



LEOMINSTER GOLF CLUB

MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER - 25th March 2018



Welcome to our March newsletter – in amongst the snow, rain, snow, rain and mediocre sunshine, there is a definite feel of spring in the air and this can mean only one thing....'The New Golfing Season' is almost with us! Off the back of the Club Manager's newsletter that was issued at the end of February, this one is more of an overall update, there is some feedback on jobs that are underway, some comments from both our current Captain and our current Senior's Captain and details of past and upcoming events. Thank you for your support during this continued time of change, improvement and financial stability.

Club Manager Update

So, to date, I've only had two months in the big seat, but I hope you'll agree that already it is clear that things are starting to take shape. In view of that, here is an update on some of the areas that we have been working on:

Staff - We have taken on two new members of bar staff recently, in the form of Gemma and Chris (please say hello to them next time you're in (if you haven't met them already) and although it's only a few days in for each of them they have already shown that they are capable behind the bar, confident and enjoying the role. In addition, Chris and his band have been signed up to perform at our 'Beer and Cider Festival' in May, which is great.

Catering – 'Appetite Catering' (aka Gail and Tim) have been serving great food in the clubhouse for three weeks now and the feedback has been good. Wholesome, home-made food was what we were all after and this is certainly what we have got. Catering is a huge part of the club and working alongside Gail and Tim we will go onwards and upwards.

Website – We are seeing an ongoing increase in the hits to the website and this is because of the excellent events that we have had, and advertised, (lots more on the way) and because of the content being a lot more up-to-date. I know what you might be thinking...so, the new subscriptions and green fees are being added this week.

Facebook – As we are now posting every day, providing course updates early on and using Facebook as an advertising tool, we have seen big increases in our number of followers and equally the likes and shares that are taking place. I anticipate that this will continue to go from strength to strength as the year progresses.

Marketing – We have been very busy on the marketing front, not just from the website and Facebook perspective, but also with new building and road signs being worked on, events posters/adverts constantly being created, getting advertising space in a number of magazines and tickets for shows being canvassed almost non-stop. Lesley Turbutt, Harvey Jull, Heather Cass, Steve Grealy and Paul Chapman are those that I have worked alongside and judging by the way we all work together; there is lots more to come!

England Golf – We meet with England Golf on a regular basis and they are keeping us up to date with new websites, trends and ideas, all of which are leading towards us taking part in more and more new incentives, programs and movements. More details on a number of these will be shared in the coming months.

World Handicap – I'm sure you will be aware of this, but just to make sure that we understand what this means and how it is going to work, Rod Garvey and Julie Powell will be attending a related seminar next week and feed back to me.

Recruitment – Not too dissimilar to the Handicap seminar, Lesley Turbutt and I will be attending a recruitment event in a couple of weeks-time. This will give us an understanding of what other clubs do, how England Golf work with clubs and will also allow us to do a bit of networking – the key bit to a lot of what I do.

'On the road' – I am working on visiting local businesses, football clubs, schools/colleges and fellow golf clubs in an effort to put us on the map a bit more, build relationships and increase our members and ultimately our revenue. I will be providing you with further details on this as the outings progress.

Trade Directory – If you are a trader and would like to advertise your business through the golf clubs new trade directory, please call in to the office and speak to me.

Existing contracts – We have a number of energy, banking and general clubhouse contracts in place, all of which are either already being reviewed or are due to be. This is a cost saving exercise and put us in a much better financial position.

Card machine – You will see a new credit/debit card machine appear behind the bar shortly, this is one of the aforementioned 'contract' exercises. The main parts of this are the cost saving and the ability to accept contactless and apple payments.

Finances – We have made progress on the finance side recently and we are now in the early stages of using a new finance package. Eventually we will be able to link this to a 'currently under review' new bar till system. Julie Powell has put a lot of time and effort in to this and I believe it will be coming to fruition inside the next couple of months which will be a huge asset to the club.

Committee changes – As you will be aware from the AGM we have made changes to the Management Committee (aka The Board) and there have also been a number of changes to the sub-committees. All of these have been put in place to streamline groups, meetings and processes and this will mean that you will see a lot better communication on a number of levels as the meetings start to take place, minutes are provided and actions are completed accordingly.

Greens – Whilst the course has suffered from the bad weather over the last few weeks, inclusive of a lake being formed across the 10th fairway, it has not been an easy task for the Greenkeepers to keep the course in the outstanding condition that it is in today (18 holes open with a short 10th today). This has been achieved by way of hard work and also assistance from a number of members, especially some of those in the seniors section. We continue to work on the branches and piles of debris that lay around small sections of the course and there has been some excellent progress made on the 'mole' situation. The latter is thanks to the seniors as they arranged the mole exercise and I'm sure you'll agree that this is much appreciated by everyone as the last thing we want is a mole on a green, unless they have paid their green fees of course and don't use a 9 iron!

Mark Lane – Captain 2017/18

As my captaincy comes to its conclusion I would like to take the opportunity to thank the membership, committee, greens staff and the past captains for the support and their efforts they gave throughout the year.

There were some testing times as we said goodbye to Jessica from the office and our caterers, Table Manners, but we welcomed Alan, in the office, and 'Appetite Catering' to the golf club, to take us forward. I have already noticed a change for the better in how the club feels when you walk in.

I was glad to see new faces playing in friendly matches, and representing the club on SHUG events, and some familiar faces re-join the club.

Thanks go to Pete, Paul and Wayne for organising events as part of our 50th celebrations and to all those who ran other events throughout the year, that provide much needed funds for the club.

My personal thanks to Rod Garvey. Without his organising of the men's competitions, along with his help in handicapping, I would have a full head of grey hair, as it is; 'Just For Men' is not needed, just yet...

Finally, my best to Clive and his vice Ronnie on their forthcoming year. I hope you both have time to enjoy the time in the green jacket, as I have. Here's to the next 50 years plus of Leominster Golf Club!

Vince Fish – Thoughts from your Senior's Captain 2017/18

Firstly, I would like to thank all of the seniors for their support; it has made my year as captain very special.

The Friendlies and the Round Robins have been well supported and we have competed well in both events. For those members who have not thought about joining in these competitions, it is an excellent way to visit and play other courses in Herefordshire, and the surrounding counties, and join in the fellowship of the seniors.

During the year many seniors have given a great amount of their time to do work on the course and the clubhouse. As usual, there are too many names to mention, but I am going to try my best....

Bob Holloway, my Vice Captain – his advice and guidance has been invaluable. The work carried out by Cyril Jennings and Bob, on the compressor area, and the compressor itself, has been remarkable. As a side note, the seniors paid for the new compressor. Several groups have helped clear away branches and also removed the old temporary tees; this has helped to make our course more attractive. The senior section has also paid for the removal of moles on the course on several occasions and I now believe there is a structure in place to continue with this work (Thank you Dave Botwood). As you all have probably noticed, the hallway and changing rooms have been decorated this year, thanks to the help of Richard Cattermole.

I wish to thank all committee members for their help, wisdom and general good humour. I think we have a brilliant seniors section, long may it continue!

A big thank you to Dave O'Dowd (Father Christmas) for his work on all of the competitions. His work has been invaluable and he has done a superb job again this year.

Bill Harris, our financial guru, has informed me recently that you have helped me raise £1,750 for my charity. Thank you for your generosity. As you are hopefully aware, the money will be used to fund work on the club.

I wish Bob all the best as our new captain for 2018/19 – I know he will do a brilliant job.

If I have missed anyone's name out, please forgive me, it's my age!

Best regards for a brilliant year, with good health, from a very proud retiring captain.

Rod Garvey – Competitions Secretary

We are introducing a 'Saturday Stableford Eclectic Competition'. It will run on the basis of 'pay and play' through the Pro Shop and all cards will be entered in line with current Sunday competitions. The competition will be introduced on 7th April, entry will be £2, optional £1 for twos, yellow tees, 3 divisions and prize money will accumulate to the end of the competition near Presentation Day. Prizes will be distributed according to the total amount accumulated. It would be great to have as many members as possible involved in this event! Please see me for more details.

Past Events

AGM – You will be aware that this took place on 7th March and it was a successful evening with a number of members in attendance. The official minutes will be available soon.

Quiz night – The last quiz night took place on 23rd March. Again, it was a successful evening and funds were raised from the raffle and good food was served on the night.

Upcoming Events

WE NEED YOU



14th April - Cabaret Night, 7:30pm, with Counterfeit ABBA, Natalie Nightingale, Showgirls and Tony James. Tickets are just £18 each and can be obtained from the office or directly from Harvey Jull.

11th May - Sportsman's Evening, 7:45pm, with Gareth Chilcott, tickets are available at just £15 each and can be obtained from the office or directly from Paul Chapman.

26th and 27th May – Beer and Cider Festival, timings still to be confirmed. This will include: Beer, Cider, food, live music and golf. This is our first festival so we are hoping to get a number of visitors to the club and any advertising you can do as members would be much appreciated.

In addition to the planned events we are also looking at:

The obligatory club-nights on a Wednesday evening and other regular food themed nights

Sunday roasts are now in place

We will be holding a Grand National sweepstake

A St George's Day celebration is in the planning stages

We will also be having a number of Football World Cup related evenings with live football, beer and food offers

In addition, we are currently working on film nights, we're reviewing the possibility of having 'Flicks in the Sticks' on the premises and we are also thinking about having regular jazz slots with live bands playing while you tuck in to fantastic food, drink some of our finest beverages and look out over the 18th fairway...

As you are aware, each one of these events provides a boost to club funds and members are asked to support at least one event this year. If we aren't currently arranging events of interest to you then please visit the office and share your ideas, as we welcome suggestions of any sort, and they will then be raised with the Management Committee/Board.

Thank you for your time and we look forward to seeing you soon.

