

A very warm welcome to all our Henlow Golf Club members, those who have re-joined and to those who have just joined the club this year. I am pleased to report that the membership numbers are increasing and moving in the right direction but, as always, we need more people to join. This is a wonderful club with a loyal and friendly atmosphere.

This is my first newsletter for my Captaincy this year and I hope to add a few more as the year progresses. Firstly, I would like to express my thanks to Pete Blanch for the sterling effort he has put into the course, especially when you remember the state of the course at this time last year following the 'beast from the east' and to what Pete has achieved now. Having said that the weather so far this year has been good and has helped, I think. As you know I help Pete on a Thursday doing the more menial tasks that need to be done, but there are jobs that we need to do to enhance the course and one of those is to add sand to a few of our bunkers, bear with us and we will try to achieve that.

Additionally, I have been chopping off the lower branches of the trees that line the 9<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> fairways in order to allow the course machinery to get around those areas more easily. Currently the old pond on the 15<sup>th</sup> is being made into a bunker but at the moment it is work in progress so for the time being please treat that as GUR until further notice. If anyone has any spare time on their hands and would like to help on the course please let Pete or myself know, I'm sure we can put you to good use.

As most of you are aware my Captain's charity this year is called 'Please Take Me There'. It is a charity that assists patients who have cancer to get to the treatment they need by air. The cost of getting to and from hospital appointments can work out to be very expensive and the 'Take Me There' charity uses a light aircraft to fly patients and their families to appointments up and down the country. The pilots and helpers give up their time free of charge so all the money raised goes directly to the charity, it costs about £300.00 per flight to transport, there and back, a patient from Norwich to Addenbrookes (Norwich airport to Cambridge airport). At the time of writing this letter the club has raised just over £500.00, a big thank you to everyone so far. A note in your diaries my Captain's day is scheduled for the 7<sup>th</sup> Sep.

Competitions has been running very well and smoothly this year, a big thank you to Alan for all the hard work he has put in. Competitions are going to get busier as we move into the better weather and the singles and doubles knockout phases, we also have Club and Seniors matches starting soon see the notices in the Club House for the starting sheets and please support the Club where you can. We would love to see new members joining in the various competitions that are run each week.

Moreover, we have a very well supported Seniors Section aptly run by Mick Briscoe Seniors Captain. The Seniors have a have a 9-hole roll-up on a Monday and Wednesday morning and there is a 9-hole a roll-up for anyone on a Friday morning, so please join in if you can.

I am very happy that the RAF have announced that the planned closure of the site has been extended to at least 2023, I thought that this would be the Clubs last year but we have golf now until 2023. There may be also be other movements afoot with talk about the Flying Club taking over responsibility for the airfield but nothing has officially been agreed yet, we will keep you informed of any developments however.

Enjoy your golf and I'll catch up with you on my next newsletter. I hit two good balls today. I stepped on a rake (Henry Youngman)

Yours in golf

*Chris Harwood*

Captain

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