



December Newsletter

Hello and welcome to our final newsletter of 2019...exactly one year to the day that we wrote our first one and exactly 400 days since we joined Brinkworth on 27th October 2018.

Well I don't know about you, but what a year it's been. For us, it's been a whirlwind both professionally and personally with the major event being our wedding in August...ahhh!

So, below is a brief summary of what we've achieved in the last year and what you can expect in 2020.

COURSE NEWS

With Justin's contract at Westonbirt ending in August, you may have seen his cheery face around the course and clubhouse a lot more in recent months. And with that came the added benefit of some much-needed help for Mike, along with advice and experience the course demanded. Young Callum has also been spending a couple of days a week assisting the Greens Team...he's quiet and shy, so please give him a wave when you see him!

And on that note, we would just like to extend our huge appreciation and gratitude to Mike for all his hard work over the last year (and more) and to all our volunteers, no matter how big or small your contribution, we sincerely thank you and

Although we've seen more rain this autumn than has been experienced for many years, we think the course has fared better than expected and are confident that this is largely due to the work that has been started on the greens. Quite a few courses around Wiltshire have suffered and had to close for the odd day, as have we, but we've picked up a few more visitors considering.

As you can appreciate, mowing has been difficult over the last few weeks but please rest assured and trust that the Greens Team know what they must do and when. After all the hard work over the last 6 months, the last thing the course needs now is for the machinery to churn it up.

To summarise, work to date has included:

- Weeding of all greens
- Aerating Tees, Fairways and Greens
- Top dressing and repairing damaged areas on the greens – moss treatment, micronutrient applied and turf hardening against disease
- Slitting Fairways
- Hollow core, over-seeding, top dressing and vertidraind the worst 10 greens

Although renovations are always ongoing, further moss eradication on the greens, hollow core and sand treatment on the tees will take place over the coming weeks (weather permitting).

Kay and Geof Bryant took some time to walk the whole course back in September, to identify areas of work required to improve the aesthetics of the course which included, but not limited to, fixing ball washers (ongoing), bins, new signage and repairs to existing signage, strimming around tee areas etc. This included painting and fixing the roped edging on the entrance which has now been repainted with new rope which I hope you agree is more aesthetically pleasing now.

You will see new signs going up around the course over the coming weeks. Some we already have but just need placing, others are currently being made. And, if any of you are confused as to why we are currently advertising Woodbridge Park on the roadside again, this was requested by the residents in response to the name change affecting their postal address.

If you've played in the last 3 weeks, we are sure you could not have missed the new bridge on the 4th. This project really was a joint effort and we would like to thank Roger Lindley for his design and construction, along with Justin, Geof Bryant, Malcolm Baker, Trevor Packham and David Taylor for their brawn and assistance with putting it together. And, not forgetting all our members and guests who have contributed to our charity this past year which enabled us to purchase some of the materials for this bridge.

We feel we ought to mention how upset and disappointed we were to find the bridge had been vandalised and defaced literally one day after it was completed. As yet, we do not know who this person or persons were, but we are disheartened by the immaturity and disrespect at what we all had achieved, and would just like to reiterate that this project was a JOINT effort by a much wider selection of members and guests who contributed to the charity fund, and not just those that the graffiti referred to.

On a more positive note, we are now turning our attentions to constructing a new bridge on the 2nd. Plans are currently being made, and we are praying for drier weather to allow us to make a start on the construction using the necessary machinery required.

Whilst talking about machinery; during the past year Justin has purchased 5 new pieces of kit which include rough mower, fairway/collars mower, tees mower, Top Dresser and a flail mower. More kit will be purchased in order to service and repair our machines on a regular basis.

We would also like to extend our thanks for the appreciation offered by the Seniors section in recognising the work we have been doing to bring the course and club up to a higher standard. Justin has always maintained he has a 3-year plan to get the course and most definitely the greens, up to an acceptable standard to promote and encourage an increase in our members section.

We've had another full year of competitions with some worthy winners and our fair share of charity matches being played. The biggest being the Rotary Club who played their charity match in June with a record attendance. So, a very well done to the organisers for their achievement and we look forward to next year's match.

Three of our members and finest soldiers played The Longest Day Golf Challenge in June which turned out to be one of the wettest days of the month. But to give them their credit, they kept going and played from 4.45am with 4 rounds of 18. Great effort for your charity, well done boys!

Two of our buggys have now gone back for the winter but we have maintained 2 for use during the winter should the weather be kind to us.

CLUBHOUSE NEWS

We have a few events planned for next year with more details coming soon. However, should there be any events of interest to you, please let us know and we will see what we can arrange.

Kim left us at the end of November, so a new advert has gone out. Megs will be taking 3 weeks off over the Christmas break which will leave Sue and Kay running the clubhouse. Even though we are coming into our quiet period, please bear with us as we will still be pretty stretched.

The new winner boards have arrived and will be going up on the wall soonest. The renovation/painting projects will begin over the next two months to freshen and smarten up the clubhouse. We are looking to offer a coffee morning for the ladies with cake and ummm.... Coffee with a view to increasing our ladies' section, along with some golf coaching for small groups.

We have introduced a Full English breakfast from Friday to Sunday to encourage locals and non-golfers to visit. We have just sourced some new 'local' sausages and are awaiting the new batch!

Our 'To Do List' still continues to grow but we are extremely positive about the future of the course and club and appreciate your commitment and loyalty thus far; we will continue to welcome your feedback and if there is anything you would like to see on future Newsletters, please don't be shy, let us know.

New Winter Opening Hours

Mon-Thurs 8:00am - 3pm; Friday 7.30am – 8pm; Saturday 8.00am – 5pm; Sunday 8.00am – 4pm.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and here's to a progressive New Year!