



PAVENHAM PARK GOLF CLUB

March Newsletter

Spring is on the way.....

Dear Member,

I hope this finds you well and that you are looking forward to the start of the golf season.

On writing this, we are still experiencing considerably more rainfall than normal for this time of year. What a winter it was, with previous records being smashed for the amount of water falling from the sky! That said, I'm happy to report that your golf course looks in great condition, with more grass present on all areas than at the start of more recent springs.

Your Greenkeeping Team have managed to start cutting most areas and the popular 'stripes' are now starting to appear on greens, approaches, fairways and semi-rough!

The Club Membership remains at near full capacity and plans are very much under way to celebrate the club's 30th anniversary with the news Captains forming a social committee to create events.

Entries into competitions are on the increase with longer days and warmer weather imminent.

We look forward to sharing a great year of golf and entertainment with you at Pavenham Park Golf Club.

Warmest wishes,

Zac



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WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM

R&A USGA



ENGLAND GOLF

World Handicap System Changes

England Golf are making a few small changes to the Rules of Handicapping, which come into effect from 1st April 2024. The Handicap Software, Course Info Boards and England Golf App will automatically take these changes into account, so there is nothing for you to do. See below for a brief explanation:

Calculation of a Course Handicap

Course Handicaps will be adjusted to take into account the difference between the Course Rating and Par. If the Course Rating is lower than Par, players will lose strokes — for example, the White tees for Men, where the Course Rating is 71 and the Par is 72, players will not receive as many strokes. This means that if a player plays to their Course Handicap, they will score net par for the course or 36 points. Also, there is no longer any need to adjust Playing Handicaps in Mixed Tee Competitions.

Unrounded Course Handicaps

As of April 2024, for competition purposes only, the calculated and unrounded Course Handicap will be carried through to the Playing Handicap calculation using “machine precision” (competition software). For general play score submission, the golfer will continue to use the calculated and rounded Course Handicap.

The Inclusion of Four Ball Scores as an authorised format of play within GB&I

These scores will be added to the list of mandatory scores to be returned for handicapping. Only scores of 42 points or more, where a player has featured 9 times or more, will trigger inclusion in the handicap calculation. Holes where the player did not score will be allocated points relative to the score recorded on the card. All competition scores will be submitted through a clubs' competition software. This is for **COMPETITIONS** only.

Team Matchplay

The application of allowances in team match play events has also been changed so that the % is applied to the difference between the players course handicaps, taken from the lowest player upwards.

Use of an Expected Score for a Hole Not Played

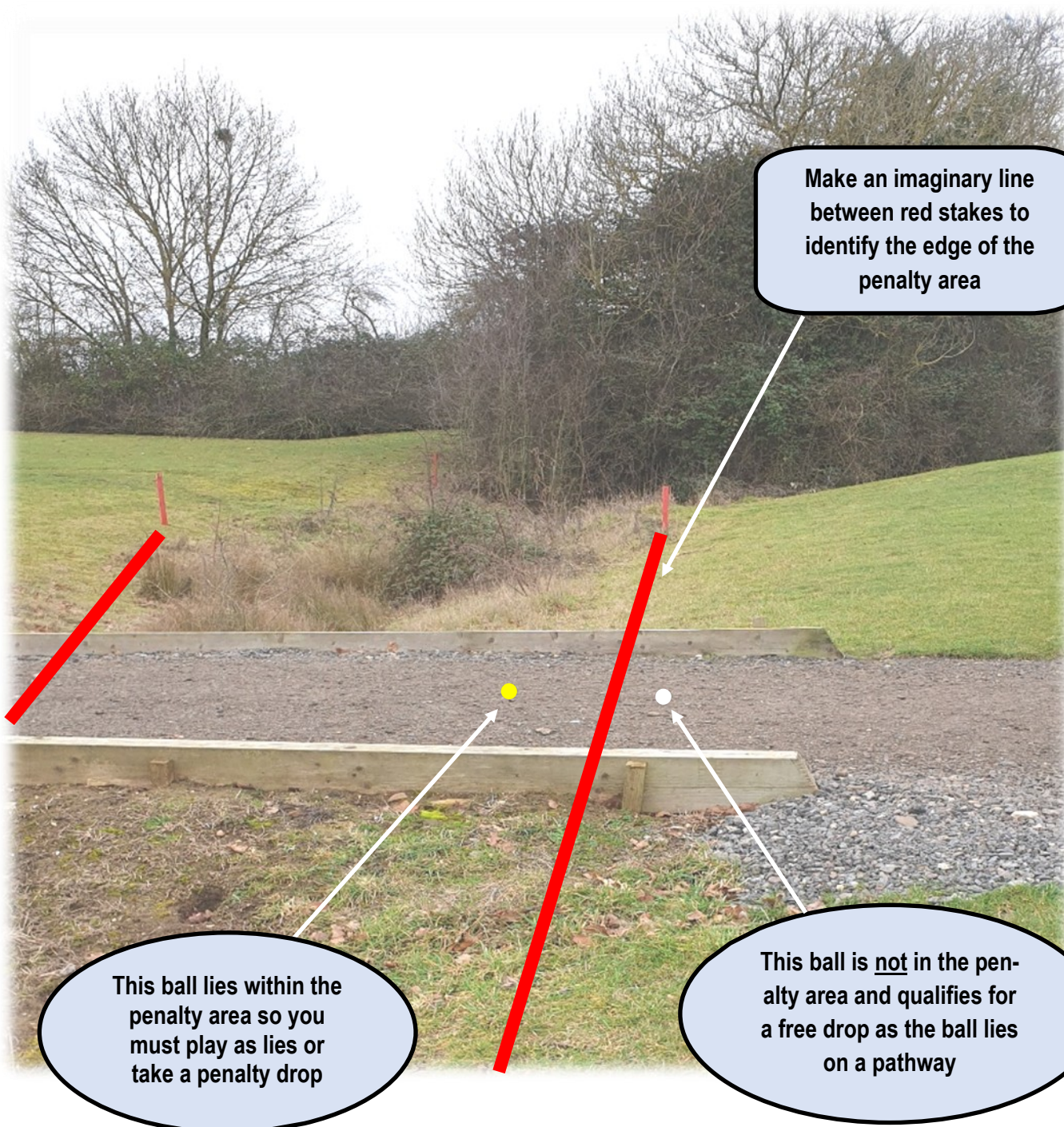
Improvements have been made to the method used to handle holes not played, which will now be based on a player's expected score rather than a score of net par. This new method will produce a 9-hole or 18-hole Score Differential that more accurately reflects a player's ability. As golfers across the world are playing more 9-hole rounds, an expected score will also be used to convert a 9-hole round into an 18-hole Score Differential. The calculations used to calculate an expected score, includes ratings of standard difficulty, and are not shared by the USGA. This means the Score Differential will more accurately reflect the playing ability of the individual golfer.

Further information

There are some other technical changes and if you wish to find out more, England Golf have provided useful additional information at <https://www.Englandgolf.org/2024-whs-update-resources> . Or please speak to a member of the Comps Committee.



If you land on a bridge, do you know the rules?



**This applies to all bridges, including those on
Holes 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 13 & 14**

Know when to take a drop and when you can get relief



Graeme Lewis
Captain 2024

I'm very excited to be Club Captain this year, the 30th Anniversary of Pavenham Park.

I joined Pavenham in 1997. Quite different then, with tall grass defining the rough and a portacabin clubhouse! It says a lot about the original design of the course that it's still exciting to play. Zac had a 'no snobs no slob's' membership policy then, and I just about scraped in.

During these last 27 years or so I have won the odd trophy, have played for the club in the mid-handicap team and most importantly have made great friendships and have had the enormous pleasure of playing with my son David, my wife and for-

mer ladies captain Elva and latterly my son-in-law, Matt and hopefully grandsons Elliott and George

The priorities for myself are more and better communication with the members, greater participation in competitions, and helping to re-build the juniors' section.

Our club is more than just a place to play golf—for some it is a second home, a sanctuary where we come together to share our love for the game and create friendships and memories that will last a lifetime. Together with Lady Captain Sandy, we're setting up a social committee, to further strengthen the social side

of our club.

The men's and ladies' sections have come together to nominate and support a single charity. This is a hugely important part of our roles in representing the club and Ladies captain Sandy and I had little hesitation in nominating the Keech Hospice and specifically the Bedford Day Care centre as our chosen charity.

I think the best hole is the 18th, it's a challenge and very satisfying if you walk off with a par! With a handicap of 13.2, I like to think I can still compete, (probably delusional), but we all go out in hope at least until the first tee!

Some things you may not have known about me; I used to teach music, I played in a punk rock band called Vomit and the S***kickers, Elva and I lived in Singapore, married for 42 years (and never a cross word!) Been in the Oil and Gas industry for a long time, currently consulting in the aviation and aerospace sector. Live in Oakley, have no practical skills and according to my friends and family, hopeless at most things except talking.

I look forward to getting to know you this year. Fundamentally, I'm here to represent you all, so please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any ideas or issues that need you feel need to be addressed.



Sandra Birch
Captain 2024

I'm very happy and excited to be the Lady Captain of Pavenham Park Golf Club for 2024 especially as it is their 30th Anniversary.

Here are a few snippets about who I am.

Since my school days I have been an avid tennis player and played for my local Clubs in both league and County tennis. As the years went by I developed a knee problem which made me think about what other sport I could take up which wasn't quite so taxing on the joints. So, I took up golf and joined Pavenham Park in 2001.

I am enormously proud to see my name up on the honors boards in a few places and on a few trophies. My aim in golf is always to get my handicap down and play to my best ability but it's so much more important to me to have made so many friends within the Club. The wonderful, kind ladies in our Club are the reason I accepted the honour of being Captain.

My favourite hole, let me think, probably the 6th, especially now that we are on the front tee. Many years ago we played off a tee further back and it was definitely not my favourite hole then.

My favourite course is of course

Pavenham Park but I do love playing courses abroad. My most memorable course would be The Brabazon at The Belfry mainly because I got a birdie on the 1st hole. That's my claim to fame.

Some things you may not know about me: I am a Yorkshire lass born in York and moved down to Oxfordshire when I was 11. Following Secretarial College I went on to become P.A. to several Company Directors over the years, ending my career during lockdown working for Kier Infrastructure, where one of my much loved jobs was organising their Company Golf Days. I retired during lock-

down and am now living the life. I have been married to Bob for 46 years and have a daughter, Vicky, and a grandson, Charlie (4 years old), who live in Oxford. I, like many of our ladies, spend lots of happy time Charlie sitting.

As Graeme (our Men's Captain) mentioned in his introduction we're setting up a Social Committee for this very special year and hope to organise some entertaining events for you all to enjoy.

I look forward to working with everyone to help make 2024 a very successful year.



Peter Kizsel
Senior Captain 2024

My name is Peter Kizsel it is an honour and a privilege to be Senior Captain of Pavenham Park Golf Club, especially on our 30th anniversary.

I was born in Bedford and have lived and worked there most of my life. I was a carpet fitter and interior designer for the bulk of my career with shops both in Bedford and Watford.

I am married to Sally, we have 3 sons, 2 daughters and 6 grandchildren between us.

My sporting background is football, I have been a player, player manager and manager during my 46 year career. I have represented Bedford schools at junior and secondary levels. At 16yrs I had a trial for Aston Villa, although I scored in the 3-1 defeat nothing came of it.

I have played in 11 cup finals and been on the winning team in all of

them. I have scored the winning goal in 2 of them and broke my leg in 1. One of my proudest moments was being named Captain of the Beds & District representative side. We beat Luton Chiltern league 3-2 away for a first ever victory. I finally hung my boots up at the ripe old age of 54 playing for Kempston Rovers Veterans.

I have been a member of Bedford and County AC and competed on track, road and cross country for them. I have also completed the London Marathon. I also enjoy Carp fishing catching a 44LBs mirror carp when fishing in France. I also hold a blue belt in karate.

After retiring 8 years ago, I decided to take up golf. I had a fathers day gift voucher and half a set of golf clubs. After my lesson I decided to join Pavenham, it was an easy decision as the staff are so welcoming, the

course is excellent and Lee and our son Marcus are good friends meaning a good connection.

The Seniors have a full golfing calendar, there are a mixture of competitions throughout the year building up to the Seniors Championship in September. We play 18 club matches, our Vice Captain Ian Perry selects the team and works with the opposing golf clubs. Please do not hesitate to put your name down they are friendly fun days.

The senior section has an excellent committee, one of our aims this year is to bring unity to the group through varied social events, This we hope will bring old and new members together, All profits will go to my chosen charity Macmillan Cancer Support Group. We have had first hand experience of seeing how caring and professional the staff are when they supported us through our

sons recent illness.

Something I wanted to achieve at Pavenham Park was to have my name on the honours board in the clubhouse. There was some luck/fate in achieving this. It was during a club match playing with Peter Brown I mentioned my original pairs partner had dropped out through illness. Peter offered to take his place and we went on to win the Senior Pairs Knock-out Trophy 2022. We retained the Trophy in 2023.

I am a competitive person, I give everything 100%. I have made many new friends since joining Pavenham and hope to continue playing golf there for many years.

Zac and his team should be very proud of their achievements at Pavenham Park and moving forward his vision and drive will keep the club as one of the best in the area.

I'm delighted to be Graeme's right hand man for the coming golfing season and the clubs 30th year.

I joined the club not long after it opened and can remember having to pick stones from the fairways and you could lose your ball down a crack on the 17th fairway! The club and course and my golf has come along way since then!

Over the years I have enjoyed playing in

many competitions with a range of partners with varying levels of success! My current handicap is 7.4 and I'm looking forward to organising this years Mid Handicap League team and continuing to play in the men's, mixed and seniors sections.

I hope to persuade a few new faces to put their names forward to play for the Mid Handicap Team this season and that we can encourage more

members to participate regularly in the excellent range of competitions the club organises.

My favourite hole on the course is the 6th, a real risk and reward hole that unfortunately has wrecked my card on many an occasion!

I'm now retired and live in Bromham with my wife Kath, a previous Captain of the Ladies Section. As many of you will know I'm a massive Arsenal fan

and will be lobbying Zac to add white sleeves to the men's sections red team shirts!

I believe that we are very lucky to be members of such a friendly and easygoing club and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible, either on the course or in the clubhouse and hope that you have a successful golfing season.



**Jeff
Caiger**

**Vice
Captain
2024**

Hi, I'm Heather Wildsmith and have been a member at PPGC for four years along with my husband Jim. We have a daughter who lives in Texas and two sons who live locally. We moved to PPGS from Flackwell Heath Golf Club in Buckinghamshire which is where my golfing journey began.

My working life stems around anything to do with autism. I work freelance delivering training and consultancy which has included how to make sporting environments more inclusive and understanding of autism. I also work for Autism Bedfordshire trying to improve the lives of autistic people by helping health and social care across

Bedfordshire and the East of England understand the needs of the autistic people they meet and how they can support them better when they are in their care.

I am relatively new to golf, six years in the making, so far my best achievement to date was a purple patch a couple of years ago winning both the Claret Jug and Rosebowl in the same year along with the Seed Malin with Jim. My aim is to try to get my handicap down which is proving to be a very slow process!

PPGC is a club which welcomes you, from those who greet you in the Pro Shop to all the members who you pass as you go

about your visit. We have felt that welcome from the day we joined and have felt very fortunate to be a part of such a friendly club which has also provided us with a great group of friends.

Last year we had the pleasure of arranging the mixed league fixtures and re-introducing a few mixed friendlies with other clubs. These were all so well supported and we had some lovely social times after the golf matches enjoying a nice meal together at the club.

We are fortunate to have played some lovely courses away from PPGC and The Manor House at Castle Coombe in the Cotswolds and Penina in Portugal stand out as lovely courses to play.

At PPGC my favourite hole is probably the 9th with the 3rd & 18th coming in as least favourites 😊

I am looking forward to working alongside our new lady captain, Sandy Birch, learning the ropes and having fun on the way. We are really fortunate that PPGC Ladies Section is a group of lovely women who really enjoy their golf but also enjoy each other's company, are very sportive and have lots of fun.



**Heather
Wildsmith**

**Vice
Captain
2024**

My first two rounds of golf were at Wentworth, where I played the East and West course. It was a corporate invitation day with over 10 hours of golf. I borrowed some clubs but purchased a new pair of shoes, but the shoes were discarded on the second 18 as they rubbed. I had blisters the size of 50 pence coins and played most of the west course in socks—112 shots.

My main sport was cricket but when the family started to expand had to find something that took less time, golf!

I joined a society and we played every first Friday of each month. A different course was played each time, basically anywhere

we could get on without a handicap. Exotic tours to the Isle of Wight followed. I bought a second hand set of clubs and bought my first new club a putter which is still in my bag today (not stolen from Brighton pier as has been suggested).

I then joined Pavenham when it first opened which was my first membership. I obviously didn't realise at the time but it was a great place to start playing golf regularly with lots of well organised competitions. Competitions that were always drawn, so no problem getting a game and having someone to play with. There was also friendly and professional staff. I had a deal which allowed me to play three

courses which were Pavenham Park, The Bedford and Ouse Valley. I stayed at The Bedford when the clubs split and re-joined Pavenham when the Bedford closed.

Pavenham hasn't changed much still very friendly, lots of competitions and a good balance between serious golf and having fun, with the same very professional staff. The course and the greens are a vast improvement on when it first opened and I feel very smug when we have visiting teams come and play.

My current handicap index is 9.4, why not better? I am easily distracted and have an inflated view of my own abil-

ity, No gap too small, no carry too far, draws that sail straight out of bounds, fades that hit the first tree and end up behind me. I can't take instructions, ask Kevin. I am willing to do anything to improve other than practice.

I never let my score affect my enjoyment of my round (not sure that's true).

I am a Charlton Athletic supporter so have to be optimistic not realistic so this is the year single figures handicap and senior club championships in the bag!

Looking forward to the year ahead



**Ian
Perry**

**Senior
Vice
Captain
2024**

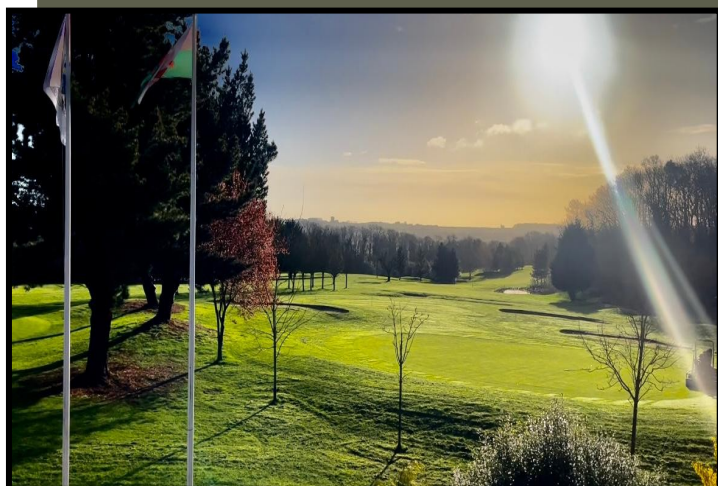
Men's Winter League 2023 / 24

This year the Men's Winter League was contested over 16 weeks with four different formats being used in rotation. The formats played were: Four ball Better Ball, Pairs Bogey, Texas Pairs and Pairs BAM. Each week the teams were playing for Order of Merit points based on their finishing position, with 52 points being awarded to the weekly winners, 51 for 2nd place and so on.

The best 9 weekly round scores from each pairing were then taken to determine the Winter League Order of Merit Leaderboard.

The final Order of Merit table was extremely close with the top 2 pairs tied. The winners had to be decided by comparing their 10th best round score, with Lee Miles and Dermot Parker just edging out Jeff Caiger and Simon Healy.

| | Team & Current Winter League Handicaps | | | | Rnd | Rnd | Rnd | Rnd | Rnd | Rnd | Rnd | Rnd | Rnd | Rnd | Rnd | Rnd | Rnd | No of | BEST 9 |
|---|---|------|-------------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|--------|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 13 | 15 | 16 | Rounds | ROUNDS |
| 1 | Miles, L | 7.75 | Parker, D | 9.50 | 22 | 42 | 36 | 36 | 52 | 47 | 47 | 26 | 40 | 43 | 52 | 41 | 51 | 13 | 415 |
| 2 | Caiger, J | 4.50 | Healy, S | 2.25 | 44 | 45 | 43 | 27 | 45 | 50 | | 10 | 47 | 51 | 46 | 29 | 44 | 12 | 415 |
| 3 | Ghaus, M | 6.25 | McGrady, P | 6.25 | 41 | 47 | 27 | 48 | 44 | 46 | 42 | 14 | 19 | 30 | 43 | 48 | 50 | 13 | 409 |
| 4 | Brown, K | 3.25 | Tebbutt, N | 11.75 | 40 | 34 | 26 | 46 | 39 | 51 | 50 | 50 | 38 | 31 | 48 | 25 | 25 | 13 | 396 |
| 5 | Bird, P | 8.50 | Lewis, G | 8.75 | 43 | | 46 | 51 | | 43 | 52 | 33 | 24 | 46 | | 37 | 43 | 10 | 394 |
| 6 | Parker, K | 7.50 | Robinson, M | 2.25 | 51 | 52 | 25 | 21 | 51 | 17 | 10 | 28 | 20 | 26 | 11 | 26 | 10 | 12 | 388 |



SAVE THE DATE!!

The Captain's Charity Summer Party

is on

Saturday 22nd June

7.30pm to late in the club marquee. Dancing with the popular band 'Time Flies'. A delicious Hog Roast and Dessert will be served.

Tickets go on sale on 1st May

CAPTAIN'S DRIVE IN 2024

On Saturday 16th March, some 125 members joined new Captains Graeme and Sandy in the annual Captain's Drive In raising funds for their chosen charity, Keech Hospice Care.

The day got underway with a Shot Gun start stableford competition followed by the traditional Drive In. Graeme and Sandy then presented the prizes to the winners.

In total, thanks to the generosity of the Pavenham Park Members, a massive £1,456 was raised for Keech Hospice Care. This will go onto the running total, which is shown on the Charity Board in the main Clubhouse corridor.



Men's Result

| Overall Position | Score (Play H'cap) | Placing |
|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | 40 pts (15) | Overall Winner |
| 2 | 39 pts (05) | Overall Runner-Up |
| 3 | 38 pts (31) | Overall 3rd |
| 4 | 37 pts (20) | Overall 4th |
| 5 | 37 pts (11) | Overall 5th |
| 6 | 37 pts (20) | Overall 6th |

Ladies Result

| Overall Position | Score (Play H'cap) | Placing |
|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | 34 pts (24) | Overall Winner |
| 2 | 33 pts (17) | Overall Runner-Up |

