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Match and Handicap Report for 2016

Competitions

The Buckleys Brewery Cup and Trubshaw Bowl were postponed early season due to heavy rain.

Other competitions were played as planned, with some excellent scoring helped by the fantastic conditions of our greens which were excellent throughout the season.

Our Premier stroke play event, The Gold and Silver Medals were both won by our young star golfer Rhys Morgan who had a superb all round season.

A very successful Finals day held nine great matches played in glorious conditions. With our two 'Majors', Elliott Anderson became Club Champion and Dylan Rees won the Ashburnham Cup.

Our final Cup, The Directors Cup was played 29th October, three weeks later than planned due to accommodating earlier postponed competitions.

The weather again played its part in our Christmas competitions, with cancellations due to rain and fog. When we did play on the last weekend before Christmas, we had two fantastic days weather, with the Saturday competition won by Cath Jones and Mari Jones - well done Ladies.

Team matches

Friendly Matches:

A big thanks to Mr Tony Washer, Mr Jeff Kavanagh, and Mr John Jenkins for their organisation of the Harlech, St Pierre and Langland Bay friendly matches. It is important that these fixtures continue to be well supported. We may win one next year as we have 3 home matches!

Ping Mixed Knockout:

The Ping Mixed Team did exceptionally well again in 2016 reaching the final stages at Cradoc Golf Club.

Rabbits Team:

The Rabbits team captained by Paul Rees had a good season overall, finishing 3rd in pool B, one home loss and 2 home draws possibly preventing a pool B title. Captains pick for consistency were Colin Samuel, Mike Ruzzak, Dennis Bradbury, Fred Roberts and Colin and Steve Brown.

Dyfed League B Team:

Captained by Dai Tovey, the B Team held their position in Division 3 and perhaps achieved the Best Team result of the season when they beat arch rivals Machynys

away on the last game of the season. Keeping up this form will soon see promotion. Top point earners were Martin Phillips and Steve Bolton with 5 wins and 2 halves from 10. Gerald McCormack 5 wins from 9 and the B team Captain also achieving 5 wins and 2 halves.

Dyfed A Team:

An excellent season under the leadership of Richard Brice and Justin Nicholas saw the A team winning Division 2 Title and gaining promotion to Division 1. With Rhys Morgan being highest points scorer and Colin Jones the player with the highest percentage; this emphasises that the Brice/Nicholas selection process of youth backed with considerable experience is a winning one! Richard is stepping aside as Captain and has handed the reins to Jordan Davies our youngest ever Dyfed League A Team Captain. Thanks Richard for your outstanding service and good luck Jordan.

Ashburnham 1st Team:

Elliott Anderson and Aled Greville gained an excellent win against Haverfordwest in the Victory Shield before losing to a strong Cardigan side in the following round.

After losing a close match in the Welsh Team Championship to Milford Haven at Trefloyne, our 1st team came back strongly by qualifying in top spot at the County Championships and winning the Dyfed Super Six finals at Carmarthen, beating Machynys in the semi-finals, and a strong Cardigan side in the final. Well done Elliott, Devlin, Richard, Rhys, Aled and Jordan - we now have a fantastic squad for the future.

Outstanding achievements-international

Aled Greville represented Wales at U16 level, in the Quadrangular matches in Belfast and against England at Newport GC also playing at the European Young Masters in Switzerland. He also represented Wales in the Boys Home Internationals at Ballyliffin GC, Ireland. He has been selected for the Wales U21's squad.

Olwen Davies represented Wales at the Senior Ladies Home Internationals at Alyth Golf Club, Scotland a club which celebrates the same centenary as Ashburnham.

Other Tournaments/Events held at Ashburnham in 2016

Jamega Tour Event

Carmarthenshire Open

Dyfed U18 v Glamorgan

Welsh Seniors Inter County Team Championship (inaugural Event)

Various Golf Union of Wales Squad training.

Handicapping

The Match and Handicap Committee feel that a fair attitude has been adopted towards handicapping. Many 'Groups' of golfers adopt their own internal handicapping for playing amongst their own groups, and it has been appreciated when consistent exceptional scoring has been relayed to the Club Match and Handicap Committee for fair adjustments under General Play.

It should be noted that there are midweek handicap qualifying competitions held throughout the season which are a good opportunity for individuals to achieve their realistic handicap.

20 Players received an upward adjustment in their handicaps following the annual review.

Other business

Speed of Play:

One of the biggest challenges throughout the year has been the speed of play. The vast majority of our members are very keen that the speed of play improves. The Committee decided to revert back to 3 ball format for the last 3 singles competitions of 2016. This format will continue in 2017 for the 14 singles competitions which are played over the 7 month season (April to October). The Committee are confident that there will be an improvement with speed of play in these competitions resulting in a more enjoyable golf experience for all. All other dates are at 4-ball format which represents the majority of our golfing calendar.

The matter of slow-play should be monitored closely by next year's committee but progress can only be achieved if we all as members support each other in achieving this.

Competitions for all:

This year's committee have discussed holding certain competitions where we can all take part and compete. Club competitions in which different Groups of players compete for the same prizes but play from different sets of tees have been introduced by many Clubs. Examples include competitions open to men and women. With ageing memberships, a number of clubs are encouraging their more senior members to play in competitions from the forward 'Men's' tees. Stroke allowances are introduced for those players playing the longer course. Whilst format to our traditional Cup competitions will remain unchanged, it is felt that we have enough free dates to introduce this format and it will be passed to next year's committee for further consideration.

**Ian Thomas, Mark Lloyd, Simon Gravelle.
Match and Handicap Committee.**