

Ferry Views

Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club

Autumn 2011

Welcome one and all to the 2011 edition of Ferry Views, bringing to you the latest news of the Club, its Members and our Staff.

2011 will almost certainly go down in Club records as "A Year of Change", the most memorable of these changes being the fabric of the Clubhouse, our Professional, and the way the Club is managed.

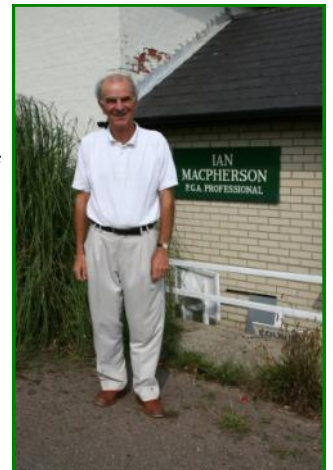


Firstly the Clubhouse. Doesn't it look good!

And this is just the outside - wait until you see the improvements which have been made to the Apartments and Ladies facilities. Tony Allen tells the full story on Page 7.

Another change this year as we bid a fond farewell after 30 years to Ian, our Professional.

30 years is a long time, and his time at the Club has provided Ian with many memories, some of which he shares with us on Page 12.



This photo of Ian with Chris Pearson

was taken during the Prize Giving after Ian's Special Texas Scramble on 24th June. Chris took this opportunity to advise Members of his intention to ask the General Meeting in October to endorse the Executive Committee's proposal that Ian be made an Honorary Life Member in recognition of all that he has done for the Club - who would want or dare to disagree?

The new Constitution and Articles of Association for the Club as a Company limited by guarantee came into effect on 1st April. We now enjoy the benefits of being able to elect into Office the right people to do the right job---a Club Captain and Committee who can focus on our golfing and social activities, and a Board of Directors responsible for the management and development of our business. More about these changes on Pages 2,3 and 7 of this Newsletter.

What would also be nice is if we could change the weather!

This photo of the 12th Green was taken by Ian on 28th June this year, and suggests that the Club should perhaps consider an investment in a few rowing boats as well as the four new Buggies!

Contrast this with the photo taken on 1st August of the course bathed in glorious sunshine and it is not difficult to see what it is that makes golf at the Ferry such a wonderful experience.



OUR THANKS TO THE SPONSORS



The Club Captain's Comments



Vice-Captain elect, Captain and Vice-Captain

The Staff at the Club are tremendous. To Glenn Rayfield and his Team, "well done!", sometimes their work is carried out in the most difficult circumstances. To Lynne Calver and her House Staff, "you are the envy of most Golf Clubs and a credit to us all". To Ray Baines and the girls in the office, "thank you" for your tolerance and support.

When you become Club Captain, you are handed the Captain's Box which contains a list of things that you need to be mindful of. This is an invaluable list of advice and suggestions. At the end of the list it says "**The Captain is the custodian of the future,**" and that "**because it has not been done before, does not mean that it is wrong**". It then says "**Enjoy it.**" You can only enjoy it with the support of the Members, the Board of Directors, the Captain's Committee and, most importantly, that of your partner; Mo Pearson is the best example of this support that you could find.

Thank you all for making this last 19 months of my life so special.

Chris Pearson - Director and Captain

Here I am once more reflecting on my extended time in Office as Captain of our wonderful Golf Club.

There are many things that have changed this year, not least being the introduction of our new Constitution. One of the benefits of this change for future Club Captains is that they will be able concentrate exclusively on the Golfing and Social aspects of the Club. My thanks to John Went and to the Project Committee of John Boyce, Geoff Stephens and Jack Thrower for their input into this major project.

The retirement of our long serving professional Ian MacPherson is another major change. He and his wife Olga have served the Club well. His Honorary Life Membership is well deserved, and we wish them a long and happy retirement.

The annual Midsummer Ball in the Marquee was a great success, and coupled with my Captain's Week has been the highlight of the year so far.

I have been fortunate to have had hard working Committees and now a Board of Directors to help me through my time in office. I thank them for their efforts, good will and advice.



The Captain and his wife at the Midsummer Ball

Incorporation-the Whys and Wherefores

Last year's Ferry Views featured an article by John Boyce identifying the advantages to the Club and it's Members of Incorporation, and of adopting the new Constitution which Chris mentioned in his Club Captain's comments.

The Membership approved these changes in December 2010, and Birketts, our legal advisors, were instructed to prepare Articles of Association for Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club Ltd., a Company limited by guarantee and having no share capital, and to include within these Articles a new Constitution.

Birketts was also requested to ensure that this Constitution was compliant with a whole raft of legislation relating to Health and Safety, Employment and Equality which had been introduced in recent years.

Incorporation of a Member's Club is a far more complex issue than would be the case for a conventional business, where the Officers of that business are employees bound by Contracts of Employment rather than Members serving as Club Officers on a voluntary basis.

The Team at Birketts proved more than equal to their task, and the Club and it's Members now command the advantages and security which were the prime objectives of Incorporation.

Coordination of the necessary skills inherent within that Team was expertly handled by Chris Schwer, who, as a Member of the Club and a partner at Birketts, was ideally positioned to make certain that our objectives were achieved.

The Club owes Chris a huge debt of gratitude for his dedication to this task, which preserved the essential integrity and character of our Club and at the same time ensured that our Members and Club Officers now enjoy not only this security but also all the other anticipated benefits.

John Went



Ray, Tony, Wendy, Nigel, Chris, Brian, Keith and Pat (inset)- Your Board of Directors

The Thoughts of Chairman Brian.

It is now around six months since the I chaired the first meeting of the Executive Committee and I can report to Members that matters throughout the Club are being well-managed and that the transition has been achieved quite seamlessly.

Throughout this edition of "Ferry Views" the various articles reflect a positive situation across the Club, and in particular it is good to read an upbeat message from our Treasurer.

Anyone who visits the Club, whether, they are a Member or a guest, will experience great conditions both on and off the Courses with a friendly atmosphere throughout and I know that this doesn't "just happen". A good Club is a reflection not only of the employees but also of the Members and I would like to take a moment of your time to consider this.

Our club comprises many occupations, professions, ages, and golfing capabilities. We have Members who appear to spend more time at the Club than at home and others that are seldom seen in the Clubhouse and this combination is just as it should be. I would love to see every Member at social and golfing events as it is from these events that we make new friends, bring additional life and, of course, income to the Club but, having been a father of young children and a busy businessman I realise that this is not always possible. What I do say to every Member is that each of you is as important as the next one.

I may be being sentimental but our Club is unique, but being unique doesn't make it invulnerable. Having commented on the positive tone of the Treasurer's thoughts I must add that there is a never ending demand for finance to maintain and improve every aspect of the Club. Income, as you will appreciate, is predominately from your subscriptions, supported in no small way by that from visitors via green fees, and their spend in the Clubhouse.

At this point you may have started asking "what does he want?" Well, not much really. I know how much you appreciate the Club or you wouldn't be a Member. What we do need in these difficult financial times is more income to do what you want us to. If you have friends who would like to join, or hold an event at the Club, or a business that could do the same or perhaps advertise then let them know what is available. You may have suggestions that would help you personally to get more out of your Membership, if so, just let us know. It doesn't take much, it really can make a difference and of course it will help us keep your subscriptions at such remarkably good value.

Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club and you, the Members, "You know you're worth it!"

You may have read....

The Evening Star recently carried a report that Scottish Power are considering locations at which the power cables from their offshore "Wind Farm" will come ashore and the underground route to their destination at Bramford. One of these locations, if chosen, would result in cables being routed under sections of our golf courses.

Inevitably, there has already been speculation as to what impact this would have on the Club, and on the rights of our Members. At this very early stage there is little information available, however, your Executive Committee has already taken advice on how to respond in the event that a formal approach is made to the Club by Scottish Power in this context.

Members can rest assured that they will be kept fully informed on developments should such an approach be made.

Brian Benneworth - Director and Chairman

The Ladies Captain's Comments.



Alicia Cook, with Ladies Vice Captain and Captain.

This edition of Ferry Views will be the final one before I hand over the Captaincy to Anita Dabbs in October so I will take this opportunity to thank all those people who have offered me support and encouragement over the past year. It has been (and still will be for a few months) a great honour and privilege to represent the Club whilst serving as its Ladies Captain.

In particular a big thank you to Chris Pearson, the Club Captain. Chris has done so much to support the Ladies and this is greatly appreciated.

The Suffolk Ladies Matchplay and Strokeplay Championships were held at Woodbridge this year where Sharon Luckman was runner up in the Gross Strokeplay with Charlie Damonsing taking the net 2nd prize. Amanda Norman just lost out in the semi final of the Matchplay Championship, but was victorious in the Ladies Club Championship on 3rd September.

Our run of success in County Competitions continues, if not quite to the same fever pitch as last year. Unfortunately we lost at the Semi Final stages of the Cranworth at Newton

Green, narrowly in the Weston at Waldringfield, and in the Stearn at Purdis Heath. Thanks are due again to John van Bergen and Cory Brothers for their generous sponsorship of the Ladies teams. In early August Jackie van Bergen and Ali Noy won the Peugeot Foursomes at Bishop Stortford and will now go on to play at St. Andrews in September, proudly wearing the smart team kit supplied by Jackie's husband! Sheila Jarvis, our Ladies County Captain, achieved a memorable feat this year--two "Holes in One" on the 16th. I'm not sure of the history of "Holes in One" on the Course but to make two on the same hole in competitions within the same year must create some sort of record. Well done Sheila!

Once again, the Ladies fell well short in the Annual Challenge Match against the Seniors, despite the generous shot allowance given by Chris. Perhaps next year whoever is in charge might consider doubling the allowance to give us a fighting chance.

Finally I would like to thank all those Members who supported my Charity Abseil in July. A grand total of £420 was raised for EACH, my Charity for the year.

Pat Cofield





The Vice Captain's View

As I look forward, God and the vote at the General Meeting willing, to becoming the Club Captain, and as Chris retires gracefully from his extended tour of duty, I realize that we have entered a new era, and with it a change in the role of the Club Captain and the Captain's Committee. Under the new Constitution which came into effect from April of this year, the Executive Committee is responsible for the health and wealth of the Club, while the Captain's Committee looks after its heart and soul, the playing of the game and the associated social life. This does not mean that the Club Captain and the Captain's Committee do not have an influence on the commercial direction of the Club and its future development. The Captain's Committee is represented on each of the Executive Sub Committees, and the Club Captain and the Ladies Captain hold ex-officio seats. Both Captains are Directors of the Executive Committee itself, with the power of a vote. These Committees will work together to ensure that the commercial exploitation of our Course and facilities to provide essential income is properly balanced against the rights of Members. However, the Club Captain and the Captain's Committee will continue to need the support of, and to maintain rapport with, our Members. We will, where necessary, seek to keep Members better informed, and will continue to welcome constructive suggestions and ideas. Moaning and ill-mannered criticism is, quite frankly, easy to ignore; positive ideas and reasonable argument, reasonably made, is not. One result of the change in our Constitution was that I again had the opportunity to select the Team for the Tolly Cobbold Cup. Whilst this is a special privilege, selection is never easy – there are almost as many opinions as there are Club Members! The benefit of home draws in the first three rounds against Flempton, St. Audrey's and St Clements was unquestionable, and all the squad played some excellent golf in these victories. The Semi-Final at Rushmere against Cretingham was a nail-biting affair, with the Club winning by a meagre two holes. The Final, played on a windy day against Woodbridge at Aldeburgh, proved to be equally torrid, but the Team of Steve Livermore, Martin Smedley, Paul Doughty, John R Williams, Andy Hunt, Mark Linney, Nick Barker and Ian Brown held their nerve to win by 8 holes. Congratulations to them for their great performance on the day, to Chris Barbor and Steve Locke for their enormous contribution on the route to the Final, and sincere gratitude to Graham Boast our Sponsor. Our Agronomist George Shiells' evaluation of the state of our course at the Forum in July was a real eye opener for many of us, what a pity, as one esteemed attendee



The winning Tolly Cobbold squad with (inset) Chris Barbor and Sponsor Graham Boast.

put it, that the other 500 experts didn't turn up on the night! What came across quite clearly is what we can and should be doing to help keep the courses at their best. There are reminders about repairing pitch marks everywhere, yet George was able to provide damning photographic evidence, taken that morning, of unrepaired damage to our greens. Most if the damage was at the front of the green; we are not professional and few of us pitch the ball anywhere near where it comes to rest, yet that is where we all seem to assume there will be a pitch mark. Go back and look, please. And if we all left a bunker we have just played from in the state we would have liked to have found it, a rapid improvement will quickly be achieved – particularly if the sand is damp, just taking 30 seconds to rake not only your footprints but also the surrounding area means that the whole bunker will eventually be raked virtually every day, the sand will dry quicker and remain more evenly distributed, which must be to everyone's benefit.

James Douglas Hamilton.

The End of an Era.

Friday 2nd September 2011 saw the end of an era for at the Ferry. At the prize giving for the "end of season" Texas Scramble, Mo Pearson proposed a vote of thanks and bid a fond farewell to Ian for his contribution to these Social Events, and Geoff Stephens announced that he would be standing down as co-organiser. The Club's gratitude is due in equal measure to both Ian and Geoff for their dedication and commitment to so many wonderful evenings. For the last twenty years, summer Friday late afternoons at the Club have provided Members of all age and capability the opportunity to join up in teams of four, to have fun playing in one of the many formats of Texas Scramble, and then to enjoy a Fish and Chip Supper in the Clubhouse. Of recent times, the numbers participating have been in decline, and Geoff took the opportunity to express his personal opinion that perhaps the time has come to think about other ways in which we can fill the Clubhouse on Summer Friday evenings. **Any Ideas? Speak to Trevor Mason.**

The Treasurer does his sums.

It's good to be back in harness after a 2 year break, a period during which there have been many changes, and in which a good deal of money has been well spent. Last year's major investment in course machinery was much appreciated, although Glen will always have a list of longer term needs in his machinery replacement plan. The Course will normally have a degree of priority, given that golf is what we are here for, and efficient equipment is important--it is, however, frighteningly expensive.

The more obvious expenditure has been on and in the Clubhouse, where repairs to the rendering, and exterior repainting has made a huge difference to the Club's image. Inside, the Apartments have been completely refurbished and equipped to a standard in keeping with a Club of our quality and stature.

So far this year, finances are running quite smoothly. Subscription income is not far short of Budget, with playing Membership slightly up on last year, mainly in the Student and Intermediate categories, reflecting the efforts made to attract and keep the younger Members on which our future depends.

Bar and Catering are also doing well thanks to the tireless efforts of Lynne and her staff.

Green Fee income is around 10% up on last year and Course expenses are under budget thanks to a rates refund of just over £10,000. Clubhouse costs however, are over budget, due to unexpected additional expenditure associated with the external repairs and the Apartment refurbishment.

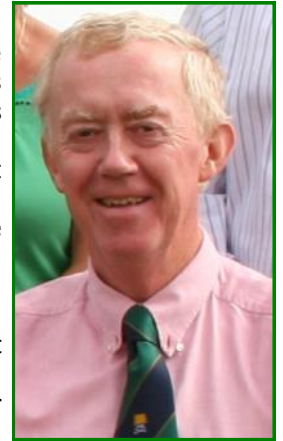
As to the future, my crystal ball is as cloudy as ever, but rather unusually for me, I'm quite relaxed about the Club's finances as long as Membership numbers are maintained at current levels. There is, of course, the ever present possibility that our ageing irrigation system will need extensive updating – no one notices when it's working, but without it the condition of the Course would quickly change. At some stage we will have to bite that particularly expensive bullet.

There are always calls to spend money, and of course we will do so where appropriate. The various Sub-Committees have a healthy list of potential projects which all have merit, but given tight finances, they will have to be evaluated and prioritised.

Many of you will have read about a current VAT case which may result in a windfall for Golf Clubs, but the eventual outcome is far from certain. HMRC are not noted for willingly giving money back, but KPMG, who are acting for us and other Clubs on a no win no fee basis, are cautiously optimistic.

The case has been referred to the European Courts so all I will say at this stage is "don't spend it yet!"

Keith Maddison - Director and Treasurer



In and Around the Clubhouse.



The major works to the outside and the months of scaffolding are a distant memory, but the legacy is there for all to see—a smart and imposing Clubhouse has emerged. The project was not completed without its troubles, but by working closely with the builder each hurdle was overcome and the contingency built in to the budget ensured that the task was completed without excess. Internal work started with the refurbishment of the Ladies Cloakroom facilities, which necessitated stripping the wall back to the brickwork, damp-proofing, and the installation of a 'French Drain'—a pebble filled trench outside the building wall which allows water to drain away. There followed a six week period of a de-humidification, which saw a bucket of water a day extracted from the wet walls. A new ceiling and LED lighting has set off this work to great effect.

The other major project undertaken this year was the revamping of the two Apartments, now named Martello and Kingsfleet. This was a real team effort, with Ivan Self leading the building work, and which included the construction of a stud wall to make an additional bedroom, and the installation of a new toilet in a space that Ivan identified as wasted! Doug Pipe led a team of club volunteers who devoted hours to redecorating all the rooms from top to bottom, and as new carpets, bedding and curtains were fitted things were starting to take shape. With deadlines approaching and the first bookings looming the finishing touches--- new refrigerators, 37 inch HD TV's, DVD's, original paintings, mirrors, quality prints, lighting and furniture were added to give a polished look to what was previously a dowdy part of the building. Visitor feedback has been excellent, especially from those who have stayed with us before. We are still keeping pace with comments, and recently two new cookers were installed to replace old units. Everyone should have noticed that we have a new hot drinks dispenser. The previous one "expired" after many years of service and the new one has been installed in the conservatory. Cold morning starts can now be supplemented with a hot chocolate on the tee with the disposable cups provided. Thanks again to Ivan who came up with the solution to the water supply, which comes from the first floor staff kitchen, under the floorboards and high into the conservatory roof space. Behind the scenes the work within the Clubhouse continues with a new non slip floor in the kitchen and a staff room with lockers now commissioned at the top of the spiral staircase. Clubhouse staff continues to provide excellent service to Members and visitors and is evidenced by the numerous comments, emails and letters of appreciation received. More on that subject in my Annual Report.

Tony Allen - Director and Chair of House and Bar



Course

I would like to give Members some information on a couple of projects which are under consideration by the Course Committee

We continue to research options to set up a good quality Driving Range at an affordable cost. The recent Open Day, where potential Members were forced to collect balls, emphasised to me the many advantages of a Driving Range over a simple practice area. Naturally Members would be the main beneficiaries, but the recruitment of new blood is a high priority in order to keep the Club's finances in a sound state. It has also been identified that the triangle of land between the 5th, 6th and 7th holes on the Kingsfleet Course could potentially be used to build a reservoir to store water for the Club's irrigation system. This water would come from land drainage which is currently discharged into the sea via the ditches which cross and about our land. Investigation is ongoing, but it does appear that the economics stack up. In addition to this economic benefit, water from the reservoir would be more beneficial to grass than that currently obtained from the mains supply. Security of supply would also automatically be improved, as it is no means certain that we will continue to be allowed to use this precious drinking water for our irrigation purposes. And not least, reservoirs are environmentally friendly, not just by reducing or eliminating the use of this water, but also because they are a wildlife habitat. The construction would be carried out in a sympathetic manner, creating the appearance of a series of mounds rather than the straight lines which some farmers appear to favour when building their reservoirs. Any construction would naturally be a major undertaking, requiring permissions from many different statutory bodies, but initial enquiries indicate a pleasingly supportive attitude.

Nigel Fosker - Director and Chair of Course

An update from the Sheds about the Courses

Hello all, I hope you are having a good playing season and enjoying our courses. We had a very poor start to the year weather wise and things got moving very late, which I feel will be the norm for the future--yet another challenge. All the routine work to improve the grass quality on the Greens has been completed in line with agreed objectives, which are supported by our Agronomist. All areas of the Courses are being improved as fast as is possible, but it is worth pointing out that the way we currently look after the Greens, whilst trying to introduce new finer grasses is more cautious than will be the case once the new grasses are finally established. We will then be able to tweak them to increase speed and smoothness, mainly by cutting slightly lower, as well as other treatments which will work them harder. We don't know how long this process will take, but in the last two seasons we have achieved



our best ever establishment of bent grasses, which will ultimately provide firmer, faster and sustainable Greens which are rye grass free. The improvement in the Putting Green, as well as on the 5th 9th and 12th shows what is possible, but the process remains a comparatively high risk one, because the chemical used is actually a newly developed weed killer. However, advice both I and the Course Committee have received supports the routine we are following, which will now be used on all the Greens in our autumn and spring programs. The product will also be trialled on our rough grasses, to see if they can be thinned and to create wispy rough where golf balls are more easily found. We need the rough to define our holes, as we don't have tree or gorse lined Courses. The Team is constantly reminded that has been a long time since anything has been done to improve the Bunkers, and that they are in need of renovation, but this will take time and

money. The plan is to look not only at maintenance but also at improved drainage and, in some cases, reconstruction, all of which takes careful planning. Whilst acknowledging that the maintenance of Bunkers has not been up to the standard achieved in some other areas, Members can be assured that we will continue do our best under the weather conditions and with the resources available. We remain positive about what can be achieved and the Course Committee are working very hard to do the right things, but not everyone will agree with the agreed priorities, as we all have our own opinions. The Club has organized events such as Course Walks and a Forum with our Agronomist to improve communication with Members and to enable them to share those opinions. I would like to thank everyone who showed an interest and attended. My Team and I are always approachable and we remain very positive about the future, but ask Members for their support-we must work together. And in conclusion many thanks for the kind words of praise for the course that are passed on to the Greenkeeping team. It is most appreciated.

Glenn Rayfield, Head Greenkeeper

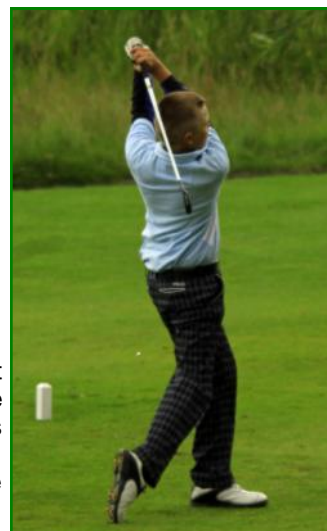
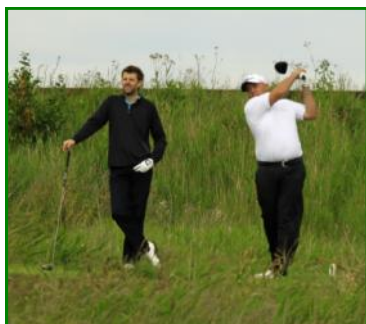


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Felixstowe Ferry's own Golfing Dynasty---The Sayers Boys.



Pictured above are father Dave, now off a new handicap of 10 following his victory in the Veteran's Trophy, his sons Steve, handicap 2, Paul, handicap 3 and Neil, handicap 5, plus grandsons Jack, with a handicap of 8, and Ben, playing off 10. Jack and Ben's handicaps were correct as at the end of the school holidays, but knowing these lads, and their competitive instincts, it's not at all impossible to believe that they could both be in single figures by the time this Newsletter is eventually published. Certainly, keeping up with their progress over the past three months has been a major undertaking. Steve and Paul have represented the Club at County level in the Hambro and Stenson competitions, Ben and Jack trialled for the Tolly squad this year, and the three sons and two grandsons represented us in this year's Curry Cup.



Dave has represented the Club in Senior's matches, and hasn't given up hope of being selected for the Beaumont Trophy---the Senior's equivalent of the Tolly. With his new handicap this looks well on the cards.

He is justifiably proud of what his sons and grandsons have achieved - who wouldn't be?

Ben Sayers? - Ben Sayers? - haven't I heard that name before?



Our Hambro and Stenson squad didn't quite live-up to last year's heady performance, but Captain Mel Pipe's decision to blood so many of our single handicap Juniors can only bode well for the future.

Mark Fosker can be considered an "old hand", collecting a Hambro Winner's Trophy last year, but it can't be too long before Paul Waring, Toby Spink and George Copsey follow suite.

And hearty congratulations to Mel and Danielle, who got married on 4th August.





Hambro, Stenson and Curry Cup Juniors



What a year for our Juniors in the County Competitions!

George Cosey, Paul Waring, Toby Spink and Mark Fosker represented the Club in the Hambro Cup, Mark, Paul and Toby played in the Stenson Team, and Ben and Jack Sayers, Joe Varden and George were selected for the Curry Cup.

Our Junior Teams got through to the semi-finals in each of the Junior County Knockouts, being represented by Henry Staples, George Cosey, Ryan Hunn, Paul Waring, Joe Varden, Tony Spinks and Ben Sayers.

A number of our Juniors are also members of Suffolk's Junior Teams.

There have been several notable personal achievements:

Joshua Murton is Captain of the Suffolk U14, won Category 1 in the Waldringfield Junior Open, and was Runner-Up in the Club Championship.

Toby Spink won the handicap prize in the Suffolk PGA Assistants' Championship, the nett prize in the Stoke-by-Nayland Junior Open, the Suffolk Junior Matchplay Championship and the Club Junior Championship.

George Cosey was Runner Up in the South Suffolk Schools Tournament

Mark Fosker now plays for the County Men's 2nd Team

Paul Waring was Runner Up in the Under 15's gross competition in the Suffolk Junior Championship and also won the Ufford Junior Open

And there's more - five of our Juniors have scored their first **HOLES IN ONE**. Well done to Mark Fosker, Toby Spink, Joe Varden, Phil Cooke and Ben Sayers.



Toby with the Suffolk Trophy.

5 local girls come for coaching each Wednesday after school and are showing great promise – in fact, Charlie Smith has now been accepted into the Suffolk Girls County Training programme.

The Wednesday Kingsfleet Juniors represent the future of the Club - this year to have close to 40 children participating who, with the guidance of Ian and our helpers, are progressing really well.

A great big "Thank You" to everyone who gives up time to this important activity.

We currently have 45 Kingsfleet Juniors, who demand a lot of attention because they are playing in Competitions on the 9 hole Course and working towards getting a handicap, which is their first step towards full Junior Membership.

The future looks good, but we mustn't sit back and hope that these children come to us, so I intend to run another "Introduction to Golf" next Spring where we will offer beginners an 8 week course for a very moderate fee.

My thanks to Peter White, who collects "lost" golf balls which he gives to Ian for re-sale, the revenue from which has helped enormously with the cost of coaching and Competition prizes.

Finally, but not least, a huge "Thank You" to Ian for the excellent coaching that he has given to hundreds of children in the 7 years that I have been Junior Organiser. It is extremely rewarding to watch these children progress and become enthusiastic Members of the Club.



Wendy Wootton - Junior Organiser

Marketing

As ever, your Marketing Committee is working hard to increase Membership numbers and to enhance third party awareness of what our Club has to offer.

This year we ran very successful 8 week "Introduction to Golf" courses for men and women under the excellent tuition of Ian MacPherson. The project was funded by the Suffolk Golf Partnership and it is planned to run further courses at the end of the year and into the Spring of 2012.

We held a GOLF OPEN DAY at the end of July with 68 people enjoying free coaching, a free round on the Kingsfleet Course and tea or coffee in the Clubhouse,. The day proved to be a great success, and we gained 2 new Full and 4 new Kingsfleet Members.

The Club has advertised in the local media to promote the availability and benefits of our different Membership categories and to highlight the facilities available to Members and third parties.

This has also proved successful with the Club gaining a number of new Members and with the Clubhouse being used as the venue for a number of outside events.

"Pay and Play" on the Kingsfleet Course was also advertised and again has proved successful-- at the end of June 2010 our income was £60,000 and this year to the end of June it was £66,000.

Wendy Wootton - Director and Chair of Membership and Marketing

RULES HANDICAPS AND COMPETITIONS

Have you tried the R and A Rules Quiz on the 'Welcome' page of the Club website? If not, why not give it a go – you could learn a lot.

I have noticed that the BBC now have a Rules expert available in the commentary box at televised tournaments to keep viewers informed when a decision is required on the course. Just by watching the telly we can all increase our knowledge of the Rules.

Watch out for the new Rule Book next year. There is a chance that some of what we consider to be 'unfair' rules might be changed. We will keep you posted when the time comes.

The debate rages on about the validity of full handicap differences being used in knock-out matches as well as the inability to change handicaps other than in qualifying competitions or at the Annual Review. Don't blame me – we are only carrying out the instructions from CONGU and the EGU. Someone who has taken full advantage of playing in qualifying competitions in the last 12 months is Toby Spink. In 2010 he was playing in the Rabbits Cup – this year he is representing the Club in both the Hambro and Stenson county knock-out competitions. That's what I call progress.

As for our competitions, I always find it encouraging when a single figure player wins a monthly medal. We always assume that the winner will be someone with a handicap in the teens who has a one-off blistering round, but it isn't always the case. Well done in that regard to Alan Clarke (9), Steve



Trevor Mason, Chairman of the Rules Handicaps and Competitions Committee, officiating at the Club's victorious Tolly Match against St. Clements".

Sayers (4) and John Fford (9) so far this year. However, it is great to see our Junior members participating in and occasionally winning competitions, with special mention to Joe Varden who has appeared regularly in the list of prize winners and consequently slashed his handicap this year. With a surname like that he has a lot to live up to (OK, so Harry Vardon, who won the Open Championship six times around the turn of the 19th century, spelt his surname with an 'o' not an 'e', but you know what I mean!). Harry is credited with saying "Don't play too much golf – two rounds a day is plenty". I reckon that applies to many of our Juniors during the school holidays.

Trevor Mason

Editorial Note.

Trevor is far too modest to reveal his actual marks, but he recently sat an EGU Rules examination, passing with distinction, and qualifying him as an EGU County Referee, which allows him to officiate at County Championships and Tournaments.

Well done that man!



Jerry Fowler

The 2011 Stud Bar Challenge was, once again, an outstanding success, played on a truly lovely Summers Day, and with every Tee time booked well in advance. As a testimonial to Ian it couldn't have been more fitting, and my thanks go to Steve Waring and Neil Meadows for all their help in planning and running what turned out to be a classic Felixstowe Ferry Golf Day.



The Curry Cup is a League Knock-Out competition, played off scratch, involving predominantly Essex based Clubs, and with each Team consisting of 12 players, 6 with handicaps under 10, and 6 with handicaps from 10 to 18.

Our Curry Cup side has progressed to the Semi Final stage, and if we had have overcome our opponents at Gosfield Lakes the Club would have reached the Final for the second time in four years.

The Club has benefited greatly this year from our continued involvement in this competition, with several of the Team making their debuts at full representative level, and it has been terrific to see the four Juniors in the side playing and performing so well - well done guys!

Other debutants were Tony Ramsey and the father and son combination of Malcolm and Michael Price--- all three of you take a bow!

It is my belief that this Competition will grow in stature, and will allow those selected to represent the Club to gain tremendous and important "Match Experience".

Jerry Fowler.

Tee Sponsorship

The Tee Sponsorship initiative has again raised a substantial amount of money for the Club –in fact, more than £7,500 in the last year. Many thanks to all Club Members who are involved with this either through asking their companies for sponsorship or by helping with introductions. We would be delighted to hear from any Member who would like to sponsor a Tee in the future. We have a variety of sponsorship deals available which all include some free rounds for guests of the sponsoring organisation. All sponsors will be provided with a link to the Club's website to improve their own web's profile.

BREAKING NEWS!!!---the Executive Committee has recently approved a limited sponsorship of greens, so make use of this singular opportunity!

We are currently looking for sponsors for the following Tees:

Martello Course – Yellow Tee on 11th, Red Tees 1st 4th 7th 12th and 18th

Kingsfleet Course – lots of opportunities! For full details of Tee Sponsorship visit the Club's web site. And if you have any ideas for future sponsorship of the Tees or would like to know about Green sponsorship, contact Ray or Sue in the office.

THE CLUB GREATLY APPRECIATES THE SUPPORT OF THE FOLLOWING TEE SPONSORS

Mediterranean Shipping Co.

EUF

Maritime Cargo Processing Plc.

Anglia Recliners

Brierfield Residential Homes

Computing Needs

Oval Insurance

Michael the Butchers

Ashton Graham

M.E.C.

Marketing Force

Harbour Logistics

Beatons Group

Magnum Spedition

Dunflyin

Prettys

Fowler Welch

S.J.S. Newagents

Hutchinson Ports

Russell Smith

Fargo Systems

Scanwell Logistics

Bland Baker

Felixstowe Chamber of Commerce

Grange Shipping

CLUB SWEEP

If you have not joined our **CLUB SWEEP** you will not be able to win any of the four monthly prizes. Tickets cost £2.00 each and payment can be by cash or by Standing order. If you don't buy a Ticket then you are not in with a chance of winning. The Club Sweep is drawn each month – so come on – why not **HAVE A GO!** ---just speak to Sue in the Office.

We do our best to keep the Club website up-to-date, which is a good source of information for Members and any other interested party to find out about the Course, Fixtures, Social events, Competition Results etc. Many thanks to our advertisers on the website--without them there would be not be such an excellent facility.

Wendy Wootton - Chair of Marketing

Micky's Magic Bus.

Many Member's will know Past Captain Mick Dabbs as the friendly face dishing out Burgers, Hot Dogs and tins of cold libation from the BBQ which is an integral part of our Charity and Fun Days.

But how many of us know that he's also got a Magic Bus, and that he meets much of the Club's transport needs when our Teams are away at Inter-Club and County Competition matches.

To find out more, visit his web site at www.minibushireipswich.co.uk



Looking back on more than 30 years- Ian Mac Pherson—Club Professional

Some of my earliest recollections of Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club when I became Professional in 1980 are of the green corrugated sheds at the back of the Clubhouse, second home to the then Head Greenkeeper George Newson and his colleagues Paul Boulton and Keith Titshall. All three were at that time bachelors, which I thought unusual, but I soon realised that they were 'married' to the Course, and a fine job of it they made, frequently being congratulated on its condition. Allan Cornish was the Club Secretary, employed to work mornings on Monday to Friday and with no office help or computer! I saw him once a week on Friday morning when he collected the weekly green fees. My shop was half the size it is now--Ray Bennett, a Past Captain and builder, was responsible for the extension in the mid eighties.

The Clubhouse lounge at that time was divided from the dining room by a wall, with large wooden folding doors, and the bar hatch was only the size of the opening now nearest to the dining room. Friday evening was the time to pay into the Christmas Savings club, which was faithfully collected by Don Donovan, and was also an opportunity for Members to make up fourballs for Saturday or Sunday mornings. Tom and Luvie White were the Bar Stewards, and Dianne Barnard was the catering supremo.

A photograph in the Company Secretary's office reminded me of the two large trees which were behind the 12th green and which made a nice backdrop to the hole. Unfortunately they were lost many years ago, due to age. At that time, the only area available for teaching was a narrow strip between the first green and the road to the Ferry. The longest club that could be hit was a 5 iron, and if a pupil wanted a lesson with a driver or a three wood we often ended up with a whole lot of balls strewn down the 2nd fairway, and with fourballs trying to identify their own ball!

One winter a combination of thick snow melting, a high tide and strong winds caused the sea to come over the sea wall opposite the stink pipe, flooding the whole of the 1st fairway and the practice ground for several weeks. During that time I had to use the very narrow strip between the old 14th tee and 15th tee to teach, a good walk from the shop several times a day!

Special memories are of the halcyon days when Julie Wade, now Otto, was winning everything in sight. She played in five Curtis Cup matches against the USA, partnered me to win the Suffolk Mixed Open, and also in the Sunningdale Foursomes.

My son Steven following on close behind, winning Suffolk titles at Junior, Senior and Professional level, and, partnered with Neil Meadows, winning the Midlands Foursomes at Woodhall Spa. Joanne Woodward (nee Hockley) came next with her British Ladies Championship titles, followed by her sister Amanda Norman with many Suffolk titles.

It was also satisfying to see Heidi Baek win her English Girls Under 15 title and her USA Junior title, and to see Rhodri Harston win his Welsh Under15 title. I have also had a great deal of pleasure watching many of our other young players progress to represent the Club and County.

More great memories of some hard fought tussles in the Captain-Pro challenge matches, over the years winning or drawing, if my memory serves me correctly, more than we lost—I hope Past Captains agree!

When I wasn't teaching, I managed to win a Suffolk professional Matchplay title, took a second and third place in the Suffolk Open, and a 5th place in the East Anglian Open.

For the last 20 years, Geoff Stephens and I have co-organised the Friday evening Texas Scrambles. Many Members have enjoyed the various formats of Scramble on offer, and the great social atmosphere in the Clubhouse afterwards.

Finally, my sincere thanks to everyone who took part in my "Thank You" Scramble, and in the Stud Bar Challenge Testimonial, both of which were played in brilliant sunshine and with fantastic support. And a special "Thank You" to Julie Otto for travelling from Scotland to play in the Challenge, for making up our fourball with Andrew Robinson and Jerry Fowler, and for being the guest speaker at the prize giving ceremony.

So many Happy Memories---I wish Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club every success in the future.

Ian MacPherson

