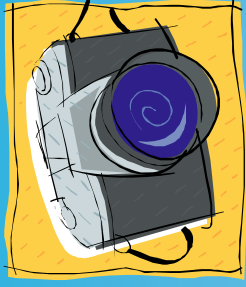


Photography Competition



Get out your cameras and get snapping!

Stick your little digitals into your golf bags and prepare for the photographic competition of the year. We want members to submit

photographs of the course, clubhouse, other members or whatever to do with CGC during the spring and summer months. A select committee of judges will then judge the best three and award prizes. The judges cannot be bribed so all photographs will be judged on merit. Who knows, if we get enough we may even be able to make a calendar for 2010.

Get Snapping!

Tell us what you think

If you have comments, observations or just a plain moan, why not write to us braiswickgolfer@hotmail.co.uk We would love to know what you think and it will help us make sure the Braiswick Golfer improves with each issue.

Sponsorship and Marketing - Clive Hebden

A year ago I was asked to set up a working group to look into the marketing of the Club. Recently enlarged to review the revenue streams and advise how they can be improved. The Club's main income comes from subscriptions. It is imperative that we maintain and improve this. Every year we have a drop-out of members and we are fortunate that our membership loss is comparatively small. Our golfing membership rarely leaves to join other clubs and our losses are mainly confined to members who leave the area. A number of change categories, the result of which is that we always need to "replenish" our membership.

Encouraging new members is never easy and over recent years many pleas have been made for members to encourage friends and acquaintances to join. This is no doubt the best way and to facilitate this we are introducing a two month "Trial Membership."

Societies and Green Fees are a positive source of income and add significantly to our bar takings. Societies are reducing in size, and there

is little we can do about that apart from encourage organizers to get more people. Casual green fees are a major part of this income and the majority now use the County Card. In an attempt to encourage local golfers to play our course at a time when it is little used we are introducing a new green-fee, Twilight Golf. Late afternoon and evening is our quiet time and any attempt to get golfers on to our course should be welcomed.

Our bar prices are cheaper than most other golf clubs in the area. We are not advocating an increase in the cost of drinks to the membership, far from it. House and Finance are presently working on a scheme to increase the posted bar prices but increasing members' dis-count. Budgets and Breweries apart, prices will stay the roughly the same.

These are the more immediate ideas which will come into effect shortly and you will be kept informed of what is happening, after all it is your Club.

Membership - Mike Mays

As was mentioned in the 2008 AGM report, although Colchester Golf Club is one of choice for those wanting a club with an old established and well maintained course, the fact remains that we are facing unprecedented competition for members in what is also now a difficult economic climate. In 2008, the number of members recruited slightly exceeded those lost at the end of 2007 and the starting numbers for 2009 are better than some may have anticipated. However, complicity is not an option. The difficult choices facing us don't need spelling out if we cannot maintain our membership very near budget levels.

According to the English Golf Union, there are now a lot more golfers playing the game but there has been a dramatic drop, in recent years, in the number of affiliated players which is indicative of a growing number of nomadic golfers out there. The club's marketing group continues to look at a number of other initiatives including advertising, trial membership for two months as a

'taster'. In essence it will be a two-month limited membership giving full playing and social membership for a fee of £150. cold. This will allow potential members the opportunity to sample the club and the course without having the financial commitment of joining us.

At the end of the day, one of the best sources of new members remains that of our own existing membership. Roger Moore outlined our three great advantages in the autumn newsletter, i.e. a course superior to most in the area; members that are far more friendly than our public perception would have people believe; and a members' owned club where individuals can feel they have some sway over the running of the club and the direction in which it develops. So, please can we encourage as many of you as possible to be as proactive as you can. Bear in mind that the club is continuing to offer £50 in bar credit to the main proposer for each successful new introduction during 2009.

Retirements

February saw our Secretary Manager Jim Wiggam retire after many years of club management and some four plus years with us since joining from Clacton on Sea Golf Club. In March our "Jack of All Trades" Bryan Mycroft also retired and we wish them both long, happy and healthy retirements.



Captain Mike Sutton presenting Jim with a painting to commemorate his time at Colchester



Brian with Captain Mike Sutton being presented with a leaving gift to thank him for his hard work and dedication.



March 2009

The Braiswick Golfer



Who said the course was closed?!

Welcome to this, the first newsletter of 2009, I hope you find it informative, useful and enjoyable. These were our key aims when we set out to revamp the format.

The club has a great membership, all human life is here and overall I think everyone rubs along pretty well. But the truth is we do need a constant supply of new members and the best advocates for the club, its benefits and its facilities remain you, the current membership. Please read the articles, hear what is said and think how you can help.

On the Golf side it is clear that everyone is looking forward to throwing off the roll necks, putting away the thermals and storing the woolly hats.

To help get the best out of your game the Pro Shop has a number of offers on both equipment and lessons. You can decide whether clubs or swing need changing. Whatever you decide, Mark and Mark can help you on your way.

Finally, despite the pleas to encourage new members, we have a number already in the club so do make a point of saying hello. Enjoy the magazine. We have tried to make it as interesting as possible and inside you will find competitions, offers, information and incentives for all of you.

The Ed

MENS SUPPER FRIDAY 3rd APRIL

We have well known comedian John Cassidy as our guest, the cost is £20 per person, dress code is jacket and tie. Time is running out to book a table as we have over 100 bookings already!

Mens Captain 2009 Mike Sutton



It's been some four months since you elected me as Captain. Its has been an interesting time for me and I now feel that I've got my feet well and truly on the ground, ready to run and raring to go. It has been a pretty horrible winter with more than our fair share of snow and rain to keep us off the course, but with the sun getting warmer I'm sure you are all ready for the season to start in earnest.

The onerous task of producing The Braiswick Golfer has been lifted from my shoulders and has been taken on by our Marketing Group, with Bill Hart doing the editing. If any member feels they can make a contribution then please contact Bill or Clive Hebden as they will appreciate any help. The ultimate intention is to keep you informed about what is happening at your club on a regular basis. The social side of the club always gets off to a great start with our New Year party being one of the best ever. Headed by Maggie Demuth,

the social committee did us proud and at a reasonable cost too. One restaurant in West Bergholt was charging £85 a head so our £45, including a band, was reasonable to say the least. These events are put on for the membership and your support is needed to make them work so I look forward to welcoming more of you during the year and if any members feel that they would like to get involved or have an idea of what may be successful then please suggest it. My next event is the Men's Supper and again your support will be appreciated.

I'm now looking forward to the golfing year. With a course getting better and better thanks to the excellent work put in by Keith Chinnery and his staff we can all expect to have a summer of great golf on what is undoubtedly the finest course in the area. It is a great facility, so let's use it.

Policy and Advisory

Over the winter the focus of the Committee has been on boundary protection together with the appointment of a new Secretary.

The recently approved Colchester Local Development Framework includes land currently owned by us (the new practice ground). It is our intention to explore options to protect our boundaries alongside the 8th and 9th holes and we have appointed professional advisors to protect the Club's interest. The Board will keep members updated on developments. On the Secretarial front the Management Board have appointed Julie Ruscoe as our new Secretary Manager and Richard Gallant is now our Assistant Secretary. This follows a detailed review of our administration requirements carried out by Colin Baker (Chairman), Roger Moore, Jo Mager and Tim Moriarty. We wish them every success.



Julie, Richard and Corinne

VACANCY

- Part-time maintenance
- person required for general maintenance/cleaning duties in and around the clubhouse.
- DIY skills an advantage.
- Further details available from the Secretary

Vice Captain - Trevor Cock

Having enjoyed being a member of the club for over 30 years I was delighted to be asked by Mike Sutton to be his vice captain. The invitation came at a perfect time for me as my professional life eases yet my energy remains and I look forward to giving back to the club over the next few years.

As a member I used to spend any spare time playing golf or relaxing in the clubhouse and whilst I still try to do so as much as possible I find I also now have a number of responsibilities with regard to the running of the club, not something I had really ever considered previously but perhaps we all should.

My admiration for the various Chairs and committee members seems to grow after every meeting. The effort that takes place behind the scenes obviously goes mainly unnoticed but our appreciation really should be recorded. The two most visible examples would be the course and the clubhouse.

The course is very well looked after by Keith Chinnery and his team, with David Latta the responsible Board Member. Between them they continue to present the course in an ever-

improving manner, the bunker greenside on the 4th and the drainage on the 11th fairway prime examples of works that will have benefits for years to come. Well planned and well executed. The clubhouse presents a myriad of challenges and Jo Mager balances the very demanding role as Chair of House expertly with tight budgets and limited resources. She truly does work hard to keep the lights on, sometimes literally.

I have always found that nothing comes easily and having now seen behind the scenes I know this to be true. I am looking forward to my involvement and working with people, some good people, people who always need help – if you would like to volunteer!



House - Jo Mager

As the newly appointed chair of the house committee, I have had to very quickly become familiar with inner, outer and under working of our unique clubhouse.

As with any old building, especially one with several additions, there are constantly little maintenance jobs that need doing. Recently we thought there might be a problem with the drains, however, after a thorough inspection, including our very own DVD, nothing serious was found. We are very fortunate in having a number of members who willingly give their time and experience when problems arise. So far this year the weather boarding on the front of the building has been replaced and the public areas and changing rooms have had a lick of paint. If finances allow at the end of this year or the beginning of next, it is hoped that the flooring in the lounge and parmenter room can be replaced. Lack of storage space is something else we are hoping to address by erecting a shed behind the cleaning station. The recent weather may not be conducive to golf but we can still enjoy the benefits of the clubhouse. Our cheery staff are on hand whatever the weather. Eric is a star - nothing is too much trouble. Neil and his staff keep us supplied with our favourite tippie and latest gossip. Over the

Golf - Dick Bokenham

With the season fast approaching I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all an enjoyable and successful season.

As the season develops and by the time you read this bulletin, the Men's, Women's and Junior county team competitions will be about to start, we wish all team members good luck in representing the club. Play your best and enjoy the competition. If, like me, you have played in any of these teams, you will know how much each player can take from a friendly face in the crowd offering support, so I would urge all members to take note of when and where matches are being played and if at all possible give your support to any and all of our teams. On this note, can I ask all members also to show some patience and understanding if your favourite tee time is booked to accommodate these matches.

One of the key areas that the golf committee, along with the entire golfing community, is keen

Course - David Latta

As winter gradually releases its grip I am pleased to be able to report, and I'm sure you will be pleased to hear, that the course has stood up very well to the weather, and we have had slightly more than our fair share of weather.

The drainage work carried out over a number of years has helped the course remain playable after long periods of wet weather and to recover far quicker from these spells. Evidence of this is the 11th fairway and bunker which are no longer a problem area and where possible we will try and drain other problem bunkers such as the right fairway on the 1st and 10th fairway bunker by connecting up to existing drainage pipes in the coming times. There will be more information as plans are formalised.

The greens have probably never been in better condition so early in the year, evidence that the purchase of a new aerating machine which carries out the same work as the previous model but causes far less surface disturbance is proving to be a good investment. Our investment continues in our staff, materials used and equipment procured or hired and these elements deliver the course in generally good playing conditions throughout the year.

During the first six weeks of 2009 and with no

CONGU

"On the subject of CONGU I would like to take this opportunity to explain how the Golf Committee intends to make sure that members' handicaps more closely reflect the individuals' abilities. The giving of full handicap differences in singles matches has brought this issue to a head however, we have felt for some time that it was something that needed addressing. The handicapping adjustments through established CONGU procedures generally work well, however, there are situations where we shall be making additional handicap adjustments. For example;

1. Performing consistently well in competitions where the CONGU adjustments are unable to be applied - such as match-play and four-some knock out competitions.
2. Performing consistently better than handicap, in roll-ups or similar group games



Approach to the 3rd green

Whilst CONGU suggests 'social' golf is not taken into account for handicap adjustment this is only a suggestion and the Management Board and the golf committee believe that a more rigorous approach is justified, particularly in situations where members cannot, or chose not to play in competitions. Obviously, should any member feel that this approach has been unfairly applied a committee member will be more than happy to discuss the matter further."



Charlie's Angels enjoying some downtime

to improve on for the benefit of all is the area of Slow Play. Golf isn't a race, we should all enjoy our golf but if we become aware of our own game and habits we can all help simply by being READY TO PLAY.

Finally, CONGU are constantly bringing out new rulings I would ask you all to read the article next door and the Notice Boards for up to date information and to keep yourself on the right side of the law.

opportunity to do their "normal" jobs the staff have been extremely busy undertaking important maintenance work in line with the Winter Works Programme. This involves clearing ditches, maintaining woodland between the 2nd and 3rd holes, remedial work to the men's 4th tee and rebuilding the bunker to the right of the 4th green. Additionally the fixing of anti-slip material on all sleepers by tees has produced a safer environment whilst draining on the 14th green, making the pond on the 10th/11th a much noticeable and attractive feature, not to mention an increased hazard and we are preparing plans to extend and improve the pond on the 2nd. It was a very busy winter indeed.

The course this year will be better than ever so I do hope you get the chance to enjoy it as much as possible.



T Rogers with an impromptu course inspection

NORMAN PLUM

The Norman Plum Trophy is a relatively new competition aimed at golfers over 12 handicap and is in just its 3rd year. Teams of 12 playing three pairs each at home and away. Colchester has an enviable track record with solid performances each year but never having made a final. A bye in the first round helps and Colchester will open their campaign on April 18/19th with a match against the winner of Romford Vs St Cleres. Skipper Mike Hart says "I look forward to the fixture against Romford, and another good run this year and let's hope we can go all the way" If you thought that competitive inter club golf was just for low handicappers then think again. If you want to be considered for selection, put your name on the list in the changing room or talk to Mike Hart.

Teams

Alan Irvine will have a tough job to reduce this to ten players plus two reserves for the match at Boyce Hill. Practice matches have been arranged between Purdis and Clacton, both in March, leaving six weeks of the playing season before the big day. Your support on the day would be much appreciated. If you have not been contacted but would like to be considered please contact Alan Irvine or Bill Anslow.



Alan Sharrocks driving off in the 2nd round against Orsett GC watched by his man on the bag Steve Wynne

Our club has an enviable record in the Seniors Team Championship having won the Trophy in 2005, and lost in the 2006 final. This very popular county knockout event begins for Colchester on Friday 25th April, with a home fixture against Risebridge Golf Club from Romford. The match is preceded by two friendly practice games, home and away against Frinton in March. This is a competition that our over 55's always look forward to, and with the strength of players we have in this category we can be confident of progressing through the rounds. Team Captain Dick Bokenham is upbeat. "I remain highly confident that we can lift the Trophy once again. Home draws are always important in knockout matches, and if we are successful against Risebridge, then we have another home draw against either Thorpe Hall or Warley Park."

Jubilee Team Captain Martin Webb is still smarting from last year's quarter final exit and looking to do better this campaign. He commented that: "Following our frustrating away defeat at Royal Epping Forest (the eventual winners) in the quarter finals last year I am looking forward to competing to regain our title in the coming season. We have a very strong pool of players with 40 members putting themselves forward to be considered. As in previous years, I am sure our singles team will continue to be formidable and I have high hopes that our doubles players will prove equally as strong. We have been drawn in a tough group so we need to hit the tee running when the qualifying games start in April."



Chris Cutchie, now our Trainee Professional, driving at the 18th.

"I'm extremely confident that we can go further in the competition than we did last year. Losing to Orsett in the second round in 2008 was nothing to be ashamed of, as they ended up being losing finalists for the second year in a row. We performed to a fantastic standard on the day, and would have comfortably won against the majority of other clubs. Let's hope the draw is kinder to us this year, assuming we can come away from The Warren with a win under our belts. As you know, I have always put a very high level of importance on club support on the day. The Warren is a lovely course to walk and not too far away, so it would be great to see as many of you as possible on May 3rd. Lets give what is likely to be another fairly young team all the support we can....so put that date in your diary!"

The Leslie Wood team has a particularly difficult first round match away to Boyce Hill on April 26th but if we are successful this will be followed by a home fixture in round two. As usual, there is strong competition for team places with an initial squad of around 20 members with handicaps around 7.5 and just above. The squad looks very strong and Captain

Veterans' Section - John V Champ

"Tiger Tindall due to make a comeback"

2008 proved to be a very successful season under captain Gordon Rodgers, from the unexpected team victory at the Colne Valley Challenge to the fine runners up position at the Britvic Trophy at Maldon Golf Club. The end of season tally up of friendly matches against local clubs, always popular occasions, was played 26, won 13, lost 7 and halved 6.

John Williams, this year's captain, is looking forward to another full year of golfing events and with the very popular Guest Day coming up on Monday 18th May he urges members to invite their respective guests and mark that date in their diaries. This year sees the addition of Stowmarket to our list of friendly matches and without doubt this very beautiful and undulating course will attract a lot of interest when the team invitation list is posted. Keep an eye on the notice board.

As most will know John's vice captain, Alan Tindall, suffered a complex fracture of his left wrist while climbing in Freshwater Bay..... well, he was climbing a flight of steps on his 'Isle of Wight Circumnavigation' charitable walking holiday! It is especially pleasing to find Alan now playing a few holes once again, but it will be a few more weeks before he is able to play competitive golf again. Rumour has it that Alan is now looking for a bungalow nearby to prevent any possible reoccurrence!

Our next monthly stablefords are scheduled for March 18th and April 8th.

Keith's Memoirs

It is difficult to believe I am in my 33rd year of greenkeeping, I started all those years ago at Thorndon Park as a 16 year old, straight out of school in 1976. I left there in 1989 having worked my way up to Head Greenkeeper and am now heading into my 20th year at Colchester.

Back then I was younger, slimmer, single and possibly even taller (well younger and single at least!) Some of you may remember my wife Lisa who used to work in the kitchen and behind the bar and we are blessed with two wonderful daughters.

Sam, my very capable deputy has been with us for six years, with previous experience at Chelmsford and along with James, Craig, Dan and Simon form a very experienced and hard-working team. In my opinion they are one of the strongest and most skilled in the county. This is reflected by the condition of

Trial

Membership

This summer we are offering this scheme to potential members, it will cost £150 and the trial member will get two months golf, seven days a week, a lesson with our golf pro prior to starting Trial Membership. They will have full use of the club and course and the right to play in competitions once a handicap is given.

On completion of Trial Membership and if wanting to join the club on a permanent basis the £150 will be deducted from the Club's joining fee.

A Trial Member will not be able to vote at any General Meeting or play in any Boarded Competition during the period of their membership.

This offer is only available once. Full terms and conditions plus application form are available through the office.

Twilight Golf

Starting from 1st May we are offering visitors the chance to play the course in the late afternoon for a reduced green fee of £20 per person; this is a fantastic opportunity to get people on the course and in the clubhouse at a traditionally quiet time and generate more revenue for the club as a whole.

We will be advertising this initiative through the website and in the local press. In addition to this we are relying on you the members to spread the news of this great offer; which, at the end of the day will benefit everyone at Colchester Golf Club. Any questions or bookings will be dealt with via the Office.

2008 Veterans Section Major Winners



Not only do we give Pro-Shop credit prizes for the top places in each of the eight "summer" months but a trophy is to be won by the member who has the best four scores aggregated along with generous cash prizes. All Vets can enter any monthly stableford which are also qualifying competitions, by just turning up on the competition date, registering before teeing-off and playing in your own groups. Usually, larger 'roll-up' groups tee off at around 8am and 11.15am if you'd prefer to take pot luck on partners.

Finally, there may be some new members or newly accredited senior gentlemen (60 years or over with handicap) who may be unfamiliar with the special and varied program of events that we offer each year and who may wish to consider participating. Information of our activities can be found on the Veterans' notice board but any person wishing further details should contact John Williams (01206 251184) or John Champ on 01376 513646.

the course, which is undoubtedly one of the best in Essex.

The course was very different when I came compared to today, there was only fairway, rough and woodland.

So early on we decided to create more definition by shaping the fairways, adding semi-rough and then defining the greens by adding aprons, approaches and surrounds.

We now manage our woodlands, where previously no maintenance had been done and we are creating a habitat that encourages more wildlife onto our course.

I am pleased to say that the course improves year on year which is due to your green staff, David and his committee, but mainly to the support and goodwill of you, the members.

Many thanks, and happy golfing.

The Driving Range

From the start of April our Pro, Mark Angel, will take over the running of the Practice Ground as a 'mini business'. He will be responsible for the daily collection and cleaning of balls, for replenishing the ball dispenser and replacing any lost balls. He will be charging £2 for a bucket of balls, with concessionary rates for frequent users. The savings made in greenkeeper's overtime alone will be substantial and benefit the Club as a whole. It will improve the experience of using the practice holes (they won't be littered with discarded practice balls!) and mark the first step in a longer term plan to improve the whole practice ground/teaching set up to one we can be proud of. The success of the trial will be reviewed in October.



Where would we be without these guys?!

Just a Minute

1986 - There is a large mat at the foot of the stairs leading to the main door of the clubhouse. I'm not sure whether this is the responsibility of the house committee or the course committee. If it is the former could the mat be renewed or if the latter could the grass growing through it be mown.

Ladies - Bridget Whitworth Captain 2009

It seems to be the season of marking time. Enjoyable Christmas lunches, a hole in one by Susie Morgan and New Year party memories gave way to rain, snow and an inevitably wet course. Yet as we eagerly await Spring still the ladies have shown fortitude and continued to try and swing with rhythm in the Tuesday competitions.



Regardless of the weather a highlight for us was Golf Professional Sarah Wilson delivering an entertaining talk about her golfing life. She finished with some very practical tips on how to control the most important six inches in golf, those between our ears, and how to apply this in a competitive situation. We hope to reap the benefits through the season. Practice matches are now underway so we should fairly quickly learn how much we have taken on board.

Many of the lady members took a break over the winter, some taking a week in Portugal, some taking longer in New Zealand and a wide range in between. This didn't stop the maintenance programme, managed by the House Committee.

The cloakroom and office were given a fresh coat of paint and are looking much brighter and we are very grateful to members Parma Ellis and Hannah Butcher for spring cleaning everything afterwards.

The whole area looks spic and span and ready for our new Secretary Manager and Assistant Secretary as they start their new roles.

Finally, you may have noticed a new bookcase which has already proved useful and we thank Gordon Morgan for his fine work. We are now well set up for the summer and if only all those with aches and sprains get better soon an enjoyable season awaits. We seem to have had more than our fair share of injuries this winter.

Roll on summer....

Pro-Am in Aid of St Helena Hospice - Bill Hart

As many of you will be aware we have, for 25 years, hosted a Professional & Amateur event every summer to raise funds for our St Helena Hospice. I am pleased to say that 2009 will be no exception.

Last year we presented a cheque for £5000, which was very satisfying for me, and something we can all take pride from. The handing over of a cheque is only half the story.

Some 170 golfers played on the day, 243 people were fed and many, many more were wattered. The star prize in the raffle of two executive tickets for the Charity Shield at Wembley, along with a host of other quality prizes, ensured that the raffle provided a large contribution. Behind the scenes, as you can imagine, a hive of activity operated to make sure the entire thing looks effortless, I hope!

Preparation has begun for this year's event, to be held on Friday July 31st. We have room for 47 teams, a significant number being member teams. Last year we had more member teams than ever before and I hope to continue this trend in 2009.

Due to the uncertainty in the economy we have taken the decision to bring forward the planning to ensure we give ourselves the maximum



Inside the marquee on Pro-Am Day 2008

Success Stories - Rachel and Sarah Graves

Sarah and Rachel Graves will be well known to most members. Having spent their youth slaving away at their golf games from dawn 'til dusk they were models of dedication and politeness.

So it was with real pleasure that the club welcomed back the girls, just before Christmas when Rachel gave a talk on her experiences in America. It was a pleasure although no surprise to see that they have both become confident, hard working young ladies, and all the many hours that they spent practising at Colchester have truly paid off! It was interesting to see that, by two entirely separate routes, they have both successfully achieved what they set out to do several years ago, which was to follow a career in golf.

Rachel went on a golf scholarship for four years at Coastal Carolina University in America and, whilst she was on a short trip home for Christmas, came to the Club to make a small presentation to the members on her experiences. The talk was most interesting and as well as explaining the American education system, she gave a detailed account of her three month 'internship' (work experience) which she had to complete as part of her degree course. Graduating in November 2008 and attaining marks which gained her the second level award was a tremendous achievement and where she thoroughly enjoys her new career. We wish them both good luck and much success, it was a pleasure to see them.



Tips for Improving Slow Play

Marking Your Card
Not on the green or on the tee when it is your turn to play

Ambling/Dawdling
Be aware of what's going on ahead or behind you and walk briskly, it's good for the health too!

Pre Shot Routines/Practice Swings
Do you really need the third full practice shot?

Provisional Balls
If you have any doubt where your ball has landed hit a provisional. At best you keep the pace of play up, at worst you have a practice shot during a competitive round!

So, just four little things that could knock at least 15 minutes off a round, so please remember **BE READY TO PLAY**, keep up with the match in front, not in front of the match behind and we shall all reap the benefits.



Mr Bokenham practising what he preaches!

Just a Minute

July 1946

The suggestion that a rule be passed prohibiting players stripping to the waist when playing was discussed. It was agreed that the Captain and Secretary should see members concerned and request them to wear normal golfing attire.

Professional - Mark Angel

With the days getting longer and the weather a bit kinder, it is time to dust off your clubs and get back on the course. For anyone wanting help in any aspect of their golf game, I will be available every Saturday during April from 9.30 to 11.30am on the driving range to give you a few tips on how to improve your scores this year. Free range balls will be available and if you are interested there is a charge of £10 per session. Please just turn up – no need to register.

Our very popular Mini Junior sessions are starting again from Sunday 19th April for 6 to 11 year olds. It costs £32 for 8 weeks and classes are for one hour from 9.15 to 2pm on Sundays depending on age and ability. We restrict numbers to 10 per class so please email me at professional@colchestergolfclub.com or pick up a registration form as soon as possible. In any case, come and talk to us about your goals, your strong and not so strong points and between us we can have you swinging to your MOT. I am here to help you get the most from your golf so please come and see me if you need anything from new grips to greater length or accuracy. Our Titleist and Cobra demo days were very successful last year and I hope to repeat. Notices will be put up when the dates are confirmed.

Here's wishing you your best scores ever in 2009!