



March Newsletter

Hello and welcome to our pre-season newsletter.

The first thing to say is HOORAY...we have survived our first 6 months. And it is only now, whilst writing, that we realise just how time flies. We still have a mountain to climb, but positivity and optimism are still very much our driving force.

The days are getting longer and lighter and what a difference that is going to make, with the warmer weather ahead of us and a full calendar for both the Seniors and Brinkworth Golf Club.

If you follow us on Facebook or Twitter (@GolfBrinkworth) you may have seen that we are pleased to say we are still the official home of the Monkey Club Golf Society. Although some members are still playing at other courses, we are confident that the whole group will be back with us soon.

Sixteen of The Monkey Club will be kicking off their season with a short tour to Belek, Turkey. Only one of them will win the European Tour Trophy. We will be filling their bellies in the Clubhouse and wishing them a 'bon voyage' from midnight on Wednesday 20th March.

Once again, we would like to summarise below what changes have been started and completed, and further changes to come in 2019!

COURSE NEWS

We have designed a new road sign and are waiting for this to be created and erected, we are hoping this will be done within the next 2 weeks. Having that good first impression is very important, and we can't wait for it to go up!

As well as all the wonderful work that our volunteers continue to do on and around the course, our Greens Team have started with the Spring renovations programme. Mother Nature still plays a massive part in this, but so far we have:-

- spiked all greens and will continue to weed
- selective moss kill on the greens
- Liquid feed with turf hardener
- Verti-CUT all greens

Further works in Spring include:

- Verti-DRAIN all greens
- Liquid feed with turf hardener and moss suppressant
- Over-seed all greens (when soil temperature rises)
- Top dress all greens

We aim to carry out regular maintenance on the greens throughout the summer months (growing season) to produce a decent playing surface, this will include but won't be limited to:-

- Spiking
- Verti-cutting
- Top dressing
- Applying a wetting agent

You may have seen our new Golf Pro Paul in the clubhouse over the last few weeks. Please make sure you say hello next time you see him...he's hard to miss! Once the clocks go forward, you will see Paul around the course more often, especially on a Wednesday for the Roll Ups and over the weekends. You can find Paul's calendar and booking information on one of the noticeboards.

We have new logo flags! For this year we are reverting to Yellow on the Front 9 and Red on the Back 9. There will be no white flags. I know some may feel this is a backward step but looking at the bigger picture and utilising budgets in a more cost-effective way, we feel the time of our Greens Team is to be focused on more important areas of the course.

We have now signed a new deal for the hire of 4 golf buggies, 2 will be seasonal and 2 we will have all year. These will be in place and can be booked for the new season from 1st April.

CLUBHOUSE NEWS

The new kitchen is pretty much complete with just a couple of minor cosmetic tweaks but overall, we are very happy with the progress and finish so far. Next step - to increase our rating! With that being said, we are pleased to see more of you dining with us and the burgers are most definitely our best sellers!

You may have noticed that the competition winner boards have been moved upstairs, except for the Club and Senior Captain, and Presidents Trophy boards, which you will see at the bottom of the stairs. This is to make way for new boards under the new club name. For those of you that have won your competitions during the 2018/2019 season, your name will be etched onto the new boards downstairs! We are currently sourcing these and hope to have something up by the end of April.

Regarding the weekly Stableford and other competitions, you will soon see a lockable post box in the clubhouse. The key for this box will be kept behind the bar but no money will be handed to staff. Members will now be responsible for collecting the money and distributing the winnings themselves.

With the help of Willis Brothers of Malmesbury, we will be constructing a 'lean-to/pergola' to fit the length of the clubhouse. This will act as a shelter against the rain and will increase the life of our new golf trolleys. The floor will be repaired, and a new drain put in at the bottom of the slope to catch rain water and reduce puddling outside the front door.

A NEW STYLE OF WORKING

Back in October when Justin and I first took over the running of the course, we stated that the new management style would be one of transparency and clear communication. Quite rightly, many members had a lot of questions about the new management; what we were going to do, when and how we were going to do it and so on. The kind of questions that will always be ongoing.

And with this in mind, in order to best serve our members, there is a need to establish good communication channels to deliver up to date and correct information. To assist us in doing this we have created a small 'Working Group', linking management with you, the members...two heads are better than one etc. The Working Group will have six members:-

Kay Witchard
Justin Witchard
Keith Tinson
Geof Bryant
Matt Lewis
Nick Tanner

The Working group will be independent of the Club Committee and in addition to facilitating communication between management and members, the unit is structured to identify and set clear goals and work together by discussing, creating and implementing solutions to effect positive change on the course and in the clubhouse. By identifying the needs of members and guests and by looking at areas that require development and improvement. Priorities can be established and programmes of work with costings agreed. Where appropriate, the views of the Club Committee may be sought.

Please feel free to talk to any one of the Working Group when appropriate - whether you have a general question or a realistic suggestion about an area of the course or clubhouse. Your support of the Club is always appreciated, whether it be through Committees, voluntary working groups, attendance at Club social events or participation in Club matches.

By setting goals and working together we can achieve the best outcome.

Date for your diaries:

The first clubhouse event is planned for 5th April 2019. QUIZ NIGHT is coming...we will be looking for Teams of 6 on a first come first served basis. Poster with more details coming soon.

Next newsletter scheduled for June. Your input and contributions will be most grateful. Please email kay@ohmynosh.co.uk with your ideas.

New Opening Hours for March only

Mon-Thurs 7:30am - 4pm; Friday 7:30am – 8pm; Saturday 7.00am – 6pm; Sunday 7.00am – 5pm.