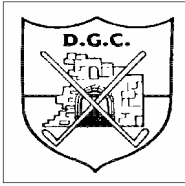


Denbigh Golf Club



Cae Drain Chronicle

January 2011

FROM THE GENTS' CAPTAIN

In adhering to the Equality Act 2010 I am honoured to have been appointed the first Gents' Captain of Denbigh Golf Club and look forward to working together with the Ladies' Captain, Miss Jane Williams and Committee Members in doing our very best in managing your Club in 2011. I offer best wishes to Mr President - Mr Ted Wilding MBE, Gents' Vice-Captain - Mr Ian C Jones and Ladies' Vice-Captain - Mrs June Howatson in their term of office. Please remember that all the Officers and Committee Members are volunteers and give up many hours of their time for the benefit of Denbigh Golf Club, without them there would be no Club so please give them all your support.

Many thanks to Gary Thomas (Immediate Past Captain) for his valued assistance in 2010 and I wish him well as Chairman of Match & Handicap. Peter H Jones has stepped down from Chairman of Social to Chair the Finance Committee with the Ladies' Captain taking over as Chair of Social, good luck to you both.

The highlight of my year as Vice-Captain was retaining the DGU Div 1 title, many thanks and well done to all those who played in the matches. I. C Jones has the challenge of leading the team this year and as a Man United supporter who is used to winning, I am confident of more DGU success in 2011. (No pressure IC)

I am delighted to be continuing as Chairman of Greens in 2011, I believe continuity to be most important. I worked closely with Karl and his Team last year and enjoyed the experience. Thanks to their hard work the course was in first class condition during the summer and even at this time of year the greens are a pleasure to play on. I now look forward to seeing the condition of the course further improving in 2011.

Best wishes to you all for 2011 and enjoy your golf.

George Williams, Gents' Captain

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS

FROM THE LADIES' CAPTAIN

A very Happy New Year to all Denbigh Golf Club members

This is my first contribution as Ladies' Captain to the Cae Drain Newsletter and I was afraid that due to the recent spell of horrendous weather I would have little to share with you. However, those of you who know me well have no fear that I would have nothing at all to impart!

My term of office began at the exceptionally well organised Ladies' AGM in November. Thanks to all the Committee Officials who ensure that the evening runs without any hitches and that the business of the AGM is conducted in a proper and dignified manner. My thanks go especially to Mrs Helen Owens for her organisational skills and for keeping me to task at the meeting. Whilst the AGM is an opportunity to reflect on the past year's highlights and celebrate a good golfing year it is also tinged with a little sadness as we instigate the "changing of the guard". Obviously the primary change is that of Ladies' Captain and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Sondra Williams on behalf of myself and lady members for her commitment and hard work during her year of office. Others to leave the Committee this year were Mrs Janice Jones Ladies Treasurer and Mrs Jean Gwynn Handicap Secretary. Both ladies have contributed immensely to the smooth running of the Ladies Committee and I thank you both for your hard work. We also saw two of our lady committee members leaving namely Mrs Sue Baggaley and Mrs Maria Morgan and thanks to both for their contribution to the Committee. However, Maria has returned to the Committee as our new Handicap Secretary along with Ms Steph Chalk our new Treasurer. Two excellent choices and I have confidence both will prove to be invaluable to the smooth running of the Committee. Speaking of excellent choices I was very pleased that the Past Ladies' Captains nominated Mrs June Howatson as this year's Ladies' Vice-Captain. June is an active and loyal member of the Ladies' Section and will make an excellent Vice-Captain and in time a worthy Ladies' Captain. I am really looking forward to working alongside June. Welcome also to Mrs Christine Jones for her second term on the Committee and Ms Alison Matthews - a first timer!!

I am very pleased to confirm that Mrs Jenny Jones has also started her term in office as the County Ladies' Captain. This is indeed an honour for Jenny and well deserved as she will be an excellent Captain with years of experience and skills to rely on. It also brings kudos to our Ladies Section to have one of our members honoured in this way. All the very best Jenny for your term in office.

Continued overleaf

Winter League began in early October and everything was going well until the Siberian weather took a wrong turn and decided to visit Denbigh Golf Club instead! I'm pleased to say normal service has resumed and I hope that we will not face any further weather disruption for the remainder of the Winter League. Sadly because of the weather I have been unable to organise my Drive-In. I had planned to do it on our Christmas Competition Day but it had to be cancelled. The Christmas Dinner did go ahead and a good time was had by all. Many thanks to the Committee for organising the meal and to our past Ladies' Captain Sondra for organising the after dinner quiz and to Alison for the golfing challenge!! My Drive-In will take place early in the new season.

I am pleased to note that the Eclectic Competition is yet again well supported and Ladies are making every effort to make up for lost time due to the weather. My thanks to Pauline Pierce for organising this competition, which is enjoyed so much by our Ladies.

During 2010 the Club had to consider and respond fully to the implications of the latest equalities legislation. This national legislation was passed in order to ensure that sections of our community are not disadvantaged because of their disability, gender, race or sexuality and to that end I fully support such legislation. However, those introducing this piece of law made no secret of the fact that golf clubs would be targeted by this latest piece of legislation. Ironically in reality what was intended to ensure women enjoy equal access to their respective golf clubs has led to many questioning whether they should continue to be members. In order to comply with the legislation DGC along with every other golf club has had to review its membership fees and implement the same fee levels for lady and gentlemen members. This is to ensure that we comply with the law. The result has been an increase in lady membership fees to bring them to the same level as the men. Sadly there was no provision in the act to implement this change incrementally over a period of a couple of years. This would have been the common sense approach – who was it that uttered “The Law is an Ass!?”

I sincerely hope that this action which has had to be taken will not lead to many of our valued lady members deciding not to rejoin in 2011. Our membership gives us the opportunity to take part in a wonderful sport, take advantage of the outdoors, make new friends, maintain lifelong friendships, be part of a welcoming and fun club and for the competitive amongst us provide a challenging activity. Please consider this before making any decisions.

Finally, on a happier note I am pleased to confirm that our ladies who have had a difficult 2010 health wise have started 2011 on a much improved footing. All the best to Dorothy, our Ladies President, Hetty, Ellen and Hilda for a continued and speedy recovery.

Forthcoming events for the Ladies Section include the Valentine Open Competition on February 11th, Winter League Dinner on March 5th, a Cheese and Wine Etiquette Evening on March 18th [all the questions you would like to ask but were too frightened to!], the first round of the Mail on Sunday Team Competition at Rhuddlan GC and the unveiling of our new team colours!

Happy golfing and I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Jane E. Williams, Ladies' Captain

Member's Reserved Car Park Space - Draw Sheet in the Lounge Bar - £1 for 2 Numbers

AROUND THE GREENS

Happy New Year to you all.

The past year has seen big improvements and changes to the course that all the Green Keeping staff are very proud of, especially when we hear good comments, it really has increased moral and the past few years are now well and truly behind us.

This year will be no different, further improving the course and the greens to a higher standard, ensuring that all members and visitors have the best possible experience every day.

The greens have come out of the bad snow cover periods extremely well, exceeding my expectations with this being a great indication of all the hard work that has been put in over the past year.

The winter weather has certainly hit us early and hard this year, with the course being closed almost 4 weeks, myself and the green staff have been very busy in and around our shed complex. We are currently installing a natural reed bed waste treatment system, re-using the water we wash our machines, potentially saving hundreds if not thousands of pounds in the future.

We are also building a car park for the greens staff behind the sheds to clear the main driveway for machines and deliveries. Finally we our building 2 new bays for deliveries of topdressing and sand, placed in a more convenient place for artic trucks to turn and dump their loads.

All machines and equipment are currently being serviced by ourselves, along with grinding with our own cutting units and completing a full overhaul restoring our machine to a like new condition ready for the season ahead.

The planned winter work we originally set out to complete has well and truly been setback. We will now prioritize the jobs and along with the day-to-day course set-up complete the jobs that will most benefit the golf club for the coming year.

Golfers please remember this is your golf course so pitch marks need to be repaired, bunkers raked and divots replaced. Ultimately if these simple repairs are not adhered to, turf will not recover as quick, greens will be bumpy and uneven with more labor being spent by the greens staff fixing what the golfers are supposed to be doing.

I am always interested to hear what members and guests think about the golf course so please feel free to talk to me when I'm around the golf club. This year I intend to play more golf and every Friday afternoon I hope to be heading out for a round of golf and I would like to invite anyone who wishes to play and share his or her thoughts and comments on a one to one basis. I will put up a sheet every Monday for a 4 ball maybe a 3 ball if busy, for members to put their name down for a round of golf with me.

Thank you all again for a great first year as Course Manager, its been the greatest experience to date and we can only build upon what we have already achieved and become the golf course everyone wants to play.

Karl Parry, Course Manager

SOCIAL

Happy New Year—A new year brings in a number of changes in relation to the committees that oversee the running of DGC. The previous Chair of the Social Committee Mr Peter H Jones has now moved on to the position of Chair of Finance Committee and I have been nominated as his successor. I'm sure Peter feels he has big shoes to fill following Martin Edwards into the role of Finance Chair, but I feel much the same myself as his successor! Peter has done a tremendous job of organising a range of varied and successful social events at DGC and my first duty is to thank him for all his effort and commitment on behalf of our members and the other Social Committee members.

Sadly the end of 2010 saw not only our golf being a victim to the weather but also our social calendar. The much awaited return of Ruth Moor Williams to entertain us with her wit and song was postponed due to the snow. Ruth was booked as the entertainment for the annual Turkey Supper. Hopefully she will be re-booked for an evening early in the New Year.

Thankfully the snow had all but disappeared by New Year's Eve so the planned event with local band Luke went ahead as planned. Whist not as many tickets were sold as last year an excellent night of entertainment ensued with Luke proving yet again to have the ability to fill the dance floor! The Captains' drive into the New Year took place – with the Gents' Vice-Captain's drive proving far more successful than the Ladies' Captain!! I did warn everybody that my night golf skills left a lot to be desired!! However, the offers of driving lessons have been flooding in.

The members of the Social Committee are the Ladies' Vice-Captain, Sondra Williams, Peter H Jones, Eilian Williams, Kevin Parry and Janice Jones. If you have any ideas for future social events please contact either me or any of the other members of the Committee. We are constantly looking out for new ideas for events and welcome input from the whole membership with suggestions.

**Jane E Williams, Ladies' Captain
Chair of Social**

*Denbigh Golf Club Ties
now on sale
at only £16—Great Value*

Congratulations to Michelle on winning the Christmas Draw 1st prize and to all the other lucky winners. If like me you won nothing, well thanks for taking part.

MANAGER'S NOTE

Well 2010 was good and bad, the good being how well Karl and his Team presented the course and the bad, our income was badly affected by the snow closures in the winter months. Even though we were closed for some weeks over this past Christmas, the 2011 accounts for the first 2 months are just about o.k. We must be positive and hope for better weather, more members and from the condition of the course last year, more visitors.

The Finance Committee will at its next meeting confirm a plan of action to reduce expenditures to compensate for any shortfalls in income and to ensure that the 2011 accounts are healthy at year end.

Remember if introducing a new full member, £20 is placed on your bar card, £10 for winter half year.

2011 Annual subscription invoices have been sent out and the Executive Committee would be most grateful if Members could make payment as soon as possible to assist with the Club's cash flow. Payment can now be made by credit/debit cards with most cards being accepted.

All the best for 2011

John Williams, Manager

VETS

Where did that year go!!!! Q. Was it successful from our point of view? A. Mixed. In the end the results of the vets inter-club matches did not look too good with 11 wins and 12 losses, the first time we have had a losing season. The vet who had the best set of results in these matches was Tony Claber with Maurice Berg being a close runner up. The organisation and playing of the new set of seven vets majors was a success. The winner of each major plus the winner of the summer Mon/Wed/Fri comps had a Stableford play off in October to determine the Best Vet of the Year. Instead of the expected 8 players in this competition there were only 6 on this occasion because Roy Tickle, (he of the dancing fame at the recent club dinner dance), won 3 of the 7 majors. The 5 major winners were Roy Tickle, Brian Peters, Peter Howland, Gary Beaks and Alan Brooke with Nobby Morris completing the line up being the Mon/Wed/Fri Summer winner. Well he had to do something after finishing the boundary wall. These six players went out as two three balls and the eventual winner was Nobby but the relatively low stableford scores indicated that the pressure got to them all, although they denied this.

The new Best Vet of the Year Trophy was donated by our Chairman, Trefor Jones, thanks very much Trefor. It depicts an old man taking an unattractive swing at a golf ball. He says it was not based on anyone at the club but I have my doubts.

Our annual Christmas party was held recently with our usual very welcome guests, John and Carole from the office and our other special guest was the new Gents Captain, this being his first official function, excluding committee meetings as Captain. We wish him every success for his coming year. During the dinner all the winners of our major competitions were presented with an engraved tumbler as usual but in addition on this occasion, Roy Tickle was presented with an engraved tankard for his outstanding success this year, rather than 3 tumblers.

As a group, we would like to thank the Immediate Past Captain and in-coming Captain for their support during 2010. In addition, we also thank John and Carole, Cliff and his staff, Michelle and the bar staff, Mike the Professional and last but not least, Karl and his greens staff for presenting the course in the best condition that it 's been in for quite some time.

Here is hoping we all have a good 2011 in every way we would wish.

Geoff Doherty.

MATCH & HANDICAP

The Match & Handicap committee would like to wish you all a Happy New Year & hope that you all have a very enjoyable and successful golfing year. We will be having our first meeting at the end of this month, date to be arranged. On the agenda will be Annual Handicap Reviews and arrange all the different National Competitions for the coming season.

The away days have been arranged a big thank you goes to Ted for all his hard work in arranging these days out.

Saturday 14 May - Padeswood and Buckley G C
Sunday 19 June - Birchwood G C
Sunday 21 August - Runcorn G C

We look forward to the Captain's Drive In that signals the beginning of our golf year.

I would like to thank Kevin and all of last years committee for all their hard work and I look forward to working with the new committee for the coming year.

Gary Thomas
Chairman Match & Handicap

Please remember to contact the Office if you change your home address, telephone number or e.mail address.

CATERING

2010 has not been the best of years with 6 weeks closure due to snow in January and February and 4 weeks in November and December, but we managed to get through it pretty well thanks to the support of members and visiting social events.

We now look forward to better weather in 2011 to help us and the greens staff who have done a great job, long may it continue.

2010 was a very testing time for my staff as a result of my illness and they came through it with flying colours.

Thank you all for your support during my illness and I wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year.

Cliff Roberts,
Caterer

PRO'S CORNER

Sale now on in the Professional's Shop
Golf bags - Shoes - Water Proofs
Electric Trolleys - Drivers
All Reduced

Many thanks to John Arwel Jones for his help in the shop over the past 15 years. John has decided to retire and we wish him all the best for the future.

Mike Jones
Professional

OPEN WEEK 2011

Principal Sponsor: Heineken UK

Programme of Events:

Sunday 05 June

Ladies B/Ball

Stableford. Full H/C. 3/4 allowance

Sponsored by !!

Wednesday 08 June

Senior Gents B/Ball (55+)

Stableford. Full H/C. 3/4 allowance

Sponsored by Pen Y Bryn Joinery

Friday 10 June

Texas Scramble

Team of 4 Gents & Team of 4 Ladies.

Medal. Full H/C, 10% Com.

Sponsored by George Williams Insurance

Saturday 11 June

Gents Better Ball

Stableford. Full H/C. 3/4 allowance

Sponsored by E Jones & Sons, Denbigh

Sunday 12 June

Mixed Better Ball

Stableford. Full H/C. 3/4 allowance

Sponsored by Cliff's Catering, Denbigh G C

To save disappointment please enter sooner rather than later.

JUNIOR SECTION

Following on from my last report in August, the D.G.U. Junior League was finally won by the Wrexham Junior Team, who went on to Builth Wells where they also won. The Wrexham Team will now represent Denbighshire and Wales in the final in Spain in January. The Denbigh Boys finished in fourth place. The winter league started in September, with a 18 hole, 9 hole and 7 hole competition. This was well supported but when the weather turned against us we had to cancel some of the events. Winter tuition started in September and is held twice a month at the Trefnant Driving Range, it was very well supported, has now finished but will start again in late January-February, then in April we will revert back to the golf club to carry on with the short game and have more tests.

The most improved junior this year is Jake Hellon; he has played for the County 2nd Team and has won three major trophies. He has also been selected for the County Tuition. He is 12 years old and I have high hopes for him in the future. I, on behalf of all the juniors would like to thank everybody for their support to the Junior Section and to Karl and his team for the excellent presentation of the course, it is a pleasure to play on it.

I hope everybody had a very good Christmas, and we all have a very exciting 2011.

Thank you all.

Bruce Carlyle
Junior Organiser