Mr Stuart Macfarlane back to the UK.

Play well !

Colin Bennett  
Club Captain



## LADY CAPTAIN

What a great day we had for our Spring meeting. The weather was good, the course was in great condition and the food was superb. The day's theme was yellow and green and apart from the prizes the ladies got into the spirit of things by dressing accordingly both on the course and afterwards for the meal. Colin, Club Captain, helped as a starter as well as a judge and photographer. The ladies were either pleased or embarrassed by the computerised photo strip which Colin set up for all to see in the club house. A nice touch Colin and many thanks. Also thanks to Roger Bassett, Dick Bateman, John Fordree, Rosemary Hatcher, Pat Harker, Jeff Dixon and John Mills for their help on the day as well as members of the committee.

We had another very enjoyable day when the Ladies played the Seniors in a very close match with the Ladies retaining the Nancy Baldwin Plate. It will not be long before the Seniors have us playing off the whites!!!

The Sussex County Championship division matches are well under way with mixed results and lots of matches ending on the 18<sup>th</sup> green. Keep it up ladies you are doing a great job representing the club.

Probably our biggest event of the year is the Cancer Research UK Charity Rumble which was held on 11<sup>th</sup> May. It was a very cold windy day and the refreshment tables had to be re-located after the wind upended them. 120 golfers took part from 25 different clubs. We obtained 16 sponsors most of whom paid £25 per hole and many raffle prizes were donated. Pat Lowing and Caroline Villiers-Smith both got holes in one on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> respectively. The amount of £2,203 was raised. I would like to thank everyone who helped on the day including my committee, the registration team, starters, ball spotters, refreshments ladies and the catering staff for the great food produced on the day.

A final note to wish Rosemary Hatcher a speedy recovery after a stroke and subsident fall.

Evelyn Jones  
Lady Captain



## TAMS

In contrast to our last two newsletters when golfing activity was almost at a standstill the season is now in full flow. Our winter migrant members have all returned and knockout competitions are in full flow.

The TAMS monthly Medal and Stableford competitions remain well supported with fields frequently in excess of 60. Winning is therefore ever more difficult and the successful members over the last three months were:-

### March

Stableford

Div 1 Alan Hughes 39 points

Div 2 John Bridges 40 points

Medal

Div 1 Alan Hughes net 68

Div 2 Frank Pearce nett 71

A good month for Alan Hughes!

### April

Stableford

Div 1 David Reeves 38 points

Div 2 Bob Gibbons 36 points

Medal

Div 1 Mike Gibb nett 64

Div 2 Neil Jensen nett 67

### May

Stableford

Div 1 Tim Lawson 42 points

Div 2 Gordon Cairns 45 points

Congratulations to Mike Gibb and Malcolm Forrest for achieving holes in one.

We played the first of our two annual matches against the Ladies in April and came second! A year ago we were congratulating the Ladies on their first win for some time and this win meant three in a row. Time for us to get our act together!

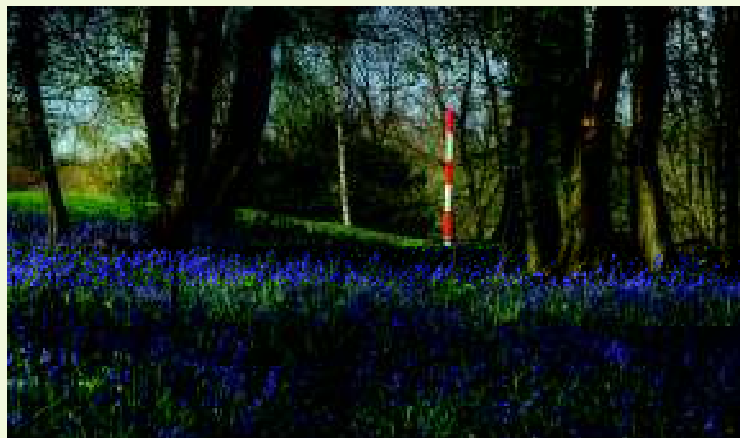
In the tri match against the Club and the Ladies we sat in first place with one result to come in and finished third.

The Seniors team were eliminated from the Cyril Blake county foursomes by Lewes GC and have now been drawn against Cuckfield GC in the Gilbert Print Plate.

Our programme of friendly matches against other clubs is well under way and we will bring you up to date with results a little later in the season.

We continue to welcome new members and anyone interested in joining has to do more than enter one of our competitions (entry sheets on the notice board in the locker room) and we will do the rest.

Eric Clark  
Chairman  
TAMS



## LEADERBOARD CHALLENGE 2009

**Leaderboard Challenge – 99 holes of Golf in one day**

On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2009, six members of staff from Leaderboard will be playing all 99 holes of the four clubs owned by Leaderboard Golf.

John Tolliday and Craig Howell from Dale Hill will be raising money for our Captain's Charities which are Multiple Sclerosis and Muscular Dystrophy

Andrew Wild and Neal Granville from Sandford Springs will be raising money for St Michael's Hospice

Graham Green and Charlie Hayes from the Leaderboard Driving Range will be raising money for Rays of Sunshine.

They will start at The Oxfordshire Golf Club in Thame, at 04.30am playing 18 holes, they will then play 27 holes at Sandford Springs in Hampshire, then 18 hole at Chart Hills Golf Club in Kent then 36 holes at Dale Hill East Sussex.

Last year John and Craig completed 72 Holes of Golf at the above named clubs in 16 hours scoring a total of 280 which was three under par and raised just over £2,000.00.

This year the challenge is going to be huge, and if you wish to sponsor them please either email Kelly Louw on [kellyl@dalehill.co.uk](mailto:kellyl@dalehill.co.uk), or call in to the Pro Shop where there is a sponsor sheet on display. There is also an opportunity for you to get involved on this day in your very own four club challenge, the only difference being yours will be over ten holes with four golf clubs. The start sheet is on the notice board PLEASE support us !

**Reciprocal Green Fee Scheme**

As mentioned by David earlier in the newsletter below are further details on this agreement:

Club	Availability	Useage	Green Fee	Requirements	Booking Procedure
East Sussex National	Sun, Mon, Tues, Wed	Unlimited	£25.00 April—October	Handicap certificate / Membership Card	Book up to 2 weeks in advance on 01825 880256
Cooden Beach	Mon– Fri	Unlimited	£25.00	Handicap certificate / Membership Card	Call the Pro-Shop on 01424 843938
Copthorne	Mon– Fri	Unlimited	£25.00	Handicap certificate / Membership Card	Call the Pro-Shop on 0342 712405
Littlehampton	Mid-week and Twilight	Unlimited	£22.00 Mid-week or £17.50 after 16.30	Handicap certificate / Membership Card	Call the Pro-Shop on 01903 716369
Bognor	Mon– Fri after 9am	Max 8 green fees per day	£15.00	Handicap certificate / Membership Card	Call the Pro-Shop on 01243 865209
Willingdon	Mon-Fri, Sunday afternoons	Unlimited	£20.00	Handicap certificate	Call the Pro-Shop on 01323 410984