

CAPTAIN'S NEWSLETTER – MARCH/APRIL 2015

Dear ladies,

The golfing diary has moved up a gear and our course is looking great, as it always does in Spring. Encouraging to see our shots going a bit further and to be able to ditch our winter jackets and waterproof trousers. Could someone please switch the gale force winds off though.....

In March and April, whilst waiting for the weather to improve, and the golfing season to recommence, we have achieved a few objectives.

Firstly, although the long-promised, all-singing, all-dancing new KHGC website is still under construction, the ladies', men's and seniors' pages went live (the ladies won that particular race!). Jo did a fab job and is diligently adding comp results, photos and anything else we send her. If you are having trouble logging on, make sure you type the following into the **very top box** on your web browser page. www.khgcmembers.wix.com/khgc

Full details of team captains and their players, as well as all the results are on the website. Thank you to those who are taking part in all the matches and competitions. Warmest congratulations to all winners and commiserations to the losers – better luck next time!

Secondly, we have managed to persuade the club that the experimental flexible booking system for ladies' weekend competitions was difficult to operate, confusing, and does not suit us and we firmly requested to return to protected tee times for the drawn competitions. After some negotiation with Glen and Ben we are more or less back to our old system, although we may not always be allowed to commence with the 09.00 slot. We are nonetheless pleased with this outcome for the time being and it was important for our section to be seen to be flexible and proactive.

Winter Rules were removed following unanimous vote at the Committee meeting on 14th March.

Two Group Golf Lessons were held on Tues 11th and 18th March covering pitching & approach shots, chipping onto greens, target putting and bunker play with Mark & Sian from Pro-shop. 13 ladies attended on both days. Everyone said it was good value and may be repeated if I can find some chinks in the busy summer diary! Regretfully, the pros are not available for group lessons at weekends. Weekday twilight sessions may be an option, if enough people were interested.

Over the course of 4 days 8-11 April, several of us attended show-round sessions at the new **Robert Rock Teaching Academy** where we were shown the wonders of modern golf coaching technology, which will be available to golf pros and aspiring players from all over SE England. Not sure how much the ordinary Kings Hill player will benefit though. Sessions in the Academy are expensive and the technical wizardry may most suit those with very low handicaps.

Crystal Challenge – 12 April: On an extremely windy and cold, but sunny day, 15 played with 14 eligible for the trophy. Results as follows:

1st – Maria Babadi – 11 yrs!! (36 pts) , 2nd – Kath Coombes (34 pts) , NP on 8th – Jane Marr , NP in 2 on 15th – Ali Townson. Maria was truly delighted to win and even made a tiny speech of thanks afterwards. Her dad and some of his friends came in to congratulate her afterwards. Lynette Kent retired early after being hit on browbone by her ball ricocheting off the sleepers at the back of the 7th green – thankfully her eye was OK.

Ladies & Seniors St. George's Day Waltz – Tues 21 April: Another windy, cold but sunny day. 43 played with 1 no-show (a senior!!). As usual, thanks go to Meg for pulling together the draw and producing very neat printed score cards for the day. Lunch of quiche or cold ham, coleslaw, side salad & chips was served as each table sat down. England napkins, bunting, table flags and silly hats for Graham and me helped make it a very enjoyable atmosphere with much good natured rivalry between the mixed teams. 1st – Graham, me, Eileen

Cornwell and (Alan Peach – wild card) , 2nd – Ken Stevens, Bill Grimley, Jo Bentham and Lindsay Tilley , 3rd – Larry Davis, Brian Rayner, Paula Savastano & Sue Norman.

(Yes, the Captains ARE allowed to win their own competitions occasionally, and there will be no stewards enquiry! I've already drunk the wine anyway. Hic..)

Today we played the first in our programme of summer friendlies, a home match against Nizels. It was still blowing a hooly and you would think we'd be used to these conditions. Apparently not. Despite some hard fought games, we were beaten 3 ½ - ½ (well done Meg and Sue Norman for valiantly holding back the tsunami). For those who may not usually volunteer for the friendly games, I urge you to offer to play in one or two. The atmosphere is extremely friendly and the 4BBB format is relaxed. Since we are such a small ladies' section, we would love to see some fresh names appearing on the sign-up sheets.

Coming Up / Dates for your Diary

Do keep an eye on the noticeboard for sign-up sheets for the summer friendly competitions, awayday opportunities and other events. Good luck to everyone playing in the summer knockouts – remember to keep within the time boundaries for your matches.

Below is an updated list of the main events coming up this summer.

Spring Meeting: Saturday 2nd May

Informal Captains Mixed Pairs Invitation & Sausage Sizzle: Monday 4th May

Richard Moore Trophy: - Saturday 9th May

Course Swap – The Nevill, T.Wells: Tuesday 19th May – **not too late to sign-up – all welcome**

Captains' Charity Day: Saturday 30th May

Charity Coffee Morning with Bring & Buy: Friday 5th June, Hilary's home – proceeds to Spadework – family/friends very welcome

Ladies Championship 36 Holes: Saturday 13th June

Club Midsummer Ball: Saturday 27th June

Club Championship/Salver: Weekend of 4th & 5th July

Summer Meeting: Saturday 18th July

Lady Captain's Cup: Saturday 1st August (**changed from Sat 15th Aug**) – tee times from 11.30

Kings Hill Ladies Open: Wednesday 5th August

Ladies Invitation Day: Tuesday 18th August

Course Swap – Lamberhurst: Tuesday 8th September

Ladies Invitation – Tuesday 18th August

As promised in my previous newsletter, here are details of the costs as agreed with the club.

Member + 1 guest = £50 (tea, coffee and pastry on arrival, 2 course lunch & glass of Pimms, prizes, + 1 guest green fee of £10)

Member + 2 guests = £80 (as per above, with 2 guest green fees)

Member + 3 guests = £110 (as per above, with 3 guest green fees)

Member only = £20 (as per above, no green fee) – **if you haven't got a guest to bring, it doesn't matter at all – we need you to fill in gaps in teams, plus lots of help needed with halfway refreshments, raffle, etc etc.**

Best wishes to everyone for the coming season,

Hilary

30.04.2015