



## Captain's Newsletter - January 2012



Hello everyone,

Welcome to Easthampstead Golf Club's 2012 golfing year. Whether you are a new member or an existing member I hope you have a great year. You'll find many golf and social events in our calendar to keep you busy and entertained.

Since assuming the Captaincy golfing life has been occupied by planning and organising the various major events throughout the year. A great part of this is done by the new committee and officials whose experience and willingness to take on tasks makes for a good coordinated team effort.

From the feedback received, the year started well with a successful *Turkey Trot*. The weather was kind to us and the food and drinks throughout the day were welcomed by all. Thanks to everyone who played and also stayed for the presentations – it certainly was a pleasing sight for the club and Simon Cottee, the restaurant manager, who was pleased with the bar takings. Congratulations to all the winners, especially Roger Cotton who scooped the overall prize hamper. Thanks again to everyone who helped with the event, especially Jim Spencer, Ted Rogers and staff at the Complex. As always, any suggestions you may have for improvements to competitions please share them with a member of the committee.

Plans are advanced for many of the *off site golf events* this year. The away weekend, ably organised by Dean Farrer, is at The Vale Resort, near Cardiff on 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> March.



We will be playing two great courses, the Lakes and the National, so keep your fingers crossed for good weather. All places have now been taken.

The away day is on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> June at Puttenham GC and for around £55 this will include a bacon roll, 27 holes of golf, lunch and a three course evening meal – fantastic value. Well done Bob Billers for negotiating this deal. Bob will be posting the entry form later in the year.

The Club tour at the end of September is once again booked for Belek in Turkey, where we will be playing five great courses and staying at an all inclusive hotel.

The ***Social events*** this year are being organised by John Ibbotson with the first on 27<sup>th</sup> January - a Whisky Tasting and Supper. This includes a tasting of 5 cask strength drams with a haggis supper. The following event is the Wee Dinner Dance with a supper and live entertainment. This is on 25<sup>th</sup> February and tickets (£28) are now on sale. This is a popular event that sells out quickly so buy your tickets early. Please see the noticeboard and website for all the 2012 Social events.

New for 2012 are some changes to the interpretation of some ***golf rules***.



The main ones relate to a moving ball on the putting area and the raking of bunkers. Jeff Retaillic is producing a summary of the changes which will be posted on the noticeboard and circulated to everyone. Please take the time to read this so that you're not caught out.

We have been fortunate that the weather has allowed us to play most of this winter and the ***course and greens*** have stood up well thanks to the work done on the greens over the last two years. The Complex has just had a report from the Sports Research Institute and the results were very promising with the sand / seed injection over the last year and, as a result, this does not need to be redone this year. However, a deep injection of more sand into the greens is required so the Complex will be completing 3 operations of solid tining the greens to a depth of 40-50 mm and then top dressing with sand, using 35 tonnes of sand on each operation.

All this is in addition to an overseeding programme for the greens where, in June, July and August, the greens will have a verticutting to 3-4/mm, followed by an application and brushing of bent grass seed and top dressing with 10-14 tonnes of sand.

Other areas of work on the course are: to clear out all woods and trees around some greens to let more light into the greens; renew the 11th yellow tee; lop trees down around tees to give more light and make drives more playable and; renovate and improve approaches to greens. A busy year for the Complex.

Brian Stapley, our handicap secretary, unfortunately has the painful task of ***disqualifying*** a few players from our events every competition. The three most common reasons are: signing for incorrect gross score on a hole; card not signed by player and/or marker and; player's handicap missing or incorrect on card. So please check your card before handing it in.

Thanks to all who have already paid their ***2012 subscription*** (£74). If you have not paid then this is now due. Failure to do so could see Stephen Eddy, our Membership Secretary, chasing you and, from the 19<sup>th</sup> February competition, no tee time will be allocated if you have not paid your subscription.

Notices for entry into the *Knockout and External competitions* are now on the club noticeboard. Mark Dalton is organising the Knockouts so please put your name on the various Knockout entry sheets as early as possible. The draw will take place early in April.

Gary Lopez is organizing the external competitions that the club enters. These include team, mixed and pairs events. If you would like to play in any of these competitions please sign up and the Competition Captain will be in contact with you. As a club we have enjoyed much success over the years so let's hope this continues. As with all external events the wearing of a blue (white for Senior competitions) club shirt is required. Shirts and other club clothing can be purchased from Chris Joseph.

The ever popular Seniors matches this year are being organised by Ian Nicholson and the fixtures will soon be posted on the Seniors noticeboard.

All internal competitions, Seniors' competitions and Social events are contained in the yearly *handbook* which is produced each year by George Friedman. So please keep track of what's on and when, by using the book and the website ([www.ehgc.info](http://www.ehgc.info)) for regular updates on competitions and activities.

You may have noticed that the winners' *trophy boards* have not been updated. This is due to the pending replacement of all the boards to accommodate more yearly winners. The boards have been made by Andy Phillips and Ian Nicholson; Jim Spencer and others have been instrumental in moving this activity forward. We aim to have the new boards in place by the end of February.

Finally, the next Major event is the *Easter Bunny* on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> March. I look forward to seeing you all there and until then, enjoy your golf.

With best wishes,



David G Smith

