

Hedsor Golf Club

Captain's Report

2024/5

Good afternoon, everyone, thank you for giving up part of your Sunday to be here.

Let me start by reminding everyone that The Course has reached its 25th anniversary. We are pleased to see many of those founder players who formed the Club with us today. Congratulations.

Being a relatively new regular player of golf, it was a surprise and great privilege to be nominated Captain this time last year.

Key to my acceptance was Greg agreeing to his reappointment as HCP sec and to be my nominated Vice Captain. The wisdom and knowledge Greg brings was and still is enormous today. The objectives for the year were not that clear at day one other than the need for a documented Constitution, given the original was nowhere to be found.

Starter Pack: The work on The Constitution focused our mind on the content and the need to avoid it being constantly in need of updates; and consequently, the By-Laws came into being. All these documents were signed off at the last AGM but as the year progressed fine tuning was evident and we dealt with these changes by way of the WhatsApp platform or through the Membership Committee. You are today being requested to ratify these enhancements.

Most importantly please recognise the benefits of having our committee structure which spreads out the workload, involves members in the club Backoffice and grooms new blood to step up and enjoy playing a part in the future of The Club.

Local rules: Essentially for Club use and by the Course at their discretion we have produced our "definitive" local rules that takes into consideration the R&A permissions thereby ensuring scores are compliant for submission to the WHS system.

Score technology: The system we use is known as V1 and the members portal is HowDidIDo. This system, is how a club manages those sub competitions you hear about such as Eclectic and it also auto uploads to the WHS system instantly. Most clubs today you will see a screen in or around the front of house. Members and their score verifiers log on to enter their scores. I'm pleased to report that last Tuesday the Rollup group of 18 took part in a pilot using the HowDidIDo app on their phones and it worked a treat. There is every reason for us to roll out this method for all comps going forward. You may ask why we do not have the clubhouse screen seen

in other clubs – it's a significant annual charge for this feature and the rental of the screen. Larger memberships can afford such luxuries.

Course Re-measuring: One thing leads to another. The course results and previous years play away occasions both organised and casual (and this is another illustration of the value of carding wherever you play), Greg analysed all the data and using this with England Golf[EG] lead to our re-measuring that was completed on July 2nd 2024. Earlier indications from EG required The Course to make certain improvements most notably inserting the permanent markers. As always Tim and his team stepped up and delivered.

Overall this is a great result and therefore means our new slope index is akin to the index used as a global "Course Average" recognising the course's challenges.

The remeasuring did however accomplish recognition of the red tees for men which enabled us to card the comps throughout the winter. A first this year. Remember also, reds are non-binary in accordance with WHS/EG guidance. Open to all according to your whim!

Let me sidestep for a moment.

Ground Staff: I want to highlight this special team of people. One consultant and two-part timers with the sole financial investment in the course and the machinery tailored to the revenue the 'course generates. The regional head of EG when he visited later in 2024 (after measuring but before we had the results in) could not believe what he was witnessing, which is managed by our niche team. He still raves about it. I believe these guys are the bees knees! I think everyone does!!

As a Club, we are not bound by what The Course decides in respect of playing conditions. The Club executive decide, lead by the HCP sec who is mindful that playing golf is difficult enough and providing players with relief to avoid individual/collective adverse scoring is part of our club's responsibility. As we have witnessed recently it can spill over. The club's job is to provide members with a fair chance of playing to HCP. Lets remember what EG said about our Green keeping standards. Gold stars all round.

Front of house: Whilst, recognising the outside team, lets also, appreciate the front desk team for their conscientiousness in looking after our members needs. With increasing footfall pressure will be on meeting our playing requests, and in future that may be a challenge. The Poll we use for pre-ordering tee times has been a success. Be mindful therefore, that by just turning up may not work if we are fully subscribed. In the interests of everyone, and benefiting the course too, we will, wherever possible, maintain the max three ball to minimise round times. Thanks for everyone's support.

Owners: Also, at this point I would like to highlight Dale and Jayne, The Course owners. We have established at least one formal meeting a year to discuss what's going on – in both directions – and this has been beneficial. This will continue I'm sure. Going forward the executive will be inviting members to volunteer to undertake decorating and minor improvements to the club house – with the course having agreed to supplying the materials. I hope this will be well supported.

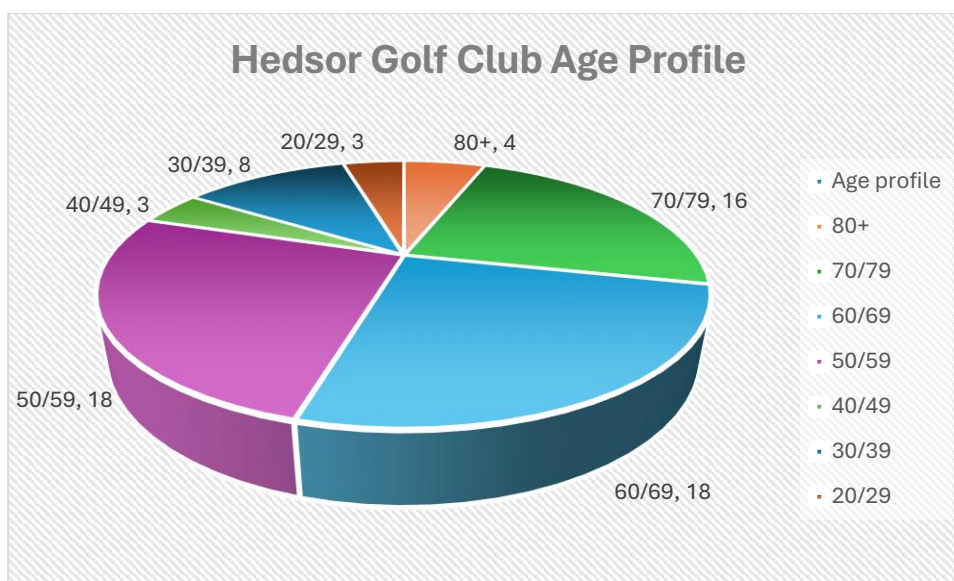
So back to my theme...

Course usage: One of the points that came out at the meeting with Dale and Jayne was with the increase in footfall the increased revenue in turn **WILL** be spent on the Course.

Increasing membership has been in our minds too. Sue has tried so hard over the years to kick start the ladies section. Well, let us have another go. We have some new lady members (in EG terms women) who might need to get to know each other. We know there are ladies from the ladies "on waiting lists" at Beaconsfield GC who love playing here also EG tell us there is a waiting list at Burnham Beeches GC. EG will be helping us to reach out starting with Burnham Beeches; to encourage those waiting for membership to come here and hone their skills and HCP. What is it that would help attract and retain women to our club? Having not been in the ladies toilet myself, cosmetic improvements to it have been raised with me on a number of occasions. It's one for the new Exec to follow up on, along with EG's offer on their undertaking re Burnham Beeches GC.

Web Site: EG presented us with some challenges that would only be solved by having a huge notice board or provision of a club web site. They indicated a web site would have multiple benefits as well as creating new membership. So we undertook getting it out there. We are live www.hedsorgolf.club . If you view and get to the point of needing a log in; message me as we must add members individually to avoid non member access. You will find all the club documents, records and more with a log in. The public home page will provide you and the casual user with a weather prediction, course rating etc and general information about our club. Let's hope this will help to encourage new players to join us. Scroll down to get our periodic posts!

Membership: I checked on WHS for our club and the good news is we have 66 WHS members of which 4 are of the fairer sex. We know from the Course that demand is up for Pay and Play. We have a constant submission of applications from potential new members, and these translate into WHS registrations. My recollection, but I suspect Andy can verify this, we were in the high 40s this time last year. The diagram speaks for itself.



Captain's Charity of Choice: *The Outward Bound Trust* . My choice may have been seen a bit avant garde, but it had a profound impact on my life. 28 days at age 15 in the mountains of the lake district in February with only your 11 other team players in range, taught leadership, survival, understanding your own capabilities, partnership and building stamina. It's been the backbone of my entire life. Sadly, attendance particularly with youngsters is peppered with Health and Safety restrictions today but I'm sure it remains a quality experience. I recently went back to Ullswater base with my wife and son and can confirm it has not changed in 65 years!

Everyone's generosity, plus the initiative of gathering the lost balls on the course, cleaning and sorting them into 4 grades. The Course have been positively supportive of this project whereby we supply the grade 4 balls for use on the driving range; and the others are sold at the front desk with a split of the takings to provide a return for the Course plus funds to cover VAT and for our effort and contribution by our members a significant contribution to my nominated charity.

This year's fund stands at £1472. We are hoping to get it well past £1500 before the Captain's Handover Day.

New/Used ball sales Over 2000 used balls recycled which, excluding range balls and those in an unsaleable condition, resulted in stock worth £1441. The Captain's Charity received £539 with the balance being retained by the Course to cover VAT, minor thefts and their '50%' share.

Thank you everyone. I intend asking Outward Bound to channel our fund raising to a Bucks junior ! I hope you agree.

In closing I would like to thank everyone who has supported my desire to make our Club even better and, in particular, the various committee members stepping up when needed, and our president. I would like to highlight Merv who has been at my side providing, on my journey, as I have

called him my “pastoral support”. spotting when members go off the radar and making sure they are OK or flagging to the exec for more intervention and of course having his own branding on our Rollup which we all love! Finally, a special thanks to Greg Lee working together he guided me through the vagaries of golf rules/ handicap modelling/ making golf fair for every member and ensuring we got all that documentation and England Golf across the line!

Final call to arms... lets me even more vigilant in helping our ground staff by:

- Replacing your divots and any others that you stumble over
- Repair pitch marks – see Tim’s express guidance he posted for us
- Ensure green flags are properly seated when replaced
- Use the seed boxes on tees to fill in yours and others divots’
- Remember the team has priority out on the course

It only leaves me to say to the new appointees I will be there if needed. Some projects are already up for your attention:

- a. We have designed a 9 hole card that reflects the needs of our Course/Club and the new R&A requirements. See overleaf. Its appropriate for our Rollups and would be a better alternative for Pay & Play for 9 holes.
- b. Continue the auditing of members performance in accordance with the requirements set out by WHS/England Golf largely on the shoulders of the HCP sec but an overseeing role rests with the Captain of the day. Particular ATTENTION IS required for members with Penalty rounds – quite a number.
- c. Great team results in our Huntswood GC reciprocal friendly game during my tenure. It’s over to you to make contact with their new captain and reconfirm the previously agreed dates and continue winning. No challenge!
- d. We did not accomplish the inter club competition growth, but seeds were sown - lack of band width on my part and the counterparts from the other clubs.
- e. Continue building on our strong working relationship with England Golf – it had previously been virtually non-existent.
- f. Encourage all members to make themself known to the new officers of the Club if you can be of assistance.

Thanks Again

Den Reed

HEDSOR GOLF COURSE													
COMPETITION:						DATE:				TEE SELECTION: RED OR YELLOW			
MARKER						HANDICAP INDEX				HANDICAP:		STROKES REC'D:	
PLAYER						HANDICAP INDEX:				HANDICAP:		STROKES REC'D:	

Hole	MARKER		YELLOW	RED	MENS		PLAYER					WOMEN	
	GROSS	POINTS	YARDS	YARDS	PAR	SI	STROKES RECD	GROSS	NETT	POINTS	+/-/0	PAR	SI
1			333	314	4	2						4	4
2			453	437	5	4						5	1
3			248	212	4	8						4	7
4			385	371	4	1						5	2
5			292	277	4	7						4	5
6			114	112	3	9						3	9
7			139	124	3	5						3	8
8			175	173	3	6						3	3
9			306	281	4	3						4	6
OUT			2446	2368	34							35	

MARKER'S SIGNATURE:		PLAYER'S SIGNATURE:	
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