



West Midlands Golf Club
Newsletter

Dear Member,

Welcome to the West Midlands Golf Club newsletter for Spring 2019. Created by the WMGC Committee, the intention is to provide you with valuable information about the Course, Club, Competitions & Events, to bring members together who love the game of golf.

Join our private Facebook page for up to date information on the Course, Club and Competitions along with friendly discussions with other members.



Club Captain's Welcome

Hello, I'm Pete Coulson your Club Captain for 2019/20

As Captain of West Midlands Golf Club it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to an exciting season ahead.

I have been a member at WMGC for 7 years with 4 years as a committee member, and I consider it a huge honour and privilege to be Captain of the club going forward. I look forward to meeting up with you at one of the many club and social events.

I would like to wish our Ladies Captain, Lynn Bould and Senior's Captain, John Cleaver the very best of luck for the 2019/20 season ahead.

I am looking forward to working with my Vice Captain Richard O'Brien who is always a good advisor to have by your side, as well as the committee at WMGC who work so hard for the club and members, thank you.



If you are a new member, our website offers just a taste of what West Midlands Golf Club has to offer. Please accept my warm invitation to play a round with me or a member of the committee, as that is the best way to experience and appreciate the facilities the club has to offer.

Compared to previous years this winter has been relatively mild with the course playing reasonably well during this spell. I speak on behalf of all members when I say we're all hoping for a summer to that of 2018 and with spring upon us and the clocks changing back it will certainly give us that feel good factor to shed off those winter blues and look forward to those long summer days where we can all enjoy our golf.

The first of the Majors, the Spring Shield, is on the Horizon and I am glad to report all the Majors last year were very well attended. I have every confidence that this season's majors will be just as exciting and competitive

For the 2019/20 season we have a very full calendar with the club entering into the Avon League playing a number of games home and away, this I am sure will be competitive in both team selection and matches. I would like to thank our President, Kevin Breslin for taking on the role of Team Secretary and organising these matches.

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Your local children's hospice

My charity this year is Acorns Children Hospice, they provide care in three hospices, Acorns in Birmingham, Three Counties and in the Black Country, as well as in the home and community. Acorns Children's Hospice provides Care, Support, Fun and Laughter for life limited and life threatened babies, children and young people and support for their families. In the past year Acorns have cared for 870 children and more than 1,140 families. It costs Acorns nearly £10 million every year to provide these services, and they rely upon the generosity of the public for the majority of this amount so I hope you support me in supporting Acorns, thank you.

Our private Facebook page has gone from strength to strength and is excellent for providing up to date information on the Course, Club and Competitions along with friendly discussion with other members.

In closing, may I take this opportunity to wish all the members of the club an enjoyable year's golf and every success in their respective club matches.



Senior Captain's Welcome

My name is John Cleaver and I have taken over as Senior Captain from Norman Pilsbury, last year's captain. I would like to thank Norman for all of the groundwork he put in organising the Seniors Team matches for this season.

Welcome to 2019, as spring is upon us I am looking forward to the coming season. Last year the events and competitions, mostly played on Mondays, were well supported by the seniors. We still need you to support these competitions in 2019 and I would like to see even more members taking part and help the numbers grow.

This year will again see competitions on Mondays and a Seniors Club Championship which will be competed for over one day so keep an eye open as details will be posted on the notice boards. Also, the Inter-club Senior matches will continue, whereby WMGC will play against clubs in the Midlands area.



Ladies Captain's Welcome

My name is Lyn Bould and I'm the Ladies Captain for 2019. We are a small group of ladies, who are all friendly and happy playing their golf.

We haven't had a bad winter as we have managed to play most weeks. An added bonus for us was being included in the Seniors monthly Texas Scramble, which has been great fun. Indeed hilarious at times.

We have a great Summer to look forward to, with quite a few ladies playing in the Warwickshire vets comps and several opens. We have a friendly match against the Warwickshire coming up in May, and this year we have introduced a Summer doubles knockout which hopefully will go down well.

I would like to wish my fellow new Captains Pete and John good luck for their year and hopefully we will have good ones.

A little about myself:

I've been a member a West Midlands for a few years now, along with my husband Ken. I've been the ladies Treasurer for a few years but have now handed that over to Sheila Williams. It's been mostly a happy time and I enjoy being with all the ladies at golf and other social occasions. I would finally like to say a special thank you to Jill Priestley, last year's captain, she's helped me an awful lot in these first few months.



Course Update

I am glad to see the back of another winter, although it hasn't been too bad this year compared with what we have had over the last 4 or 5 years. It's always nice to see the spring arrive and move the clocks forward to Summer time. We can already see the golf courses starting to grow and dry up ready for the new season. The greens have had an early renovation (they have been scarified, overseeded and top dressed, and another microtine and top dress on 2nd April).



The last two years have seen us building the new 8th hole, in 2017 the green and surrounding bunkering construction, and last year opening the hole and finishing off the bunkers and tidying up following the works. There is a bit of drainage work to do at about 70 yards from the green, which we will do this year, but essentially it is finished and we can get back to improving the rest of the course. We have purchased a tree spade and the greens staff have moved 200 trees from areas where they were not really in play, in hedgerows etc, to more strategic positions, where they will make a difference to the individual holes. Including the new 8th hole, by the 9th tee, between holes 1 and 2 and others around the course.

We suffered with some Fusarium patch disease at the end of last year, which was due to our reliable chemical becoming a banned substance, so we have had to consult with the STRI (Sports Turf Research Institute) and our chemical suppliers to come up with a replacement strategy to prevent and treat future attacks. Most of which you won't even be aware of happening, but we don't want that type of disease again this year. So if you are held up at all by the green staff whilst spraying the greens or doing any work on them, please just give them a few minutes to finish what they are doing and get out of the way. After all, any work they are doing is to benefit the golfer.

Are you using the new howdidido (<https://www.howdidido.com>) facility to monitor your results? If you do not have a login, please email me at mark@wmgc.co.uk and I will guide you through how to do this. The same goes for logging in to ESP (<https://www.e-s-p.com/elitelive/selectsite.php>), where you can book a tee time online (and now you can also cancel it) and you can top up your membership card (inc 10% discount) so you have money to spend at the club.

If you need any advice on how to get involved in playing in competitions, please just get in touch and we will try to help. You can also join our Facebook group called West Midlands & Widney Manor Golf Club, where you can ask for players to join up with and get news about what is coming up.

I look forward to seeing you at the club soon

Mark Harray

Manager



Men's Competitions



Spring Shield – Sunday 14th April 2019

The first Major of the year (off blue tees) is on April 14th. The draw for the tee times will have been done by the time this is published so if you have missed the sign-up but still want to join in then let a Committee member know asap and you'll be added to the reserve list for when someone drop outs.

Turkey Trot

Congratulations to **Les Griffiths** for winning the 2018 Turkey Trot held on December 9th.

Les shot 40 points beating four others by 1 point, in a field of 39 entrants. All members who played in the competition picked up a prize for their efforts though with the winner having the first pick from a table of golf and drink related items down to last place, who walked off with some tees.

Pos*	Player	Score	Handicap
1	Les Griffiths	40 pts	9.8
2	Steve Johnson	39 pts	17.1
3	Paul Ivey	39 pts	11.5
4	Christopher O'Beirne	39 pts	25.6
5	Allan Mitchell	39 pts	12.4

Winter Doubles

Steve Partridge and **Paul Ivey** won the Winter Double match play which started in October and finished in March. Beating Richard Davies and Richard O'Brien 4&3.

Winter Singles

Phil Smith vs Richard Hollis, singles final still to be played.

Winter Eclectic

West Mids Winter Eclectic 2018/19 05 March 2019			
West Midlands GC White Card		Par: 74	SSS: 72
Division 1 49 players ^			
Name	Rounds	Score	
Phil Ward (18c)	5	56 ▼	
Christopher O'Beirne (26c)	4	54 ▼	
Mark Knowles (24c)	3	53 ▼	
Peter Coulson (21c)	4	53 ▼	
Steve Johnson (16c)	6	52 ▼	

During the Winter we ran a new competition called the Eclectic. It was run over 6 rounds, all on a Sunday, over 5 months. The competition is scored by your best stableford score per hole. So the winner would be the player who has the best combined stableford score over 18 holes across the 6 rounds.

The first Winter Eclectic winner with a score of 56 points was **Phil Ward** winning by 2 points from Chris O'Beirne. This was a very successful competition and one that the players talked a lot about over the

months.

Winter Order of Merit

The Winter OOM was a high scoring competition this year (compared to last Winter) due to the great weather we had. It was won by **Giles Fellingham** on 192 points beating 2nd place Lakhveer Kallar by 3 points.

Pos	Name	Top 5 Scores					Sum of Best 5	Avg of Best 5
		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th		
1	Giles Fellingham	42	39	38	37	36	192	38.4
2	Lakhveer Kallar	39	39	39	36	36	189	37.8
3	John Cleaver	41	41	35	34	33	184	36.8
4	Lee Nixon	41	40	37	33	31	182	36.4
5	Paul Ivey	39	37	35	35	35	181	36.2

Majors — Rule change

There have been a few amendments to the rules this year around competing in the Majors so please make sure you have familiarised yourself with these asap. They can be found at the front of the 2019 hand book.

For those at West Midlands we have created the chart below to show what’s required to “win” the respective competition. Anyone can enter the competitions (except the Club Championship) but you must be eligible to win them. To enter the Club Championship, you must have played in 3 qualifying competitions and one of this year’s Majors within the last 6 months as well as be a home amateur player.

Competition	Schedule	Tees	Eligibility
	All day	WHITE TEES	 <ul style="list-style-type: none">  West Midlands Golf Club Members  Widney Manor Golf Club
	Before a set time tee off	BLUE TEES	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members of other clubs can play with a Home member
	Drawn Tee Times	BLUE TEES	Played in 3  within last 6 months  <ul style="list-style-type: none">  West Midlands Golf Club Home Club  Widney Manor Golf Club
	Before a set time tee off	BLUE TEES	Played in 1  within last 6 months  <ul style="list-style-type: none">  West Midlands Golf Club Home Club  Widney Manor Golf Club

Avon League

Hello all

I wanted to bring everyone up to date with our upcoming season in the Avon League. We were contacted by the League late last year and were invited to join it for 2019. Having spoken to several members and with the backing of the owners, the committee felt now was the right time to start competitive golf again against local clubs.



		Home	Away	
April	Saturday 13 Apr	Rugby GC	Saturday 06 Apr	Whitefiles GC
	Saturday 20 Apr	Stratford Oaks GC	Sunday 28 Apr	Stonebridge GC
			Saturday 04 May	The Warwickshie GC
May			Sunday 19 May	Copeswood Grange GC
June	Saturday 08 Jun	The Vale GC	Saturday 01 Jun	Atherstone GC
	Sunday 30 Jun	Oakridge GC		
July				
August				
	Saturday 31 Aug	The Welcome GC		

I believe we should be able to 'hold our own' against clubs on a similar standing to ourselves. All matches will be held either on a Saturday or Sunday and dates have been carefully chosen not to clash with Majors, OOMs etc. The format is 6 pairs matches with a maximum handicap of 18. There are 5 home fixtures and 5 away fixtures and a 'finals day' which will be held at Oakridge Golf Club on Saturday 21st September this year.

Players representing the club in matches will be expected to wear a Team Shirt, these are available for anyone to purchase at an attractive price of just £25.

Match fee for each game is £15 (home and away) which includes a meal at the end for those taking part.

I will provide regular updates on the noticeboard and Facebook. Everyone who has expressed an interest in playing will get to play in at least 1 home and 1 away match.

Kevin Breslin

2019 Charity Day



SUNDAY
14TH JULY



West Midlands Golf Club
CAPTAIN'S CHARITY DAY

In support of Acorns Children Hospice.

Tee times will be available between 7am & 12pm.

£40 FOR A TEAM OF FOUR!

Plus reduced green fee of £20pp (if necessary)

Hole Sponsorship Available

From £150 per hole, signature holes 1st & 18th £250 per hole

If you are interested in sponsoring a hole or you would like to support on the day please contact Stevej@WestMidsGC.co.uk

Further information will be posted soon on the club noticeboards & Facebook.

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Your local children's hospice

2019 Ryder cup

SUNDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER



As Vice Captain I am honored to also be our Ryder Cup captain.

I'm delighted to fulfill the role and eager to retain the Ryder Cup with a team selected through similar qualifying criteria as last year e.g. a combination of winners of our Majors, Order of Merit standings and Captains picks.

This year we will face the Widney Manor team on their home ground.

Further details to follow and will be posted on noticeboards and Facebook. Look out for the sign-up sheet in club house and get your name down to represent the club!

Richard O'Brien

2019 Upcoming Entertainment Nights

Go online <http://www.thelakeatbarston.co.uk> for more information and dates.

Spring is finally here and we're looking forward to warmer weather and lighter evenings! Why not try one of our fantastic tribute nights this spring? Tickets start at just £25pp and all our shows include a three course meal, live entertainment, disco and late bar. The perfect night out! See pictures below for our April, May and June shows.

To book please call us on: 01675 444 890

APRIL		
Fri 5th	NEIL DIAMOND	£25
Sat 6th	REGGAE & SKA	£25
Fri 12th	ABBA	£25
Sat 13th	GEORGE MICHAEL	£25
Fri 19th	ABBA & 70's	£25
Fri 26th	FREDDIE MERCURY	£25
MAY		
Fri 3rd	ABBA & 70's	£25
Sat 4th	REGGAE	£25
Fri 10th	70's & 80's SOUL	£25
Fri 17th	JERSEY BOYS	£25
Sat 18th	THE EAGLES	£25
Fri 24th	SOUL & MOTOWN	£25
Sat 25th	SIMPLY RED	£25
Fri 31st	ABBA & 70's	£25
JUNE		
Fri 7th	UB40	£25
Fri 14th	CHER & MEATLOAF	£25
Sat 15th	MICHAEL JACKSON	£25
Fri 21st	JERSEY BOYS	£25
Sat 22nd	NEIL DIAMOND	£25
Sat 29th	THE BEATLES	£25