

THE WAYFAIRER



The Wayfairers Golf Society Issue 20

November 2001

NO PLAYER AT CHIDDINGFOLD SCORES UNDER PAR, EXCEPT STUART HARRIS - OUR BRIGHT AUTUMN STAR!

Our recent Chiddingfold Meeting attracted 25 members and 5 guests on a clear dry day, but with an extremely keen and invigorating northerly wind blowing round the nether regions!

The course was in excellent condition, but a combination of slick very fast greens, together with the strong gusting breeze made scoring very difficult.

This was Competition Day for the Autumn Cup which was presented 6 years ago by Ron Harris, and won appropriately enough on the Wayfairers 6th Anniversary by son Stuart. Well done Stuart - the only player of the group of 30 to play under handicap with a total of 37 points.

As this was A.G.M. day more Wayfairers trophies were on display and presented than usual. Congratulations to Chris Wilkes for maintaining some excellent scoring throughout the year to become Society Champion 2001. This was an extremely close fought title with the top three players all on 108 points and was decided on count-back.

Congratulations to John Bateson and Nick Widdowson for winning the Knock Out Pairs competition for the second time in 3 years. (Handicap Committee please note! ED).

Before listing the full results, special mention must be made of Mike Owens for all the effort he put into winning the coveted Plonker Cap. Several holes from 'home' he slipped down a grassy bank, and the

bottom fell out of his world! A cold up-draft made him realise that he had split his trousers right down the back! This was bad enough but to make matters worse he was playing with a lady Wayfairer (Audrey), and for the next few holes he did his utmost to successfully hide his discomfort and embarrassment from her. Then on the 18th, playing a particularly difficult shot from deep rough which required a long and very powerful swing, he



Mike Owens - Plonker Winner indicating with the Cap where the seat of the problem lay!

realised that he had at last exposed to Audrey the full extent of his predicament, and a glimpse of his bizarre taste in underwear! Poor Mike!

(What about poor Audrey? It was enough to put her off AGMs for life! ED).

AND SO TO THE FULL CHIDDINGFOLD

Society Champion 2001 - Chris Wilkes.

Knockout Pairs Competition Winners - John Bateson & Nick Widdowson.

Ron Harris Autumn Cup & Wayfairers Trophy - Stuart Harris 37 pts.

2nd - Chris Wilkes 35 pts.

3rd - Mike Wilson 35 pts.

Special Consolation Prize - Carl Rosner 35 pts.

Team Prize - Mike Church, Syd Tutton & Pat Fudge 79 pts.

Nearest the Pin - Mike Church.

Open Longest Drive - Chris (will he take the Whisky?) Wilkes.

Over '18' Longest Drive - Syd Tutton.

Shortest Drive - Ian 'Spinach' Templer.

Birdie Cap - Chris Wilkes (It's that man again!).

Hedgehog Award - Derek Reeves
(What a way to treat a New Member! ED)

The Chiddingfold Raffle

Many thanks to Mike '£1 a strip' Church for persuading members and guests to part with a total of £57 at Chiddingfold. For our next meeting at Bletchingley there will not be a raffle as such, but at Breakfast all those attending will be 'requested' to hand over £1 per head for a 'guessing competition' which will be related to the day's golf results.

WARNING! A list has now been compiled of members who have sold raffle tickets at past meetings - all those who haven't be warned! - your turn is coming!

Membership

It was agreed at the recent AGM that membership for the year 2002 should remain at £5. All members have now received a payment form - either at the AGM or distributed with this copy of the Wayfairer. The deadline date for payment is Monday 26th November. It is hoped that a full and updated list of members will be available to hand out at Bletchingley.



**What some will do to get an
"R.Soul" Sweater!**

And so to our next meeting



To be held at Bletchingley Golf Club on Monday 3rd December, (T/N 01883 744848). Please contact either of the two 'Johns' if you are not sure of the location.

Breakfast will be available on arrival from 9am onwards, with the first group teeing off at 10.15am. You might like to check your tee time a couple of days previously with John B. in order to plan your journey. You might also like to phone the Club about the latest 'Trolley Situation'.

The Competition is an 18 hole Stableford. The winner member will win both the Christmas Tankard (currently held by Fred Catterall) and the Wayfairers Trophy (currently held by Stuart Harris). Two other Trophies to be contested are Harold's Special Xmas 18th Hole Tankard, which will go to the player nearest to the pin with their second shot on the 18th, and the Jeff Hogg '18 and under Trophy'. Current holders of these two Trophies are Peter Storey and Clive Cooper respectively. There are also prizes for guests, who will of course be welcome.

NOTE: As usual this is a Bring and Win Event! Everyone is required to bring a prize - and everyone will win one! Suggested value £2 - £3. Why not make your prize a bit of a mystery by wrapping it up! In some cases it will probably still be a bit of a mystery after being unwrapped!

A new and unusual event for our Christmas Celebrations will be the 'Most Tasteless Tie Competition'. Prove to all those present just what appalling taste you've got by the choice of the tie that you select when you dress for our Christmas Dinner! The Competition will be judged by a panel of ladies (Whose decision will be final and totally condemning! ED) - with excellent prizes!

While mentioning ladies if you have a non-golfing 'other half' why not invite her to join us for the Xmas meal? The more the merrier! but note that we must know several days beforehand in order to book extra meals which will cost only £11 per head. (Go on, they are dying to know what we get up to! ED). And what about all these ladies also having a little bit of a competition at the Wayfairers Christmas Party? We won't ask them to wear a 'tasteless tie', but there will be a prize (or two) for the most 'Outrageous Ear-rings'!

Cost for the day - This includes a full English Breakfast, 18 holes of Golf, and a two course Christmas Dinner plus prizes for £28.00 The Christmas Dinner is at approximately 5.00 pm followed by the main prize giving and perhaps our usual traditional Christmas 'Sing Along with John' - at no extra cost! (Thank goodness for that - it's bad enough without having to pay for it!! ED).

An availability/payment slip is enclosed to be returned no later, please, than Monday 26th November 2001.

A FINAL WORD ABOUT OUR CHOICE OF COURSE - BLETCHINGLEY

Those who played at Bletchingley on our rearranged day in January will know the course was reduced to just 10 holes in play, with temporary, 'temporary' greens, but please, don't be put off for this year. The winter 2000 - 2001 was exceptional! Normally Bletchingley does have a very good reputation for drainage and in September, when making the booking, we first spoke to several Bletchingley members. All reported the course to be in excellent condition. Obviously we have no control over what happens weather wise, between now and early December, but optimistically we look forward to having some real Wayfairers Christmas fun!!

Incidentally, if you can find a better Christmas 'deal' than we are getting with Bletchingley, the Committee will be pleased to fill your glass - and book it for next year!

PICTURES FROM CHIDDINGFOLD



Left: Society Champion - Chris Wilkes receives the Trophy from Frank Houlihan 'Captain of the Day'.



Right: Winners of the Pairs Knockout John Bateson & Nick Widdowson



Left: Stuart Harris receiving the Ron Harris Autumn Cup & Wayfairers Trophy.

Right: A happy Syd Tutton & Mike Church but what have they said to Pat Fudge? Team Prize winners.



Below: Still smiling, Syd Tutton flexes his muscles whilst receiving the prize for the 'Over 18 Handicap Longest Drive'.



Below: Ian Templer sportingly receives his Tin of Spinach - Prize for the Shortest Drive.



Below: (Yes - just what is going on below?!). Happy Mike Wilson - a prize for his 35 pts.



WAYFAIRERS GOLF SOCIETY

NOTES OF THE 6TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The following were the main decisions made at the A.G.M. held on 9th November 2001

1 All existing Officers were re-elected.
 2 Annual membership subscription to remain at £5. Joining fee to remain at £5.
 3 The full programme for 2002 as described in the September issue of the Wayfairer was approved. A request to return to Shillinglee at some future date received little support. The policy of attempting to plan and book a whole years programme in advance received majority approval (15 votes for - 5 against). The Secretary stated that the chances of exploring further new venues was becoming more and more limited as 20 different courses had now been played, thus almost exhausting the possibility of finding further clubs in our geographical area within our price range.

4 As it was likely that some members who had played very infrequently would not be renewing their membership, it was agreed that new membership should be offered to the few currently on the waiting list. If after this, there are still vacancies, any attempts to fill these should not include, for the time being, any invitations to Holtje Members, as this would be likely to create an imbalance in the composition of our Wayfairers Membership. It was stressed that invitations should only be made to players likely to fit in with the ethos of our Society.

5 A table showing handicaps, scores and averages throughout the year was presented to each member. This produced a lively discussion with the fairness of handicaps over 28 being questioned, particularly in relation to the four ball better ball competition. However an examination of the scores and results indicate that our present system gave everyone a fair chance and produced some very close and competitive matches. Chiddingfold was won off a handicap of 11 and the knock-out finalists played off 11, 13, 17 & 18.

The overall average score for the year was 29.48 with individual averages ranging between 26.57 and 33.50. Our two highest handicappers averaged 30.00 & 29.00 and our lowest single figure players recorded 33.50 and 32.00. The closeness of these results supports our current arrangements. The interest and discussion was welcomed even though the decision was to continue with our present system

6 The Secretary reported that the Short Golfing Break to be held at Wensum,

Norwich in November had attracted 15 participants and that a group of 14 were planning a 3 night visit to France in early June. The Secretary advised that any members who would like to organise a Wayfairers Golfing Break would receive the full support of the Committee in promoting such a venture. Robert Marchbank had extended an open invitation for the Wayfairers to pay a visit to his home area of Dumfriesshire where he would be able to arrange Golf and Accommodation at an excellent "value for money" price. Such a visit was strongly recommended by Frank Houlihan who had experienced it and agreement was made that the offer should be seriously considered at some future date.

7 Agreed by a very large majority that, with regard to meals, it was preferable to have just one 'set starter', (i.e. the same for all) with no limited choice of starter as had been negotiated at 4 of our 2001 meetings.

8. At various stages of the meeting thanks for all their work on behalf of the Wayfairers was extended to John Bateson, John McDonnell, Barry Richards, Peter Rushton and Ron Harris.

The Wayfairers at Wensum November 2001

Fourteen Wayfairers plus one guest took advantage of the Special Winter Golfing Break at Wensum Golf & Country Club near Norwich.

The group arrived in time for lunch followed by 18 holes on a gloriously warm Autumn afternoon. Afterwards the swimming pool, jacuzzi and sauna became busy - as did the bar just before dinner.

On day 2 some who only played 9 holes visited Norwich Cathedral and the famous Street Market. In the evening it was the 2nd Annual Indoor Olympics organised by entrepreneur Barry Richards. (I think he means me - I wish he wouldn't use such long words! - ED). Participants were paired up and the Hotel turned into disarray as players putted along corridors and down flights of stairs, while others chipping airflow balls into an upturned umbrella! The climax came on the pool table where again speed and skill was important.

The ultimate winners were John Horsfall and Peter Rushton - Indoor Olympic Champions 2001.

The third day was bright and fresh, and 18 holes were tackled before

everyone departed with the firm resolve to return in November 2002.

P.S. All those present would like to thank Tony Warrilow for introducing us to his very close and life long companion - Mr R.Soul. Thank you Tony - it was a pleasure to meet him!

A CONFIRMATION OF THE PROGRAMME PRESENTED AT THE AGM FOR 2001- 2002

(To put in your new diary).

The following are the dates and venues fixed:-

2001

Monday 3rd December Bletchingley

2002

Friday 8th March Chartham Park

Tuesday 7th May Holtje (all day)

Friday 14th June Reigate Heath (afternoon)

Monday 22nd July West Chiltington.

Monday 16th September Downshire

Seasons Greetings

We hope to see lots of you at Bletchingley.

To those who can't make it - All our Best wishes for a very happy Christmas and birdies galore (not all Turkeys!) in the New Year,

John McD., John B.,