



Welcome to the January 2026 EGC Newsletter



As many of you are aware from the recent announcement, we lost a dear member of the EGC community this month with the passing of Steve Shaw.

Steve was a real gentleman and an extremely popular member of the club.

He will be greatly missed by everyone here, and we send our very best to his wife Debbie and his family at this difficult time.

Below, you'll find the usual summary of what's been happening around the club, from competitions to news from the Complex.

Mark

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## Rules of Golf

**Presented by Ketan Bharania**

*[MP: This is a new section in which Ketan will be challenging your knowledge of the rules of golf. This month you are challenged with getting the latest R&A Rules app 😊]*

There have been several discussions in and around the clubhouse regarding the rules of golf. In a lot of these discussions there have been differing views on the ruling applicable for an incident during play. There are so many rules that it is almost impossible to know each one inside out. Golfers aren't required to memorise every rule, but understanding them can help reduce strokes, speed up play, and maintain good relations with fellow players which is why the R&A Rules of Golf App is so handy.



The R&A Rules of Golf app is the official app for understanding the rules of golf. It includes:

- Nearly 30 diagrams and over 50 how-to videos to explain the rules and provide guidance for common situations.
- A Player's Rule Finder to quickly locate rules and summaries.
- A Learn section with a new Rules Quiz and animated videos to help users understand frequently used rules.

You can download the app for FREE by either scanning the QR code

Visit: [randa.org/rules/rules-app](https://randa.org/rules/rules-app)

Or directly through the Apple Store or Google Play Store



## New Years Day Stagger

Well, we got to the end of 2025 with no course closures...and then the snow came. At least there were some bright blue skies to enjoy albeit the permafrost prevented any play!

But just before that we did get the New Years Day Stagger in. A bit cold, and bit sticky underfoot...but a good turnout and great fun had by all with just 2 clubs and a putter!



Congratulations to Richard Lansley who carded a very respectable 30 points to claim the winner takes all prize!

Thanks to all that played and made it a great start to 2026.

## Easter Bunny

The next EGC “major” is the Easter Bunny. Easter is a bit earlier this year, so the Easter Bunny is being played on Saturday 28th March – not that far away.

Entries are now open on Master Scoreboard so please sign up for what you know will be a great day.

More details will follow of the activities for the day, but in short there will be golf & food & raffle & prizes & chocolate.

**Note:** If you were a lucky winner of a hamper in the Turkey Trot, please could you return the basket to the pro shop asap for me to pick up



## Competitions Report

Update from Dean Pullen

### Competitions Report – January 2026

No issues with competitions in December, in fact only 4 competitions were cancelled throughout 2025, and those were in January and February. We are continuing the experiment with Mixed Tee Competitions and playing in fourballs instead of threeballs.

December's Competition Winners:

4/12/25 Seniors Midweek Stableford – Ian Holder 34 points

6/12/25 Ray Winter League 3 – Alan Pantling 38 points

11/12/25 Midweek Stableford – Tony Newson 33 points

13/12/25 Turkey Trot – Mark Norris 38 points

**2026 Opens:** Seniors Open, Easthampstead Open and EGC Scratch Open all set up on Master Scoreboard.

**Away Weekend:** 34 currently signed up for The Cotswolds.

**Away Days:** 19 signed up for Wycombe Heights GC on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026. Woldingham GC booked for 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2026. Hurtmore GC is booked for the Captains Away Day on the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2026.

## Treasurer

Update from Steve Cross

### Treasury Notes

Please keep an eye on your purse balance. Points to note:

- ✚ Your balance is easily available from MasterScoreboard along with a listing of all your recent purse transactions.
- ✚ Please remember that it can take up to 3 working days to reach the club's account.
- ✚ I endeavour to update your purse twice a week but sometimes life gets in the way. Rest assured however that I always check to identify any unposted credits should you have a negative balance before your score is removed from a competition.
- ✚ The 'TOP UP PURSE' button on MasterScoreboard is not operational as it will cost in excess of £1k per annum to use, just pay in to the club's bank account.
- ✚ Further information on how the purse works can be found on our website. See 'Competition Rules, then 'Entry Fees' to learn more.

Steve Cross, Hon Treasurer, 4<sup>th</sup> January





## Knockouts

Update from Kevin Lee

One remaining Semi-Final of the **Winter Knockout** to be played by 15th Feb

**Summer Knockouts** are now open for sign up on Master Scoreboard. Members have until 24th March to sign up, with the draw scheduled to take place in late March.

## Webmaster

Chris Corbett's tip of the month

### Tip of the Month

**Tip 51:** Competition Rules: As we do each year, competition rules are updated to reflect any changing conditions and to ensure best practice in running our competitions fairly. Another important change this year is the increase in per competition entry fee from £5 to £6. You can find the latest rules on the relevant club webpage by following this icon:





## COMPLEX Q&A

Summary of my monthly meeting held with Downshire Complex

Date 16 January 2026

Q&A between Mark (EGC Capt) and Simon (Downshire GM)

### General

The course managed to stay open all the way up to the end of 2025 and into the new year which was an improvement. The snow and ice clearly meant we had to close for some days, but given the recent rain, the course has held up well. An inspection after the most recent day of heavy/persistent rain (15th Jan) showed that the drainage works that had been done at the end of last year are working well and having a positive effect. The course is draining much faster than before bringing it back into play much quicker.

Greenkeeper adverts have been posted to bring on an apprentice green keeper to start in March. Applications are open until 14 February, but applications received already are very encouraging.

[MP: *many of you may have seen the Facebook advert*]

### What works are in progress or being planned for 2026?

In addition to the standard schedule of maintenance works, an extra £5k has been allocated to the budget for extra applications of plant protection products this year as a preventative measure to hopefully stave off the return of the Dollar spot that plagued the greens last year and the continued threat of Fusarium.

There are also some solutions being tested on the greens for removing the worms (and therefore wormcasts) which will improve green condition into the spring.

A demo of a robotic grass cutter (similar to that used in the summer demo last year and as seen on the driving range) is going to be tested in February. This is a different supplier, and the demo will be to test that it can cut in winter conditions on wet/muddy fairways! Anticipated this test will be done on the 13th fairway. Budget has been approved for deploying robots for the whole course and if the demo is a success, it is hope we get this deployed at the start of the season. This will save approximately 2 ½ man-days per week, allowing the greenkeepers to use that time more productively on other areas of the course like bunkers etc.

The gravel banding work due to start on the 13th fairway is still scheduled and awaiting the contractor to start works.

The willow overhanging the 7th hole (to the left) has been cut back (as requested by members) as it was interfering with the line of play when playing off the mat. Some pollarding work is still to be done on the 16th. The annual tree survey report for the golf estate (commissioned by the council) has identified 100+ trees that need something done to them (from trimming to cutting back to felling). Many we would not notice as they are on the peripheries of the course, however many are on the course itself. The ones that



**Capt. Mark Pearson**

require urgent work for health and safety reasons will be dealt with highest priority – waiting for the council to send the contractors in to action it.

## **Is there anything we (EGC) can do to help either in course maintenance or support for management?**

Volunteer groups to do things such as collecting twigs and branches into piles for removal, or “divoting” (repairing divots en-masse) etc would be very useful.

*[MP: Simon has told me how grateful he was the last time it was done following the pandemic]*

This is an idea for some evenings in the warmer months, and the Complex would look to provide a BBQ for the volunteers. This would help the complex and improve the course for us players.

*[MP: keep an eye on the WhatsApp groups and newsletter for this as the weather warms up if you want a free burger 😊]*





**Capt. Mark Pearson**

## Captains Charity

### Mental Health Support... Through Sport



**Sport in Mind** is a multi-award-winning charity that delivers fun, weekly sport and physical activity sessions to improve the lives of children, young people and adults experiencing mental health challenges.

"Sport in Mind's sessions have played a key role in helping me overcome anxiety and depression."

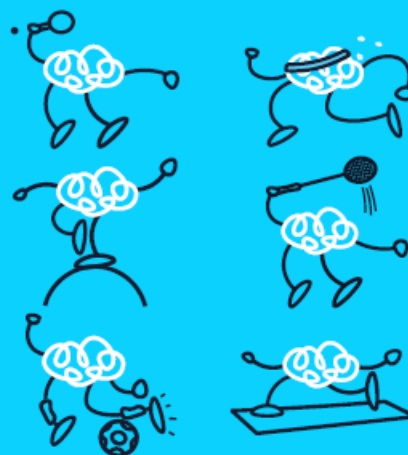
Kelly, 25



 **Sport In Mind**  
Registered charity no. 1161323

Sport in Mind offers a range of weekly sport and physical activity sessions for children, young people and adults to promote mental well-being. All abilities and fitness levels welcome.

Activities include: Badminton, Yoga, Football, Table Tennis, Tennis, Walking and many more.



Benefits of regular exercise include:

- Reduced symptoms of depression
- Improved feelings of mental well-being
- Reduced levels of stress and anxiety
- Improved self-esteem and confidence
- Improved sleeping patterns and concentration
- Enhanced physical health

If you would like to attend our sessions, volunteer or are keen to know more about us please get in touch:

Text or Call: 0118 9479762  
Email: [info@sportinmind.org](mailto:info@sportinmind.org)  
Visit: [www.sportinmind.org](http://www.sportinmind.org)  
f t i @ [@sportinmind](https://www.instagram.com/sportinmind)  
Fundraising: [justgiving.com/sportinmind](https://www.justgiving.com/sportinmind)



[www.sportinmind.org](http://www.sportinmind.org)

*I thank you for showing your support for this excellent charity*