

## CHAIRMANS REPORT

On behalf of the Management Committee I am pleased to report another positive year for Knighton Heath Golf Club in all areas of the business.

For myself it has been an interesting and on occasions challenging year and yet I have enjoyed the honour of being your Chairman.

I would like to welcome all of our new members who have joined from various clubs in the region. I hope that you now feel part of Knighton Heath and will fully integrate with existing members.

The year has been successful in a financial respect and this has allowed for further improvements to the course, which no doubt you have seen.

The visitor numbers even with the period of bad weather this year have been healthy, and this in turn places a lot of demand on the green staff. How they are able to present the course in the best possible condition is remarkable, many thanks Alan and to your team.

It does not stop there and this year Alan and his team will continue with work agreed: bunkers, paths and drainage. Please be patient and give them courtesy, while they improve the course and playing conditions for all of us.

This year we have put a hold on the programme of refurbishment within the Clubhouse, this is to allow us to concentrate more on the course. That **does not** mean that we will not finish the work, but merely put it on hold. The work will continue as and when the Committee feels that the Club is in a financial position to do so.

I would like to thank both Reunert Bauser (Club Manager) and Des Spencer (Finance Director) for their continued hard work in balancing the books and keeping the Committee within budgets.

I would also like to thank my fellow Directors for their support this year and for their honesty in the discussions and decisions that have been made through the year – not always easy or to the liking of some members. Please do remember that the Committee is made up of members who give up their time freely, to run the golf club on behalf of you the membership.

Whilst I mention decisions – the ground to the left of the 15<sup>th</sup> tee box has been under discussion and debated for most of the year. The information **has** been reflected in the minutes and I take this opportunity to remind members to read minutes from meetings and refrain from speculation and spreading unfounded rumour, then members would not get wound up. The Committee did not feel the need to post anything to the membership at the time as it did not affect them. With hindsight that might have been an error and I can only offer my apologies.

Long established members seem to think that the ground belonged to Knighton Heath Golf Club – **that is not the facts** – the ground belongs to a company called Regis Commercial Ltd. They acquired the land to build the housing estate that is currently there. Although the ground was used as a tee box many years ago, it has lain dormant for more than twenty years, when the current tee box was built.

After advice from a solicitor and reviewing the land registry documents the Committee decided to survey and mark the true boundary of Knighton Heath Golf Club, this has now been completed.

It was therefore deemed by the Committee to be a possible waste of £1000's on a speculative claim for a piece of ground that we do not use and has no bearing on playing golf. It was not in our view the best use of member's funds.

At the same time a claim was submitted for a wedge shaped piece of ground that runs from the end of the fir trees to the end of the fencing by the water board on the left of the 15<sup>th</sup>. It was felt that this was of more importance to the course and currently is outside the land registry drawings and deeds that show the boundary of Golf Club.

We are at present debating the best type of fencing to erect to mark out the boundary.

One other point to quash – at no time did the Committee suggest spending any Club funds on a practice facility – it was a “suggestion” put forward and was to be funded by grants, again people not reading all the information supplied has been misinterpreted. As it is it has been dropped.

A golf club is often measured by the atmosphere people feel when they come in through the front door and that is created by the staff that welcome them. In the bar David, Tom and team, in the kitchen Trish and her team – a big thank you from me. The feedback we get from visitors speaks volumes for their work.

I would also like to thank our professional Andy and his team of Jack, Alex and Alan. Since the day Andy arrived he has thrown himself in to everything Knighton Heath – attending meetings and working long hours to ensure all is well. Whilst away from the course he promotes the standing of Knighton Heath Golf Club, for this and much more I thank you on behalf of the membership.

The Club Captain Andy Groom, has overseen a busy year and has I think attended every meeting and golf function home and away, whilst maintaining his humour – no easy feat – well done. He has been ably supported by his Vice Captain Martin Collins.

Finally I would like to thank the members for all of their continued support and input as to how the Club can and should improve – another big thank you from me.

I look forward to another year of debate around a table, with a diverse collection of people looking to the future with one goal – to make Knighton Heath Golf Club as good as it can be.

**JIM AIRTH**