



Manor Times

Issue Number 101 - December 2011

www.brokenhurst-manor.org.uk



Volunteer working party – Rick Randall, Gordon Lock and John Capon

Captain's Report



As I said in my acceptance speech at the AGM my central message was to "join in" as many events as possible in order to get the most out of the club, and at this end of the season we have some great opportunities to play golf, meet other members, and

generally enjoy ourselves. I enjoyed seeing many of you in the Turkey Trot and Texas Scramble, and I look forward to seeing more of you at the big New Year's Eve party to end 2011.

The month since the AGM has passed as you can imagine very quickly with amongst other things my first captains committee taking place enabling me to welcome the newly elected team who will be responsible for looking at the many items to be raised needing our attention in the following months.

On the fun side a dozen of us spent two nights

away on Barrie's "Captain's Jolly" at the Oxfordshire playing three rounds of very competitive golf on a very interesting course. The evenings gave us a chance to relax in comfort with our own dining room, just as well, and a great time was had by all. These type of events are a valuable chance to get to know other members of the club in the most convivial of circumstances and I have every intention of running something similar next year.

Around the club you will have seen items from the New Forest Alzheimers Group, who are the joint charity for myself and the Ladies Captain this year, and we will shortly be raffling various items including a pair of paintings on their behalf.

Finally, many thanks for all of you who have greeted me with messages of support at being raised to the captaincy; that makes a difference to me and I will do all that I can to make a difference in a positive way to the club.

Enjoy the festive season.

John Creton, Captain

Ladies' Captain's Report



What a start to my year as Captain of the Ladies! The last month and a half has been enjoyable and very busy. With winter coming late, we have had some beautiful conditions for playing golf. My year started with the very successful mixed coffee and golf morning. It was played on

a glorious Autumn day and showed the course off at its very best. Golfers went away highly satisfied with their day out. The raffle to support our charity, The Alzheimers Society, was also a great success with players giving very generously.

The clement weather has resulted in some very good scores in our regular Tuesday competitions with some of our ladies getting outstanding results. Our junior girls have had some notable successes with Charlotte Barrow winning the 2011 Hampshire Summer Knockout Competition at Hockley and Laura Barrow winning the HLGCA Kerry Smith Award for the junior girl who has shown commitment, dedication and improvement during the year.

The ladies have been putting in a lot of work on the annual events taking place just now. A big thank you to all those who helped. The Turkey Trot was blessed with a nice day and our charity again benefited from the generosity of our members who were playing and some who just happened to be there. The raffle prizes went to good homes. Our Christmas Lunch was a great success and the weather turned out to be kinder than the forecast suggested. The Texas Scramble wasn't quite so blessed but we still managed to get round with only minor rain showers and trolleys allowed. As always the ladies shopped well and the hampers looked wonderful. Finally, we have made all the arrangements for our New Year's Eve Party which should see out this year with a bang.

Eileen Graveling, Ladies' Captain

Bridge Evenings: Future Dates

Note that all sessions start at 6:30 p.m.

- Wednesday 21st December – GUEST EVENING
- Wednesday 18th January
- Wednesday 15th February
- Wednesday 21st March – GUEST EVENING

A form for players' names will be placed on the Notice Board nearer to the date.

Quiz Nights

The Halloween Quiz Evening held on Saturday 29th October was great fun, and very competitive. The Clubhouse looked suitably ghoulish thanks to Wayne, Ian and Ross. The winners, "Mind, Body and Spirit", were Helen Sleightholme, Alison Mecklenburgh, Archie and Julia Miller, Aileen Simpson and Charles Baker. Runners up were "Werewolves": George and Margaret Wirgman, John and Pam Philips, and Gary and Sally Prince.

The quiz night held on Friday 18th November, with an Italian theme, flags and banners about, was a well attended event. Ten teams of quizzers enjoyed an Italian styled meal; thank you Ian. The Quiz was keenly contested by all present, and although we were all together in the dining room, the noise level was under control, thank you all for your excellent behaviour. The winners, with an outstanding score, were Derek Curtis's Team, followed by the Wirgmans. Well done to all who took part.

Mike and Valerie Branfoot

Holiday Golf

Over the past year or so the Board have been looking to improve the Member benefits. One of the areas looked at was to formulate a portfolio of Golf Courses at prime holiday locations. The purpose of this portfolio is to strike up associations with other Clubs and negotiate concessionary Green Fees arrangements.

We are fortunate to have set up an association with Palheiro Golf on the island of Madeira. Palheiro Golf is in the top 100 European Golf courses and provides phenomenal views across the island from the majority of the holes. The course is close to Blandys Garden, a superb attraction, especially for the gardeners amongst you. The golf course provides some challenging golf with some interesting par 3's; for instance the 13th hole (from the men's tee) has a 140-metre carry across a small gorge; the green is banked with agapanthus looking very picturesque during late spring/early summer. When you have finished your game, sit on the clubhouse patio and enjoy the panoramic view of Funchal. Have a browse of the website. A courtesy bus is provided by the Golf Club, which runs on a fixed schedule through the day from a number of hotels in Funchal to the Golf Course, and return. You need to organise bus journeys through your hotel. Oh, and by the way, we suggest you hire a buggy as the course is a little 'lumpy' in places!

We hope that, if you are in Madeira, you will take advantage of Palheiro. Just show a recent handicap certificate or your Club Card when you check in at the Club reception and obtain the concessionary green fee rate.

Ken Wattam

Brokenhurst Manor Golf Club: Chairman's Message



I would like to thank my fellow Directors for voting me in as the new Chairman of Brokenhurst Manor Golf Club. It is a great honour to hold this post and I will work hard to fill the objectives of the role.

I would first like to thank the outgoing Chairman, Ken Wattam, for all his hard work. It is only when you take on these roles that you realise how much time and effort is involved. My thanks must also go to our outgoing Financial Director Keith Goodson. Keith has worked tirelessly over recent years and has left the Club in a viable position, allowing us to plan for the years ahead. Costs are now under control and we have good management reporting systems. Ken and Keith have a well earned rest!

I welcome two new Directors to the Board this year. Firstly John Trundle as our new Financial Director, who has come in at a very busy time as this is the time of year to set the budget for 2012. Also John Dodd, who will be working on various projects this year. I wish them well in their new roles.

I would like to pass on my good wishes to our new Club Captain, John Creton. He has a great team behind him in Eileen Graveling, Ladies Captain, John Goldbey, Vets, Jeff Hooper, Juniors, and the rest of the Captain's Committee. Together with our Manager, Neil, our Professional Kevin, and our Head Greenkeeper Kevan, I'm sure that we will all work together well and bring the Club and the Course to its full potential.

Thank you to John Jacobs for being prepared to offer his time once again as President. I look forward to listening to some of his humorous anecdotes.

A lot of work is being carried out by volunteers and their time is also much appreciated. The work on the Course and around the Clubhouse is beginning to show real improvement after years of neglect. I would like to thank all volunteers for their efforts.

Now where do I see ourselves going in the future? There is a lot of doom and gloom about at the moment with talk of a double dip recession in the New Year, stock market troubles, etc. I feel that it is our duty to continue the great work that has been done over recent years by keeping a tight budget but looking forward to the years ahead. There are a few troubled Clubs in our area and we do not want to be one of them! It's always good to talk about where we are going and how we will get there.

I'm always open to new ideas so please speak to me

in the Clubhouse or leave a suggestion in the suggestion book. We are heading towards a Centenary year and we have a long list of projects that we would like to complete. The next few years will fly by and we should all be looking forward to great celebrations but always with the view of keeping the Club viable. Basically we are only caretaking this Club for future generations.

Finally, I would like to wish you and your families a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year and look forward to a successful golfing year in 2012.

Lee Boyt, BMGC Chairman

'Life after the Board'

Firstly I would like to thank you for the kind gift and appreciative words relayed to me for my time as Chairman. I feel very humble, but satisfied that all the work and effort undertaken over the past three years (by all involved) has moved the Club forward and raised its profile in the local golfing community.

It was somewhat of a surprise, and also humbling, when the Saturday 'roll-up' guys treated me to dinner at a local restaurant to say thanks. When I looked around the table it was interesting to see that this roll-up, formed in 1996, has since 2002 provided four Club Captains, Captain's Committee Members, one Finance Director, three Directors and a Chairman: accumulating nearly 25 years of service as Officers of the Club. This shows the commitment of these Members to the Club and their wish for it to flourish – long may it continue.

Following six years on the Board I have been asked on several occasions since the end of October: "What's it like now you're not on the Board? What are you doing with your time?" Several people who have been in a similar situation as myself say that your golf improves; so far this has not been the case! When I joined the Board in 2005 my handicap was 12. It's now 15 and my game has not improved since October. I can only wish for improvement in 2012!

Regarding the use of my time it is amazing how the jobs you should have done over the past few years suddenly rise up and 'bite you' – so my time is taken getting things ship-shape; it's like starting retirement all over again!!

Once again thanks for all your kind words; have an enjoyable festive season and a prosperous 2012. Here's to continued good golfing at BMGC.

Ken Wattam, Member!!

General Manager's Report



As I look out of my window I can see the final shots of the 2011 Christmas Texas Scramble being played. The ladies and some of the more willing husbands have decorated the Clubhouse. The prizes for the event (60 in total) are ready - all having been lovingly thought through, wrapped up, and presented in a splendid display by the Ladies' Captain and her little helpers. It is quite something to see it all come together in what has to be the best event of the year to bring members together. Whoever thought of the event - well done. (The photo below shows the winning team.)

It is great to see all the members getting involved. I am pleased also to report that just yesterday 11 new members joined the club, all under the age of 40 and with handicaps of 12 or better. The preparation for the Christmas event made it very easy to present the club in its best traditions.

Looking back on the year it is without doubt a successful one as far as the course is concerned. All members and visitors without exception compliment the fine condition. The 11th hole is now just about complete - Len Miles kindly gift-aided the Club a substantial sum to get the course redevelopment under way and we will have a little opening ceremony for the opening of the 11th in April, and Len will be guest of honour.

Membership-wise we have held our own and are just under 500 full members at this moment in time. Many of my colleagues at surrounding clubs are not faring as well as us. We have this year achieved our forecasted subscription target.

The clubhouse has now had its new covering and sky lights - we won't go into the problems with flat roofs but I am now happy that we will stay dry for the rest of the winter.

Visitors and green fees... this subject is always a hot topic especially when the limited time in the winter on the course is used up by visitors. Anyhow, the good thing about it is that we have achieved our forecasted green fee target for the year. One point on this subject: two years ago 20% of Thursdays (our normal society day) during the summer were not occupied by visiting groups and the indications were that 2010 was going to much the same. With a good course and a welcoming clubhouse we are able to offer a good product that visitors know about and want. Next year we can start to focus on limiting when visitors can play but it will be a gradual process. Note it is impossible to limit visitors when they are not coming to the club in the first place. Next year is already filling up from a booking point of view.

Hope to see you at the club over the festive season.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all the Staff.

Neil Hallam-Jones, General Manager



The Ladies Captain presents the prizes to the winners: Left to right: Lee Haley, John Creton, Angela Barnett, Michael Branfoot, Bob McConnell, John Miller, Score: net 54.2

Juniors Report



The Junior Autumn Cup was held during half-term and attracted a good field of entries. Sam Holtom was the winner with 38 points. This was followed by the Junior AGM at which James Wells was confirmed as Junior Captain for 2011-2 and Laura Barrow as Vice-Captain.

Jordan Ainley was thanked for his successful year as Captain and we said farewell to James Dando, who turned 18 this year and thus relinquished his junior status. The Ted Evans Buckle, awarded annually to "the Junior Golfer who, having displayed the ability to play the ancient and noble game of golf has also displayed nobility of spirit towards their contemporaries on and off the golf course" was presented by Jane Evans to James Wells (see photo below). We were particularly delighted to present this to James, who has had a difficult year undergoing treatment for leukaemia, but who always maintains a cheerful demeanour and determination to continue with his golf.



Instead of a junior winter league, which has always struggled to be completed, it was agreed that we would run a monthly Sunday Stableford competition, the first of which was held on 4th December and won by Harry Yates. All juniors, regardless of handicap, are welcome to join in these events.

The Xmas Junior Competition will be held on Sunday 18th December and will be a 4BBB pairs format, provided sufficient players enter. Entries can be made via the club computer or website.

The club hosted this year's Hampshire Schools and Colleges Golf Association Championships on 20th October. This attracted over 80 junior golfers from schools and colleges in Hampshire and the IOW. Brockenhurst College students Charlie Manning and Francesca Young won the Boys and Girls titles respectively, with Charlotte Barrow, representing Noadswood School, retaining the U16 Girls title she won last year. Jason Sundborg, from Sandown Academy, narrowly beat Jack Sing-Brar on count-back to win the U16 Boys title.

The College Juniors have successfully qualified for the national team final in the British Schools & Colleges Tour which will be played on the St. Andrews Bay Torrance course on 25th April. College players have also taken 8 of the 10 available area qualifying slots for the players' final which will be held on the following day. The college is also leading the team event in the InterCollegiate tour and have three players in the 10 individual qualifying places after three rounds. With two rounds to be completed in the New Year, the College is hopeful of defending its title at the national team finals at King's Norton GC, and having a good number of entries to the players' final at Enville GC, both to be held in May. It was also great to hear of ex-College Junior Hayley Davies' successful defence of her Daily Telegraph title in Abu Dhabi, shooting a new course record of 64 in the process! She, along with a number of other past college juniors, is now at University in America, so we look forward to seeing how their golfing careers progress.

Winners of junior events from the 2011 season attended the Annual Trophy Dinner on 20th October and were presented with their trophies. Jordan Ainley received the Junior Open and Junior Championship cups, Laura Barrow the Ladies Championship, James Bartlett the Dunford Cup, Charlotte Barrow the Hampshire Schools U16 trophy, and James Wells the Autumn Cup.

Finally, a series of Saturday morning sessions for juniors new to golf was run by Kevin and Jackson and we look forward to more sessions in the New Year.

Jeff Hooper, Junior Organiser

Vets Report



We have played our final events of the year and can now relax until the new season starts in April 2011. I have to apologise for appearing in every photograph, sorry about that.

The final cup competition of the year was the Luncheon Cup on October 6th. We had a good turnout for the competition and had good playing conditions. The final result was: runner-up Pete Soles with 38 points, and embarrassingly the winner was yours truly with 40 points. I tried to explain to the assembled throng that it was all due to a new set of clubs that I bought the week before, however I'm not sure they believed me.



The presentation was made by Alan Wright, our new Vice Captain. The event was followed by a general meeting for the Vets where all the events throughout the year were summarised and winners announced (details were included in your AGM papers). I agreed to continue as Vets organiser for 2012, however this will be my final year so all those Vets itching to take over should prepare themselves for an election (open to Vets only) in accordance with the by-laws, later in 2012.

Our final event of the season was the annual match against the Ladies. Starting from two tees, we had 27 participants per side so one pairing became a singles match between Maria Anderson and John Forster (access to the result is classified). The Ladies performed admirably, using their additional 4 shots to good effect winning 5 matches and halving another. Unfortunately the Vets won 7 matches with one half so retaining the "Branfoot Stick" for another year.



I would like to send Christmas greetings to all members of the club and hope everyone has enjoyed another year of successful golf.

John Goldbey, Vets Organiser

Course Manager's Notes

We'll talk about a tale of two autumns!!! Here we are in the first week of December and still no ground frost to report, and as highlighted by the media, this time last year we were already well into the big freeze with a second snowfall imminent... The weather has been kind to us; I can't remember too many Novembers when we've been able to play the full course every day. The downside obviously is wear and tear, and we're doing our utmost to keep damage to a minimum so there is not too much repair work in the Spring.

With soil and air temperatures at least 5 degrees higher than the seasonal average there has been lots of aggressive fungal activity, in other words *fusarium*, something we've kept under control in recent normal autumn conditions, but there has been a small outbreak on the putting green (it looks similar to pitch marks). We've sprayed for this twice in the last fortnight so it's under control, but on the whole the greens are clean and I'm happy with the good coverage we have going into winter dormancy.

As most of you would have noticed the 11th hole renovation is in full swing. The right hand side greenside bunker was completed at the end of November, and with all going to plan the remaining three will be finished by the Christmas break. The left greenside bunker is next on the agenda. We will be incorporating heather into these bunkers in an attempt to recreate some of the heathland origin of the course. We're never going to have heather on the scale of Liphook or Hankley overnight, but my aim is to make some average looking areas become

outstanding with some beautiful colour in late summer.

Because of the warm autumn the grass is continuing to grow and it's been important for us to keep mowing the course for presentation much later than usual, so there has been little woodland work achieved. There has been work done on the 12th hole on the left side; two reasons for this:

1. To balance the view of the hole from the tee - it was all enclosed on the left, and open on the right, and it forced some shots away to the right.
2. For any ball that is pulled left you will now have a better view of where it went, and there are places to drop the ball out the hazard now which was previously very difficult.

There is still a few days work between the 12th/13th to complete, then we will turn our priority to the 5th, which needs work done to the right side of the hole so that all of the tee can be used. This will help winter sunlight to reach the 4th green, which is totally in the shade at this time of year.

Please read our new greenstaff profile. This is a way for you to get to know the team better, and continue the high level of communication between members and greenstaff.

It just leaves me to wish everyone a happy xmas and a happy and healthy new year from all my team, and we look forward to producing a course you can continue to be proud of in 2012.

Kevan Glass, Course Manager

Greenstaff profile: December 2011

Rickie Spencer



Age:	20
Residence:	Marchwood
Status:	In a relationship with lovely Vicki
Nickname:	Rickee! (ala Bianca from Eastenders voice)
Current Position:	Trainee Greenkeeper
Time in current employment:	Since March 2011
What attracted you to green keeping?	Working outdoors
If you weren't a green keeper what do you think you would be?	Labourer (male stripper P/T)
What task do you most enjoy?	Mowing (Semi-rough) – the only mowing job I am trained to do!
What task do you least enjoy?	Raking bunkers daily.... especially after heavy rain
Hobbies:	Playing football, gym, socialising
Your favourite team:	"We are Southampton, we're top in the league.."
Favourite music:	Professor Green ... (who??)
Claim to fame:	None to speak of yet
Where do you see yourself in 10 years?	A head greenkeeper or deputy
What one thing, other than a pay rise, would improve your job?	More sunshine, more lay-ins
Who would you like to be stuck on a desert island with?	Honest answer??.... My girlfriend Vicki.

Ten best remarks by a caddy

As submitted by Alan Wright

I posted a couple of these in issue 98. Here are a few more...

Golfer: "Do you think my game is improving?"

Caddy: "Yes sir, you miss the ball much closer now."

Golfer: "Do you think I can get there with a 5 iron?"

Caddy: "Eventually."

Golfer: "You've got to be the worst caddy in the world."

Caddy: "I don't think so sir. That would be too much of a coincidence."

Next edition profile: Michael 'The Sip' Gulliver

News from the Pro Shop



I can't quite believe Christmas is here already, the year has just flown by for me and I would like to thank all of you for supporting me the way you have during my first year here with you at this fantastic club. They say "time flies when you are having fun"!

Regrettably, Georgie is leaving the pro shop staff soon, but I would like to thank her for all her help over the last few months. My nephew Matthew Vineer is flying back home this week in time for Xmas and is already looking forward to bolstering my Staff over the Xmas period.

We have **25%** off selected ladies clothing ranges. We have just received the new colour range of Sunderland waterproofs in store for both men and ladies.

My GC2 Launch monitor is proving very popular. The information it provides is very accurate and every golfer can benefit from using it, no matter what handicap you have. So don't delay; book an appointment with me to see if you can get more out of your game and clubs. Why not treat yourself or that special person that has everything this Xmas? You won't regret it.

Note that lesson/shop vouchers are available to purchase.

We, alongside Motocaddy, are offering a **free** deluxe series cart bag with every S3 digital Lithium trolley purchased before Xmas. Offer price starts at £399.99. S1 Motocaddy starts at £299.99.

We have a new range of carry bags, some with the Golf Club logo embroidered into the ball pocket that look very smart and are very lightweight. Really useful if you are taking a half set out, and at the same time you will be protecting the course with wear and tear around the green surrounds. It speeds up the round and, who knows, you may score just as well or even better with fewer clubs?

Merry Xmas to you all and Healthy, Happy golfing in 2012.

Kevin Saunders, Club Professional

Millennium League Report

Well that's another year under our belts, and this time it was "Oh so nearly".

As I said in my last report, any one of five clubs could have won the league; in fact Broadstone won it in a tight finish with Hayling. Only 9 points covered the top 8 teams, and if we had only won at least one of our last two games we would have finished second; and if we had won both then... However, it was not to be despite a very close match with Hockley (which we lost by just one point). Broadstone away was not so good – home advantage playing a big part in their win. A win earns two bonus points and so both of these clubs were assisted by our generous (to them) play. The final league table was as follows:

Club	P	W	D	L	Pts
Broadstone	8	4	1	3	46.5
Hayling	8	5	0	3	44
Hockley	8	4	1	3	42
Ferndown	8	4	1	3	41.5
Stoneham	8	4	1	3	41
Brokenhurst Manor	8	3	1	4	40
Blackmoor	8	3	0	5	39
Barton	8	4	0	4	37.5
RWGC	8	1	1	6	26.5

I must thank the 18 members who represented the club in this year's matches, both regularly and occasionally, and trust that the experience will encourage them to volunteer again in 2012.

And I also hope that the lure of playing at good quality clubs in a format that is different from the usual inter-club format of 4BBB (we play singles match play) will attract some new names for next year. Watch the notice board for the list of matches.

It has been my pleasure and privilege to be the Millennium League Captain for Brock for the past three years, and I am delighted that Gerry Lambelle is taking over the baton for next year. I wish him and the team every success (and if I am good enough will be invited to be a part of the team from time to time) for the new season.

So I send my very best wishes to everyone who has ever played in the Millennium League team, and to all club members for a great golfing year in 2012.

Alan Wright

Deadline for the next issue of the Manor Times: Sunday 4th February 2012

Please send contributions to Phil Appleby. Either e-mail them to phil_appleby@uk.ibm.com, or give them to Neil in the Club Office.