

## Views of The Vale

March 2023

Just when you feel that the golfing season should be taking off, it has been closed down by heavy snow, freezing temperatures and roads closed. March has come in like a polar bear rather than a lion. We have had a taste of what the course will look and feel like after all the hard work of The Greens Team. Smooth greens hand cut, bunkers reshaped, trees that rob greens of light and moisture removed. There are more changes in the pipeline but soon the daily tasks of cutting greens, fairways, rough and tees will keep the staff busy. I can't wait to see the course when the competitions are in full swing and all of the course is in play.

My thoughts are very much with those members who are not as healthy as we would wish to see them and hope to see them back in the club house and on the course, very soon. It is always good to see members who have decided not to renew their membership, maybe on health grounds or family commitments, becoming social members and calling in to meet old friends.



How are you managing with the handicap system? I've put in quite a lot of cards over the last few years and my handicap has shot up. It has not been helped by taking more putts than necessary as the dreaded yips have gripped me. I'm getting plenty of advice on cures but in the end will have to sort it out myself. I read that Rory Mac, Tiger Woods and Bernhard Langer have all suffered with this problem at some time in their careers. There is no doubt that having played at VLGC for 64 years, once you cure a problem with your game another one crops up.

I know Hayley and Norah are in the middle of a very busy time of year in the office as subscriptions are due. Matt Davies and our franchisees Ken and Pam will certainly hope that improved golfing weather arrives soon. They all keep a welcome in the valley for members and visitors.

One of the great strengths of a golf club is the fellowship of members who form the committees when they meet, work as volunteers together and share ideas to develop the course and clubhouse. This all started in 1908 and long may it

continue. The ladies section are holding their Spring Buffet on 25th of March and it is always a great social gathering that raises funds for the section thanks to a great deal of work by our five star chefs. Tickets are limited so book now to avoid disappointment. There is evidence of such an event in local papers dating back to the 1920s. Membership is not all about hitting a small ball!



The men's section are fully occupied with regular activities to raise funds for the needs of the course, club teams, players who represent the club and improving club house facilities.

Gents and Ladies are keeping up the hard work for the good of the club. YOU can help greatly by attracting new members to join and you get a membership discount for your contribution!

Have you entered the various Denbighshire Golfing Union events that are advertised in the Club House? (Denbighshire and Flintshire for ladies) It really is time we had a Denbighshire Golf Champion in Llangollen.

I hear there are two or three members willing to help The Junior Section to grow and prosper. Many moons ago I joined the club as a twelve year old. Past juniors have gone on to being club officials, county champions and professionals. I often arrived at the club and a friendly voice asked if I wanted to make up a four ball at a weekend. It would be nice to see this revived and more variety of ways to play golf through the winter as four ball matchplay is great fun and a winter league mixes up new and old members. I was junior organiser for nine years and it was great to see juniors develop their game, take them to play at other local clubs and I even played nine holes with Ian Woosnam on one of our excursions. I'm delighted to see one of "my" junior players is now 2023 Vice Captain.

Thats all for now folks!

Thanks to Mr President and Steve Cooke for reawakening my thoughts for Views of The Vale.

Ken Williams

Regards,

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