

# Dhekelia Golf Club - Newsletter



Edition No. 3  
Season 09/10

Produced by: Club Secretary

## Peter Parish—Club Captain

*Some one once said that “A week is a long time in politics”; I say that “A year is a short time as Club Captain”. It seems only yesterday that I stood before the assembled company at the 2009 AGM and was inducted by the outgoing Captain, Brian Mellor. Time does indeed fly and in this short notation I will attempt to sum up the past 12 months.*

*The best news was getting the Clubhouse back under our control. Without doubt it is successful and thanks to the industrious efforts of Chris Harper is going from strength to strength. The recent purchase of the “Tents” has immeasurably enhanced the outside areas. These being supplemented by the “ Ground Force “ team of Jenny and Alan Banks gives us a most attractive Club frontage and a nice place to sit and watch the world go by.*

*The “Road Hole” has been re invented and whilst not quite up to standard as yet; is none the less much improved. The extension of the brown surround on “The Steps” has proved to be most successful and allows the player to “go for it” without fear. Despite many members’ misgivings, the introduction of the new bunkers on “Pickford’s Pylons”, “Snake” and “Ranges” have enhanced the course and provided a modicum of difficulty to boot.*

*Some re-forestation and course clearance post the Tornado, plus extraordinary rainfall and a great deal of work by the Grounds staff, has made the course better than it has ever been; certainly in my time .*

*We have enjoyed some great competitions and held a most successful Festival of Golf. Next year my successor, Bruce, will have the privilege of hosting the Army Championships, RAF Championships and the Inter Services. A busy year to look forward on and I wish him well.*

*Thanks to the efforts of our Chairman “Half Way House” is back in business and so far is proving to be a winner. I look forward, over time, to see it become more established and reflect on that that has gone before.*

*All of the above are probably the points that I remember best but as I said at the start, the time has gone quickly so please forgive any omissions.*

*It only remains for me to thank all the Committee Members who have given of their time and effort in support of my Captaincy. We did not always agree but that is democracy!*

*Finally to get 3 issues of this Newsletter out in one season is something of a triumph and I thank Morgan John for his editorial input and production.*

*To all the Winners, I offer my congratulations and to the rest I urge you not to give up; there is a trophy out there some where with your name on it.*

## Bruce McAulay—Vice Captain

I have now spent my year’s apprenticeship and what an eye opener it has been, I believe it will set me up nicely to become Captain of the Club for 2010/11 season.

I have been extremely impressed with the support the members give to the Club. This is my 5<sup>th</sup> Golf Club I have been a member of, the support in this Club is second to none, I just hope the support continues through my year as Captain.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for the support I received throughout the Festival of Golf. Without the volunteers the FoG would not have been the success it was so once again to everyone who helped out **many, many thanks.**

### **Look Forward to my tenure as Captain:**

I have already identified a few amendments I would like to make to the course (you would have already noticed 2 trees cut down on Road Hole - I take full responsibility). You will be pleased to hear there will not be any major projects taking place, however I have everyone’s favourite on my list, **McGill Hill.**

I am going to have a working group discuss a way forward to try and make it a more playable hole and not a slog. Wait out and see what we can agree on but it will be in the best interest of the Club and not just the low handicappers when I take any decision on any changes!!

## Ladies’ Section—Susie Rance

Well the Golfing season is now coming to the end. Overall I feel that the Ladies section of Dhekelia can pat themselves on the back for winning the Rebecca Plate again despite the Epi Ladies insisting that we played on a Saturday. The Ladies’ Blue Wave Open, the majority of the prizes went to Dhekelia with Chris Skitt being the net overall winner of the competition.

The Pendant Medal on the 13<sup>th</sup> May was won by Linda John with a magnificent Net 62, also winning the Order of Merit. The Adam and Eve Invitational is now to be played on Sun 30<sup>th</sup> May. Thank you to those who played in the Lady Captain’s Day on the 20<sup>th</sup> May and I hope you all enjoyed it.

Unfortunately we are losing one of our valued members, Sandra Hayes. A leaving lunch was held at Lysia on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2010 where 20 of you attended to wish Sandra Bon Voyage, not forgetting Kevin. Many thanks Kevin for supporting the ladies.

I have enjoyed being Lady Captain and thank you all for being so supportive through my year.

**Diary Dates:** **May:** 25—Ladies AGM; 29—All Winners; 30—Adam & Eve.

**June:** 2—Capt’s Day; 4— AGM at 1800hrs; 5—Dkl Team Trophy; 6—CGF Cup at Secret Valley; 12—Inter Club match v Korineum.

## Clubhouse—Chris Harper

Coming to the end of the golf season and, what a difference from last year! The Clubhouse is back; decorated, improved and adorned with flowers. The bar has offered products that members wanted at very reasonable prices and the kitchen is up and running again. Now we have Mel back with us, a better variety of bar snacks and food options for events should be possible for next season. Sadly though, we are to lose our 2 key bar staff, Rachel & Stacey, in June. They have worked hard, with enthusiasm and good will and will be greatly missed. I would also like to personally pay tribute to all those who have helped me behind the scenes dealing with all the crises and problems that many of you are unaware of. I hope that a change of organisation next season will extend the Clubhouse team so that we can maintain an excellent service without me going entirely grey!

Please continue to support the Club through the summer where bar/food service will adapt to the reduced demand. Should you have any ideas/suggestions to benefit the Club and its members, please pass them on to me.

*Ball Sweep. The ball sweep has continued throughout the season and been enjoyed by all that came along. I would like to thank those members and visitors for their support, long may it continue. Numbers have steadily increased, especially after we were allowed to start later, meeting at 13.45 for a 14.15 start on a Wed. At the moment we have been playing 14 or 15 holes but may reduce this to 12 during the hot summer months, subject to your wishes.*

*I am hoping that it will continue throughout the summer but unfortunately I will be in UK from 30<sup>th</sup> May until 9<sup>th</sup> September so am looking for a volunteer to cover that period, anyone interested please contact me, Rob Holmes, on 99008937.*

### **Membership**

The policy for the payment of fees for the coming season is that they are to be **paid by 1 Oct**. Anyone off island at this time may request an extension to this date but these fees should be paid by the end of Oct. This is the only concession. Late payment may result in a 10% surcharge. Fees not paid by the end of Nov may result in the membership being terminated and those on the waiting list invited to join.

Payment by sterling cheque is permitted but at the commercial exchange rate of the day, not FFR.

**Please pay promptly.**

### **Day Passes**

*Access to the Base has been improved by adding extra names to the Sponsor List. Members such as Mike Short (Clutch), Rob Holmes (Ball Sweep) have offered to be added to assist in the smoother passage of their guests into the camp. See the Notice Board for the comprehensive list of volunteers.*

**Nancy Cornish.** *I am sure you were all saddened to hear of Nancy's passing away on Fri 21st May at 10am. The Club has passed on its condolences and best wishes to the family and Tony. A sad loss to the Club of one who did so much for us and was a character— 'if it's a spade, it's a f\*\*\*\*\*g spade'!!! The funeral service was on Thu 27 May at 3pm in Bolton. Details of any donations from the Sec.*

## Grounds— John Harper

The 2009/2010 season will probably be remembered as the wettest winter in Cyprus since records began. There have been an unfortunately high number of competitions cancelled or postponed. The Grounds staff have had to completely rebuild bunkers on many occasions and the browns have needed more much sand than during a usual season. The upside has been the greenest course ever, with increased grass coverage lasting longer towards the end of the season. The new bunkers are maturing well, with minimal flooding during the rainy season. There remains more work to do to reduce to negative impact of rain water flooding on the course. Some bunkers are currently sited in low drainage areas – we will all remember the long term temporary pond on 'Leeway' this year. Any changes to the course will need to be 'slope rating assessed' during the planning stages. Regarding bunkers, I quote from a notable golf course architect - Robert Hunter.

*'Hazards make golf dramatic; and the thrills that come to one who ventures wisely and succeeds are truly delectable. Without hazards golf would be but a dull sport, with the life and soul gone out of it. No longer would it attract the lusty and adventurous, but would be left to those who favour some form of insipid perambulation, suited to the effeminate and senile.'*

The Grounds staff have had to repair or refurbish much of the grounds maintenance equipment this year, as old items wear out or break. Their skills and ingenuity have reduced the potential cost to the Club; however, there has been a need to replace some of the older items. The emphasis has been on quality to increase overall efficiency.

With the Captain's focus remaining on 'bunkers, fairways and browns' I would encourage golfers to help by raking bunkers and replacing fairway markers when removed during play. The browns remain a very labour intensive activity – volunteers to shovel sand will always be made welcome in 'the Yard'. Finally, a personal note of thanks to all those Members who turned out on the Chairman's and Captain's Work Days, as well as individually, for their efforts, enthusiasm and support.

## T&T—Mike Short

Another very successful season over. Welcome to the new members and thank you to the 'old' for their support in both golf and social activities. The outings have been well supported, with the most recent to Secret Valley, attracting 44 of you. Well done to Mick Lynn on winning with 34 points. We will continue with limited numbers through the summer with Eifion taking charge whilst I am in the UK. I wish you all a pleasant summer and look forward to the new season.