



Easthampstead Golf Club
Downshire Golf Course
Easthampstead Park
Wokingham
Berkshire
RG40 3DH

www.easthampsteadgolfclub.co.uk
<http://www.facebook.com/EHgolfers/>

Editor: Steve Cross, Hon Treasurer

Easthampstead Golf Club News

January 2018

The Captain, Michael Hunt



My first newsletter as Captain and I only just made the deadline and avoided a 2 shot penalty (lol).

To be the captain of the club is a huge privilege and I am looking forward to playing golf with as many of you as I can. Hopefully we will have a good year within the club and external competitions as well.

We kicked off with the 'Turkey Trot' with Simon (Le God) Lennon posting 44 points to win. Well done to all those who managed to win a hamper and for those who did not, there's plenty up for grabs this year. Big thanks to Debbie, Hillary, Tasha, Liz and Elise for the halfway hut and raffle tickets. Also to Pauline and Muriel for the annual wine run and Ronnie Turner for his rusty nail.

January has arrived which means our memberships are due and look forward to all of you continuing to enjoy your golf with EGC.

As always we started the year with the New Years Day Stagger which was won by Ben Lambourne (39 points) just 3 points ahead of Ben Muller in 2nd

place. Both juniors and now entering our senior ranks, well done to them both.

To all members old and new enjoy your golf and have a great 2018.

Mike

2018 Membership Renewals

It's that time of year again to renew your membership, please ensure your renewal is paid by 31st Jan as leaving it any later may mean that you are no longer insured by the Clubs insurers as well as miss out on KO's and other events.

Wee Dinner, Friday 2nd March

An evening of dinner and entertainment has been organised and will be an evening not to be missed.

It is as before being held at the Downshire and includes a 3-course meal (7pm for 7.30pm) with live entertainment finishing at midnight. Tickets can be obtained from Steve Cross, first come first served and are priced at £33 per person.

2018 Key Dates for your Diary

Please keep an eye on the Club Calendar which will have the latest information on competitions and social activities. Some to note now are:

Wee Dinner, Friday 2nd March
Easter Bunny, Saturday 7th April
Whisky Tasting, Friday 20th April
Captains Charity Day, Saturday 12th May

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Seniors Open, Tuesday 12th June
Awayday, Sherfield Oaks, Weds 8th June
EGC Open, Saturday 14th July
Captains Day, Saturday 11th August

EGC Web Update

Chris Corbett has again been busy improving our website, the latest being that Tee times now appear on the front page once published.

Upcoming Competition Tee Times

January mid week Stableford on 04 Jan 2018

News and Events

For external comps, this tab now enables you to sign up to play along with fixtures/results.

Turkey Trot, 17th December

Another excellent turn out with some 100 golfers of varying attire and sobriety braving the showers and keeping warm by various means as well as enjoying another superb half way hut!

Congratulations to our winner, Simon Lennon with a very impressive 44 points in some challenging weather at times. Well done to all who took part, especially those who won hampers.

Les Smith and Mike Frawley shared the 'best fancy dress' award from some very strong competition.

Our thanks also to Dusty Kemp who made a very good Father Christmas.

Competition News

Having had a few instances of slow play in recent competitions, please ensure that when playing you keep up with the group in front not ahead of the group behind, punishments will be issued in line with the rules for any breaches of this rule.

In terms of the penalty for arriving late for a competition, this also applies to anyone arriving late for their starting duties. Also please be aware that asking for an early tee time will not preclude you from starting duties when it's your turn.

Competition rules have recently been reviewed and have been circulated to all members as well as being on the notice board and website. It is assumed that you've read and understood these.

<https://easthampsteadgolfclub.co.uk/rules>

We have had some very good turn outs for our competitions and congratulations to all.

Winners since last newsletter:

November mid wk stableford, Tom Evans
November Stableford, Martin Dozier
November Snr mid wk Stableford, Richard Butler
December Winter League 2, Tom Evans
December mid wk Stableford, Tom Evans
Turkey Trot, Simon Stephens
New Year Stagger, Ben Lambourne

Our congratulations to all.

Membership

Steve Eddy (Membership Secretary) is pleased to welcome John Whiteway, Matthew Richards, Gareth Smith, Antony James-Orekogbe and Alan Wilks. Please welcome our New Members.

Away Weekend

A reminder that the balance for those of you going to De Vere Staverton Park on 16th to 18th March must be paid by 31st January.

Knock Outs 2018

The entry sheets for the 2018 KO's will soon be on the Board. The Seniors Pairs KO pairings will be drawn on 15th March. The closing date for all KO's is 11th March.



A reminder though that if you miss the deadline or fail to pay the entry fee, you will not be in the draw.

If you're not sure how many qualifying competitions you've played in to enter (the minimum is 6) please speak to Sean Wheatley.

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Downshire Complex

As you may be aware the council have awarded the contract to *Everyone Active* who already manage 4 golf courses, Brent Valley, Perivale, Enderby and Middlesbrough Municipal.

At the present time we have no information on any plans they may have for the complex but will keep you informed when we know.

Your Card

A reminder that in competition you are expected to enter your own scorecard then leave it by the PC. If you're playing for handicap please leave your card in the same place.

External Competitions - 2018

Malcolm Hayes is organising our entries and teams for 2018. If you wish to be considered please use the sign up sheets on the Board or on-line (see external tab).

Seniors Season – 2018

Ian Nicholson is organising the teams for 2018 and will shortly be sending out to all Seniors the fixtures and inviting you to indicate which matches you'd like to be considered for.

Seniors M4 Winter League

We've now played 5 of our 8 matches (4 away and 1 at home) with some mixed results but played in a friendly manner at some very good courses. In our last 2 games (both away) we lost to Coombe Wood and drew with Oak Park. If we can win our remaining games (all at home) we will have a very good chance of winning our group and qualifying for the quarter final knock outs.

Playing for the MCC v Aussies

As most of EGC enjoyed the Turkey Trot, David William-Jones (pictured far right below) received a

late invite to regain some respect from the Ashes series, but on the golf course. He played in the bi-annual match between the MCC's. Marylebone v Melbourne; eg Poms v Aussies.

It was quite a competition with the Aussies fielding former Test and Sheffield Shield players (all of whom hit the ball a country mile) and the top brass of Melbourne Cricket. MCC were able to muster Joe Root's Dad! The two-day team match consisted of eight teams competing in a fourball format over two courses. The courses chosen were the National Old Course (located at the unhelpfully named Cape Schank!) and Moonah Links. Both links courses are ranked in the nation's top 10 courses and have also hosted the Australian Open. So no pressure on that first tee!

The National proved beautiful and lethal in equal measures. Long carries, tight targets and huge borrows on the green. There was the thickest rough which meant that no one finished with the same ball that they started with. Throw in the green keepers warning that "snakes were particularly active" and it was not surprising that a few holes were halved in lost balls!

Moonah Links was slightly more forgiving and when David had an uphill putt for a 5&4 victory it stopped just short despite hanging over the cup, Dormie 4. In the spirit of Ashes cricket, as soon as they had the initiative they meekly offered it back not knowing what to do with it! Dormie 4 became Dormie 1 with the final half a point resting on the Melbourne Captain and David executing 40 yard shots into a sloping, elevated green.

Throughout, the Aussies had been the most hospitable and generous of hosts. However, when David holed the sand wedge for a birdie and an outright win, the true Aussie character momentarily re-emerged! But it was only for a fleeting moment, soon everyone was gracious and sporting – but by

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this time it was clear that Melbourne had regained the trophy to put alongside the Ashes.

A final visit to the bar for stubbies, speeches and heartfelt thanks for a fantastic experience and excellent camaraderie. Then it was off for a Christmas BBQ, the Boxing Day Test at the MCG and Alistair Cook's record-breaking innings.



AGM Draft Minutes

The draft minutes of the recent 2017 AGM are now available and can be accessed by members via the Calendar entry (by clicking 'R').

Club Tour 2018



The arrangements are now in place with flights, hotel and courses all booked. A note will soon be sent out to the tour party confirming when further deposits are required by.

Winter Rules

Pick & Place, if your ball has come to rest on mown area cut to fairway length or less then you can mark your ball, lift, clean, and replace within 6 inches no nearer the hole. Once placed, even if it then moves it must be played as it lies - it cannot be lifted twice.

Plugged balls, when Winter Rules prevail EGC apply the recommended local rule from the Rules of Golf. This allows a ball in its own pitch mark anywhere except a hazard, and not on the green nor tee of the hole being played, to be lifted, cleaned, and dropped as near as possible to where it was, no nearer the hole.

It is a common misconception that a ball in its own pitch mark can just be rolled out and placed. This is NOT the case.

It is also worth noting that if the ball plugs every time it is dropped it can then be placed.

Bunkers & Water

If your stance or ball is in water then you can lift and drop in the bunker no nearer the hole without penalty.



You can only drop outside of the bunker if all of the bunker is under water. This is a one shot penalty UNLESS a local rule states otherwise.

We are aware of a number of bunkers susceptible to water and should it be necessary a decision will be made BEFORE the competition starts to declare a bunker GUR; the starters will be aware if such a decision has been made.

The 7th Hole

Once on the green please look back and if the group behind is ready call them up. Whilst they walk round and /or look in the pond you can finish off which helps to keep the game moving.

Reminder

Please RAKE bunkers & REPAIR pitch marks.

Club Clothing

Club clothing can now be ordered on line, check out the pictures of what's on offer.

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