



Centenary Champions!

Marlborough Triumph at Salisbury in Centenary Quadrilateral

Picture the scene: excited players crowd around the giant computerised scoreboard. Marlborough are second and Royal Winchester, who have packed their team with low handicappers, are not far behind. Our last two players are rookies Craig 'Spider' Brown and Mark Hinton. The word goes round that there is a big score coming in - some of the team are anxious but Captain Slog looks smug ...

Played by teams of twenty from the four local clubs founded in 1888, the Centenary Quad is always keenly contested. The host club wins more often than not, New Forest being the 2007 winners on their own track. This year it was Salisbury and South Wilts who were five points ahead with just two fourballs left.

... the score goes up - Spider has got 39 and put us in front, just! The last four have finished and it all depends on Mark. No worries, 38 and we are home and hosed with an eleven point margin - rock and roll! "Drinks all round!" cries Slog, but so quietly no-one can hear him.

A great day and a great team effort by the fortunate twenty who were selected, winning away is always difficult. As well as Spider and Mark, well done Dave Lewis with 38 points, the best gross score of the team.

Next year we must defend our title at Royal Winchester before playing hosts in 2010.

SYDOS (below) has the picture we thought we'd never see!

Juniors Visit Hamptworth (and the minibus gets its maiden voyage)

Although heavy rain had been forecast the Junior team set off for Hamptworth in reasonable conditions, which miraculously continued throughout the day. It was a momentous occasion as it was not only Tom Deane's final Junior match but more significantly it was the Junior Minibus's maiden voyage.

After a quick lunch the teams headed down to the first tee and with a series of good tee shots from both teams the game was on. Charlie Grabe posted the first win of the match for Marlborough, outclassing his opponent and finishing seven up. Unfortunately things took a turn for the worse and Alex Ballard, Ben Mapson, Tom Deane and Dan Skudlarz couldn't hold out for the win. It was pretty clear from Ben Mapson's opponent making four birdies during the back nine that they were in desperate need of a handicap reduction. With the match already lost, I managed to salvage a win to reduce the margin of defeat.

The final result was 4-2 in favour of Hamptworth.

Jake Scholes

Sights You Don't
Often See: No 11

The Captain
With a Trophy

(... and the Selection
Panel)



How Are We Doing?

Look out for the biggest survey of your opinions about the club ever undertaken! It will be available online to members as well as on paper for those without email. Chairman Gordon Kenneth has written a forward stressing its importance in deciding the future direction of the club.

Giant Wasp Spider Latest

No room this time to publish the location of those important 'areas to avoid at all costs'. Maybe next issue. Meantime, don't panic.

Golf and Tennis For All!

The Tennis Club's ambition for a permanent home with us deserves community support

What a great idea! Both clubs are committed to providing affordable sporting facilities to the community with the core purpose of promoting amateur sport at absolutely no cost to the taxpayer. Their registration as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC) clearly demonstrates their sincerity of purpose.

Our shared vision is of a club encouraging participation from the whole local community starting with the very youngest. Pay and play opportunities to get those who have never before picked up a tennis racket or golf club started on these great games! Facilities that are much needed in Marlborough.

With the tennis club looking for a permanent home and us welcoming extra clubhouse usage, there are clearly some mutual benefits to be had. So everyone's a winner, yes? Well, not quite. Some misleading publicity about the proposal to have a publicly available practice area where anyone can buy a bucket of balls and practice safely in an area with ball-collection equipment has given rise to fears of a Broome Manor style driving range with fences and floodlights. Simply untrue. The enhanced practice area would be complimentary to the tennis club's 'kidzone' and their pay and play proposals enabling joint coaching days to be made available, in particular to children during the summer holidays. All part of the 'sport in the community' philosophy.

Our friends at the tennis club have been searching for a permanent home since 1970. They have had many disappointments. They operate at present thanks to the benevolence of the College but have no loos, running water, changing facilities or even shelter. They do have a strong demand for tennis, both adult and junior, and the means to fund a move.

They want to join us. We think their ambition deserves support: Town Council support, community support, press support, planning authority support. Give the club your support at the public meeting in the Town Hall on Monday 22nd September.

Look out for a Thistle Special all about the proposals to accommodate the Tennis Club and improve our practice facilities. Coming soon!

Greenkeeper's Cuttings

What's Happening on the Course and Why!



It's that time of year again – summer maintenance! This has been August work, but we have moved it back to the beginning of October to avoid the busiest playing time. However the later start with cooler ground temperatures and less sunlight could slow down recovery on the greens.

Hollow tinning and removing the cores from the surface is followed by making 5/8 inch holes four inches deep all over the green's surface. These holes allow us to exchange old soil for a mixture of sand and a soil amendment product called Axis. This is a naturally occurring mineral containing thousands of microscopic sponge-like structures called diatoms which are heated up to around 1800C to create stable, durable particles which can hold nutrients and water. It helps drainage and promotes growth in adverse conditions. Over time, we are trying to increase the amount of Axis in the top four inches of the greens up to 15%, this will make them much more hard wearing and disease free.

Then we over-seed with straight bent. Axis helps germination, moving us closer to our aim of bent-dominated greens. On some areas the holes are not filled right to the top immediately, but are filled later, by hand. This is to avoid smothering the grass leading to die-back and disease.

Sorry for the disruption to play but at Marlborough we want to produce the finest putting surfaces and this is the work which will get us to our goal!

Robin Greaves

Seniors Diary

August 13th

Back to winning ways at home to Erlestoke. A 5-1 win with Dave Raymond winning his match two and one without the assistance of his playing partner, Phil Cook, who, due to diary problems, failed to turn up.



August 18th

Away to Ogbourne Downs and with driving rain and howling wind the team were more than happy to come away with a 3-3 result. Mention has to be made of the record breaking main course served at dinner, gargantuan plates piled high with roast lamb, roast potatoes, new potatoes, stuffing balls, cocktail sausages, green beans, carrots, peas and baby sweetcorn. This was followed by apple pie and custard. Mr G. Dawes asked for more.

SENIOR MOMENTS

Overhead, post roll up, in the bar..."Are you having a go at this parking space thing?" and the reply ... "No, have you seen that list? If they all get spaces we'll be parking on the main road."

Phil Cook