



EGC Newsletter March 2026



Capt. Mark Pearson

Welcome to the March 2026 EGC Newsletter

As we head into Spring, reports are coming in that sun has been spotted, so we are optimistic that we have a great season of golf ahead at EGC.

The weather scuppered most of the golf last month, but at least our EGC President Ali managed to get on the radio (again!) and talk about the mud 😊

Despite the weather, the first Away Day went off without a hitch (see report in this newsletter), and as the Winter Knockouts are coming to an end, the Summer Knockouts are there for you to enter. Entries are still open.

Breaking news – see the Complex Q&A section re *change to local rules* coming this week.

And most importantly – get your memberships renewed if you haven't done so yet!

Mark

In this edition:

Upcoming Comps and Reminders	2
Away Day @ Wycombe Heights	3
Rules of Golf	4
New Members	5
Competitions Report	5
Knockouts	5
Treasurer	6
Externals	7
Seniors	7
Juniors Section	8
Webmaster	8
COMPLEX Q&A	9
Captains Charity	10



Upcoming Comps and Reminders

We are heading into Spring and the start of the real golfing season. **Please make sure you get your memberships renewed before the end of March deadline**, so you don't miss out on some great golf this year.

There are already a lot of comps and knockouts lining up:

Easter Bunny is just round the corner (Sat 28th March)

Bookings close by Wed 18 Mar 17:00

Look out for competitions over the **Easter Weekend**:

Jock Cockburn on Good Friday

Easter Shield (Mixed) on Easter Monday

BREAKING NEWS

SUMMER KNOCKOUTS 2026

Update from Kevin Lee:

Due to recent course closures it has been decided that we *reduce the number of qualifiers needed to be eligible to play* in this year's summer knockouts from 6 down to 4.

Sign up has been extended to April 7th.





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Away Day @ Wycombe Heights

Last month saw 27 of us rock up to our first away day of the year at Wycombe Heights GC.



The overall winner was Tim Challender on 33 points, pipping Tony Newson on countback, with Steve Hambly in 3rd and George Friedman in 4th



The 4 nearest-the-pin prizes were won by Riaan Matthysen, Alan Humble, Bill Furlong, and Mark Norris.





Rules of Golf

Presented by Ketan Bharania

Rule 18: Stroke-and-Distance Relief, Ball Lost or Out of Bounds, Provisional Ball Lost Ball (Rule 18.2)

When you hit your ball deep into the woods and then crush your provisional ball down the middle of the fairway, it is worth remembering that saying, *"I'll just declare that original ball lost"* is meaningless under the Rules! Under the definitions section of the Rule book, the term 'lost' simply states: *"The status of a ball that is not found in three minutes after you or your caddie (or your partner or partner's caddie) begin to search for it."*

You may ask others not to search for the original ball as you would prefer to continue play with the provisional ball, but there is no obligation for them to comply. If the provisional ball has not become the ball in play and a ball is found that might be the original ball, you must make all reasonable efforts to identify that ball. If you fail to do so, you may be disqualified (Rule 1.2a) if the Committee decides that this was serious misconduct contrary to the spirit of the game.

Provisional Ball (Rule 18.3)

If, after playing a shot, you think your ball may be lost outside of a penalty area or gone out of bounds, you should play a provisional ball. You must inform your opponent, marker or fellow competitor that you intend to play a provisional ball and must play it before going forward to search for the original ball. If you fail to make clear the intention to play a provisional ball and play another ball, that ball is not a provisional ball; instead, it becomes the ball in play under penalty of stroke and distance (Rule 18.3b).

There does seem to be some confusion around what phrases you may use to clearly indicate that you are playing a provisional ball. The rule states: **"You must use the word provisional"**, but then goes on to say, **"or otherwise clearly indicate that you are playing a ball provisionally under 18.3"**. Whatever you say, it must be obvious that your intent is to hit a provisional ball. As confusing as this is, we would just advise using the word provisional so that you can remove all doubt.

If it transpires that the original ball is lost outside of a penalty area or out of bounds, you must continue with the provisional ball, under penalty of stroke and distance. If the original ball is found in bounds, you must continue with that ball and stop playing the provisional ball. Remember, under Rule 18.3c, you can continue to play your provisional ball until you reach the place where the original is likely to be. If you make a stroke at your provisional ball at or beyond that point, the provisional becomes the ball in play.

But be warned - if you are aware that the only possible place your original ball could be lost is in a penalty area, a provisional ball is not allowed and a ball played from where the previous stroke was made becomes your ball in play under penalty of stroke and distance.



New Members

Update from Stephen Eddy

We have 1 new member this month – Colin Hedges

Please welcome Colin to the club

Competitions Report

Update from Dean Pullen

Competitions Report – March 2026

The horrendous weather has ensured that only one competition was played in February due to the course being closed.

February's Competition Winners:

26/2/26 Midweek Stableford – Kevin Maguire (32 points)

Away Weekend: 36 going to The Cotswolds.

Away Days: Woldingham GC booked for 23rd October 2026. Hurtmore GC is booked for the Captains Away Day on the 25th June 2026. Seaford Head is booked for the 4th September.

Knockouts

Update from Kevin Lee

Winter knockout

1 semi-final remains un-played, scheduled to be played Friday 13th (weather permitting!)

2026 knockouts

Due to recent course closures it has been decided that we reduce the number of qualifiers needed to be eligible to play in this year's summer knockouts from 6 down to 4. Sign up has been extended to April 7th



Treasurer

Update from Steve Cross

Easter Bunny, 28th March

A reminder that the arrangements for paying for this competition will be different to our normal competitions. The system will be set up to deduct £25 at sign in to this competition. For those of you who do not have a 7-day season ticket the balance as shown below will be debited from your Competition Purse on the 27th March, see table below.

For PMG users see (*) below.

Please ensure you have sufficient funds to pay your entry fee. If you leave it until the last minute to pay into the bank, then you will be excluded from all prizes even if payment is 'in transit'.

Please allow at least 3 working days for your payment to be received into our bank account.

Season Ticket Status	Entry Fee	@ Sign In	Balance
7 Day ST/PMG (*)	£25.00	£25.00	Nil
5 Day+ ST	£36.00	£25.00	£11.00
5 Day ST	£44.00	£25.00	£19.00
No ST	£51.00	£25.00	£26.00

Withdrawals after the 24th March will be charged for the food element of the entry fee as the Club are committed to paying that irrespectively.

A further message will be sent out nearer the time to confirm the days arrangements.

(*) For PMG users only, DO NOT book into the Pro Shop to have your points deducted, these will be deducted by the Office after the event unless you advise me to the contrary.

Membership Renewals

A reminder that membership fees (£90) must be paid by the 31st March as on 1st April access to all club events will be restricted to members only, no exceptions.

A reminder that it can take up to three working days to reach our bank account so to avoid this happening, I recommend that you ensure payment is made by no later than 25th March.

Steve Cross, Hon Treasurer, 4th March



Externals

Update from Ian Holder

Entry to the following externals have been completed (one team in each). Waiting for draws to be done by NAPGC, will send out further details as soon as this is known.

- ✓ Clapham Common
- ✓ Siemens Bowl
- ✓ Ballantyne Trophy

All externals have enough entrants signed up to make one team, with extra players available but ***extra golfers wanting to sign up will always be welcomed.***

Seniors

Update from Alisdhair Beckingham

A Seniors team played the latest M4 Winter League match away at Hadden Hill on 5th March. The result was a 2-2 Draw.

The league table currently is shown below

	Played	Home Win	Home Loss	Away Win	Away Loss	Home Draw	Away Draw	TOTAL POINTS
TYLNEY PARK	8	4					2	11
EASTHAMPSTEAD	7	2		1	2	1	1	9.5
WEST BERKS	6	2		1	2	1		8
HADDEN HILL	7	3			3	1		7
STUDLEY WOOD	8	2	2		4			4

Home win 2pts, Away win 3pts, Home draw 1pt, Away draw 1.5pts

Our final group match is against West Berks at Home on Tuesday 17th March. We need to win this match to have a chance of qualifying for the Summer Knockouts!

Alisdhair Beckingham. 08/03/26



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Juniors Section

Update from Richard Lansley



Big congrats to **Miguel Shirlaw** who got a hole in 1 on the 14th

And a **big thanks to Adam Brash**, who after managing the junior accounts for the last 10 years has now handed over to Jean Yves Chan

Webmaster

Chris Corbett's tip of the month

Tip of the Month

Tip 53: As a convenience, and also for non-members who wish to see our current calendar of activities, a new option has been added to the public home screen menu. Select 'Calendar' in the top menu to see an always up-to-date list of club competitions for the coming year.

<https://www.easthampsteadgolfclub.co.uk/competition-calendar/>



COMPLEX Q&A

Summary of my monthly meeting held with Downshire Complex

Date 11 March 2026: Q&A between Mark (EGC Capt) and Simon (Downshire GM)

General

Works - 20 tonnes (£1000) of gravel has been delivered for the gravel banding work to improve cross fairway drainage on the 13th fairway, starting 12th March. Works should be completed on the day; the 13th will be back in play the following day after completion.

Staff - A new apprentice greenkeeper will be starting on 18th March, taking us back up to 5 greenkeepers.

Robots - The robot grass cutters have now been successfully tested in winter wet conditions. An order for two of them will be placed in the next month and they will be capable of cutting all the fairways up to 3 times a week including the semi-rough, even in wetter conditions. We expect this will long term provide a much-improved playing surface.

Local Rules - Internal out of bounds has been modified on the course. The 9th is no longer OOB when playing the 6th, and the 16th is no longer OOB when playing the 11th. The 11th will remain OOB when playing the 12th. All ditches in the General Area are red stake penalty areas (whether marked or not). New scorecards are arriving this week with the local rules updated.

Driving Range - 30,000 new driving range balls [*] are being purchased over the next few months to replace all the white balls. (* we will be buying the yellow better performing and more durable balls that you will find currently amongst all the white balls)

What works are in progress or being planned for 2026?

Worm Casts - Treatment for applying soil conditioner to reduce worm casts on the fairways would cost approx. £8500, it must be put down in the rain to be effective and must be repeated every 2-3 months! The root of the problem however is soil compaction (preventing drainage of water sufficiently fast enough), so a new piece of kit (Verti-quake) will be purchased after a successful demo (at £12500) which slices deep into the fairways, de-compacts it and leaves no damage to the surface (unlike spiking). This process is faster than solid tining meaning the whole course could be done in a matter of days instead of weeks. It would be used in late September and then repeated during the autumn months. The better aeration should also improve the health of the surface and lead to better surface drainage.

Drainage – a local firm is going to survey the drainage requirements that are needed for the course. The resulting report will detail specific areas that can be improved and how much each will cost. This can then be presented as distinct jobs to the council for funding, which will be a more practical and viable approach to getting the drainage improved over the next few years.



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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."

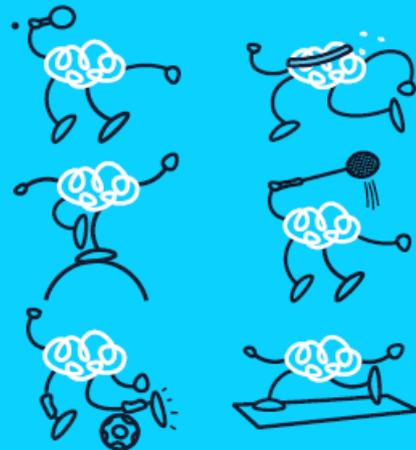
Kelly, 25



 **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
 Visit: www.sportinmind.org
 f t i @sportinmind
 Fundraising: justgiving.com/sportinmind



www.sportinmind.org

Thank you for showing your support for this excellent charity