

DON'S DILEMMA—Don Biddle

Question: The flag stick has been removed from the hole and put down off the green. The player putts and the ball runs past the hole and hits the flagstick, which is off the green. Is there a penalty?

Answer: Yes! It does not matter where the flag is after it has been removed from the hole, when the player's ball hits the flagstick on the ground, he incurs a penalty of loss of hole in match play and a 2 stroke penalty in stroke play and the ball is now to be played as it lies.

NB: Now is the time of year for the annual review of handicaps. Logistically it is not possible to research everyone's handicap, so if any member wishes their handicap to be reviewed, could they inform the handicap secretary by email, phone, or by a note to the office.

POTTED HISTORY OF YOUR CLUB CAPTAIN

If I could just take you back and share some of my moments. My first recollection of Filton being at the age of 12, when I used to caddie for some of the senior members, I believe for 2 shillings a round. That included shouldering the blame for poor shots and lost balls. Soon packed that in, money was better as a choir-boy at weddings.

I joined BAC back in the 60's, and worked within the engineering industry until I joined the Avon and Somerset police in 1979. This was also my first experience of playing golf at Filton, having joined the police society. Only played for a couple of years due to work and other sporting commitments.

I had 30 wonderful years within the police dealing with many major incidents, some of the murder enquiries being members or relatives of members of this club. I retired in 2009 having achieved the rank of Detective Chief Superintendent, being the longest serving head of CID in the forces history, and since have been advising on issues such as sexual violence, to multi-agencies within a national arena.

I have a strong sporting background, having played rugby, cricket and football (retired just short of my 50th birthday) for both the police and local teams. Amongst all of this I found time to marry my lovely wife Karen, we have 3 children and 2 grandchildren and live locally in Olveston, I rejoined Filton as a full member in 1997. So in brief I have lived locally and have had a connection with the club for most of my life.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT—Gary Duke**

Firstly I hope all of our members had a very happy Christmas and enjoy a prosperous 2012. The club is currently holding its own in these difficult financial times; however there remains much work to be done to ensure that we continually move in the right direction and the club prospers. I would like to thank all of our staff, Council members, Trustee Directors and volunteers for their very hard work and dedication over the past year. Without these people, their knowledge, hard works and commitment to our great club, the year may well have proved to be more difficult.

The coming year will also see some changes on the course with the restructuring of many of our bunkers and laying in of astro turf pathways. Our head greenkeeper Marcus and his dedicated team have put in great efforts to maintain the course to a very high standard. They have also come up with designs for the bunkers that work well and are of low cost to construct.

Not all of the bunkers will be completed at once due to costs, but first impressions and comments that I have had from members regarding these changes has been very favourable.

In the New Year we also hope to commence some landfill that I mentioned at the last AGM to raise additional capital. We are currently discussing this potential project with two companies and if this goes ahead, with our current plans, members and play should not be overly affected.

How annoying is it to have your putt deflected by an unpaired pitch mark on the green, none of us likes it, so let's make sure it doesn't happen.

Please repair your pitch mark!

Throughout our lives we all have many memorable events that we are justly proud of, family events, achievements at work, sporting triumphs. To now be installed as your Club Captain will be firmly fixed as one of my most memorable achievements, and one which I am honoured and privileged to accept. I would take this opportunity to congratulate Geoff Endicott on an excellent year as Club Captain, his commitment to the role, and that of being a fine ambassador for our club. I thank him for his advice and help by way of example, which will undoubtedly hold me in good stead for the forthcoming year.

As your Club Captain I am conscious of the responsibility that goes with that position, following in the footsteps of many successful Captains, several of whom are here this evening. During this year I will continue to do my utmost to represent you the members and to uphold the good name and traditions of Filton Golf Club. I will strive to do so with a mix of resolution, good humour and patience. I hope you all find me approachable; constructive comments and suggestions will be welcomed along with any offers of support.

The club has a deserved reputation for friendliness and hospitality, but there is always room for improvement. I believe a golf club is similar to that of a small community and like all clubs we have many sections such as ladies, seniors, juniors etc. We also have several informal groups such as the Pasties,....all of these groups having their own priorities, therefore it is my intention to get to know and understand better as wide a membership as I can. I would also ask that you all take the time to extend your friendships, take time to introduce yourself to someone on the course or in the bar, ensuring we develop further that well earned reputation.

A club does not run itself, and it's harder now than ever before due to the present period of austerity measures. To ensure the club continues to work effectively and efficiently it is essential we all share that responsibility. Having served on Council for 12 months I have seen personally the commitment of those you have elected to represent you, the tireless efforts of your Chairman, and the professional and more than capable performance of our employed members of staff. It is right and proper for members to question and hold people to account and I urge you to continue to do so, to ensure this is truly a members club and changes are made to the benefit of all. But please balance that with the fact that much has changed in the day to day running of the modern golf club, and those charged with that task must have our trust and confidence to do so, but be assured your club is in safe hands.

One of my responsibilities with the help of my wife Karen and others is to arrange the year's activities, hopefully ensuring members, their families and friends enjoy the calendar of social events. We will continue the popular quiz

New Rules 2012 – The R&A. have revised and re-issued the Rules of Golf for 2012 to 2015. The main changes are outlined here and came into force on 1/1/2012:-

Definition of Addressing the ball: A player has addressed the ball when he has grounded his club in front of or behind the ball, regardless of whether or not he has taken his stance. Now, therefore a player cannot address his ball in a bunker
Note: Now the stance has no bearing in addressing the ball (see also related change to rule 18-2b (ball moving after address))

Rule 18-2b - Ball moving after address: If a player's ball moves after he has addressed it the player is deemed to have moved it and incurs a penalty of 1 stroke and the ball must be replaced. A new exception to this rule states that if it is known or virtually certain that the player did not cause the ball to move, for instance if a gust of wind moved it, there is NO PENALTY and the ball must be played from its new position.

Rule 12-1 - Searching for a ball: Previously the rule stated that a player could remove SAND or LOOSE IMPEDIMENTS in a bunker by probing with a club and if the ball moved while searching for it there was no penalty and ball must be replaced.
The new Rule: Players may search for a ball **anywhere** on the course, if it is covered with SAND and if the ball moves in these circumstances there is no penalty and the ball must be replaced and the lie re-created. In a hazard a player may touch or move LOOSE IMPEDIMENTS to find and identify it. BUT now if the ball moves in these circumstances, the player incurs a penalty of 1 stroke and the ball must be replaced.

Rule 13-4 Ball in Hazard - Prohibited Actions: Exception 2 Now a player may smooth SAND OR SOIL in a hazard AT ANY TIME including BEFORE PLAYING A SHOT from that hazard, providing it is for the sole reason of caring for the course and does not breach rule 13-2 i.e. improving stance, swing or line of play relating to his next shot. If you have any queries re the above, please see Darryl or Don.

PRIVATE BUGGIES – Private buggies, single man, are allowed on the course when there is a ban on the 2-man buggies. However with this concession come also responsibilities on the part of the users. Whilst every effort is made to ensure the routes around the course are risk free, users are and have been seen taking them down steep slopes or generally the quickest route to their ball. This is not in their own best interests or that of the course. They are also not taking care where they drive. Someone ran over the new turf that had been laid on the 9th around the redesigned bunker. In addition there are clear marks of a single man buggy that has chewed up the grass by the 13th winter tee adjacent to the path. Paths must be used where available and routes driven should be chosen to minimise damage to the course consistent with playing golf and also safety of the driver.

Before I put pen to paper for this newsletter I thought I would check up on last years report and my - o - my, how different the weather is from a twelvemonth ago. In January 2011 we were all in the doldrums with what appeared to be perpetual frost and cold. This year it is unseasonably warm, with main greens still in play, despite being rather wet under foot.

Congratulations to Marcus and his staff for keeping the course in such good condition. We have all noticed work being done to the bunkers and it gives me great pleasure to inform you all that your Seniors Section has made a not insignificant contribution to the cost. Please remember that we can only make such contributions toward the improvement of the course through your continued support, and in particular for our two Open Competitions.

Since my last report the Seniors Section have held their AGM at which our Captain for the coming season, Mr Martyn Powell was installed with his Vice Captain Mr George Neck. I am sure all seniors wish them both every success and enjoyment for the coming season. Please show your support by putting your name forward for as many matches as you can, thus giving him plenty of names for selection. Martyn also tells me that his charity for 2012 will be "Ourplace" a support centre for fostered/adopted children, which I think you will agree, is a most worthy cause and deserving of our fullest support.

This year Martyn has introduced us to the digital age, his point of contact is: filtonseniorscaptain2012@gmail.com From this site seniors will be able see the team selected and to confirm availability or otherwise . This new facility will be in addition to the traditional list being posted on the notice board.

The first match for the seniors is on the 1st March when we play The Staff. This event will also double as the Captain's Drive In. It will be followed with our match against The Ladies on Tuesday 13th March and, in the same week, on Friday 16th March, with the Captain's Away Day at Orchardleigh. The cost of which will be £36, which includes all the usual, coffee and roll on arrival, competition, prizes, etc. The entry sheet will soon be posted on the notice board.

At the AGM there was discussion on the notice posted by our professional Daryl Kelly concerning the redemption of cash vouchers for past competition winners. I have been in touch with the Pro Shop and Jock has told me that the situation has to a large extent been resolved and is no longer a problem.

Happy New Year to you all.

nights and themed events but ask that the attendance reaches a wider audience. These events are not only an opportunity to socialise but also to contribute to the clubs financial pot. One of the events we are planning is that of an open day for families, this would include entertainment for the children, and golfing challenges for all. I would welcome any ideas you may have. I will also be canvassing members as to the possibility of an autumn ball.

As is customary I will be supporting a charity, this will be the National Autistic Society, with a view to improving awareness of the effect the condition has on sufferers both as children and into adulthood. All funds raised will be distributed to support local initiatives. I also feel it is important to put something back into the club so I have pledged £1000 for the refurbishment of the bunkers on the first hole. One of my major events will be Captains Charity Day on the 23rd June. I have been able to secure some sponsorship locally from Audi, which will ensure teams both enjoy and receive value for their contributions. I will be circulating details soon, could you please advise at your earliest opportunity your intention to enter a team.

Finally I hope that you all achieve some of your golfing ambitions in 2012, but that above all you will have fun playing the great game of golf. To all you members of Filton Golf Club it is a great honour and privilege to be your Captain.

2012 CLUB VICE-CAPTAIN

David Cottrell is the 2012 Club Vice - Captain. David is the current Chairman of the Trustee Directors

2012 TEAM CAPTAINS

At the Installation ceremony for the new Club Captain, Geoff Anderson announced the following team Captains for 2012.

1st team - James Parker

2nd team - Andrew Wood

3rd team - Bernie Powell

Stragglers - Con Mulcahy

Juniors - Mitch Waite

Juniors Vice-Captain - Luke Derrick

RETIRING CLUB CAPTAIN – Geoff Endicott

Well when this Newsletter is published it will all be over for me, but firstly can I wish you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year. I have enjoyed my year as your Captain immensely and am now looking forward to a rest and just playing golf.

The winter season is in full swing and we are taking the opportunity to refurbish the bunkers on the course, something which is long overdue. The programme will take a few years to complete and likely to include some new fairway bunkers. I have donated £1000 to this programme from the Charity monies raised.

Since the last newsletter we held a very successful Captains Supper Night, a black tie dinner which also gave the Ladies the opportunity to wear their best dresses. The evening was a sell out with entertainment provided by Terry and Mike Peirce aka The Dodgy Brothers. My thanks are due to them for contributing to the success of the evening.

On a sad point I am disappointed that for the first time in over forty years we do not have a Ladies Captain. However I wish the committee now running the Ladies Section every success during the coming year.

In winding up my final contribution I should like to thank Geoff Anderson, my Vice Captain, for his help and support, members of Council for the hard work they put in to run your Club, Trevor and Linda for their management of the Club and Julia and her staff for maintaining the quality of the bar and catering service provided. Last but not least my thanks to Daryl, Tom, Matt and Jock in the Pro-shop and of course to Marcus and his green-keeping staff who manage one of the best, if not the best, Course in the area.

WINTER WORK—Chris Foran

You cannot help but notice that a large amount of work is being done to the bunkers on the course. Advantage has been taken of the extended availability of a digger to carry out this work. A schedule of work has been prepared for each hole. As this is too long to include in the Newsletter it has been posted on notice boards in the Club. It cannot be stressed enough that this work is very heavily weather dependent, too wet and machines cannot move around the course, too frosty and it is not possible to dig into the ground. Please feel free to make any constructive comments to Trevor or myself about the work.

HOUSE & SOCIAL—Goff Pimm

The New Year is now upon us and the Social Calendar has been arranged to give all members a good choice of events for the coming year. See below for a full years' list :-

January	Burns Supper Friday 20th Quiz night Friday 27th
February	Valentines Dinner Saturday 11th Quiz night Friday 17th
March	St. Patrick's Day Sat 17th Mothers Day Lunch Sun 18th Quiz night Fri. 23rd
April	Theme Dinner Taste of Asia Fri. 20th
May	Theme Dinner 1940's Style Fri. 11th
June	Theme Dinner Taste of Italy Fri. 22nd
July	Theme Dinner Taste of America Fri. 6th
August	Theme Dinner Taste of Greece Fri. 24th
September	Theme Dinner Taste of Mexico Sat. 15th Quiz night Fri. 21st
October	Quiz night Fri. 26th
November	Quiz night Fri. 23rd
December	Quiz night Fri. 28th Children's Christmas Party Sat 15th

For these events to be successful they require your support, so all you need to do now is see which events are for you, put the dates in your diary and book the tickets.

For Menus for the Themed Dinners see the Posters, expertly produced by Regency, now on display in the Main Foyer.

2011 has been a very good year for the junior and Academy section with some nice wins and good progress in the Bristol & District League. The Academy has had a very successful year with numbers at bursting point and the start of a waiting list. We have been blessed with very passionate members, raising funds for us to move forward with better equipment and further training courses for our dedicated organisers to gain confidence and experience in teaching the juniors.

In 2011 the County took on Mitch, Jonny and Luke, giving them valuable playing experience to boost their confidence to take their games to the next level. The County will be spending more time with them through 2012, as well as the Committee taking a more hands on approach with their games. We wish them the best of luck for the season ahead.

We saw some new faces at the Presentation Evening with George Boyes, George Hilliam and Billy Wilde taking some silverware. Keep an eye out for these names this season!

I know I always go on a little with passing my thanks to everyone for their help and support, but it is so important that all of the volunteers and even members are recognised for their efforts and support, as none of what we do would be possible without you. We do hope we can count on your support for 2012.

Academy Nights will commence on Monday 26 March at 530pm. Further dates will be on the junior website www.filtonjuniors.co.uk

Next Newsletter: Normally the Newsletter is published every two months, this particular one I put back by a month in order to have the new Club Captain's first input as up to date as possible. From now on, I shall be going back to bi-monthly. Thank you for your inputs to those contributors who are handing over the mantle to others.

Can all contributions for the next edition be sent to me by **9 March** please.

If you want a guide on how much to write, ideally it should be no more than one page, which is approximately 450 words, (can be less), more than one page can, depending on other inputs, cause a problem and may need editing.

The winter weather to date may have been mild, but the heavy periods of rain that we have suffered put the playability of the course under strain. So far we have been extremely fortunate to have only lost a few days of play, which is largely due to the greens staffs efforts to direct play away from the wettest/high use areas wherever possible. It is very evident where these areas are, they are either roped off or white lined, where trolleys must not enter under any circumstances. Despite this, people have been seen taking trolleys through these marked areas. If golfers continue to ignore restricted areas then the greens staff will have no option but to ban trolleys or even keep the course closed for longer periods.

On an associated subject, pitch marks on greens seem to be getting worse, not helped of course by the soft surface. You should take the time to **at least** find and repair your pitch mark and, as a responsible club member, repair any others you may see.

This is our course, please look after it!

LADIES SECTION—Olwen Simpson

As most people know, our section is without a Captain this year and so we have re-organised the responsibilities within our Committee to ensure that those roles normally covered by the Captain and her Vice-Captain are fully staffed. The Committee is chaired by Esme Mannering, Maureen Hatch is our Secretary and Maggie Barclay the Treasurer. We then have Gill Dunphy as Handicap Secretary and Olwen Simpson as Competitions Secretary. Alliance Team Captain is Sue Bindon, with Win Knight captaining the Friendlies teams. In addition, Sue with help from the Committee and other members will organise the winter fun competitions.

Anne Hawkes is our representative on the Greens Committee and Audrey Smith on House and Social. Press and Newsletter responsibilities will rest with me.

Our first fun competition of the year was the 3 clubs and putter, over 13 holes. The winner was Margaret Smith with 22 points, Steph Hewitt was 2nd on 21 and Gill Dunphy 3rd with 20 points.

We are looking forward to the new season and the challenges ahead and hopefully more success for our Alliance team following their promotion from Division 3 as Champions.

PRO SHOP NEWS—Daryl Kelley

First of all we would just like to say that we hope everybody had a wonderful Christmas, and Happy New Year to you all. This year is the start of a very exciting period of time for us in the shop, Tom is now settled in and I am sure that you will all agree that he is a great addition to the shop, and this is nothing but good news for everyone. We also have, over the next weeks and months, a big increase in stock for the shop with equipment from Titleist, Ping and Callaway all coming into stock, as well as a range of Ashworth clothing, along with Footjoy and Adidas shoes.

With regards to the clubs, we are getting a Callaway optifit system, and all of the shop staff will be going to a training day to be trained up as 'product specialists' this will enhance our ability to fit you for clubs on site, we will also be getting a Titleist custom fit kit, which will give you all a much wider set of options when upgrading your equipment. We will be getting a range of Titleist 910 woods in stock, as well as iron sets, and the new Titleist SM4 Vokey wedges (including demos). We will also be getting in a range of Callaway equipment with Drivers, fairway woods, Irons and wedges. On top of this we will continue to stock a range of Ping and Odyssey putters- including a few belly putters that will hopefully be on the shelf in the not too distant future, in an attempt for us to try and keep up with the trends out on tour, where longer putters are becoming increasingly more popular. Our Ping stock will also be replenished and grown with the inclusion of the up and coming i20 range of clubs.

We are getting in a range of both crested and non crested Ashworth sweaters and shirts so everyone will be able to wear our club logo with pride. We will also be getting in three different styles of Footjoy shoe, with any other styles that anybody is interested in available to order, with very quick turn over times. We will also be stocking some Adidas footwear, again in an attempt to increase the options available to you. We currently have some Sunice, GoreTex waterproofs in stock, both Tom and Matt have snapped up a set and are very impressed, and are sure that you will be too; at £99 for the bottoms and £150 for the jackets they are very reasonably priced, and come with a lifetime waterproof guarantee. So for those of you who aren't put off by inclement weather, it is definitely worth investing in some quality waterproofs as heavy wet clothing is no good for anybody when trying to put a consistent swing together.

We are now in a position where we can get almost any equipment on the market, for this reason we would always greatly appreciate the opportunity to be given the chance to try and source anything you may be after, even if it isn't on view in the shop, we will always endeavour to offer competitive prices when doing so.

This time of year we are all starting to look forward to the new season, and for that reason it is the best time to start looking into getting your shoes respiked and clubs regripped. A rule of thumb is that if you play once a week you should be looking at having your clubs regripped once a year. We have a range of grips from £5 a grip, up to £10 a grip, and when doing sets we will also sort you out with a good deal, so have a look in the bag and see if your clubs need doing.

As ever Jock is available to tend to all of your golf trolley related needs, and again this is a great time of year to have your trolley serviced, the more care you take with your golf trolley, the longer it will last, and regular services are one of the easiest ways to ensure longevity.

We look forward to seeing you throughout the year, and we are always more than happy to help with any of your golfing needs or enquiries.

HOUSE & SOCIAL—Goff Pimm

The Christmas Quiz returned on Wed.28th Dec. and was a great success thanks to our quiz masters Neil Barker, Gary Finn, Pete Newey and Andy Abraham. A big thanks to all of you who supported it. The winners on the night were Bernie Powell, Pete Peachey, Dave Boyes, George Boyes with assistance from Mark Peachey and this fine body of men will be the Quiz Masters on Jan 27th.

The Children's Christmas Party was held on Saturday 17th December and over 30 children attended and had a great time where they received their presents from Father Christmas and were entertained with a Disco and games.

The Sunday carveries continue to be successful and the dates are advertised weekly in the bar. Look out for these and don't forget to book early with any of the Bar staff to avoid disappointment. On behalf of the House and Social Committee we wish you all a Happy and Enjoyable New Year.