



The West Lothian Golf Club Newsletter

February 2010

Volume 1, Number 2

Headlines

Terry's in the Pink!



Texas Scramble.

Our February Texas Scramble was very well supported. The winners on the day were Kenny Campbell, Alastair Davison & Rhona Milligan with a score of 53.1. The event included a fundraiser toward the 'Breast Cancer Campaign' with players wearing something pink & paying fines for 3 putting, lost balls & bunkers. From the fines & the raffle £175 was raised for the charity - thank you to all the members who supported & to the ladies involved in organising the day. Special mention has to go to Terry Kehoe (pictured above) who wore pink from head-to-toe & Trevor Stapleton who dyed his hair pink for the event! Trevor hasn't been seen since although a reliable source stated that he wasn't coming out because he was washing his hair. The next Texas Scramble will be on Sunday 7th March & the list is on the notice board, should you wish to add your name. 'Good Fun in Good Company'

Supporting your Club functions will ensure a healthy bar income resulting in improvements to services and costs.

Social Update

Quiz Night

*A date for your diary – come along to the next quiz night, hosted by Colin Young, on **Friday 26th February**. All welcome – families, friends, neighbours, colleagues – just £5 entry per team with cash prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places.*

A Taste Of...

Thanks to everyone who have supported the recent “Taste of “Dinners, with the positive feedback on the quality food being much appreciated by all concerned. The next Taste night is Friday 12th March, featuring a selection of dishes from India, China and Thailand! A 3 course dinner for only £13.95 which represents great value.....be sure to book early!

Make Mother’s Day

Sunday 14th March. Treat Mum and the family to Lunch or Tea in the Clubhouse.....we have priced the menu to be the best value in and around town at only £9.50 per person for 2 courses, with a children’s menu just £4.50(under 8s). Once again please book your table with Craig.

Summary of Forthcoming Events Dates

*Friday 26th February – Quiz Evening from 7.30pm
March*

Friday 12th – A Taste of Asia

Sunday 14th – Mother’s Day

Friday 26th – Quiz

April

Saturday 3rd – The Season Starts! See posters in The Clubhouse for Dinner Dance details.....

2010 Bookings

The Clubhouse offers a fantastic venue for your Party Celebrations – whether for that special birthday, wedding anniversary or engagement. Already this year we have hosted some 21st parties, a joint 50th, and a silver wedding lunch. The main Lounge can accommodate up to 120 guests; some weekend dates are now available with a selection of hot finger buffet or fine dining menus on offer. Additionally, the Members’ Bar also provides an ideal awayday venue for conferences, sales meetings and company training events. Why not combine it with one of our Golf Packages for your colleagues?

Finally many thanks to everyone who has supported our Club events and functions.

Dress Code

There has always been much debate on the successful implementation of the Club Dress Code. Over the next few weeks you will see posters going up around the Clubhouse to clarify the Code.

Your Bar Staff and Council Members will be working hard to ensure that the Code is highlighted and hopefully with a combined effort we can all ensure that everyone knows what is expected in terms of dress.

Breaches of the Dress Code often arise mainly through someone not being aware of what the code is. The following is a reminder of the Code for the Clubhouse and Course.

Dress for West Lothian Golf Club as you would to visit any other Club

Acceptable

COURSE

Not Acceptable



Golf Course Dress Code :

- All shirts must be an approved golf shirt. 'New style' round/crew neck golf shirts are acceptable.
- Collarless and/or sleeveless shirts or T-shirts are not considered acceptable.
- All golf shirts must be worn inside waistband at all times. Ladies however may wear tops outside their trousers or skirts when they are designed to do so.
- No jeans or denims. Track-suit bottoms not desirable.
- Recognised golf shoes must be worn.
- Shorts must be tailored.
- Peaked hats or caps must be removed before entering the clubhouse.

Clubhouse Dress Code :

- Smart casual wear before and after play
- Collarless and/or sleeveless shirts or T-shirts are not considered acceptable.
- No ripped, torn or begrimed clothing is permitted.
- No studded footwear or golf shoes in the Clubhouse except locker rooms, access to locker rooms.
- No headwear of any kind in permitted in the upper Clubhouse.

Clubhouse News

Kenny Campbell has completed painting and decorating in preparation for the new season ahead. The Clubhouse is, as always, kept clean and tidy thanks to the sterling work of Margaret and there is always a welcoming ambience through the care our Clubhouse receives.

Plans are in place for the installation of a new gas central heating boiler. The old boiler is now over twenty years old and is becoming susceptible to breakdowns. Parts are also hard to obtain and a replacement appliance is by far the most cost effective way of moving forward.

Membership and Finance

My sincere thanks go to Linda Clyne and Ian Cook for their able help and assistance in Membership affairs.

Finances remain tight and much work is ongoing in cost saving schemes and income incentives. A full mid term financial audit will be carried out by your finance committee at the end of February.

We have attracted several new members for 2010 and I would ask that you make all of them welcome.

The efforts of these brave Ladies are to be congratulated and are testament to the great team spirit within our Club.

Sponsorship

On the 27th March four of our lady members; Lesley, Linda, Maureen & Rhona will be getting on their bikes to raise additional funds to support past Lady Captain Margaret McLuckie's future needs, following her accident last summer. The event is a sponsored cycle, incorporating the playing of 1 hole on 18 different courses in the area. The route map is available to view in the Club House & the sponsor sheet is at the bar. All donations will be gratefully received.

Pro Am 2010

This years Pro Am is scheduled for Tuesday 1 June, and once again will be in aid of the MacMillan Cancer Support charity. Letters & e-mails have already been sent out to all of last year's entrants, but if you know of anyone who would like to enter a team then please contact Alan Gibson. Entry costs £390 (inclusive of VAT) for a team of three amateurs. In return you will play alongside a Tartan Tour professional, be fed before and after your round and have the chance to compete for numerous prizes. The Pro Am committee is also looking for volunteers to assist on the day with various roles. If you can give us some of your spare time on the day, it would be greatly appreciated.

With limited finances available this winter your Green Staff have been busy working on low material cost projects.

Winter 2009/10 has been an ideal time to catch up with essential minor tasks overlooked in previous years due to major works.

Course News

February to date has produced 15 days of frost and a couple of days of snow which resulted in course closure on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th of the month. The winter of 2009/10 will be remembered as the coldest for many years not only for the lowest temperatures but for the sustained periods of sub zero nights.

With very little in the way of mild weather there has been little recovery of the diseased patches on our playing surfaces. Without doubt the areas which will take the longest to recover will be the putting surfaces.



I have experienced these conditions in past years and it will require the patience of us all in the recovery process. The greens will undoubtedly be bumpy in the first few weeks of the season assuring you all that all that can be done will be done. However Mother Nature has the vital ingredient to speed recovery and a mild spell would help enormously.

Is it perhaps time to consider a shift in the competition season? Our greens are without doubt in much better condition in late October than they are in April. Taking the pressure of the Green Staff and ensuring more consistent surfaces for competition play may strengthen the case for starting the season in late April and ending in late October. Your thoughts please by email to manager@westlothiangc.com

During March top dressing will be applied to all putting surfaces and a programme of verti cutting will commence. I will also apply a spring fertilizer to encourage new growth but climatic conditions will dictate the success of this operation.

Bunkers.

Much work has been carried out on the bunkers over the past few weeks with de-stoning, drainage and replenishment of sand. One of the main complaints from last season was the inconsistency of the bunkers and staff have been working hard throughout the winter to improve consistency.

Pathways

During wet weather one of the main concerns, in the overall playability of the course, are the fragile walkways especially around the tees and bridges. We have invested in rubber matting which we have laid on the most susceptible areas and this will reduce wear and improve aesthetics.

New Entrance

You may have noticed that the decaying wall on the north of the car park has been dismantled and the stones laid in piles. This is the first stage of a programme to improve the Club entrance area. A new verge will be formed where the wall stood and hedging around the overspill car park will be introduced.

The stone will be used to form a centerpiece on the north extreme of the main car park which will house a welcome sign and shrub/flower planting.

Drainage

Having invested in new ditches over the past few years it is essential that maintenance is carried out on the drains which feed into the ditches. Staff have been kept very busy clearing and repairing several old tile drain systems with the aim of ensuring the continuance of improved overall drainage.

Part of the winter programme was to redesign the ponds on the 13th hole. Due to relentless water flow this task may have to be held back to summer.

Mowing

It is pleasing to report that all playing surfaces were mown during February. An avenue of frost, snow and rain free weather was taken full advantage of and a good quality cut was obtained on all surfaces.

Litter Picking.

Staff have spent some 26 hours litter picking during February. The litter is dropped by the people who use and pay for the maintenance of the course. It is a sad reflection that our staff have to spend this valuable time on an avoidable task. I will post a reminder on Course Etiquette in my next Newsletter.

Wildlife on your Course

Have you seen the white stoats running around the stone piles on the overspill car park? This is the first year since 1992 that they have turned white for winter. They are only a quarter of the size of a rabbit but watching them hunt their prey is amazing.

Last spring we had five pairs of breeding buzzards on Airngath Hill. These birds have become very common in the past eight years and are testament to the good feeding grounds around our area. Now is a good time to watch the males soaring high and screeching out their territorial mating calls.

Two Tawny Owls have been spotted roosting in the trees at the back of the 6th green. Late evening and early morning golfers have the best chance of spotting them.

We currently have two known badger sets on the course and several foxes hunt in the confines of our course.

Roe deer numbers have fallen this year with regular sightings seeing three to four deer. Last year there were sightings of eight at one time.

I wonder if the ducks will set up home on the course again this spring? Watching the chicks on parade is quite spectacular.

It's a very nice place to work and equally nice to play the sport you love surrounded and shared by an abundance of creatures.

Hope you enjoyed your read and remember any suggestions on improving your facility will be welcomed.

Contact me on manager@westlothiangc.com

Regards- Alan Gibson.

Remember to contact me if you have any questions or stories which can be included in future publications.