

HALE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB NEWSLETTER No 11

NOV 2021

“Altrincham’s Premier Golf Resort”

Hale Golf and Country Club Continues to Progress

Sleepy old Hale Golf Club was rebranded Hale Golf and Country Club – “Altrincham’s Premier Golf Resort” – in 2006.

Now, yet again we are the forefront of Golf change as we go Corporate, a new major Limited Company!

The changes so excellently put together by Mr Fishwick are many and complex, so we have put together here a simple guide to what the changes mean.

1. Council Members get new Job Titles
2. Council no longer have Bored Meetings, replacing them with Board Meetings.
3. The Trustees are deliriously happy at dodging a bullet.

And that’s really that. All members are now shareholders. Please remember that investments can go down and there is no guarantee of a dividend.

The New Par 3 4th Hole

We are delighted to see that the club’s recent major civil engineering project is coming to an end, and members could be playing the new par 3 4th Hole from next Spring. It heralds more change.

The first issue is what we are going to call the new hole. All holes at Hale have a name. The current 7th is called Farm, so we need a new name for the new 4th when the Farm has gone. The Greens Committee is hosting a members’ competition to name the hole, with the prize of a handy Telescopic Ball Retriever for the winning suggestion. This will be useful in retrieving your ball from the new pond. There’s quite a variety of names submitted so far with “HS2” an early favourite. One anonymous suggestion being considered by the Greens Committee is “Green Bank” when modesty dissuaded the gentleman member from identifying himself.

The new hole increases the length of the 9-hole course by approximately 300 yards, of which 230 yards are additional walking. It will solve the problem of the current bottleneck between 3 and 4, whilst not speeding up play – which would have been an unpopular break from the traditions of Hale.



Sadly, another tradition will disappear - the 3rd/12th Hole Swagger. The Swagger is the jaunty walk members can smugly adopt when they have hit their second shot on the 3rd or 12th onto the putting green. It was pioneered by David Smith and perfected by Martin Bramwell. You first park your cart egregiously by the current 4th tee to signal a successful second shot to the players behind; the Swagger starts in earnest when the player rests his or her putter on

their shoulder and has a surreptitious glance back to the tee to make sure that players behind are aware of the shot. Yes, we’ve all done it, but most players will now need to take their bags with them.

Some more skilful players may of course choose to take a putter and an 8 iron for the next tee shot in a new version of the Swagger. We all hope that they shank their tee shot in the pond, or that the wind gets up.

An additional challenge with the new hole will come when players are playing the 3rd or 12th and thin their pitch or bunker shot into the new pond. The average rule-savvy Hale member will already be aware of the relief and penalty options for going into a water hazard behind a green, so there's no need for a patronising explanation here.

Jingle Bell.

The talk of the clubhouse is just exactly what is the purpose of the new bell 300 yards down the 5th fairway?

At one point it was rumoured to be linked to Health and Safety, but it is not clear what H&S issue it resolves. It is certainly too far away from the 5th tee to be heard by the majority of Hale members, many of whose hearing ability has them struggle to maintain a conversation when walking down the fairway with playing partners. In any event, why would one want to warn someone on the tee as you were lining up your 3rd or 4th shot into the 5th? There are surely other things on one's mind at that point.

Another theory is that it could possibly be a warning to players driving off the 6th tee that they must be careful to not snap hook their drive at the players approaching the 5th.

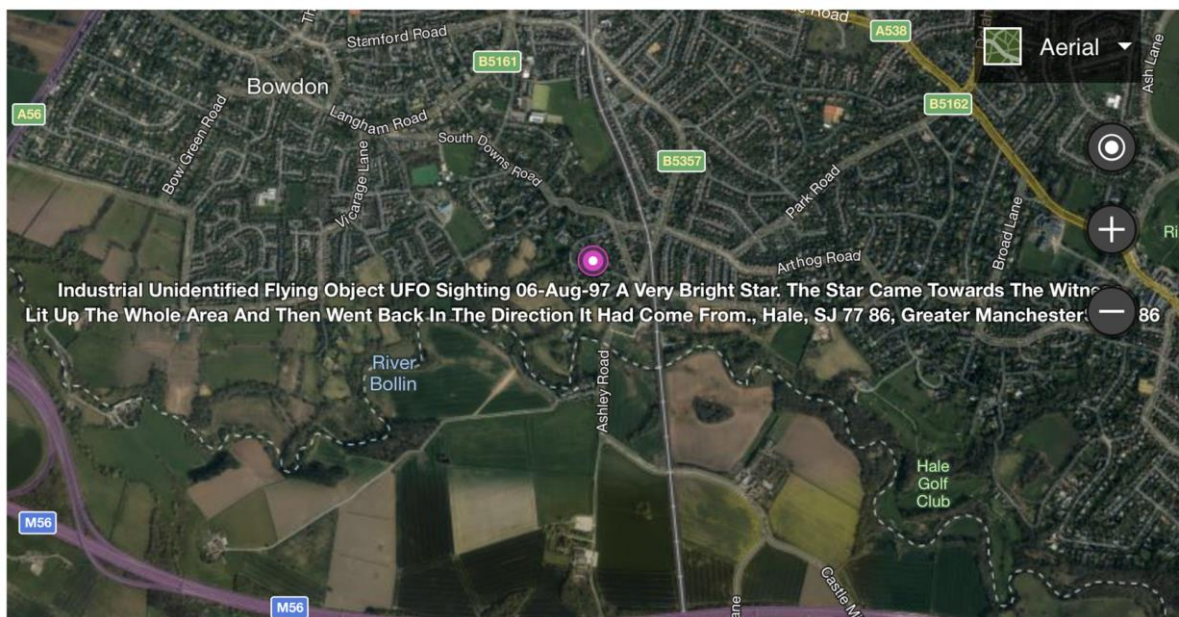
A further rumour was that Bryson DeChambeau was thinking of joining the Club, and his drives might, of course, endanger players. However, we now know that he only made a polite enquiry and once he heard about the 3 years he would have to wait, his application was quickly withdrawn.

Until this matter is clarified members must adopt an additional Health and Safety protocol on the 5th tee. Basically, if you stand on the 5th tee and can't see the players you have been following for the previous 4 holes, you must assume that they are searching for balls. You must not assume that they have all eagled the 5th and moved on to the 6th. This is a clumsy way around the problem, but we must persevere, and it's worked in the past.

Alien Sightings

A controversial story about Hale is doing the rounds on Social Media and the eminent journal, the Fortean Times. The story goes that Hale Golf and Country Club is identified as a landing site for Aliens, and that the new Bell's purpose could be to guide craft to safe landing.

The first sightings of a UFO at Hale Golf and Country Club were in 1997, as evidenced by the following report. It was found on the Internet, so is undoubtedly true.





But recent developments suggest that the club's links with Alien activity is increasing. Some years ago, members will remember that Hale was nominated a UNESCO World Heritage site, with the new out of bounds markers becoming the only man-made objects other than the Great Wall of China to be visible from Space. We thought that innocent at the time, but were these deliberate signals, an intergalactic landing strip? Do the initials AV not stand for Andy Veitch, but for some Audio-Visual aid for alien landing craft?

Conspiracy theorists noticed this and were then even more curious when the Ladies section appointed Mrs Kirk as Captain. Was the presence of a Captain Kirk another intergalactic sign?

A coincidence? Possibly and it may well have faded away as a theory until the Gentlemen elected as Captain a man who goes by the name of Spaceman.

Add to these facts that the early favourite to succeed Spaceman as Captain is Mr Bowie, and that Bryson DeChambeau has actually seen a UFO and the pot-pourri of circumstances starts to assume credibility.

When this goes viral there will be no stopping Social Media and Conspiracy Theorists.

News from Greens

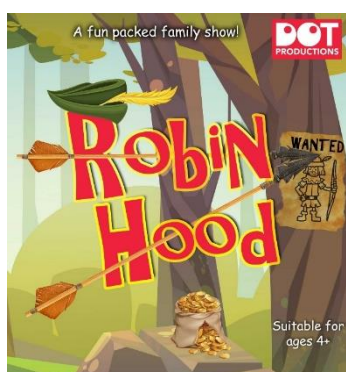
With our new incorporated status, we have social and environmental responsibilities, and the club/company seeks to be a leader in that field.



It was with immense pride that the Greens Committee accepted an invitation to the Cop26 Forum in Scotland, where they presented their strategy for how golf clubs can do their bit for the environment.

Their views on deforestation and re-wilding were particularly well received, notably by the Brazilian delegates.

Social



It was with great excitement that the Social Committee were able to confirm recently that they had secured a booking for an outdoor Theatre Company to perform their version of Robin Hood and his Merrie Men on the course next summer.

However, this welcome cultural money spinner has had to be cancelled due to the sudden disappearance of the proposed Sherwood Forest performance area at the rear of the 9th tee.

New Facilities



With an average member's age in the 60's it is increasingly important that adequate comfort facilities are provided on course. Mr Rashid had proposed that a facility behind the current Starter's Hut be provided for the men and has conducted a feasibility study based on a Parisienne Pissoir.

The proposal is being considered, but the Ladies section has objected to the facilities being available on Thursdays. Lady members have written in to express their concerns on a day traditionally

reserved for Ladies Golf. One Lady Member wrote “Even though it was just a small thing, I just don’t want to see a Male member on the course again as I pull up to Park”

Vale

Mr Captain Yates retires from Duties in the Spring. There will thus no longer be a way to keep up with Paul Simpson’s and Jonny Gray’s activities as his chums. Appearing in virtually every communication, they too will be retired. Paul Simpson. Jonny Gray. Owzat! Mr Simpson, an academic, will understand that in modern parlance they have been cancelled.

The good news is that Mr Yate’s Wine Lodge will remain a feature of patio life, in particular his successful “Introduction to Viticulture” Outreach Program that he offers to new Lady Members. which he has confirmed will last as long as people listen. The Viticulture of Hale Golf Club is remarkable with the Wine List of 33 Wines claiming no less than 42 different tastes other than grape, including favourites such as earth, chocolate, cigar box, sudachi, camomile, lemon confit, sea-breeze and sourdough. Yummy.

Juniors Etymology

We welcome Juniors in our competitions, identifiable by their hoods. They frequently play with adult members, which I am sure they enjoy. Below is a selection of confusing language potentially used by the juniors on course so that members can engage in more meaningful conversation:

Sus – When someone is acting suspicious or shady (check your score carefully)

Salty – Acting upset or bitter

Thirsty – Horny (careful of that one in the bar afterwards)

On fleek – Fashionable (rarely used)

lay – Killing it / Succeeding

Dead – When someone is euphorically happy

Dank – Really cool (also rarely used)

GOAT – Greatest of all time

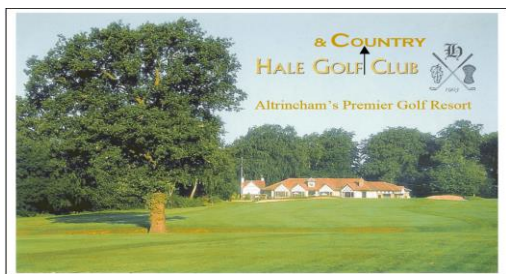
Yeet – A way to show excitement or agree

Phubbing – Snubbing someone to pay attention to your phone instead

Gucci – Good / doing well / feeling fine

Sick – Brilliant

Good Luck!



HALE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB NEWSLETTER No 12

MAR 2023

"Altrincham's Premier Golf Resort"

Seniors Section Breakaway

Hale Golf Club is stunned following sightings in recent weeks of Greg Norman meeting secretly with Alan Kemp and further disrupting the world of golf. Alan Kemp heads our successful Hale Seniors Tour and it seems has agreed in principle to split with Hale and to signing the tour over to Norman's LIV Organisation.

Having disrupted the global professional Men's Tours with LIV Golf, Norman is known to be seeking to further challenge traditional golf by creating a Seniors Tour. Norman will brand the Hale Seniors tour as the "Not Long to LIV Tour"™



Norman Invasion

He is keen to spread the influence of LIV to encourage young people to take up golf, and believes the Hale Seniors will be aspirational role models

Kemp said "the rewards on the Hale Seniors Circuit are not great and most of its members are seeking to find more security for themselves and their families." Norman has offered a signing on fee of £10 to all Seniors, repaying their initial cost of joining the Hale Seniors Tour. The punitive Hale entry fee has long been a festering bone of contention amongst the exploited Seniors and its return will be welcomed.

An emergency meeting of the Hale Competitions Committee will decide whether Seniors can continue to enter the Hale Seniors prestige tournaments, such as The Bradley and the "4 Clubs+ Putter" competitions.

Saga have been named the main sponsor of the Not Long to LIV Tour.

News From Greens

Greens have been forced to postpone their final winter project, the replacement of the 2 treacherous bunkers on the 3rd. Replacement was thought necessary following complaints from members who had failed to get out of them, an obvious design fault in the bunkers.

However, following feedback from last year's ProAm, Richard Booth has ensured the Bunkers have since been nominated as a candidate for the World's Top 10 Toughest Bunkers Annual Listing.

It is clearly wrong that they are replaced whilst in line for such a prestigious award.

You can see below the quality of the company we are keeping in this competition, and why our bunkers have been nominated.



Difficult Portuguese Bunker



Difficult Hale Bunker

Do not be fooled by the size of the Hale Bunkers. You need an aerial picture to see why they are a candidate. Cunningly placed at the end of a 270 yard par 4, an approach shot with up to 130 yards carry is required to safely clear the bunkers and land on the postage-stamp sized 30 yard 3rd green.

Greens had decided these hazards are way above the abilities of the average Hale golfer, but that decision is now under review.

Greens are also pleased to report on praise from England Golf. Members will recall that the course was assessed last year when the new 4th hole opened; as a consequence our course rating was increased. As it was a new hole England Golf recently re-visited it to confirm their original rating and they commented favourably on the condition of the Green one year on. They went as far as saying that it has weathered its first year well, and is as pristine as the day it opened. Such is its quality they further added that there wasn't any evidence of damage from pitch marks since it was brought into action, unlike other Hale greens they examined.

New Member Profile – the Captain of Knutsford

Members were both delighted and surprised to see current Knutsford Captain Nigel Jenkins join the Club during February – delighted at Hale poaching on a free transfer the current Captain of arch-rivals Knutsford and surprised because many people thought that Nigel has already been a member for several years. In fact he was simply our biggest customer for 25 years.

Despite many happy years at Knutsford, Nigel has been looking to join an 18 hole course for quite some time; but with no membership offers forthcoming he decided that being a member of two 9-hole courses was an equally acceptable alternative.

The Newsletter has received a leaked copy of an advice checklist given to Nigel by Debrettes Golfing Etiquette, outlining the delicate path he must tread during the Knutsford v Hale Mens Matches this year.

- ✓ He was advised that in a non-binary world pronouns are important, so he must address the Hale Captain as “my/their Captain”
- ✓ To avoid offence in his speech he must refer to the “Gentlemen of Haleford”.
- ✓ He must pay two match subs.
- ✓ He must not fist-pump if the Hale Captain sinks a winning putt.
- ✓ When announcing the result he must use the following protocols.

A Knutsford Victory..... “My team Won

A Hale Victory..... “My Team Won”

A Tie..... “My Teams drew”



Nigel is a keen football fan, and also supports Liverpool. He is a good sport and especially likes the Half/Half Football scarves won by fans with divided loyalties. Accordingly, he has generously made available some half/half souvenir scarves for Team matches (although for lettering reasons they may have to be 67/33 scarves.)

Nigel says “I’m so happy to be joining Hale, and especially looking forward to the great dining available at Hale. As a guest at a recent dinner I wasn’t sure what I preferred so I had both beef and fish”

Glastonbury Visitor



Another Celebrity visitor to Hale has been Michael Eavis, the founder and owner of the Glastonbury Festival who is in negotiations with the Social Committee to License their ticketing systems. He is looking to improve the ticketing processes at Glastonbury, in particular the best way to arrive at a fair allocation when demand is high. Eavis said, "For kudos it is hugely important that festivals and major concert sell out within minutes. However, when I heard that Hale had managed to sell out the 2022 Christmas Lunch Party 20 minutes before the tickets actually went on sale, I knew that Glasto had to be the first to have the software which relies on a clever algorithm and Pre-sale access"



Property Development

In the last year the Club has asked James Munnery and Ben Fallows to assist in monetising the value of unused HGC Real Estate, resulting in the creation of HGC Properties. After cutting their teeth on the Stewards Cottage and Patio, its first commercial development is now ready. The prestigious Duck House scheme on unused club land at the back of the 3rd is now being marketed through Ian Macklin and Company.

The development is sure to attract interest from celebrities, and the Newsletter understands that Hollywood Agents representing a Mr D. Duck have already expressed interest.



IAN MACKLIN & COMPANY
CHARTERED VALUATION SURVEYORS & ESTATE AGENTS

HGC Properties Present:

THE DUCK HOUSE

P.P FOR CONVERSION TO MANSION

Situated in the heart of the Conservation Area with ecology and rewilding at the heart of the design brief, Ian Macklin & Company Estate Agents are pleased to offer this prestigious detached residence featuring:

- Access to the stunning private lake
- Golf practice area on the doorstep
 - Sleeping up to 8
 - Aerial security
- Constructed using the latest state of the art joinery techniques
- Additional planning permission for further mansion house development

BOOK YOUR VIEWING NOW | CONTACT CLUB MEMBER IAN MACKLIN

City News

Our Top Share Picker, The Lord Lee of Trafford, has advised Hale Members to dispose of any eBay shares that they have. Investors may have noticed that during Mr Wainwright's Captaincy eBay shares have risen strongly. This is mainly driven by an unexplained growth in sales of Golf Tat and casual clothing in the Hale/Mobberley area. Lord Lee suggests that a sudden reduction in golfing activity by Mr Wainwright, as he transitions back to family life, might trigger a fall in sales, (especially Golf Tat) and that this may have an adverse impact on the eBay share price.

New Captain's Requests

It is customary for Hale Golf Club Mens Captain to personalise the Captaincy in some way. For example David Swale did a mean representation of Yorkshire Hospitality in his year. Our 23/24 Men's Captain is Roger Laitt who wants the Club to be aligned with his outgoing, invariably cheerful persona. What better way to personalise the Captaincy by adopting the Jolly Roger as our Club Flag this year?



In addition we will have some menu changes with Cafe Laittee and Café au Laitt and a Flaitt Whaitt being introduced as novelty Barista Coffees.

Roger is however disappointed that he will be the first Captain in 120 years to be Laitt on the tee at his Drive-In and thus incur a 2 shot penalty.

After Dinner Puzzle

The "Dod" is an age-old, complex Hale drinking game enjoyed at the end of all Men's Dinners. The tradition is that a nominated member has to first of all explain the Dod to guests and new members. This is a fiendishly difficult challenge and has never been fully met as an alcohol fuelled ennui spreads amongst the audience long before the Dod is explained.

However there is a proposal to replace the Dod with an even more fiendish challenge of explanation - how to record your scores correctly on the Hale Card. It will be trialled at the first opportunity and Mr Mossop has been selected to explain.

Tablegate

Mr Yates first introduced his Ladies Viticulture Classes during his second captaincy ~~reign~~ period of office. They have proven incredibly popular, so much so that House have authorised extending the patio to cope with the increased number of students.

However, there has been a breach of protocol in the running of the classes. Mr Wainwright was asked to simply recommend a Captain's Table Wine to the students. Alas the purpose of the class was misinterpreted by some anarchic students, resulting in them annexing the Captain's Table for their class. On a Friday. At FNC. With champagne.

Suffice to say that the attempted coup was crushed, the Table has now been reclaimed by the Captain and the potential collapse of traditional drinking etiquette has thankfully been avoided..... for the time being. We must be careful we don't move with the times too quickly.....

The Lady Captain's Parking space.

Members may have noticed that The Lady Captain has moved her parking space to now face opposite the Men's Captain rather than alongside. Some think this signals a paradigm shift in car parking hierarchy. However, it merely reflects caution in that that the Lady Captains have noticed Mr Laitt's car and feel safer parking opposite it rather than next to it.



Scratch Golfer



Following his retirement from Captaincy, Mr Wainwright will be holding a garage sale of Golf Equipment immediately after the new Captain's Drive In at his house in Mobberley. With a selection of over 4000 clubs there's bound to be one to fit you!