PEOPLE ARE THE KEY TO OUR SUCCESS

says Chairman Nick Balnave

MORE than sixty members helped to create a very positive mood at the AGM as I stressed the importance of people: our members and staff, and our structure. And that is what I would like to focus on. We are first and foremost a members club. We need to make our club attractive to our members so they stay, and we need to attract new members. The collaboration agreement we made with Hendon, North Middlesex and Mill Hill, was born out of the respective Chairmen recognizing the need to improve the benefits offered to its members. I trust members have taken advantage of the four free rounds at each of the participating clubs.

We have to run our club as a business and as such it needs to be run effectively. Our structure, lease and rules need to support the efficient running of the business. Whilst we have moved to a more appropriate staff structure with a General Manager and a Head Professional, we need to ensure that the three bodies that we have within the club, the Board, Management Committee and Captain’s Committee are right for today’s market place. In order to ensure that the club has the right bodies, lease and rules we will undertaking a review and will be calling an EGM in the Spring of next year, to gain members’ acceptance of any proposed changes. At the same time we will take the opportunity to present our updated five-year plan.

More important are the people

A good structure is important but more important are the people. We are very fortunate to have been able to recruit Stewart Judd as our General Manager. He has considerable experience in golf club management and I am confident that under his leadership the club will flourish. He has a very capable team working for him. As you will be aware Lee Fickling handed in his notice and will be leaving the club on the 11th Tee for two: new Captains drive-in

continued on page two

Club Captain David Dickinson
Lady Captain Irene Dickinson

continued on page two

Privilege and a pleasure

IT was a cold February morning in 1970 when I first set foot in Bush Hill Park Golf Club. I can still remember walking down the impressive drive and being awe struck by the magnificent clubhouse. I was here to take up employment with George Low, the highly respected professional, as his assistant. I had come from the Isle of Wight but I knew George by reputation; he had been one of the top professional golfers in the country, and I felt privileged to have secured such a splendid job.

I thought I was a pretty useful golfer back then but, after four very pleasant years working with George, I realised golf was not to be my future. I trained as a teacher and eventually spent 32 years teaching mathematics at Enfield Grammar School. Again I had

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People are the key to our success

December, together with Daniel and Katie. I would like to thank Lee, Daniel and Katie for their service to the club, and wish them every success at Crews Hill. We are reviewing our professional services requirements and will keep the membership informed of developments. While we had a greater number of members leaving this year, we have had another successful year in recruiting new members. Since January 2017, 32 new playing members have joined, and this excludes the five new Junior members. Since April the number is 28. We recognize the need to rebuild our membership numbers and will be embarking upon a strong member recruitment programme at the end of this year.

Importance of volunteers

As a club we are very reliant on the voluntary work undertaken by members whether on committee or outside of committee. Without their enthusiasm and support this club would not survive. During my tenure as Chairman, and this will be the last year I will be standing, I have been very fortunate to have worked with some great members. I would like to thank the retiring Captain David Morris and Lady Captain Jenny Pompfrey for their contribution during their year as Captain. Due to increased work commitments Mark Kermode is stepping down and I would like to thank him for his contribution as chair of HR and H&S. Mark has also helped us in the development of our web site and will continue to do so. Dave Dickinson will also be standing down as he becomes Club Captain. He has completed seven years as Chair of Greens and I would like to thank David for his commitment and also acknowledge the many course improvements that have been made during his tenure.

I would encourage members who have the time, to support the club by helping out, whether on committee or outside of committee. I would like to thank all members of staff at Bush Hill Park Golf Club including Alasdair McDonald and Lee Fickling for the excellent work they do on the club’s behalf. I would also like to thank all those members who undertake voluntary work on behalf of the club whether on committee or outside of committee. Also those members who continue to support the golf and social functions.

Attractive social programme

We appreciate that social functions must appeal to the members, and you will have seen that Stewart has been working hard with Alasdair and Debbie to deliver an attractive social programme. The programme for Christmas and New Year is already out and a number of themed nights have been arranged for October. So please come and support them.

Returning to my theme of people. Just as people can make a club great they can also break a club. There are too be a few members who are intent on spreading malicious rumours that are not based on fact and whose sole purpose is to undermine the great club we have.

Only recently we heard that someone was spreading a rumour that the club was bankrupt and would not be able to pay its staff. This was at a time when we had liquidity of £400,000. Secondly that the treasurer was resigning because of the poor financial situation.

Neither of these rumours were true and as you can appreciate the members wanted the right people to remain on the committee had they found them to be unjustified and demoralising.

Being positive

As members we need to be positive about the club, and to help the club move forward. If we believe the club is going to fail then it most probably will, if we are positive about the club and work towards making it better then it will be successful. Under Stewart’s guidance and with the support of the staff and members I am confident that this club will flourish.

Privilege and a pleasure

been lucky and I thoroughly enjoyed my time at EGS, meeting many inspirational people who were to have a great influence on my life. Meanwhile, I managed to regain my amateur status and was accepted as a member at Bush Hill. In 1981 I was elected to the committee, serving three years under Tom Ackland, Michael Kerr, and Henry Porter. In those days there was only one committee and if we think meetings are long nowadays you should have been there then. Four or five hours was quite usual and I can remember occasions not leaving the club until well after midnight!

I look back on my days at Bush Hill with great pleasure and, though my golf has seen better days, it is here that I have met some wonderfully colourful characters and made many lifelong friends. I have seen so many changes at Bush Hill over the years, not all for the better, but I feel fortunate to have lived through these times.

I rejoined the committee in 2010, when Duncan Collins co-opted me after I failed to get elected. I’m really not bitter about it! I did manage to get elected the following year, however, and have now spent a total of ten years serving the club, which has been both a privilege and a pleasure (well most of the time!). And now I find myself about to be Captain of this great club, something I never sought to do, and wonder whether I will be able to live up to the legacy left by a very long list of past captains.

Promising future

The last few years have been turbulent, to say the least, for Bush Hill, and the golf world is becoming ever more competitive, given that the number of people joining golf clubs is declining. However, I really do believe we are at the beginning of a new and promising future for the club. Let’s celebrate what we have. Our best asset is our staff. In every section of the club, from greens to bar, they are loyal and dedicated, and are second to none. Staff turnover is small, which must say something. I very much appreciate all the work they do on our behalf and we should applaud their efforts. Much work has been done on the course and we will soon be installing a state-of-the-art watering system, which will see a great improvement to tees, approaches and greens. We are also lucky to have found Stewart Judd, our new manager, who has many years experience in the golfing world and an excellent understanding of the business. Stewart is already working hard to help the club prosper and grow. I in no way wish to denigrate the work that Lee Fickling has done for the club. In fact, having worked closely with Lee for a number of years on greens, I can honestly say that he always worked with the best interests of the club at heart and the betterment of the club in mind. However, it was an impossible task for him to run his own business at the same time as managing the club, with all that this entails. And while I’m about it, let’s not forget all those members who are prepared to give up their free time, either to serve on committees or to organise events. Give them a hug some time; they really are trying to do their best for the club.

Welcome development

And at this point I would like to give a special thanks to Di Williams who has agreed to run our juniors next year. This is an area which has been seriously lacking in recent years so is a welcome development.

So, the point I am trying to make is that we have a lot to be proud of at Bush Hill Park Golf Club. Never again, then, do I want to hear those negative comments which accuse the club of ‘going downhill’, of being insolvent, or this preposterous notion of selling the club - not going to happen! What I do need, however, is your help, because if we are to thrive then everyone needs to contribute what they can, either by attending social events or competing in the many golfing events that are organised. I don’t expect you to come to everything but it is the same faces I see time and again. And if the events are not to your liking, tell us what is and perhaps we can cater for you also.

Finally, I would like to announce that my charity this year will be Diabetes UK. I have been a diabetic for over 30 years now, as was my father, and encephalitis which he has recently been diagnosed. The generosity of Bush Hill members has never failed to amaze me and I am sure that next year will be no exception. I will continue to have the lake on the 17th as a fund raiser (certainly it took a lot of my hard earned pounds last year!), though you can forget the idea of me jumping in! So, then, I believe we can look forward to the future with hope and optimism and, without sounding too much like Donald Trump, I believe this club can be as great again as it was 50 years ago when I first joined.
Stewart sees strong membership as key objective

28 new members since April

It’s been nearly three months since joining Bush Hill Park and I now have a good grasp of the task at hand to take the club forwards. Clearly cost control is essential and we have already implemented several procedures to ensure there is a greater accountability to manage departmental budgets. Driving sales is the primary objective and I feel there are many areas that we can make some quick wins in this regard. We are already seeing positive results in the bar and catering sales and the forward sales for functions, events and golf days are also looking healthy. There are many more promotional opportunities to explore and I am working closely with the team to get timely, competitive and proactive offers organised to drive sales.

New initiatives

Our main focus must be to grow a strong, vibrant membership and therefore become less reliant on green fee, golf day and function business. There will always be a requirement for this external business, however we would be less dependent on these revenue streams with a stronger membership base. We have already had some success with 28 new adult playing members joining this year although this will tail off a bit with less joiners during the winter months. We are now currently working on a number of new initiatives to grow the membership ahead of the next playing season. I do feel we can improve the introduction of new members to the club and we aim to promote new joiners better through the committees and via our various communication channels to assist with their integration in to the club. It can be quite daunting when you first join a club and it is essential that we make the process as seamless and as enjoyable as possible to ensure we have a long-term retention plan. By far our biggest opportunity for membership growth will be through word of mouth and I would encourage all our members to introduce like-minded friends and family to join the club. As an incentive, we have introduced a referral scheme whereby you will receive £100 on your bar card for each new adult playing member introduced.

Increased opening hours

We are also looking to increase the engagement with existing members and to encourage everyone to make full use of the club’s facilities by supporting the bar, catering, pro shop and by attending social events. The social aspect of the club is a key element of a member’s club and we aim to provide a varied calendar of events that we trust you will want to support throughout the year. You will note that our Members’ Christmas and New Year events have already been promoted and the aim this year is to make these bigger and better. We have already had some positive interest and I would urge you to book early so that we can make Christmas and New Year a huge success for the club.

I have also been in discussions with Alasdair and Debbie to look to increase the opening hours for food and drink and we will be extending our offering to attract more members to eat and drink at the club. We have already introduced a weekly specials menu and the main snacks menu will also have more frequent changes to make it more varied and appealing.

We have also introduced an online booking facility for Sunday Lunches and we are sending a weekly email to promote the menu in advance and both these initiatives have had a positive impact on attendance. We are also introducing Thursday themed dining evenings throughout October and November, also with the facility to book on-line and we hope that you can support these whenever possible.

New pro recruitment

I was sorry to report the news that Lee Fickling has given notice to terminate his Professional Services contract and we wish him and his family every success in their new venture. As previously outlined we must view this change as an opportunity and we will be considering our options to deliver the best golf services, coaching and retail. We have already started the recruitment process and we will provide updates as we progress towards a new appointment.

Our irrigation project has now started and this will be a huge benefit to improve the course presentation and playability. We will provide updates throughout the project and disruption will be kept to a minimum. Where possible temporary greens will be limited to only one per day and these will be during weekdays only.

Graham and his team have presented the course in an excellent condition this summer, especially given the challenges with our barely functional watering system and the new system will only enhance the course for the future. I have been working closely with Graham to review the course management and, during this winter, we will be developing a Course Policy Document. This document will assist Graham in implementing processes and procedures and it will also support our decisions with regard to course set-up, resourcing, budgeting and capital projects. This document will be an evolving management tool where we can demonstrate clear working systems that support Graham and his team’s professional knowledge and expertise.

Staff positive response

My appointment as General Manager also provides the opportunity to remove some of the onerous tasks that previously fell on the various Committee members and therefore reduce some of their burden regarding day-to-day operational issues. All the matters relating to general running of the club should now be directed through me or any member of the team and we will respond in a timely manner. This will improve the speed of response and we will also place the accountability with the management team rather than the committee members who volunteer their time to the club. I am enthused by the positive response from the staff and the members since joining the club and whilst there is clearly much to do in a competitive market place, I feel that we are in a strong position from which to build. I believe that we need to concentrate on positive actions rather than focus on negative history and I trust that you will assist the club by promoting Bush Hill Park positively as a great place to join.

The Poets Golf Society

Sixty members of a prestigious golf society choose Bush Hill Park to play their major meeting of the year in late September. The POETS were with us and they were full of praise for the course and the warm welcome they received. But POETS? Does that mean that between every keenly contested hole they created yet another rhyming couplet? Or another “I wandered lonely as a cloud . . . “? No, I’m afraid not. Apparently POETS is an acronym, but this being a family publication it would not be appropriate to spell it out in its full form - because it’s a bit rude!

Never mind. all sixty of them were very complimentary, so perhaps if one of them will be so inspired, that our Chairman may receive a thank-you card reading something like: ‘Bush Hill Park, your tees, your greens, your trees and shrubs, make us believe it’s the best of clubs, to have our day of happy play. Can we come back another day?’ Well, let’s hope so! (They were a nice bunch, those POETS and we hope the day went well for them)
The Treasurer's Report

Members question our solvency but ‘there’s light at the end of the tunnel’

The financial year 2016/7 saw an important change in the club’s strategic financial planning, as a consequence of the proposals made in the five-year plan. The main financial decision was to strengthen the management of the club by allowing our professional to concentrate on golf while appointing a General Manager to focus on the Clubhouse and various sources of revenue.

We also decided to focus on the course with most of the expenditure going into the planning and financing of a new irrigation system. Both these major decisions were taken when membership subscriptions were down by £30,000 and other revenue, such as bar and catering, holding their own at best, while other costs were steadily climbing to threaten our financial stability.

During a year when every effort was being made to be financially prudent we were hit by two major areas of expenditure: the kitchen refurbishment cost approximately £30,000 and then our fire alarm system was declared unsatisfactory which will be replaced in 2017/8 at a cost of £40,000.

Thanks to prudence and the extensive VAT exercise carried out in 2008/9, which recovered £96,000, we had managed to accrue an Accumulated Fund of £99,000 (2015/6 - £13,000) by the end of the year and while insufficient to totally cover the £100,000 initial contribution the Club is required to pay up front for the irrigation system, plus the kitchen refurbishment and new alarm system, does make a significant contribution.

While I hear members questioning our solvency and liquidity and the future of the club, I would like to point out that the lodge has been valued at £435,000 and is being used as security for a bank loan of £200,000 plus the annual repayments of the loan are more than adequately covered by rental income. The cash balance as at 31st March 2017 was £385,000, £127,000 higher than the same time last year and significantly higher than previous years. Also the balance at 31st July was £412,000.

I think it is also reasonable to mention that while we are two entities, the Golf Club and the Limited Company, we are one organisation, and while I am cautiously predicting a cash flow shortfall during the period December to February 2018 of between £50,000 and £70,000 the Limited Company has cash of £97,000 available should it be necessary to call on it.

My view is that while we progress through these difficult times improving and strengthening management, spending money on the facilities where we can, continuing initiatives with local clubs, increasing social activity, yet at the same time control our expenditure, we are able to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

MARTYN LAINCHBURY

Birds flock to Bush Hill Park

ACE Bird Spotter Philip Rhodes has been around our course before dawn again and among the scores of wild birds he recorded was the rare and beautiful Goldcrest. Lucky man! Blackbirds, Blackcaps, Chiffchaffs, Goldfinch and Wren, were all present as he combed the course. Magpies, Mallard and Moorhen put in an appearance and an exotic flight of Ring-Necked Parakeets added their tropical touch as they swooped across our green and pleasant landscape.

Welcome wildlife

Thirty-one species were seen by Phil over his Spring and Summer playing our usual 18 holes that rose to 721 calories. One transports one’s clubs on a one hole and between the clubs and walked between the holes then about 500 calories are burnt-off. And by playing our usual 18 holes that would round-off at a handy 1000 calories!

A thousand calories!

One must assume, therefore that if one transports one’s clubs on a trusty trolley but still walks between the holes then about 500 calories are burnt-off. And by playing our usual 18 holes that would round-off at a handy 1000 calories!

Adding to this exciting news, Dr. Andrew Murray at the University of Edinburgh suggests something he calls ‘speed golf’. Apparently, you not only aim for the lowest number of shots, you also get points for getting around the course in the fastest time. Could that mean that we could soon see some of our super-fit members actually running while carrying their clubs?

It’s true to say that some of our club colleagues have earned a reputation for ‘slow play’ but can you imagine a group of golf runners’ belting round the course and perhaps completing two rounds to most players’ one? You never know.

By the way, the Committee may be well advised to have one of those resuscitation machines set-up at every tee, otherwise we could have play constantly interrupted by the Air Ambulance helicopter descending on the course every five minutes.

Still, top medical researchers have proved once and for all that Golf is Good For You (almost as good as the pint of Guinness that follows after an enjoyable round). So keep swinging.

Play golf - live longer

Play fast - live for ever . . .

Golf has been linked to an extra five years of life and has been found to reduce the risk of several nasty diseases - but for optimum fitness and calorie-burning results you should “ditch the buggy”.

Researchers at Rose Medical Centre at Denver in the USA, say that during a nine-hole game a golfer riding a buggy will burn-off about 411 calories - but when that same golfer carried their own clubs and walked between the holes that rose to 721 calories.

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David takes the plunge!

Captain David Morris was true to his word. He vowed that if £300 was raised for his charity he would jump into the ‘Captain’s Pond’ at the 17th on August Bank Holiday Monday after his ‘Fun-Day’ golf competition had been completed. And what a wonderful splash he made! David may have hoped that the happy crowd had forgotten his promise as they looked forward to the Bank Holiday barbecue, but no. They gathered around him and urged him to take the plunge and soon David was on the greenside bank and they stood around the 18th tee cheering him on. David had first taken the precaution of testing the depth of the pond and several large carp seemed to get the message and they swam off to safer waters. The count-down began: ‘Five, four, three, two, one...’ David took a run and with a mighty jump in he went. Splash! No contest. He decided to swim to the tee-side bank and many worried that that bluish dye colouring the water would slop into his mouth and cause him to be rushed to A&E. But no. Out he climbed, his smart golfing outfit sagging, but with a look of triumph on his dripping face. Tracy, his lovely wife had made sure that a black plastic bag was on hand to receive the sodden kit, and that a smart new ensemble was waiting after his shower to make sure that he could host the rest of the afternoon looking reasonably respectable. Brilliant stuff, Captain.

Penny perfect
The hot and sunny afternoon was perfect barbecue weather and a good crowd had turned up to enjoy it. But there was another treat in store: The Wilson vase was next on the menu and there were plenty of players to show-off their putting skills. Pair after pair went off and one-by-one they were eliminated until we came to the grand final round. Ken Cave v Penny Bushe took to the putting green before a hushed, but excited crowd. It was level-pegging at the halfway point, but then Ken took a one shot lead with only two to play. The tension mounted. At the penultimate eighth Penny pulled one back to make the scores level as they approached the final hole. Penny’s concentration was intense, but she calmly stroked her ball a full 15th feet and down it went for a ‘hole-in-one’! Brilliant. But Ken’s reply yet to come. He looked, judged and played. His ball sped straight, but it was a bit too hard and it finished just beyond the hole. Bad luck! Penny had won and what a way to do it! Oh, and by the way. Penny had no intention of entering the competition but a friend persuaded her to borrow a putter from the Pro-Shop and so she did. What better advertisement for the winning club is hard to imagine. All they need to do now is to hang it in the window with the tag-line: “As used by this year’s winner of the Wilson Vase” (Penny will be entitled to her usual sponsorship fee, of course!) Very well done, Penny. For somebody who took up golf fairly recently you are well on your way to the Club Championship.

Want to have fun and raise vital money for local charities with a great bunch of like-minded guys?

Call Ben Grant 07771 794243
Bush Hill Park Rotary
The return of Mr Fabric?

VIRTUALLY an entire year has passed since my election to the management committee back in September 2016. I was offered the position of Chair of Fabric, to follow the work of my predecessor Brian Pumphrey. I had some vague preconceptions of what the post entailed but this did not pan out as anticipated. I had planned to provide a document which would attempt to detail the condition of all of the buildings which we occupy and operate, which could then be used to project future maintenance and replacement requirements, as an aid to our overall budgeting. This started well but was overtaken by major events occurring somewhat more rapidly than I had anticipated. Most of this has been well documented and in essence encompasses the essential kitchen works, the fire alarm replacement, a fire risk assessment together with the associated works necessary for compliance. These works not only curtailed any plans I may have been considering for the near future but pretty much decimated the entire fabric budget and some.

No option
The nature of the works were such that there was no option but to undertake them or subject the club to serious ramifications including closure of the entire clubhouse and including the prospect of possible legal action, obviously not something to be trifled with. Fortunately, the VAT refund and careful cash control by our treasurer enabled us to complete the programme of works and to indulge my inexplicable desire to install LED lighting around the club, together with many smaller but important repairs and renewals. This was all completed against the backdrop of a proposed significant managerial change, a near mass exodus of the male playing membership plus uncertainty with regard to new member recruitment. However, everyone dug in and we eventually successfully emerged on the other side. In my opinion the management committee showed their mettle but special mention must go to Debbie Sanders who really did go above and beyond, thank you Debbie.

My thanks are also rightly due to go to all of you, our members. You had to put up with multiple inconvenience including no kitchen, no hot water, broken this and that, the erection of the mast and much more, so thank you for not making my role any more difficult. So, another AGM looms large and imminent and due to the machinations of the club rules, I shall be ensconced for a further term as chair of fabric, without a vote being cast. I hope this may also herald the widely and possibly wildly anticipated return of Mr Fabric. I do feel that I have not been actively engaging for some time now, which may disappoint some since Fabric of the Week appeared to be providing a little light relief during the more difficult times. I would also add that the timely appointment of Stewart Judd, our general manager has already provided a myriad of benefits including, in my case in particular, anticipated.

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Ladies’ two trips - an overnighter and an away day

THE Ladies’ Section has had two trips away this year. First the overnighter to the Weald of Kent on 2nd/3rd July and then the away day to Bishops Stortford on 17th August. Twenty-one of us travelled to the Weald of Kent and had a thoroughly enjoyable time with some good golf, lovely food and a fair quantity of rosé wine. The weather was very kind and the course interesting and in good condition. Though the ditches off the tee did cause problems for many of us. Ignore them – the ball landed in them, but play safe and lay up . . . yes there was the ball in the ditch again. Twenty-nine were able to make the Lady Captain’s away day to Bishop’s Stortford, where past Bush Hill Park member Lindsey Bannister now plays, and Lindsey joined us on the day. Again we were very well looked after, the course and food were great and the weather was very kind.

. . . and for your 2018 diary

Our incoming Lady Captain, Irene Dickinson has organised her overnighter and away days for 2018 and the dates and venues are as follows:

We’ll be going to Aldwickbury, near Harpenden for the away day on 18th June.

The overnighter will be at Dunstan Hall, just south of Norwich on 9th/10th September 2018.

Put the dates in your diary and join us.

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Lady Captain’s Report

New life breathed into Ladies Section as more members joined

I CANNOT believe my year has come to an end I feel like I have been in a whirlwind, the year has passed so quickly. I decided to be Lady Captain for the second time as I did not want to see our section without a Captain. It has not been easy at times, but I have enjoyed my year. I could not have done this job without the support of my committee and many thanks to Irene who has helped me through this last year. I would like to also thank all the ladies who captained teams over the year.

The Ladies’ section has grown over the last few years with many new faces, it has been a challenge remembering their names, but gradually over the year I have got to know them all. I must say our section has improved because of them, or I should say they, have put new life into our section. We have Janet Andrews to thank for her commitment to these ladies. We have had some great golf days, but the away weekend and away day organised by Cela Selley were memorable, I am sure there is a lot to organise and change over the year, but Cela takes it all in her stride so we just turn up and enjoy the day.

My Lady Captain’s day was perfect the golf and lunch for 65 people with a superb lunch from Alasdair and his team. Our bar staff could not have been more helpful, we finished the day on a high with a full bar and lots more fun.

My Charity day for the London Air Ambulance was so much fun. Billie organised the competition and happily everyone won a prize, we had enough homemade cake for all the staff, ladies section, also those lovely gentleman in the bar. On the day we raised £1,351; everyone was so generous. Thank you to all the members who supported my Charity. The final figure will be announced at the Ladies AGM.

Our Invitation day is always a relaxed and fun day. I invited my sister-in-law and two friends, they were very impressed with the whole day. We are known for our wonderful prizes and I think we did not disappoint this year. We have seen many ladies come back year after year so we must be doing something right.

I would like to say a big thank you to our Club Captain David Morris and his wife Tracy who have been very supportive to me over this last year. The good news is Tracy has taken up golf and will hopefully join the club next year. I have come to the end of my second term as Lady Captain also for the last time! So please Ladies do consider putting yourselves forward there is lots of help for you from the committee and lots of fun days for you to enjoy.

I would like to thank all the staff for being so helpful to me, nothing was too much trouble for them.

JENNY POMPHREY, LADY CAPTAIN

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The return of Mr Fabric?

the ability to revert to a more strategic role as Stewart takes up more and more of the tactical and practical tasks, thank you very much Stewart.

Our treasurer has overseen the setting of robust budgets this year, which has understandably not left much fat for immediate investment, including that of fabric. Wonderfully however, Stewart has already demonstrated that under his management, many targets will be exceeded, which may release additional funding for the committee to bid for, or perhaps fight over.

However, even subject to tight fiscal constraints, I am actively formulating proposals for significant investment in addition to covering the essentials such as the office move, installation of high speed broadband, new VOIP telephony, replacement and upgraded computer installations and other commercial innovations which will improve efficiencies and in some cases reduce future running costs thus rendering the investment cost neutral.

I recognise that grand plans can inevitably mean grand costs. However, I think there are ways to raise the necessary funding and now is the time to start realising the huge potential of Bush Hill Park. We have great members, now we need to start building on our potential to provide the club and facilities that will put us at the top of the league.

RAY RIPSHER
Tyrese tops his season - with a hole in one!

IT has been a busy and successful summer of golf for young Tyrese Danso. Tyrese managed to get a convincing win on the iTour at Hartshourne Country Club, Division 1 category. Tyrese had a fantastic round of golf and shot a gross score of 42 over nine holes on the day. Ty soon backed up this performance with a back-to-back win on the Hertfordshire Futures Tour. Tyrese achieved a great score of 28 (one over par) at Chestfield Downs golf club, par 3 course over nine holes.

A dazzling display
Another outstanding performance for Tyrese was a second place finish at the 2017 US Kids Italian Venice Open hosted at Golf Club Della Montecchia on 18-19th August. The talented youngster competed in the Nine Years of Age category and shot a solid 74 (two over par) opening first round which left him in fifth place.

He turned up the heat in the second round as it was a real battle for the top place between Tyrese and another extremely talented player from the Netherlands, who was already one shot ahead of Ty going into the round. They went toe to toe, hole-by-hole, with a dazzling display of outstanding golf. As Ty stepped on to the 17th tee (Par 3) 114 yards, there was a bit of deliberation on club selection with his 'caddie daddy'. who suggested he use a nine iron as he used in practice and round one, but Tyrese insisted on using the eight iron this time round.

Fantastic five
It proved to be the perfect club choice because as Tyrese hit his shot approximately one yard to the left of the flag, five yards shy of the pin, it started to take a gentle bee-line for the hole and eventually dropped in for an amazing hole in one! After all the excitement, Tyrese composed himself in a truly professional manner and followed up with a birdie on the 18th hole which eventually ensured that he was in contention for a top place finish.

Tyrese shot a fantastic five under par round which propelled him into a tie for second place with the young lad from the Netherlands. This top finish has now qualified Tyrese for the 2018 US Kids World Championship in Pinehurst, USA. Just one day later on his return to the UK Tyrese took part in the Middlesex U14/U13 Championship hosted at Strawberry Hill Golf Club.

He managed to obtain a runners-up trophy - another amazing achievement from our nine-year old 'Wee Wonder'.

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Our golf club has been very fortunate to have attracted many excellent people as members of our bar and catering team over recent years and Adam, until recently our Assistant Bar Manager, was certainly one of them. The valuable experience he gained with us led to the offer of Events Manager at Theobalds Park Hotel and Conference Centre so he has decided to move on. We wish him well in his new career.

“BALL IN THE POND? THAT'S £1 IN THE POT!” says new Lady Captain

I JOINED in 2001 but had been associated with the club, through David, and have been attending various events since 1982! By 2001 I had decided that enough was enough and as he spent a lot of his time up here and I seemed to be following him, it was about time that I started to play. Hence I joined in my own right and wondered why I hadn’t done so earlier, the ladies here have been very welcoming and I enjoy my golf and the friends that I have made here.

We have grown as a section this year and I hope that my committee and I will be able to continue this trend by encouraging more ladies to join us over the coming year. I feel that Janet Andrew’s nurture of our new and improving members has been instrumental in this and am pleased to announce that she will continue in this position for the coming year.

My charity is The Alzheimer’s Society and I would like to reintroduce the lady captain’s bunker, or rather pond, and impose a £1 fine for those who go in the pond on the 13th in their round of golf to help boost the charity funds! I think this society does a very good job of not only supporting the sufferers of Alzheimer’s and dementia but also the carers. It also does a very good job in highlighting ways in which sufferers can be helped in their daily life. I have a friend in Derby whose mother is suffering and she has helped set up a friends group that give the carers a respite. This consists of a help group where carers can meet and chat or take time to themselves once a week while my friend runs activities with those that suffer from Alzheimer’s and dementia.

Our committee have decided to run competitions, as a trial over the next year, in three divisions. This division of handicaps gives us a reasonably equal split of members per division although Tracey will monitor the situation dependant on handicap changes and new members joining. Although as a section we had agreed no more cups, we have decided, that in order to make it more inclusive for those with club handicaps and we intend to bring in a new cup for those with handicaps of 36 and above. This is to be played on the same day as the Wright and Angora cups and as such to be included in the John Shaw.

IRENE DICKINSON
“Seven years hard labour? No. Its been fun” says David

It is seven years now since I took on the role of chairman of greens; doesn’t time fly when you’re having fun! In 2010 I was co-opted to the committee and then voted on in the spring of 2011. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time on greens and it has been a pleasure to work with Graham and his team. He and I have met weekly to discuss the issues of the day and to address queries and questions raised by members. Lee also was of great help during much of this time and I will miss our long discussions, impressed as they may have been! Together we used to walk the course, formulate work programmes for the summer and winter and additionally we had breakfast meetings with all the green staff, which were particularly enjoyable, though detrimental to my waistline!

18th push back
I would like to think that I leave the course in better shape than I found it, though I appreciate there is still more that can be done. The most significant developments have been the construction of the new 18th green, the landscaping of the 2nd and the building of the new 18th green, the landscaping of the 2nd and the 18th medal tee further back

Tons of sand
Loving care has been lavished on our greens and it is testament to the green staff that we are able to play on good quality surfaces all the year round. As is the case at all courses, we have to constantly grapple with the threat of diseases such as anthracnose and fusarium, so regular renovations, though an inconvenience, are an essential part of our maintenance programme. This involves verti-draining, top dressing and finally applying fertiliser and fungicide. We apply nearly 100 tonnes of sand to our greens each year, which helps to create surfaces that are smooth and true. It was Old Tom Morris at St Andrews who are smooth and true. It was Old Tom Morris at St Andrews who

New system
One solution to these problems would be to install liners, which prevent stones coming through, help sand to remain in place on slopes and also allows water to penetrate. This option, however, is expensive and will be a major project for the future. We have also spent much time managing woodland, including trees and scrub. This is essential work needed to allow light to greens and tees. Several years ago we commissioned a survey of all our trees to give us a clear idea of those that were diseased and had to be felled and others that needed monitoring. We have had to lose a few beautiful trees over the years but we have planted new ones also. Our main priority during the last few years, however, has been drainage. The 1st, 7th and 11th greens have had drainage installed, as have the 6th and 7th fairways, and in a few weeks time we will be tackling the 12th green and 5th hole. This work has been extremely effective and was carried out in-house, giving us the benefit of only having to pay for materials. The downside of doing it this way, of course, is that the staff are taken away from the golf course. The project that has taken up the majority of my time on committee, however, is the purchase of a new irrigation system. This was the very first issue that Graham requested when I took over in 2010.

Staff commitment
It seems fitting, then, that my last act as chairman of greens will be to oversee the installation of the new system. A new efficient watering system will not only give improved coverage on the greens, but will improve considerably the tees and approaches to the greens, as well as some of the bare patches around the greens. Finally I would like to thank the green staff for their great commitment to Bush Hill Park and for the pride that they show in their work on the course. I am also grateful to them for accepting me and having the patience to answer all my inane questions!

THURSDAY THEMED SUPPER NIGHTS

Booking in advance from 7 - 8.30pm

Thursday 12th October - Tapas Evening
Thursday 19th October - Moroccan Buffet
Thursday 26 October - Candelit French Bistro Night
Thursday 2nd November - Chargrilled Steak Night
Thursday 9th November - Far Eastern Buffet
Thursday 16th November - Beaujolais Day
Thursday 23rd November - Fish and Chip Night
Thursday 30 November - Cheese and Wine Evening

Check the website, notice boards and and Newsletters for further information

Book on-line, at the Club or call 020 8360 5738

Need a drains expert?
We’re here to help with unblocking toilets, clearing drain repairs, CCTV drain inspection or drain cleaning and jetting.

Contact
Barry Clarke
07976 795 330
Ladies, may we tempt you?

AUGUST: Summer sun, drinks on the patio, the smell of burning meat as father loses control of his coals and the fear of that Bank Holiday Monday deluge - all part of the pleasure of that warm summer month. Yes, ‘the Old Contemptibles’ - or The Bush Nationals as those septuagenarians and octogenarians are better known - (and some are more contemptible than others...) met the Ladies in their annual gathering for another match of ‘levelling shots’ and ‘honurable draws’ meaning that they lost badly again! But all wounds were again salved by the wine and good female company after the trials of the match.

Now fast forward to November, and as Thomas Hood (1799-1845) wrote: “No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds - November”. But, in that far from merry month there comes a hint of pleasure and anticipation - yes, it’s BEAUJOLAIS DAY to be held on Thursday 16th November,

This special day for all members is made for fun and an enjoyable social occasion, so please Ladies, because you are such good company, please sign-up when the time comes around so that all teams can enjoy the pleasure of that company and you can perhaps take a ‘little edge’ off those teams comprising of far too earnest Gentlemen.

Let it not be “no warmth, no cheerfulness”....and “no Ladies” on BEAUJOLAIS Day. Make November bright and beautiful for us - and we might even buy you a glass of wine afterwards!

PETER H BETON

Feel Foxy or Tigerish?
Mix with us - you’ll just love it

THE Tigers, Foxes, Rabbits and Mixed are great ways to meet different people and play some great courses. If you would like to take part in any of the Teams full details are on the club’s website or use the email addresses below for each team.

Tigers
For 2018 Jon Copley and I have decided only to enter us into the Bullivant Bowl as we feel that this suits us as a club better. The Bullivant Bowl format is a knockout competition based on a standard bracketed draw, with teams of six players. Matches will comprise three games played on a fourball better ball match play basis off scratch, this is open to players with a handicap between 7 and 12.

As soon as the draw has been made for 2018 we will update the Tigers page on the club’s website.

If you are interested in playing for the Tigers section please contact bhp.tigers@btinternet.com

Foxes
I am very happy to announce that we have joined the Middlesex Foxes League and this will start in 2018. To play in the Foxes you need a handicap of between 9 and 19. These are friendly matches played home and away.

We will play the following clubs, Mill Hill, Pinner Hill, Wyke Green, Stanmore, West Middlesex, Gryms Dyke, Stockley Park, Sudbury and Ealing. The majority of the matches will be held on a Thursday afternoon around 1.30pm with sandwiches and chips afterwards.

If you are interested in playing for the Foxes please email bhp.foxes@btinternet.com

Rabbits
So far we have played 15 matches winning 11 halved 3 and lost 1 our final match is on the 9th of October away to Brookmans Park. I would like to congratulate all members who have played this year and look forward to a successful 2018.

The Rabbits Cup is being held on the 24th of October this is a popular event with a meal afterwards; start up sheet is in the George Low bar.

Congratulations to Norman Carey on winning the Rabbits roll-up for 2017.

From the 24th of October I will restart the Rabbits Winter Eclectic. This will be held over 18 weeks off full handicap £2 per entry, we will meet at the first tee by 10.45am to arrange players and tee off at 11am all members are welcome.

The Rabbits are a very friendly group if you have a handicap between 16 and 28 you are more than welcome to join us. We typically play on a Tuesday afternoon around 1.30pm and a meal afterwards. Cost is £21 for home and away matches. You can find all details regarding dates and matches on the club’s website under Teams/Rabbits.

If you are interested in playing for the Rabbit section, please contact Mark Stevens at bhp.rabbits@btinternet.com

Mixed
Janet Connor and Mark Stevens would like to congratulate all winners for this year and would like to thank everyone for taking part.

Our final match is The Lambert Trophy being held on the 15th October; start sheet is available in the George Low Bar.

If you would like to play but don’t have a partner for any of the matches please contact bhp.mixed@btinternet.com and we will do our very best to arrange a partner for you.

MARK STEVENS
Cliff Fielder and his young partner Dave Griffiths won a close-fought competition at the Bush Nationals’ Guest Day event in September on . . . ‘wait for it’ . . . count-back! Sonny Sheaf and his partner Graham Edwards exactly matched their score but Cliff, a wily old campaigner as we know, deliberately saved his ammunition for a surprise attack in the final stages of the battle. (You have to have served two years of intensive combat training in the military to learn tricks like that!)

Thirty players turned out for this special event in the Bush Nationals calendar and it was interesting to observe how our young guests treated their elders with quiet respect and deference during the afternoon. Quite right too!

The evening dinner was described as ‘convivial’. And it was.

Wafford was ‘first of the few’

THE RA F Cup is the last of the trophies to be played for in the Bush Nationals golf season, but this year’s trophy had fewer contestants than in the past, possibly because many of the would-be combatants were “Grounded”! Only 13 players turned-out which was unlucky for most of them. Yes, of course there was one lucky winner: Peter Wafford, of course - but knowing his skill around the course his victory cannot be described as ‘lucky’. Anyone using that term would be immediately challenged to single combat with the old master, and most of us know who would come off best unless we tied one of his arms behind his back.

The Bush Nationals have a happy knack of choosing the right man as next season’s Captain because Group Captain Sonny Sheaf came second - albeit after count-back. We daresay Sonny could have won the R.A.F. Cup if he’d really wanted to, but he had obviously decided that an honourable second spot would be the most appropriate in the circumstances. By the way, Bryon Boyes won “Best Lowest Score” - whatever that is. But Bryon was never one to hold back when there are accolades to hand out. The 13 contestants were joined by four non-playing members at dinner afterwards and between them they polished off steak and kidney pie described as “substantial” in character if not in numbers!

Alongside Sonny next year will be Bob Manchee (President), Dave Turner (Treasurer) and Wing Commander Peter Smith who continues to keep us up to scratch as Secretary. Here’s to the next time.

Sadly as this issue went to press we heard of the passing of one our members Mike Baily. He will be missed by his many friends.

Enjoy Sunday Lunch at Bush Hill Park Golf Club

Book for our delicious Sunday Lunch served every Sunday from 12 noon

2-Courses - £17.50
3-Courses - £19.95
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bhpgc.com
Bush Hill Park Golf Club 2017/2018

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also on Management Committee

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