Newsletter Edition 6

LHGC Lottery



The first Lottery draw took place on the 30th April in the clubhouse with three lucky winners. Bill Jones won £100; Captain Rogers Bates won £50 & Rob Hall took the £25 Prize. Numbers for the May Draw are now available from the bar at £5 per entry. YOU HAVE TO BE IN IT TO WIN IT. The next draw will take place on Sunday 28th May so be quick to sign up as the number of participants is limited to 100. Good Luck to all.

Open Day

We are running a membership Open day on the 20th May to entice a few new members to our great club. It is advertised through Facebook; flyers & our website as there has been increased visits to our membership rates and green fees pages. The Banner on our Balcony railings is to attract passing local traffic to & from the hall. If you know someone who may be interested competitive golf, Social Golf or Mixed golf then invite them along to meet some members, tour our facilities & enjoy refreshments. All are welcome.

Club Champions parking spaces

Both the Ladies and the Men at Lilleshall Hall have their own "champion golfer" each year, and in recognition of this the parking space allocated for the club champion may be used by either of the current year's champions (in 2022 they were Bernadette Micklewright and Paul Shirt). If both are at the club at the same time, one of the Director's spaces will be available for their use.

Captains Matches



The Captain's matches for the 2023 season have now been arranged as follows. Any 7-day member who is interested in playing, and who is not already a squad member, should make themselves known to Mr. Captain, Roger Bates. The matches are normally 'brunch' matches (eat before you play) in the 4 ball better ball format. Those players who are already squad members should update their availability on IG.

23/04/23 Tri match v Ludlow & Shifnal at Ludlow (1300).

29/04/23 Brocton Hall away (1415)

13/05/23 Bloxwich home (1300)

03/06/23 Tri match v Ludlow & Shifnal at Lilleshall (1300)

01/07/23 Market Drayton home (1300)

15/07/23 Newcastle away (1100)

29/07/23 Tri match v Shifnal & Wrekin at Shifnal (1300)

05/08/23 Newcastle home

??/09/23 Telford home (yet to be finalised)

LHGC Junior competitions



Your Junior Organisers are Geoff Sellars & Julie Cann. Please note the change in reserved Tee times for the junior Sunday golf sessions below. If you have any questions or concerns about Junior golf please don't hesitate to ask, all enquiries are welcome.



The Junior golf sessions on the course are on Sundays and this year we have **reserved tee times for each competition from 12.30 to 1pm**, which follows nicely on from the Junior coaching. If you are taking part, it is important that you are ready to play in good time so that we do not miss the reserved tee times.

Important information

The Competitions & Handicap team have a duty to all members to ensure that tees are not blocked needlessly. Therefore, Juniors who want to take part **must sign up for each Sunday competition by 9pm on the Thursday prior to the competition**, or the tee reservation will be released. Do not worry who you sign up with just click on any slot and playing partners will be organised on the day.

After each game score cards must be checked and signed by the marker & the player; the card must then be placed in the junior card box which is under the junior information board in the hallway, outside the changing rooms.

To see more information and all the dates and times of your competitions, many of which get the winner's name on one of the Junior Honours Boards follow this link: <u>Lilleshall Junior Competitions - Lilleshall Hall</u>

Golf Club

Mixed Golf away trip

By popular demand Jo Cole is organising a Mixed away trip to "Belton Woods Hotel & Spa" for the 3rd & 4th August 2023. Includes: - Breakfast bap & hot drink on arrival, 2 rounds of golf on The Woodside course & The Lakes course, evening meal, 1 night accommodation, breakfast & use of the Spa for a very competitive price of £165, which also includes a small contribution towards prizes. The signup sheet for this trip is on the Mixed notice board located on the left-hand side wall at the bottom of the stairs going up from the changing rooms.

Captains' Mixed matches

The Captains' Mixed matches are now underway, and our first match is imminent; good luck to everyone taking part. These matches are always great fun. The Signup sheets are displayed on the Mixed board throughout the year, or you can set your availability on IG hopefully enabling everyone access to our matches.

Mixed British Championship

Lilleshall Hall has entered a team into the "Mixed British Championship" for the first time. The team consists of 5 mixed pairs playing Greensomes in match play. There is a handicap limit restriction, the maximum course playing handicap for men is 24 & women 36. Each round/match is a knockout round either home or away. The signup sheet is displayed on the Mixed notice board. Good luck to all taking part in all our competitions this year.

Ladies' friendly matches

Ladies' friendly matches are great fun & give you the opportunity to play competitive but friendly golf both home & away. The display boards for these fixtures are situated in the enclosed corridor in between the Ladies locker room and entering the club house where the Signup sheets will be displayed throughout the year for you to enter. Also, you can access these matches if you set up your availability on IG enabling everyone to access matches.

Halfway Hut

When the Halfway Cabin was built in 2005 with donations from several members, it was intended to only be used for major events and competitions or when large societies visited the club. It was given the name of Tom's Cabin to recognise the service that Tom Jarrett had given the club over a long period of time and a caricature of Tom is hanging in the cabin.

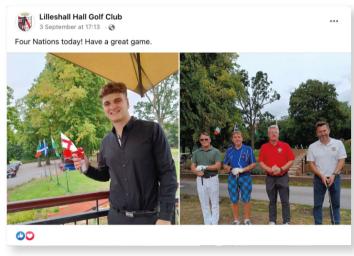
Our first catering franchisee Mischa (the owner & chef of a local restaurant) tried to expand the opening hours but found that he was losing too much money so agreed to hand it back to the club. We appointed our first cabin catering franchisee Diane Davis, wife of Graham (Curly) past Captain & President, who managed to make it work by making her own cakes, sausage rolls and pork pies and working long hours, but sadly Di became very ill and had to give it up. The ladies section then decided to give it a go and again they made much of the produce on sale themselves, this was very successful, but it did require a great deal of commitment and hard work and was not sustainable in the long term.

Following this, an attempt was made by the next catering franchisee Nick but with the same outcome which Mischa experienced. The amount of income does not offset the wage costs, so the business is non-viable when open daily. When we were forced to bring our catering in house, we made several attempts to open the cabin on a regular basis. We were happy to break even or maybe make a small loss, as it was a service for our members.

In 2020, England Golf asked clubs to make an application for a grant based on sustainability post Covid, so we submitted a project to enhance our outdoor facilities if our clubhouse would be forced to close in the future, and we received £4000. We used this funding to update the cabin both inside and out. We tried again to open the cabin, just a couple of days at first but with the intention of providing a service on a regular basis. Unfortunately, we struggled to find staff willing to work the hours required, so we could only open occasionally. This did not provide the certainty that our members were hoping for, so business was sparse at best. So, unless someone comes forward willing to run the cabin on a regular basis, we will have no choice but to continue to open for major events, competitions, large societies and weekends when staffing permits. However, we are constantly reviewing the situation and if circumstances change which enables us to open more often, we will certainly let you know.

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