



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

March 2018

The Captain, Michael Hunt



Welcome to the March Newsletter and well that was a week that was: Freezing winds and greens in the final leg of the Winter League and a worthy winner in Dave Ireland (111 points) over all beating Simon Stevens by just one point.

On the day an incredible score of 44 points by Steve Hambly which neatly trimmed his handicap by 5 shots!! Well Played. Thank god the winter league is over I thought, then the snow came with the bitter east wind. At least it's warm in bed, chuckling to myself, as Frawley & Co kept Heathrow open on the night shift. Brrr.

The Easter Bunny will soon be upon us, so hopefully it will bring a warm sunny day and raise money for my Charity 'Building For The Future'.

The Wee Dinner was unfortunately cancelled, due to lack of numbers after a lot of work was done by Steve to try and put on a good night for members and wives/partners. Hopefully we will not make this a trend, as it takes a lot of hard work.

The whisky night is on the 20th April, looking forward to this (Debbie can't stand the stuff).

The 2018 KO Draw will be at 8pm on Thursday 22nd March, hope to see you there.

Good Golfing and Keep Warm

Mike

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:

KO draw, 8pm, Thursday 22nd March
Easter Bunny, Saturday 7th April
Whisky Tasting, Friday 20th April
Captains Charity Day, Saturday 12th May
Seniors Open, Tuesday 12th June
Skittles evening, Friday 22nd June
Awayday, Sherfield Oaks, Weds 8th June
EGC Open, Saturday 14th July
Captains Day, Saturday 11th August

IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ

Changes have been made to our **competition divisional structure; prize money** and **Juniors Safeguarding** policy. In addition **CONGU** have changed their rules on competitive handicaps and there are revised **data protection rules** to abide by.

Divisional Structure

Analysis of weekend competitions played over the last 12 months show an uneven distribution of players between the 3 divisions. As you will know

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our divisions exist solely to distribute the prize money evenly and have no bearing on the division (aka category) that you compete in externally. The analysis shows the number of regular players in each division to be:

- ✚ 28 playing in Div 1 (H'caps 0-11);
- ✚ 57 playing in Div 2 (H'caps 12-17); and
- ✚ 53 playing in Div 3 (H'caps 18-28).

As a result the decision has been made to amend the divisions effective 1st April, as follows:

- ✚ 0 to 13 (Div 1);
- ✚ 14-18 (Div 2); and
- ✚ 19+ (Div 3)

Prize Money

The competition entry fee was increased a year ago from £3 to £4 but despite increasing the value of prizes an imbalance between entry fee and prizes has remained. In addition the number of players competing mid week has increased faster than the value of vouchers awarded.

Therefore with effect from all competitions played since last November inclusive the value of vouchers (or their equivalent) will be increased as set out in the table below.

Weekend Competitions	
3 rd in each division (*)	£ 25
2 nd in each division	£ 30
1 st in each division	£ 35
Overall Winner	£ 45
2 day Competition Winner	£ 60

(*) subject to a minimum of 55 players

For mid week competitions (which are treated as a single division) the number of vouchers (or their equivalent) will be dependent on the number of entrants as follows:

Mid Week Competitions		
5 th	31 and above entrants	£ 10
4 th	27 to 30 entrants	£ 15
3 rd	20 to 26 entrants	£ 20
1 st & 2 nd	1 to 19 entrants	£30 & £25

These will be reviewed at the end of the year and adjusted wef 1st November if necessary.

EGC Juniors

The Club is pleased to confirm that Matt Irving has agreed to be the Club Welfare Officer and is first point of contact should you have any concerns.

The *EGC Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy and Procedures* was recently updated and approved on 27th February.

As a Club we are proud of our juniors, their achievements and welcome them in our competitions.

The new policy is on our website and you are assumed to have read it, please follow this link.
www.EGC Safeguarding Policy

CONGU changes

To date the highest competitive handicap for men was 28 across 4 categories; CONGU has increased this to 6 categories upto a maximum handicap of 54. It is a requirement that Clubs organise competitions for all categories but, the Club also has discretion to restrict competitions to a maximum handicap.

The Club effective 1st April will allow any player with a competitive handicap to win a Club organised competition with the following exceptions which are subject to a maximum 28 handicap. The exceptions are: any Board competition; Club Trophy, Knock out, Easter Bunny and Turkey Trot. This will be reviewed annually.

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Data Protection

Data protection rules change in May and with thanks to Chris Corbett our current use of technology (mainly website/Handicap Master) has been reviewed and some changes made.

The first one you'll notice is a requirement after you have logged in, to agree that the Club can use your information although please be assured this is solely for Club related matters.

The Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) undertaken by Chris on our behalf has been agreed and a copy is available on our website. The PIA sets out what information the Club holds, where it is held, what it is used for, and when it is deleted. Follow this link to see the agreed policy. [www.PIA Statement](http://www.PIAStatement)

One other change is that when searching for a member's contact details the full listing that previously appeared is now restricted to your search criteria. This was necessary as leaving it unchanged would have allowed a member to very easily download all contact details. Whilst stopping a download is impossible, restricting the answers in this way to the search criteria only does, as a minimum, make it as difficult as possible.

Easter Bunny, 7th April

The signup sheets are on the notice board; (on-line signup is not available). This does though mean that you have the opportunity to choose your tee time and playing partners.



There are the usual 10 hampers available for the winners and all players will receive 2 bottles of wine and an Easter Egg.

The Easter Bunny has delivered lots of eggs to the Captain so there is also enough for the youngsters and our Ladies. There is a halfway hut and a hot

meal after your round with presentations starting at about 5pm.

All this for just £13 plus your green fee.

2017 Annual Accounts

The audited accounts for 2017 are now available to view via the website and show that the Club made a £1,399 surplus in 2017. The primary reason for the surplus was due to the value of competition prizes rising less than the entry fees hence the changes set out above. The main increase in expenditure was on external competitions which exceeded the budget but reflects the success EGC had last year.

Competition News

Thanks to all of you for your participation in recent competitions in some seriously bad weather which is greatly appreciated.

EGC Masters update: Tom Evans leads the table after the February competitions. The qualifying period ends in August to get into the match play knockout stage held in September. Updates will be posted on a monthly basis on the noticeboard and website so you can monitor your progress.

Please ensure you keep up with the group in front, there are punishments for breaches of this rule.

Starters will also receive a penalty for arriving late.

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.

[www.EGC Competition rules](http://www.EGCCompetitionrules)

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

Winners since last newsletter:

January WL3, Simon Stephens
January Snr midwk, John Ibbotson

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January midwk Stableford, Tom Evans
January medal, Riaan Matthysen
February midwk Stableford, Ray Deane
February medal, Alan Humble
February Snr midwk, Dave Ireland
February WL4, Dave Ireland
Ray Winter League winner, Dave Ireland
GB Ace, Kevin Lee

Our congratulations to all.

Membership

Steve Eddy (Membership Secretary) is pleased to welcome Alisdhair Beckingham, Neil Davies, Rod Reeves, Matt Whiddett, Daryl Birley, Joshua Phillips, Lee Fryer, Dermot Kavanagh, Robert Wannan, Angus Parfoot, and Dave Cousins. Please welcome our New Members.

Whisky Tasting & Supper, 20th April

Experience the variety of five single malt, single cask, cask strength drams. Learn about Scotch whisky in convivial company. Friday 20th April, 7.30pm and includes a tasty 3 course supper, at Downshire Hosted by David Smith, Scotch Malt Whisky Society Ambassador. Tickets are £25, and can be obtained from David.

Captains Charity day, 12th May

A joint event with our Ladies with a fun day is planned with halfway hut, putting competition, raffle and auction. The poster and signup sheet will be on the Notice boards soon.

Knock Outs 2018

The Seniors Pairs KO pairings will be drawn after the Seniors competition on 22nd March. The draw for all competitions will be made from 8pm on Thursday 22nd March.



The Finals day is on 14th October although this may be varied if someone is in more than one final.

NB, this is a 7 day competition and you cannot say to your opponent weekend only or similar.

News from the Complex

Paul Stanwick informs me that green fees and season tickets will increase by 2% from 1st April but the exact figures have yet to be confirmed. The course is being spiked and moss killer/fertiliser being applied to tees and greens. The work around the lake by the 10th will be finished soon and a new 8th tee will be built at the end of this month.

Everyone Active is in discussion with BFBC about investment in the complex and will share this once plans are agreed.

External Competitions - 2018

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

Seniors Season – 2018

Ian Nicholson has organised the fixtures for 2018 (see on-line calendar for dates) and has asked all Seniors which fixtures they'd like to be considered for. If you've not replied or have recently joined please contact Ian.

Seniors M4 Winter League

We've now completed our first season in the M4 Winter League under the assured guidance of Ian Nicholson (*Ed – a vacancy at Emirates soon?*) and wait to see if EGC have qualified for ko stage.

EGC entered the M4 summer knock out and stormed through the first round with a resounding whitewash victory over Bye GC.

STOP PRESS

Changes from January 2019, more to come in a future newsletter, see link. [R+A rule changes](#)

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