



Dear Member,

I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and a prosperous 2009.

Please find attached the 3rd edition of the Resort News Bulletin.

We hope you are finding this a useful source of information to keep you up to date and informed of development changes.

It is available to view on the website, via email and on the relevant club notice boards.

As ever, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and patience as we work to improve the facilities for your future enjoyment.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Towers', is positioned below the text 'Yours faithfully'.

**Stephen Towers**  
**Resort Director**

January 2009

### **Car Parking**

Car Park 1 is now officially open for all members and guests. It offers a large number of spaces, including disabled and family parking as well as a bicycle shelter for the more energetic!

The Intercom service from Car Parks 2 & 3 to the club reception is now in full operation and being well utilised by the members and visitors of the club.

The new external lighting schemes have been submitted to the planners and will be installed subject to necessary consents. Further updates will follow.

### **He's Behind You!!!**

Our annual pantomime Cinderella by M & M Productions, will take place in the St Mellion Suite on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm. Tickets are available from Main Reception. Adults £7.50 & Children £5.50

### **Club House**

The new Bewdern Brasserie has now been open for just over a month and is proving a popular addition to the St Mellion clubhouse. The new menu is full of delicious, freshly cooked and largely local ingredients, with even the coffee now locally blended. Feedback from members and visitors has been very positive and certainly evidenced by the repeat custom.

The new function and meeting rooms have also been well utilised during December and again feedback has been very positive, both from those joining party nights and family celebrations to the traditional member events. Indeed the Turkey Trot dinner enjoyed the highest turnout for a number of years. If you are considering holding an event and would like to have a look at our refurbished conference rooms, please contact a member of our sales team to show you round.

Recent visitors to the club will see the final phase to the clubhouse refurbishment has now commenced, with works to the main lobby. To ensure member access to facilities, this is being done in three sections, with final completion due by April.

## **Golf Course**

### **December Overview**

The first two weeks in December were predominantly wet and then a cold front moved in making December one of the driest months of the year. This has forced us to adopt our frost policy, which is in place to protect our greens from severe damage.

Frost is basically frozen dew that has crystallized on the grass, making it hard and brittle. A grass blade is actually 90 percent water therefore it also freezes. Because of the short mowing height (sometimes as low as 4mm) and fragile nature of the turf, putting greens are most affected by frost. Walking on frost-covered greens causes the plant to break and cell walls to rupture, thereby losing its ability to function normally. When the membrane is broken, much like an egg, it cannot be put back together.

Golfers who ignore frost delays will not see immediate damage. The proof generally comes 48-72 hours later as the plant leaves turn brown and die. The result is a thinning of the putting surface and a weakening of the plant. The greens in turn become more susceptible to disease and weeds. While it may not appear to be much of an issue if a foursome begins play early on frost covered greens, consider the number of footprints that may occur on any given hole by one person is approximately 60. Multiply that by 18 holes with an average of 200 rounds per day and the result is 216,000 footprints on greens in a day or 6,480,000 in a month.

As golf enthusiasts, Course Managers do not like to delay play but they are equally concerned about turf damage and the quality of conditions for the golfer in the long term. Frost also means course preparations are halted until thawing occurs. Golf carts can cause considerable damage, therefore personnel cannot manoeuvre around the course to mow, change cup positions, etc... which also affects start times. Our objective in frost management is to ensure that we go into spring with the best possible putting surfaces for our members to enjoy.

### **January & February**

The majority of work will be turfing and landscaping cart path edges on the Nicklaus Course. On the 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> we will also be installing some new sleeper steps.

During the frosty days we will concentrate on scrub clearance on areas such as the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> holes on the Nicklaus Course.

Drainage work will be continued on key areas such as 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> fairways. We will also be addressing under performing drainage lines identified following the heavy autumn rains.

## **Golf Shop**

### **The Sale**

The Professional team are holding a 2-day sale in the St Cleer Suite (Opposite the main reception desk) on the 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> January. There will be a variety of stock on offer, **which has to be cleared!!!**

### **Members Social Evening**

On Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January from 8pm the St Mellion Professionals are hosting a social event with a difference. In association with sponsors Sony, the night will revolve around the TV golf coverage of the Hawaiian Open, with some fun games and chance to meet fellow members. To register or enquire please call the team on 01579 352002 (option #2). There is no cost for this event however optional food will be available on the night. We have over 50-members already booked so don't delay.

### **Golf Academy**

Some members have already started getting their game in to shape ready for the new season using the new "Player Profile" concept. All the Professionals use the latest video coaching system, which has proved very popular. In addition they are also offering 3,6,9 or 18-hole playing lessons on either course, perfect for fine tuning your course management. Please ask us how we can help you with your game.

### **Online Bookings**

St Mellion will very shortly be launching an on-line member booking system to allow members to book their tee times at their own convenience, yet another new benefit for our members. Further updates are expected towards the end of January.

### **Bude Away Day**

On Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January a couple of the St Mellion Professionals are organising an "Away Day" to Bude & North Cornwall GC. The cost is £35 to include green fee, food and prizes. If you would like to participate please register with the Professional shop. We did a similar trip last year which proved to be very successful.

### **Old Course Start Hole**

Until further notice golf will continue to start from the 10<sup>th</sup> tee of the Old Course. Please remember to use the golf information line, which is updated each morning to advise about course and trolley restrictions.

## **Aero Leisure Club**

Work has now been completed on the stairs and entrance to Aero. Thank you for bearing with us whilst these essential upgrades were carried out. The Elemis Spa is now fully open again having been temporarily relocated during December.

Spa opening hours are:

Monday – Friday 9am – 8.30pm

Saturday – Sunday 9am – 5pm

## **Feedback**

The Leisure Club Feedback system we introduced at the end of last year has certainly been a successful and positive means of communication. Comments put forward have largely been constructive and have helped us to improve and develop the service and facilities for members. Forms are available at the leisure reception desk and responses from the Leisure Manager are displayed on a board by the Spa.

## **New Year New Focus**

If you have let things slip a little over the festive season, or maybe want to turn over a new leaf and improve your health and wellbeing, it's worth booking in with one of our fully qualified fitness Instructors for a programme update to get you back on track. Please enquire at Aero Reception.

## **Classes**

These are a great way of getting into shape and also meeting fellow members. There are a wide range of classes available to suit everyone and timetables are available at the desk. Please remember to book well in advance to avoid missing out as numbers are limited for health and safety reasons. Bookings can be made either in person at Aero Reception or over the telephone up to 7 days in advance.

## **Personnel Changes**

Andrew Lawrence has joined us this week as the Brasserie Manager. Andrew is a native of South East Cornwall and returns to St Mellion having spent the past 4 years as food and beverage manager at the beautiful Burhill Golf Club in Surrey. He is looking forward to seeing you in the Brasserie soon.

After two exciting years, Simon Lane has made the decision to depart St Mellion for sunny Bournemouth. Simon made a significant contribution to the development of St Mellion during his time here and leaves with our best wishes. Club captain, Ian Parker has written on behalf of the golf section to express his gratitude for Simon's contribution and the legacy he leaves.

