

# THISTLE NEWSLETTER

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Friday, 4th April

## LONG ROAD TO U.S.

*Emma Plans Her Future*

**“It’s a long road, much longer than one realises when you start.”** Says Mike Breen, Emma’s father, “Emma’s aims to do a 4 year scholarship in psychology and be a part of the university golf circuit.”

There have been 28 expressions of interest from universities in the USA and one from an American university in Switzerland. “I will keep club posted and am trying to build a web site so people can communicate with her via a blog to see how she’s doing during her four years away” says Mike.

Emma was Ladies club champion whilst still a junior and was Wilts girls junior captain last year. She and fellow junior star Jack Hiscock, are great ambassadors for the club. In recognition of this the committee have awarded both honorary membership for the current year.

Good luck, Emma, keep in touch.

## RICHARD’S DRIVE IN

*New Captain Hits First Good Drive, Ever!*



**After appalling conditions on Saturday the weather cleared to provide a beautiful day for Richard Pickles to drive in as our new captain on Sunday.**

Undeterred by the barracking from a crowd of 100 gathered for the Drive In competition, Richard nervelessly hit the ball 240 yards, straight down the middle.

Having set the standard the teams will now be expecting the same performance in all the friendly matches...no pressure then!

The better ball pairs competition was closely fought

with 3 teams tied on 44 points behind the winners, Neil Patch and Gwen Stuart with 45.

In second place were Rod Trimbo and Jeff King, Rod, rising to the Captain’s challenge by holing in one at the 14th. What a day to do it with more than 100 members in the bar! Thanks Rod.

Richard presented a Past Captain’s tie to Frank Nicholls and a special award to Barrie Reardon-Smith who has worked tirelessly to fill the gap left by the departure of the previous General Manager at the start of the year.

Supporting Richard in his year will be vice captain Dave Jackson who has spearheaded a move to establish a foundation for Marlborough’s juniors. This is one of the ‘good causes’ that will benefit from the remarkable sum of £1200 raised on the day.

Thanks to everyone for helping to give Richard’s year such a great start.

## EASTER FLAG COMPETITION

Cold, windy conditions (my excuses) led to a low turnout for this fun event, the objective being to place the flag as far round the course as the number of shots, par + handicap would allow. Only 2 players managed to make it to the second 18, Mark Sadler and David Tyler having one shot each down the first with David’s going the farther. Well done David!

## HANDICAPS: NO MORE GENERAL PLAY

You may have seen the notice in the lobby announcing the changes introduced by CONGU for administration of handicaps. From 2008, General Play adjustments cannot be made by submitting cards after completing a round. Members must submit 6 cards from qualifying competitions in the year but can also have their handicaps adjusted by completing “Supplementary Scores”.

The procedure is to sign a book before

playing declaring their intention to do so and return the card, signed by a marker and the player, to the box outside the Pro Shop. There is a notice by the card box explaining the procedure and Simon and his team will be happy to help with any queries.



As opportunities to enter competitions for 5 day members are limited the Golf Committee are also exploring dates when supplementary medals and stablefords can be run during the year. More to follow in a future edition.

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## Les Trute - Our New General Manager



Les Trute took up his new role as Marlborough's general manager on 25th March. A member for 21 years Les currently lives in Swindon with his wife (Kate) and two children (Jack 11, Sarah 9).

He will be known to many but I asked him to tell us a little about himself. He says:

"After working for 23 years as a Senior Manager at Zurich in many different business areas, I took redundancy in 2002 and have, for the last 5 years, been running a Public House in Ross-on-Wye. Having recently sold my business, the vacancy at Marlborough could not have arisen at a better time. The role is one to which I feel I am well suited and I am also delighted to be back in Marlborough having lived here for 44 years before moving away 6 years ago – and I missed it!

Times are very challenging for golf clubs and while I believe Marlborough is the best in the area we need to continue to improve in all areas to pull further ahead of the opposition. It is my intention to use whatever skills and experience I have to ensure that Marlborough is not only the best but recognised as such by all that play golf in this part of Wiltshire. I will certainly do all I can to help ensure this is the case."

I look forward to working for such a patient and understanding membership!"

### NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED

Last Wednesday almost half the ladies section came to a Meet and Greet. This was a get-together particularly for new members to meet other ladies and hopefully arrange some games. The evening was a great success, the food was excellent and Trish King did a very good golf quiz.

As a highlight we also managed to put the new Manager, Les, on the spot! He happened to be up at the club when we met so naturally got involved. However he coped very well and it was good for so many members to meet him personally. Good luck from us all, Les.

*Isobel Henry*  
Ladies Captain

### COUNTY PLAYERS

**Congratulations to Emma Breen and Karen Gosling - both have been picked for the County Squad!**

Congratulations also to the ladies scratch team who won their first round match in the County scratch knock out, beating Broome Manor 3 ½ to 1 ½ on a dreadful day when Broome would have been closed by the torrential rain but Marlborough remained playable.

### COMING UP - RACE NIGHT! Put Friday, 25th April in your diary now!

We will be running another of our very popular race nights when you could be an owner for the evening. The races will be seen on the big screen and off-course betting will be permitted. Matt Reed and Jeanette Franks are putting the finishing touches to the arrangements now.

### FOR YOUR DIARY...

- The Junior Under 15 Championship takes place on Tuesday, 8th.
- On Wednesday there is a Ladies Bring and Win competition.
- Thursday is Junior Fun Day.
- The Ladies and Seniors have a Texas Scramble on Friday with a cannon
- start at 08.45. Check your diary for tee closures.
- Saturday, 12th is a Monthly Medal (Lombard Qualifier) and a Ladies Monthly Stableford.
- Sunday the league team play West Wilts.



BUSY WEEK!