

NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2010

Following the snow and ice in early January the course has now recovered and is in truly magnificent condition. Investment in new machinery over the past two years is beginning to pay off, but the bulk of the praise must go to the greenkeepers for continuing to producing such wonderful playing surfaces.

The changes to the bunkering carried out during the Winter Programme have proved a success, especially the removal of the bunker at the front of the 5th green, and the next stage of improvements will be carried next winter.

The Juniors continue to flourish, both in Club competitions and on their travels, and Iwan Morus Lewis became the first of the current batch to become a Category 1 player when his handicap reached 5.4 in April. He is obviously trying to keep up with his mother Ann, who became a scratch player for the first time in her distinguished career at the Easter Meeting.

Bryan John and John Williams won the Winchelsea Foursomes at the Easter Meeting, beating Robin Knapp and Jeremy Fricker 3&2 in the final in very difficult weather conditions.

Jamie Howie and Llion Lloyd Kerry left it until the very last round to pip long time leaders Rudi Kojs and Trefor Davies to top the Winter League. The top eight qualify for the match play stages of the W R Ford Hutchinson Trophy.

The Ladies continue to progress in the Mail on Sunday Classic, however the Men's team lost their 3rd round match at home to Porthmadog by 3-2

2010 Events

21st – 23rd May - **Welsh Amateur Open Stroke Play Championship**



Last year's Championship was held at Ashburnham and was won by Denmark's Andreos Harte on 12 under par. Volunteers to help with spotting, scoreboards etc would be appreciated.

30th Aug – 2nd Sept **Ryder Cup Wales 2010 Welsh National PGA Championship**



Former Cardiff golfer Jason Powell landed the biggest win of his career when he won last year's event at Ashburnham. The 34 year old pocketed £6,150 to add his name in the honour roll alongside previous winners Ian Woosnam, Dai Rees and Brian Huggett.

This will be the very last Ryder Cup Wales event before Celtic Manor, and brings to an end ten years of Ryder Cup Wales sponsorship, which started here at Harlech with the Wales Seniors Open.

2011 Events

14th – 16th May **Wales Ladies' Close Championship**

1st – 4th August **Boys Home International Matches**

Jacque Leglise Trophy 2013



The R&A have recently announced that the Jacques Leglise Trophy will be held at Royal St David's on the 30th and 31st of August 2013, adding to the our R&A championship history which includes the 1994 British Youths, the 1999 Boys Amateur and the 2003 Boys Home Internationals. The Trophy is an annual international match played between two selected teams of nine amateur boy golfers representing Great Britain & Ireland and the Continent of Europe

The match between GB&I Boys and the Continent of Europe was inaugurated in 1958, but not until 40 years later was the event first played in Europe. GB&I dominated the early encounters, losing only three times before 1995. Yet the strength of European golf has improved dramatically and the following six matches were equally shared. The GB&I team is selected by The R&A and the Continent of Europe side by the European Golf Association.

The Course

The Club continues to move forward with improvements to the course drainage. The relatively dry conditions since January have resulted in fewer flooding problems than usual, however the main areas of concern continue to be:

- The outfall from the side of the 3rd hole which passes under properties on the other side of Beach Road and thereafter continues in an open ditch to the drainage channel with runs to Ynys. So far, the Club have been unable to obtain consent to relay the underground pipe, which is the main cause of the flooding on holes 1, 2 and 3.
- The main drainage ditch to Ynys and the outfall to the Dwyrdd estuary, which appears to be silting up, causing restrictions to the flow of water out to sea. The Club continues to lobby the Environment Agency to try and improve the situation.
- Upgrading the existing pumping station at the 10th hole to enable groundwater to be discharged at a greater rate through the existing old Welsh Water outfall. The Countryside Council for Wales have so far refused consent to upgrade the pump and pipework because of the adverse impact this could have on the 'wetness' of the dune slacks. Further research is being undertaken by CCW to see whether an agreement can be reached whereby the Club can implement these improvements without detriment to the environmental and ecological nature of the land.

Those who have played the course over the last few months will know how well it has recovered from the winter extremes – you'll be lucky to find a another course anywhere in Britain which is in as good a condition as Royal St David's.

Website

The new website continues to be improved and now contains a few new pages, featuring Golf Packages and a Juniors' page. The website also has a digital version of the Club's new 16 page colour brochure on the Visitor's Information page.

In order for you to be able to access all the services on the new website, including the BRS tee booking service, and to enable us to keep you informed of news and events, it is essential that we have your up to date e-mail address. If you haven't received an e-mail message from the Club within the last few months then the chances are that we don't have your details. If that's the case, please send them to me as soon as possible.

Ireland Trip – September 2010

The Vice-Captain is organising a golfing trip to his home county of Offaly, to the west of Dublin, between the 10th-13th of September. The trip will include three rounds of golf, at Athlone, Birr and Esker Golf Clubs and three nights stay at Banagher. The whole trip, including transport, will cost approximately £290 and anyone wishing to go should contact the Office, or Chris Kerin, as soon as possible.

St David's Hotel

Work is yet to start on the new hotel, and the developers have admitted to an eight month delay due to problems with securing the use of the tower block for site accommodation. The developers are still confident of a start in the near future, but are unable to give any firm dates.

Summer of Golf Weekend 2010

Responses to the Summer of Golf events, to be held on the 19th and 20th of June, have been excellent, with entries from members and visitors arriving daily. Details of the event can be found on the website, and you can download the entry forms from there.

This is a great opportunity to market the Club, and your support would be appreciated.

Central Database of Handicaps

The development of a central database by the Scottish and Welsh Golfing Wales is now reaching its final phases. The Unions plan to start uploading member data onto the system over the next few months, and this process will continue throughout 2010.

The CONGU requirement for individuals to return all their away scores remains key in ensuring that player's master handicap records are complete, and you are reminded of this requirement.

Under no circumstances will any third party commercial organisation be allowed access to any of the personal data contained within the Central Database system.

Trefor Davies
Secretary