

Broome Manor Golf Club Secretary's Report 2007/08

Welcome to the AGM of Wiltshire's best and most successful golf club. It has been a busy year so there is a lot to report, please bear with me.

I would like to thank the council staff here at Broome, the members and the Management Committee for their support during a busy year.

Firstly, I will get some administrative items out of the way before reporting on this years golfing achievements.

We have had success in attracting new members through our advertisements in the Evening Advertiser and the Winter Special offer scheme and we continue to attract new members which is essential for the well-being of the club.

The Management Committee has approved the replacement of the existing two computer systems used to manage and maintain membership and handicaps with a single new system. The replacement hardware is on order and work is now in progress to implement the HandicapMaster system before the new season commences in April. I have produced a document for you which explains the changes and the benefits which the new system will give us, the biggest single change that you will see is that the new system will allow members to input their own scores to the system for all medals and drawn events. (Take the opportunity to go through the document and answer any queries).

Later in the year, once the new system is bedded in, we will turn our attention to improving the club's website. Despite the old technology which we use to maintain our website, Nigel Peat our web master does an excellent job for the club. I would like to thank Nigel for all his hardwork.

Moving on to the years golfing achievements.

2007 saw the club celebrate its 30th anniversary year with a week-end of fun and competitions back in August. The weather was not on our side but it did not dampen the spirits of those who worked very hard to make it a success so please thank Jean Gee, Linda Brittain and Sue Silto for their tremendous efforts.

Back in September, Broome Manor was put on the national golfing scene and featured on Sky Sports TV through an event staged in the memory of Toby Drayton. The event was organised by David Howell, Dave Buckingham, the Jamega team and many others and we saw a host of European stars such as David, Paul Casey, Niclas Fasth and Graham McDowell play the course which we play week in, week out. We also saw celebrities such as Bernhard Gallagher, Mark Roe, Wayne Riley and the delectable Di Stewart playing alongside our own amateur golfers.

It was a fantastic day for Broome Manor the like of which may never be equalled and I am sure we all have our favourite memories of the day. Two memories that remain with me are Santino Vitale equalling Paul Casey's drive on the ninth hole and, secondly, Di Stewart, can't imagine why she left such a lasting impression.

Most importantly, it was a fitting tribute in memory of Toby Drayton and raised a huge amount of money for both his family and the British Heart Foundation.

On the domestic front, once again, the club has enjoyed a successful season in what was our 30th Anniversary year.

Congratulations to all four captains, the Wiltshire League Captain and the Junior Organiser for what has been achieved. So congratulations to Paul Sandry, Damien Mackman, Phil Titcombe, Barry Gibson, Linda Brittain and our Club Captain, Lee Robson.

As ever, the seniors kept me very busy throughout the year with their packed agenda of competitions. They played their usual 50 medals and competitions, and 26 friendly matches. Congratulations to the Senior Champion - young Mike Hart.

The juniors came third in the Junior Wiltshire League but this was a year when a number of them have improved rapidly and in many cases dramatically reduced their handicaps. A couple of juniors who should get a mention are Michael Cox who won one of his matches 12 up by shooting a one over par round playing off 11, he now plays off 6 and Yoshio Takeuchi who now plays off 3 put in some winning performances for the men's Wiltshire League team, Congratulations to them both. The Club Junior Champion was Neil Puffett who will be this year's Junior Captain. The junior section was greatly supported by the junior committee who are Andy John, Les Cleverly, Kay Hall, Barry Sandry and Damien Mackman, so thank you for your help and hard work.

The ladies section had success in various county events through the efforts of Gaynor Deacon, Clare Smith and Samantha Masters. Gaynor reached the quarter finals of the HSBC Amateur Matchplay competition, Claire won silver in the County Captain's Prize and Samantha had a number of successes and was awarded second place as the most improved lady golfer in the county.

Caroline Phillippo and Margaret Bryant reached the semi-final of the County Foursomes Knockout. On the home front, Theresa Healy retained the Ladies Club Championship.

In the Mens Section, the club championships back in June was won by Sam Matton in what was a closely fought contest.

Our Men, retained the Wiltshire Team Shield and once again went on to represent the county at the Hesketh Golf Club in Southport. Also, a number of our players were part of the Wiltshire team which won the Southwest Counties event, the first time Wiltshire have won the event in its 83 year history, so congratulations to Sam Matton, Miles Mackman and next year's Captain Kev Phillips.

Captains Day was a great success thanks to the efforts of Lee Robson and his supporters.

The men came second in the Wiltshire League narrowly missing out to Marlborough but we had our revenge beating them in the quarter finals on our way to winning the County Finals day. Due to other commitments some of our regular league players were unavailable for a number of matches, so we fielded 20 players in the county events all of whom did us proud.

Finally, two club members who deserve a special mention for their remarkable achievements this year are Sam Matton and Miles Mackman.

Our Club Champion, Sam Matton, had a very successful year in which he:

- Retained the Wiltshire County Colts Championship
- Won the County Championship
- Won the Southwest Counties event
- Won the Welsh Under 21 championship

Sam has now been selected as a member of the England under 21 squad.

Once again, Miles Mackman had a great year and we congratulate him for his achievements which include:

- Winning the Lagonda Trophy Championship
- Miles was a member of the England team which won the Nations Cup in the Chiberta Grand Prix Trophy event in France, coming 5th individually.
- He is the West of England Strokeplay champion and Matchplay Champion for the second time

Miles is now a member of the England A squad and is over in Spain right now preparing for an international match later this month.

Looking ahead, the captains for 2008 are Neil Puffett for the Juniors, Sue Silto for the Ladies, Peter Hancock for the Seniors and Kev Phillips the Club Captain and I wish them every success in the coming year.

Colin Beresford
Secretary