

Leominster Golf Club Newsletter – 21st August 2018



Welcome to our 'late Summer' newsletter, brimming with updates, events and a little bit of thanks thrown in. ...apologies for the time it has taken to get this out to you, but as we want it to be as informative as possible it takes a little while to create and we want to make sure everything is included – that and, it's been a busy couple of months!

Club Manager Update

After seven months, we're doing well. No, it doesn't end there, but first and foremost, I need to say that our greens are spectacular and the feedback I have received is outstanding. When it seems that a number of other golf clubs in, not just the county, but the UK, are struggling with almost 'straw like' conditions for their greens, ours have been neutered, sanded, cut, hydrated, drained and generally looked after better than the crown jewels! Therefore, a huge well done needs to go to our Greenkeepers Steve, Phil and Jackson, on an excellent job. As we roll in to the more Autumnal time of the year, things will start to get a bit trickier, but we will continue to work the magic on the greens and aim to keep them as good as they are now, for as long as we can.

On a personal level I have continued to market, advertise and generally sell our club around the immediate area, and more recently, slightly further afield. In the next 6-12 months I'm confident that we will have made strides from where we were. I have been raising the profile of the club as a 'business' with a proper 18 hole course, large function room and above all, great members, staff and visitors. We're not just part of a golf club, we're an enterprise and I want us to boldly go where no golf club has gone before... so if you're reading this and not currently a member, get on board!



Staff Update/Changes – We have had a few changes behind the bar, Rob and Rachael have been recruited and have been excellent additions to the team. Unfortunately for the club, but fortunately for Rachael, she has just been offered a full time position elsewhere, so we will be seeing less of her, but we will still be aiming to get her in for a shift or two!

Catering – Since the departure of Head Chef, Tim, 'Appetite Catering' have successfully provided a great service to our members and visitors throughout the last two months and the feedback on the food has been excellent. Gail has recruited support catering staff and as we have many large events coming up these are opportunities for us to show off the restaurant more and more.

Competition Prizes – I'll provide a short and sweet update on this. The prizes for 'Clubnight' and 'Men's Sunday Matches' will continue to be put on to your accounts in the Pro Shop, however, if you would rather have the funds on your bar card, please visit the office (within 48 hours of winning) and this can be arranged.

Facebook – The daily updates continue and this is giving us a bigger presence within the 'online community'. Our engagement continues to increase, events are being shared and networked and communication is at an all-time high.

Marketing – Our committee meets up on almost a weekly basis now and the fact that we have a sign on the A49 and another one ready to go shows great progress. We have a number of events up and coming and these are all part of advertising the club and showing what we can do. There is a common misconception that we are a members only club, however, everyone is welcome, and we are starting to break through this!

England Golf – We continue to work with England Golf on a number of projects and they are all part of what is making us a stronger club. The recent 'SHUGC Centenary Texas Scramble', where we were visited by 28 golf clubs for the event, shows what we can do and the impact that all of the hard work is having.

'On the road' – 'Herefordshire domination' continues and most recently I have been liaising and making plans with:

- 'Hereford FC' (signage conversation)
- 'Ludlow Rugby Club' (reciprocal signage conversation completed)
- 'Luctonians Rugby Club' (society outing being discussed)
- 'Leominster News' (advertising)
- 'Wye Valley Now' (advertising, thank you to Kevin Waterman)
- 'Visit Herefordshire' (this is a big piece of advertising and something that will be prove to be another injection of profile raising)
- 'Chamber of Commerce' (networking events continue and we are holding a Chamber event here in December)
- 'Choral Diversity' (this is a choir who will be using the clubhouse for their rehearsals every Thursday evening from the beginning of September and they will also be performing a ticketed event for us in December, details TBC)
- These are just some of the relationships that are being built as the weeks, months go on



Fibre – We are now live with fibre, yes, it finally came to fruition. We have had a few teething problems with both the internet and the new phone system, so apologies, but things have improved and we are closely monitoring things.

Finances – Our new finance system 'Xero' isn't up to scratch as yet, but we are working on it. Eventually we will use this as an overall accounting tool and this will also work with a new bar till which will in turn reduce man hours around obtaining financial figures.

Greens – I know it's mentioned above, but you can never have too much of a good thing, well done lads!...and also thank you to the volunteers who have helped out on the course over the last three or four months.



Lottery – Since Julie Powell won the lottery in April it has built itself to the healthy sum of £530 and obviously this can be won at any time, so get involved.

The Course – Our Senior's section continues to keep the moles in order out on the course and as it stands we have not seen their presence for a number of weeks. We hope they have relocated – the grass definitely isn't greener elsewhere, but even so, we won't miss their hills!



Functions and Ongoing Events

We have a number of functions coming up: Wedding receptions, anniversary parties, birthday parties, Christmas parties and seminars. We are also still looking to put theme nights in place, 'Monday Curry', 'Friday Steak Night', 'Saturday Swiss Roll', you get the idea ;) Watch this space....

'Clubnight' continues every Wednesday and everyone competes in the front or back 9 hole event. The catering also offer £5 specials every week and long may the event continue before the nights start drawing in. As mentioned in a previous newsletter, on Wednesday's the kitchen will be open until at least 9pm with last orders being taken 15 minutes before this.

Our 'Junior Clubnight' attendance figures continue to increase. Nigel Clarke (our Golf Pro) Andy Merrick (Junior's Organiser) and helper Ronnie Painter (Vice Captain) continue to do great work. Food is now available on a Friday night and can be purchased from the bar either with while your juniors are out playing or once they're done.

Societies – Our society visits continue, there have been a large number of them and the feedback has been fantastic. The reoccurring comment that keeps coming up on all feedback is the friendly welcome that people receive from our staff and club members. This is a credit to everyone involved in the club, in one way or another, so thank you and let's keep doing what we're doing!

August/September Bar Hours

Monday and Tuesday: 12 – 8pm (Tuesday to 9:30pm if there is a 'Rotary' meal scheduled)

Wednesday: 12 - 9:30pm (While 'Clubnight' is in place)

Thursday: 12 - 8pm (9:30pm from 6th September if there is a 'Choral Diversity' choir rehearsal scheduled)

Friday: 12 – 8pm

Saturday and Sunday: 11:30am – 8pm

Past Events

Golf Events – We have been privileged to host the: Mixed County Championships, SHUGC U18 matches, Senior's Open Pairs, Ladies Captain's Day, President's Day, Men's Pairs Texam, SHUGC Centenary Texas Scramble, Pro's Comp. and many, many more.

In addition to all of the above we have held a number of successful functions in our clubhouse.

Upcoming Events

27th August - Greenkeeper's Challenge – This is a fun, but challenging open singles stableford event. It is over 9 holes and you pay and play when you arrive. Each of the holes will have an unexpected twist involving an obstacle and throughout the day we will be raising funds for the St. Michael's Hospice charity. Entry is just £8 for adults and £4 for children - prices include a drink and a burger from the BBQ.



7th September – Our Quiz Nights return and will take place on the first Friday of every month from now until March. Arrival time is 7pm for a 7:30pm start. It is a team of 4 for just £10 and the bar snacks menu will be available on the night. Teams can be entered by calling (01568 610055 option 1) or visiting the office.



8th September - Stewart Thomson Memorial/Midland's Air Ambulance Charity Day - It is just £25 pp (must be a team of 4) to play 18 holes. A bacon roll and teas/coffees will be provided on arrival, there will be a drink halfway round and post-game there will be a burger from the BBQ for everyone! We will also have a raffle and a cake stall on the day. Tee times need to be booked in advance by calling 01568 610055 option 1 or visiting the office.

13th and 14th September – Herefordshire Alzheimer's Society Charity Golf Day – This huge golf event is taking place over two holes and two tees. For further information on the event please visit the office.



27th October - Halloween Party with Firework Finale - This is our first Halloween and Firework event and it will be fun, spooky, noisy (mainly the fireworks!) and full of food and drink, prizes and pumpkins...There will be prizes for the best Halloween costumes and a prize for the best pumpkin lantern. Children are £4 (price includes ghostly food and a drink) and adults are £3. Adults will be able to purchase food from the bar, and have the option of dressing up! Tickets are available by calling 01568 610055 option 1 or visiting the office. For safety reasons; children must be accompanied by an adult throughout the event.

3rd November - Cabaret Night – The big night will feature X Factor's 'Steve Ritchie' and 'Relley.C'. The evening will also feature the hilarious 'Mal Rich' and 'Showgirls'. Tickets are just £20 each and can be purchased by calling 01568 610055 option 1 or visiting the office.

Every event provides a boost to club funds and as much as we would love all members to attend all events, we know that we can't please all the people all the time, but, we like to try! 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 and discussed accordingly.

Thank you, especially, if you read this to the end because if you are the first to go to the bar and quote 'Newsletter Freebie' you're in for a nice hydrating treat.

Your continued support is very much appreciated and we look forward to seeing you soon.

