



Chippin' in!

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Free!

Welcome to the very first edition of 'Chippin' In', the new bi-monthly Leominster Golf Club publication that gives you, the members, the insight in to everything going on at the Club. As 'Chippin' In' is solely for our members you are welcome to 'Chip In' with your ideas, thoughts, reviews, comments, photos, whatever you wish - as long as it gets through the editorial process of course!

'Chippin' In' is obviously in its infancy at the moment, but it is looking to take off from where its predecessor 'Fore' got to almost 18 months ago. With your help and involvement 'we're hoping Chippin' In' can become a great source of information, but it is heavily dependant upon input from yourselves, the Pro, the Management, the Committees...everyone!

It goes without saying that we are a golf club through and through. Not only that, we are a fantastic golf club and we arguably have the best course in the county. Not only that, we have a large clubhouse that is becoming more utilised all the time – in the months to come it will finally fulfil its potential as one of the finest spaces in Leominster and the surrounding areas.



To give you an idea of the content that will be included in each edition we have provided you with a summary of what's on offer within:

- 2018 in a nutshell, from our Ladies Section
- Seniors Roundup
- Mixed Section Report
- An introduction to our new Pro
- Green's work
- Events: The next two months
- Notes from the Manager
- A little bit of fun
- Thank you

Ladies

2018 proved to be a very busy, successful & profitable year for the Ladies. Our three Open Competitions & Coffee Mornings attracted huge support both from within & from outside clubs, proceeds from which enabled us to buy the stage for £800 & donate it to the club in perpetuity. We also sponsored a Tee Board for £200, donated over £300 to club funds and supported our Charity 'Huntington's Disease Association' with a cheque for £100.

In golfing competitions we won 90% of our friendly matches and many of our ladies had excellent results in open competitions run by other clubs. However, congratulations go to Star of the show 'Lesley Turbutt' on becoming County Champion by winning the county championship. It just goes to show if you can play Leominster course well, other courses pose no problems.

Aside from the golf we have been trying to improve the environs of the clubhouse & surroundings by forming a working party of Ladies to clean & replant the small garden between the Men's & Ladies 18th tee, which, if we can prevent the deer eating the flowers, should flourish and provide beauty for years to come. Other Ladies have planted & maintained the flower boxes on the balcony & at the rear of the clubhouse. It all helps to make our club place attractive to visitors.

In the clubhouse our Quiz Nights have been great fun & together with the Christmas Hampers raffle we raised over £1000 for the clubhouse fund which is being used to buy equipment & effect repairs. Members support for these activities is very much appreciated.

Finally we are looking forward to the new golfing season & have already welcomed two new members. We wish to enjoy it to the fullest so let us hope that we have a summer as glorious as last year.



Seniors

I am pleased to report that the Seniors section goes from strength to strength. This seasons Round Robin winter league has reached the half way stage with all teams having played three matches. This leaves Leominster's Vice Captain Terry Bufton and team in an excellent position, having won all three matches, away at Ross and at Home for Burghill & Ludlow, giving them a match difference of three to one. This year the Seniors have again agreed to continue paying for the mole catcher, who last year cost over £1000 and looking round the course at the weekend, he will have more work to do.

Last year's Captain, Vincent Fish, has arranged to have partitions put up in the showers, with the funding coming from last year's Captains Charity. The Ladies and Seniors are holding their annual Dinner Dance on 15th February, and everyone is welcome.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Seniors who have helped on the course throughout the year allowing the Green Staff to keep the course in such excellent condition.



Mixed

The mixed section seems to be going from strength to strength and our numbers continue to grow. We now have a regular turnout of 10 couples playing in our Winter Greensomes.

For the first time last year we held a mixed club championships and this was thoroughly enjoyed by all who played. We ran this competition as The Kneill Trophy, as this had not been played for several years, so instead of having an unused trophy we decided to reformat the competition into the mixed club championships. The format was American Greensomes and the winners of the first mixed club championships were Carol Gardner and Jamie Griffiths. Well done to them.

As usual we have continued to play through the winter and our Winter Greensomes has been very well supported with 10 couples playing each time out of the 12 who entered.

Our New Pro

My name is Shaun Goodwin and I have been in the golf industry for 23 years. Over the years I have played on numerous tours, but despite enjoying the game, inevitably I found myself analysing the swings of my peers.

My personal enjoyment and satisfaction is driven by this analysis, with the implementation of the correct swing to suit every individual.

Everyone is different, but my task is to ensure that every one of my peers have exactly the right swing to improve their game.

Inevitably golf coaching became my way of life, and my personal ambition when we moved to the South Coast in 2008 was to create my own golf academy. I own the company: Ninth Green Golf which resided at Highcliffe Castle Golf Club until September 2018.

In late 2018 my family and I moved back to our home town of Hereford, where I was appointed club professional of Leominster Golf Club in January 2019 ready to start a new chapter in my life.

Mission Statement: Ninth Green Golf can focus on all aspects of your game.

I believe that through the analysis of the golf swing and simplifying its complexities, we can assist the client at all levels. Whether a Tour Professional or a Real Beginner you can be assured of an approach that will suit you and improve your game.

Awards:

Golf Teaching Diploma Level 3 (Distinction)

Asset Golf Teaching Diploma Level 3 (Distinction)

If you haven't met Shaun yet, please go and say hello and welcome him to the club – he looks a bit like this!



Green's work

Following some hard work completed by Steve, we are pleased to display the Green's schedule of works around the building. This will show you what the Green's staff are up to and when and all of the details are up on the noticeboards around the clubhouse – great work Steve!

Events: The next two months

15th February – Ladies and Seniors Dinner Dance, all welcome

18th February – Maddy's Zumba Gold starts and will continue every Monday



1st March – Quiz Night



6th March – AGM

1st April – New golfing season!

3rd April – First Club Night of the season

13th April – Cabaret Night starring: Adele and Surely Bassey



Notes from the Manager

How can I sum up 2018 in a relatively small article, well, simply put...it was a challenge. It was a year of change, a year of getting through it and a year of hard work, determination and team work, and get through it we did!

We lost our Pro of 15 years and replaced him within 3 days with Shaun, who has already shown experience and knowledge on a number of levels, I think we have many great years to come with Shaun on board.

We lost our caterer and will be replacing them, not quite within the 3 days, but we are hoping to have an announcement very, VERY soon, which will be just within 3 months and before the start of the new season. As much as preparing food in the kitchen, sometimes serving, doing shifts behind the bar and generally honing my skills as a barman cum waiter cum front of house figure has been exhilarating I will gladly get back to my day job as soon as possible!

We also refinanced our bank loans and as part of this exercise we essentially secured a deal with the bank that has put the Club in a better situation, saving us money month on month. We have been very careful with what we are spending, but with a few nips and tucks, financially, we are getting there.

Throughout the year we lost bar staff, took on bar staff, almost lost some more bar staff and now we are recruiting again ahead of the new season. What is unchanged is our Green's staff and I know it has been said in many newsletters and communications before now, but the course last year was at times 'exquisite'. Yes, we have set the bar high, but with the continuing hard work of the staff and the regular volunteers, I know that we can once again have a year of excellent greens and fantastic feedback from all of our visitors - many of whom have booked to revisit again this year already.

Something we will be pushing in the coming months is our outstanding clubhouse. We already have a number of bookings for a wedding, birthday parties, seminars/meetings and a christening this year, but once we get the catering sorted (communication incoming VERY soon) we will be able to push it even more!



Thank you to you, the members, the staff, the Management Committee and on a personal working level from me, thank you to Lesley, Julie and Joss without whom I couldn't do what I do – they are the backbone of the club, from a Management perspective, and a huge support to me.

A little bit of fun

The Voice from the Clubhouse

It was a sunny Saturday morning, a little before 8 a.m., I was on the first hole at The Oaks of St. George Golf Club and beginning my pre-shot routine, when a piercing voice came over the clubhouse loudspeaker:

"Would the gentleman on the woman's tee back up to the men's tee please!"

I could feel every eye on the course looking at me. I was still deep in my routine, seemingly impervious to the interruption.

Again the announcement: "Would the man on the woman's tee kindly back up to the men's tee."

I simply ignored the guy and kept concentrating, when once more, the voice yelled, "Would the man on the woman's tee back up to the men's tee. please?!?!"

I finally stopped, turned around, cupped my hands and shouted back: "Would the jerk with the microphone please keep quiet and let me play my second shot!"



Thank you

Thank you for your continued support, for being members of our fantastic 52 year old club and for sticking with us – some things can be sorted out fairly quickly, other things take time, but all 'things' are done for the benefit of the club so that we can be here in another 52 years!

