



# THE SOUTHWOLD GOLF CLUB NEWSLETTER

January to April  
2010

## SOUTHWOLD RABBIT

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### Brian Allen—End of an Era

We heard with much sadness that Brian Allen lost his fight against his illness early on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2010. His good advice and encouraging words will be missed by our members and our thoughts are with his family at this sad time. His funeral took place on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2010 at Earlham Cemetery Chapel in Norwich. The Club was well represented at the ceremony and the reception that was held at the Marsh Harriers Public House. In addition there was a reception at the Club House where members were invited to sign a book of remembrance which will be passed to Brian's family. See page 6 for a full tribute to Brian's dedication to our Club..

**Arctic Weather take its Toll** The Arctic weather conditions are reported to be the worst for 30 years, and it certainly hit our golf club hard. The course was closed on a number of days, and competitions were either cancelled, postponed or abandoned completely. But congratulations are due to our Greens Staff who have nurtured our course to its current condition, which is much better than many others. A visiting golfer from Waldringfield commented on how much she was enjoying playing on a fairway with grass since they were experiencing bare earth on her home course. The Pro Shop also suffered from a severe reduction in Green Fees taken.

**Stenson Shield** The men's section fielded a winning team against Halesworth in the first round of the Stenson Shield. The team, seen below, of Carey Taylor, Peter Hurr, Alex Taylor, Paul Booth, Russell Palmer, Jeremy Turner, Keith Hurr, Jack Fountain and Paul Sherwood played the match off scratch in foursomes and singles, pulled off a courageous victory of 8 ½ against 3 ½. In the next round Southwold plays Thorpeness at home on Saturday 1st May.



**Easter Cup** Tom Kirtley ( 6 handicap) beat Paul Booth (3 handicap) one up in the Matchplay competition played over the Easter weekend.



**Course Record** It is confirmed that Jane Oliver's Gross Score of 72 on 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2009, set a new Ladies Course record; her card is on display in the Club House.



## Captain's Report

The first few months of this year have proved to be difficult ones for the Club. The long illness and loss of Brian Allen, our Professional for the last 36 years, and without doubt one of the mainstays of our Club, has left a big gap in not only the management but also the morale of our club. On top of this we have experienced the worst weather conditions for 30 years, resulting in the cancellation of many competitions.

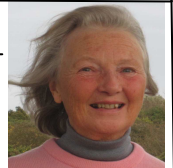
These difficulties have meant a considerable burden has fallen on other members of the staff and club, and their dedication in rising to the occasion is much appreciated. On the Course Nick Lamb and Sam Nunn are doing a sterling job, and some members report they much appreciate the clearance of the gorse bushes, particularly at the 8<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> tees, despite the Council's lack of enthusiasm. In the Pro Shop, Jane Bowser, Sue Denny and Peter Obern are keeping the flag flying and doing an excellent job in the process.

Our thanks also go to Adrian Frost who is stepping down from the Management Committee. Margaret Beckett is taking over the Rabbit, carrying on the excellent work started by Adrian. Our new Steward, Gareth Jones, has gone through his first winter, but the cancellation of so many competitions has affected his business, which hopefully will be reversed in the summer months.

As we go to Press, decisions are yet to be made on how the Club will go forward after the loss of our valued Professional, Brian Allen. Members will be kept advised as the situation becomes clearer.

*Peter Hurr*

## Ladies' Captain's Report



We are all feeling the loss of Brian Allen, who died in April after his long illness. We will miss his cheery face at the Club and the lessons we had with him, his good advice and help.

It has been a difficult start to the year what with the Arctic conditions which caused many matches to be cancelled and the Course closed. However, I managed to finally get my Drive In using a Hickory Shaft 3 Wood on the fourth attempt. It was well supported by all and we made £84 for my charity, Macmillan Nurses.

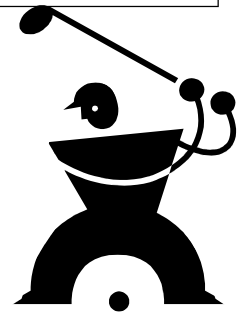
We are looking forward to our Spring Meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> May and hope for good weather.. We have a day out planned to Haverhill Golf Course, on the 4<sup>th</sup> May. The group will travel by coach and play 18 holes with a meal afterwards. We also have a two day break planned at Barnham Broom in August which should be good fun for the ladies taking part.

The **Winter League Society Day** was held at Halesworth this year and 73 Ladies played from local clubs. Six ladies from Southwold attended and we had a very good day out with 18 holes of golf and a meal afterwards. **Daily Mail Foursomes** v Aldeburgh at Home. We had to give a walkover due to illness. The players were Annabel Holder and Pip Macaulay. **Mail on Sunday** 1<sup>st</sup> round a Bye. 2<sup>nd</sup> round v Rookery Park at Home – Won. 3<sup>rd</sup> round v Aldeburgh Away – Lost

We wish our Weston, Stearn and Cranworth teams good luck with their matches over the next weeks.

*Barbara Smith*

# Men's Results



Competitions were severely affected by the awful weather conditions. 8 out of 11 matches were cancelled, with the Christmas Competition being finally abandoned after 3 cancellations from snow, frozen greens and flooding due to our golf club catching the edge of Xynthia, the most violent storm that has hit France for 10 years. Prizes were distributed by drawing lots. Play finally got going with the Horwood Cup (the winners of six qualifying medals compete for the trophy); the Easter Cup and the Stenson Shield.

January Stableford Div 1. **Gary Cuthbert** 36 pts  
Div 2. **Alan Burrage** 35 pts

January Horwood Medal Div 1 **Richard Aldous**  
net 65  
Div 2 **Bob Griffin** net 69

February Horwood Medal Div 1 **Paul Sherwood**  
net 67  
Div 2 **Phil Vasey** net 76

March Singles Stableford Div 1 **Mark Langley**  
38 pts  
Div 2 **Bob Griffin** 38 pts

March Medal and Horwood Final  
Div 1 **Mark Langley** net 59  
Div 2 **Alan Burrage** net 64

Winner Horwood Final **Alex Taylor** net 67  
(First Board Competition 2010)

April Stableford Easter Sunday  
Div 1 **Micky Rose, Conrad Swan & Steve Potter** all 38 pts  
Div 2 **Liam Cuthbert** 37 pts

## Daily Mail Foursomes Winning Team

**Richard Cookson** and **Derek Self** playing in the Field Foursomes won the first round, against Caister, 2 & 1, and the second round against Woodbridge, 2 up. We wish them well for their next round.

The **Mixed Open** in August is now fully subscribed.

## “Keith’s Kruises” Golfing visit to Turkey!

Response to my offer last year to organise a golfing trip to Turkey was such that a party of 13 (including one non-golfer) visited Belek, near Antalya, from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> February. The Turkish travel specialists did a first-class job with the arrangements for our visit – apart from the weather!

Our package included two rounds on the National Course and two on the Montgomerie. Our schedule was to relax on the day after arrival, play our two rounds on the National on consecutive days, have another day off and then two days on the Monty. We got our two rounds in on the National, but the weather then turned nasty! Over 24 hours of torrential rain and strong winds left the Monty course unplayable for the first round there, though five members of the party ventured a few holes before common sense prevailed. The next day dawned bright and dry, with the prospect of a full round. However, the amount of standing water, and return of heavy rain, meant only a small number completed 18 holes: very disappointing as the Monty is a very good course.

All concerned enjoyed the social side of the visit, which was fortunate in view of the weather. Terry Warth was a great hit with his Presley karaoke songs, and the contributions by Mr Ben (as the DJ insisted on calling Walberswick’s answer to Topol) were an effective means of denying microphone time for depressing local efforts. All things considered it was an enjoyable and memorable visit!



Southwold Seniors recorded a great win at home against an exceptionally strong team from Fynn Valley. Fynn Valley played well and there were a number of tight competitive matches in good sunny conditions. However the "Valiants" were eventually overwhelmed by some superb-Southwold senior play and lost 4 versus 2.

Unfortunately, in terms of results this is the only win of the season to date, hence its fame! Home matches were lost to Gorleston (2.5 v 3.5), Thorpeness (3 v 5), Rookery Park (2.5 v 3.5), Bawburgh (4.5 v 1.5) and Rushmere (2.5 v 3.5). We fared no better away and lost 4 versus 2 to Thorpeness. It would have been worse, but Alan Davis sportingly and uncharacteristically, played poorly when representing Thorpeness.

The captain has yet to play a captains innings (three losses and two halves) and there have been ugly rumours that this is the real reason for Southwold's poor performance. Only the excellent quality of his post match jokes (mainly donated by his wife) has prevented a deputation of men in grey suits appearing on the scene and suggesting he should resign for the good of the section.

The Vice Captain, Terry Warth, started well with a number of wins; so much so that there were mutterings about the ineptness of the Handicap Committee at Southwold Golf Club from his opponents, but even he has now lost a match – to Rushmere.

**Get Bob Lee as a Partner, and Win!**  
The fundamental problem for Southwold is that there is not enough of Bob Lee to go round. He has a 100% win record to date. However, the captain will inevitably pick him as a partner sometime and this should soon put a stop to this nonsense.

It's a good thing that none of us take the results in Senior Friendly Matches seriously after the

game is over. Therefore most of us had a very enjoyable time, in good company, on fine courses. Our opponents – basking in the glow of victory – and the contentment induced by Gareth's fine catering - have all been very complimentary about how much they enjoy coming to, or entertaining, the Southwold team.

### **Gilbert and Frankeiss Victorious Again!**

Mike Heil tracks all the roll-up results over the year and trophies are presented for the best overall performance and for the maximum number of birdies. This competition, known as the Marathon, is traditionally won by Jim Gilbert and David Frankeiss - the latter being the designated runner up. The 2009 season proved to be no exception to this rule. Congratulations to them both. I am sure I speak for all the seniors when I say that none of us minds them regularly taking our money. Anyway, thanks to Mike for tracking all the results. And also many thanks to our Organiser, Brian Brandwood for arranging an interesting and varied program of competition events and qualifiers throughout the year and for preparing the match cards for the friendly competitions with other clubs.

Thanks also to Brian Brandwood for organising all of our internal competitions and to Mike Heil for preparing the match cards.

### **Mark Clark**

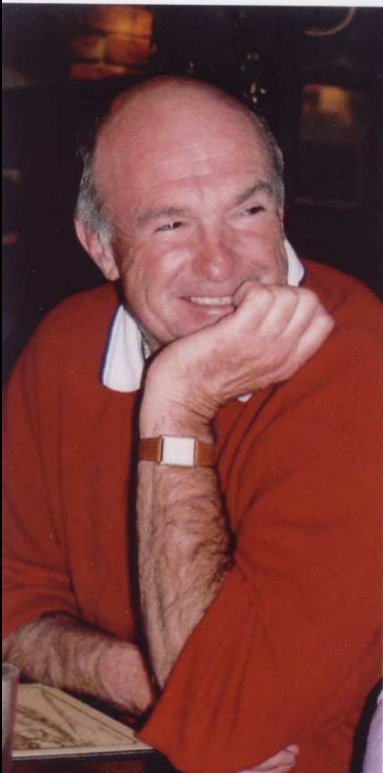
Southwold Seniors Captain, 2009/2010.

### **Miscellaneous Course Matters**

Further steps are being taken to control the rabbit problem.

In the event of members wishing to express criticism of the course, they should address their comments to the Secretary and not to the Greens Staff, who are doing an excellent job under difficult circumstances.

The Juniors programme is on hold until we know the direction in which the club is going.



Brian first started work at Southwold Golf Club in 1974. His position was somewhat unique in that he took on the duties of head green keeper as well as that of a Professional.

He took great pride in his green keeping and the course always looked in pristine condition under his management. Visitors invariably remarked on the way it was presented together with its immaculate greens.

On the professional side, he was an excellent teacher and had a good rapport with his pupils, young and old alike.

He was very popular with other professionals and served on the Suffolk PGA Committee for many years. He played in PGA tournaments as much as possible, but such was his loyalty to the Club that he would forego entering if the Club needed him.

His wealth of knowledge and experience over the past 36 years have proved invaluable to the Club. The annual Festivals, which proved so popular, were his 'brain-child' and he worked tirelessly to ensure their success.

A man of quiet strength, always ready to listen, and a pleasant manner to all, he was always willing to give help where needed. Many members have said 'Brian was a true gentleman'.

We shall all miss him.

Gladys and Ivan Guy

## RULES ARE RULES

On my recent visit to Woodhall Spa, I attended tutorials explaining the rules and decisions of golf. I found this to be heavy going for an old head, but fortunately the tutors made up of R&A qualified referees included lighter moments.

Frank Stone at one of the European opens was refereeing Bernhard Langers' group. Langer sliced a tee shot into the woods, the floor of which was covered with leaves and twigs. On nearing his ball, Langer tripped over a concealed root and went full length scattering debris everywhere. FORTUNATELY, except for a scratch on his arm he was uninjured. When he was ready to play he asked where his ball was. Frank had to tell him UNFORTUNATELY he had moved the ball incurring a one shot penalty, and must drop it as near as possible to its original position. (See rule 18-2).

Not fair BUT RULES ARE RULES.

On the good side he was allowed to move loose impediments from the area of his intended drop. (Decision 23/6).

More rules next issue. Brian E Brandwood

Six whole months have now passed since I started here at Southwold Golf Club, and I have many people to thank for making sure the club and I remained busy throughout the bleak winter we have just experienced. All Sunday lunches have been well supported filling the club house on those days when golf seemed daft even to consider! A couple of successful quiz evenings and a fully booked Scottish themed evening all went very well with a great atmosphere generated on all occasions.



A handful of Thursday lunches were put on with varying numbers attending, although these will most definitely continue from October this year on a more structured and regular basis. Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May will be the last Sunday lunch until the winter. A full 3 course menu is available at £15 per head and a few places remain. Please book at the bar if you are interested.

The club house will be open later than advertised on Friday evenings throughout June, July and August with the plan of having a light bite and a glass of wine or beer on the terrace after a few post work holes on the golf course. The first is planned for Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June. A simple Barbeque with salads will be available from 6 to 7.30pm on this evening.

I am away mid May for 10 days and you will be left in the safe hands of Michael Brabben, a good friend of mine and current Sous Chef at The Randolph. Michael will be covering all days when functions are already organized, but please be aware there may be reduced catering on those days.

Lastly, a big thank you for your support over the last six months, and I look forward to a busy summer season.

Gareth

## Notice Board

**Supper Golf** Resumes on 7th May, 28 May, 18 June, 9 July and 20 July

**Late Friday Opening Club House** starting 4 June

**Sunrise Golf** 12 June

**Ladies' Captain's Day** 16 June

**Captain's Day** 18 July

**Ladies visit to Barnham Broom** 15/16 August

### Pro Shop

The Pro Shop is still in operation. To check opening hours, please see notice on shop window.

## Membership

Four new full members have joined recently bringing the total members to 242 men, 67 ladies, 41 social members and 23 youth and junior members. Our membership has been consistent over the last 12 months – a good result in the current financial climate.

## Going Green

Suffolk Coastal conducted a Health Energy check on 19<sup>th</sup> April. In anticipation of this, low energy light bulbs have been fitted; controls on heating have been checked and thermostats in Locker Rooms and the Clubhouse updated to ensure we conserve energy wherever possible.

**Note from the Editor** Thanks to all the members who contributed to this issue.