



**January 2011**

## Wrekin News



### **Annual General Meeting**

This year the AGM will be on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January at 19:30.

Two members are stepping down from Committee, Andy Patterson after a year as immediate Past Captain and Pat McIntyre after a year as chair of House Property. We'll miss them both.

The level of subscription fee needed to run the club is closely linked to the number of full members. We have therefore decided that any increase from October 2011 will be determined by the number of full members in July 2011. If there are 400 full members (there are 332 now) there will be no increase. For every member less than 400 the increase will be £1 rising to a maximum of £60.

There will be Open Days and regular advertising linked to the suspension of the joining fee. Please encourage prospective new members to join.

### **Seniors Prize giving lunch**

60 members of the Senior men's section came up through the snow for their annual prize giving lunch. They entertained the Captain and Secretary with a superb Christmas Dinner prepared by Anne and Steve.



The Seniors couldn't play their customary 9 holes before lunch, but never the less had a boisterously enjoyable afternoon.

### **Green fee offer**

To encourage green fee paying visitors we have a special offer of a fourball for £40 up to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011. Please let potential players know as it exposes our course to potential members and the income is useful.

### **Juniors**

The Junior AGM, including prize giving, will be at 11:00 on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> January, ahead of the drive into office of the club, ladies and junior captains.

### **Half Way House**

The current facility is not in good condition, and following an article a few months ago asking for help to renovate it we have established that it needs replacement.

Over the years we have also had regular requests for toilets and a Half Way House where we can prepare and serve food. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have bacon baps and coffee half way round, especially during an invitation?

Supported by Telford Wines we have looked at options for funding and they have arranged for a £200 donation from Coors. The Senior Section has also offered to contribute.

To do a good job will be expensive, so we plan to establish a fund, run events and look for sponsorship to pay for it.

### **New Bell on the 13<sup>th</sup>**

Bill France has generously donated a superb new bell for the 13<sup>th</sup>.

Nick Childs (Chair of Greens) and Richard Beacham (Course Manager) are liaising with Bill on where it should be sited.

### **Putt and a Pint**

The 1<sup>st</sup> round on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December was a great success with 24 players entered. Andrew Duddell won taking £50 and Rod Lake came second winning £20.



The final three rounds of the grand prix series are at 7pm on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January, 17<sup>th</sup> February and 17<sup>th</sup> March.

Touring professional, Simon Wakefield (winner of 2010 European School Qualifying Tournament), has asked to attend and play in this event. Wrekin Golf Club are delighted to welcome Simon to join us for this hard fought competition.

### **New Years Eve party**

Richard Gallier organised a well attended New Years Eve party. We all had a really enjoyable evening starting with a superb meal from Anne and Steve Wild and ending after midnight celebrations.

### **Social calendar**

Building on our run of successful events in 2010 we plan to have:

- Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January - Putt and Pint second round
- Friday January 28<sup>th</sup> – Quiz night
- Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> January – Captains drive in at 12:30 with a drive in dinner at 19:00 for 19:30

## Competitions

Following on from the successful Winter Stableford on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November there will be a Stableford competition every three weeks through the winter. The competitions will alternate between Saturday and Sunday. The next planned competitions will be on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> January and Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> February.

## Greens

The course has played amazingly well after the snow, and the decision to not have temporary greens this year doesn't appear to have led to any problems.

Despite the snow and wet conditions drainage is working well, and areas we were worried about on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> fairways are draining well.

## Oak tree on the 15<sup>th</sup>

The Oak tree is in a very unstable condition and despite all our efforts we can no longer save the tree. The trunk section nearest to the 15<sup>th</sup> green, which is being supported by little more than the bark of the tree, has to be removed before the end of January.

We would like members to let Committee Members have their ideas on how to fill the gap that will appear. For example do you think there should be a straight replacement for the benefit of future members?, or possibly a more immediate replacement for the Oak tree.

## Member benefits

Members can book the club house through the Secretary for private events, for example big birthday parties and family celebration. Food can be arranged, but does not have to be supplied.

We have reciprocal playing agreements enabling Wrekin members to play for the same price as a members guest with Bridgenorth, Kington, Ludlow and Church Stretton.

## Owens Evans PGA Professional

If you would like to spend your prize night vouchers in the pro shop there are loads of great offers!

*Wrekin gust buster umbrellas £10  
3 FJ Gloves £20  
3 Nike gloves £15  
All packs of tees 2-4-1  
Sweets & Drinks all 2-4-1  
All golf balls reduced.*

Any customers who have any outstanding credit must spend it all by 4pm on Monday 31st Jan 2011

## PGA Professional – the future

As previously announced Owen Evans is leaving to take an 18 month sabbatical with his partner Beth touring South East Asia and Australia.

We advertised for a PGA qualified professional for an initial 6 month renewable contract. The advertisement and application form are on the club website. There was a good response and we interviewed four strong candidates.

Subject to detailed negotiations we plan to appoint the Head professional at a local Golf Centre. He is well known in the area with many Wrekin members and their youngsters having lessons from him.

He will be at Wrekin for the majority of our busy times, running the shop and coaching. He will continue his coaching at the Golf Centre as well as his encouragement of youngsters into golf. He will be supported by a full time qualified PGA professional.

We expect through him to develop a strong relationship with the Golf Centre and encourage their members to visit Wrekin and when they outgrow the Centre to join Wrekin.

We are confident that encouraging people into golf, nurturing them at the Golf Centre and introducing them to golf at a private members club will both help grow golf in the area and benefit the club financially.

## Joy's jottings

Our Christmas lunch was very well attended with nearly 40 ladies braving the weather. It is one of my favourite dates in the golfing diary and judging by the turn out I am not the only one to look forward to it. Thank you to everyone who attended and I hope those who won the Christmas pudding enjoyed them.

**Happy New year**, another year begins and like many others I have started making New Years' resolutions. The first being to reduce my handicap in 2011. This requires dedication so my next resolution is to practice more. I set out with an empty diary and great anticipation that this year will be the one when I will suddenly develop fantastic chipping and putting techniques which up to now have eluded me!

**Handicapping news**, there are some minor changes to the Congu Unified Handicapping System for 2011 which you can find on [www.englishwomensgolf.org](http://www.englishwomensgolf.org) or the notice board in the ladies locker room.

**The ladies' AGM** is on Tuesday 18th January in the club house at 7.30. I hope you will be able to attend. Apologies can be given to Mrs. Jane Curel.

To be Ladies' Captain for 2010 in one of the most well respected golf clubs in Shropshire has been an honour and a privilege. Your encouragement has given me confidence and spurred me on throughout the year. I have really enjoyed myself and I have memories, photographs and gifts which I will treasure. Thank you

**Good Luck**, I would like to wish Ros and Dave, Sally and John, our Captains and Vice Captains elect, and their committees every success in 2011.