

Dramatic cost hike for pools – *we need your views*

Staff are seeking members' views on how a dramatic increase in lifeguard costs should be funded, following a visit from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), earlier this year.

Lifeguard expenditure for the pools will rise by £50,000, as the HSE has decreed that both swimming pools should be manned at all times by two lifeguards, during opening hours.

And if the number of swimmers reaches the new capacity limit of 60, health and safety legislation stipulates that three lifeguards should be on duty, pushing costs even higher.



Martin Halse.

Martin Halse, General Manager, said: "Putting it simply, these costs are unsustainable and sadly something will have to give. We now need your



Option 1

Close the outdoor pool over winter

Option 2

Increase general membership fees by about £20 a year

Option 3

Charge each social member swimming fees, as with the gym and tennis membership, for example

Option 4

Reduce general pool opening times

views to help us decide on the best course of action. Outlined, above are four options.

Martin added: "As a not-for-profit club, we hope you will understand that we have to make these savings. I look forward to hearing your views."

You can give your views in the following ways:

- direct to Martin Halse on: martin.halse@exetergcc.co.uk
- via the website on: www.exetergcc.co.uk
- by completing a customer comment form at reception

There will also be a swimmers' forum on June 21 at 11am.

New booking system for the autumn

The reception team is at the forefront of the club's plans to become greener by dramatically reducing paper use – part of a vision of excellence, championed by Head Receptionist, Jacques Fournier.



Jacques Fournier.

Starting from this autumn, members will be able to reserve online to play squash, tennis and other sports, thanks to a new computer booking system.

Jacques, who has had the benefit of 14 years experience of working in luxury hotels across Europe, said: "We are doing our very best to provide members and visitors with the standard of service that can be

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Left to right – members Lynne Beevers and Debbie Moore discuss some menu options with Rob Phillips.

Throwing a party or getting married? Then call Rob

Rob Phillips is the newest member of staff in the events team and joined earlier this year after moving down from the Scottish Highlands, where he spent eight years working in hotel management.

Rob is now Banqueting Co-ordinator for the club, organising a range of social events, including weddings, wedding anniversaries, birthday parties, dinners, balls and school proms, for example.

He said: “The organisation of an event starts with the date in the diary and builds from there. I meet with the client to discuss details from decorations to menu choices, table plans, champagne, discos and bands.

“We have some exciting and diverse events planned this year,

including a banquet for 120 people with a full military brass band and bugles. And some of our wedding receptions are catering for 250 people!”

He added: “My position at Exeter Golf and Country Club is exciting. The club is expanding and has lots of potential.”

New look for club's eating areas?

The lounges, bars, dining room and kitchens are the next in line for potential makeovers – but we want to know what you think! That's the message from the club's Vice Chairman, Geoff Bush.

The process of refurbishment and improvement to the club, in line with the Route Map published by the board last year, has now been in progress for over six months. Improvements have already been made in reception, the indoor pool area, children's eating area and at the back of the club house, where new shrubs and flowers have been planted.

Geoff Bush explained: “Over the next few months, the board will be forming preliminary views on more substantial

possible improvements to the club's buildings and facilities. This could be the most exciting, but also the most complicated, set of developments and will involve very careful judgements about design, timing and, crucially, affordability.

“We will, of course, be consulting members as soon as we have worked up initial ideas in worthwhile detail. At the same time, we shall want to pick up any new thoughts from members and staff about other developments so that they are considered alongside everything else we might want to do over the next three to five years in an updated Route Map. The club committee meeting in May aimed to start that process.”

Dates for your diary

June

Saturday 7
Golf Supper, Dining Room

Saturday 21
House Dinner, Dining Room

Friday 27
Club Supper, Dining Room

July

Saturday 5
Golf Supper, Dining Room

Saturday 12
House Dinner, Dining Room

Sunday 20
Proms in the Park, 18th Green

Sunday 20
Pool Party, Outdoor Pool

Friday 25
Club Supper, Dining Room

August

Saturday 2
Golf Supper, Dining Room

Saturday 9
Club Supper, Dining Room

Friday 22
Club Supper, Dining Room

House dinners are based on a theme, usually linked to a country. Club suppers include a formal four-course meal.

For more information about the dinners and the parties listed, call reception on 01392 874139 or book online at www.extergccc.co.uk Prices for the dinners are roughly £17 per head.



T-shirts and charity for the Balkans

The club has teamed up with charity, Smile International, to supply four boxes of unwanted t-shirts to needy children in Kosova.

Children's Activities Co-ordinator, Jenny Nightingale, said: "We had lots of out-of-date t-shirts from our children's club, The Pack. I couldn't bear to waste them, so I contacted Smile International, whose next shipment of charity goods, was to Kosova. At the time of going to press, we don't know exactly where they will be going, but we are looking forward to seeing photos of the children wearing them!"

"We have applied,

also through Smile International, to be twinned with Molife school in Zimbabwe for children of primary age. The Pack will get the chance to write to, and receive letters from, the Zimbabwean children, exchanging details about their everyday lives.

"There are opportunities associated with the twinning that we are thinking about for the longer term too, such as older Pack members spending a gap year teaching at the school, for example."

Jenny is hoping to get involved with a shoebox scheme in Kosova this Christmas. The

gifts sent by children at the club may be the only presents some of these children receive. More details will follow in the next issue of *Club News*.

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expected at reception in a prestigious country club.

He said: "It is important our club keeps up with technology. The new developments will make it easier for both staff and members to use the club's facilities."

"Our reception team is happy, skilled and committed and I am proud of them!"

Short game golf coming soon

"Exeter Golf and Country Club will soon have one of the best golf short game facilities in the country," says John Parr, Golf Course Manager.

The green has been designed to aid golfers of all standards in perfecting a variety of short game skills and is constructed to meet top United States Golf Academy Association specifications for all year round play.

John adds: "The facility is close to the club house, sports bar and car park so is just a short walk for members.

"It is almost twice the size of a typical green so can be used by more than one golfer at a time and is carefully sited between the course's specimen trees."

The rolling contours of the green offer players slopes, mounds and all forms of challenges for short game shots, as well as three types of newly constructed bunkers:

- a large shallow typical green side bunker
- a deep pot bunker
- one for that awkward mid distance (30-60yards) shot

See the next issue of *Club News* for photographs and players' views!

New gym is light, airy and modern

The gym has a new bright, fresh look following a dramatic overhaul this spring.

There is new daylight-style lighting, ultra-modern TVs, hard-wearing laminate flooring and the walls have been repainted in a pale natural colour.

Martin Halse enthused: "The results are spectacular! We now have a gym that looks spacious, airy and bright. It feels as though we now have a gym rather than a room full of gym equipment – it makes a huge difference."

He said: "The rather dull blue carpet tiles have been replaced with laminate flooring, the green 'waiting room' paint has been covered with attractive Egyptian cotton and we've had new white lighting installed, which give a much brighter feel."

"Six new high-tech LCD televisions have been installed, four of which are suspended from the ceiling, and the free weights area has had a new tough rubber flooring. This, along with the chequer plate steel on the walls, should withstand the rigours of weight training."

Martin added: "We have had lots of positive remarks and it is now a pleasure to show off our gym to potential new members!"



The spectacular new gym and, below, the old layout and decor.



Club social event of the year coming soon

This year's club annual dinner and dance is scheduled for Friday September 19 at 7.30pm.

The event, which is hosted by the President and widely regarded as the club's social event of the year, will feature a formal four course meal, as well as dancing.

Martin Halse said: "The dress code is black tie so members get the chance to really dress up! It's best to book up well in advance to avoid being disappointed as it's usually a very popular event."

To book, call reception on 01392 874139.

New fitness classes

Two new exercise classes are now available, following the appointment of new Studio Co-ordinator, Louise Heath, who has had 11 years of experience teaching fitness.

She said: "For members who want to tone up ready for the beach, there are Body Pump sessions, which aim to tone and condition muscles using light weights. Body Pump is suitable for all levels."

"Body Combat is an energetic, martial-arts based class. It too, is good for all abilities and great for co-ordination, agility and general fitness."

Members should contact reception on 01392 874139 for details about fitness class dates and times.

Pack News...

No more waits for learner swimmers

Long waiting lists for swimming lessons are now a thing of the past thanks to a more efficient system and extra slots being made available.

Tuition, available for children and adults, now takes place later into the

evening and on Sunday mornings, as well as during the usual daytime sessions.

And lessons are booked in seven or eight week chunks, rather than allowing slots to be reserved for several months, for example.

Book now for summer holiday fun!

Time is running out if you want your child to take part in the Pack's summer programme.

A myriad of sports, activities and outings is planned, including cookery, skittles, pottery painting, as well as the usual tennis, swimming and golf, for example.

For more details, email thepack@exetergcc.co.uk or ring 01392 874139. Entries should be in by July 1.

Football crazy?

Children over five who enjoy football are being sought out for the latest Pack activity, following the appointment of a professional coach.

Amy Earle, who plays league football and coaches with Exeter City and Arsenal football clubs, is on the lookout for children of all levels and abilities, to start lessons this summer.

If your child wants to sign up, please leave your details on the list in the lobby bar and



someone will contact you.



Fore! Look out, as members of the Pack try their hand at tri-golf.

Confident, safe and secure

A new Pack class aimed at promoting children's confidence and helping them deal with bullying or dangerous situations launched in April and is already very popular.

Children are taught self-defence and confidence-building techniques, including verbal communication skills.

Jenny Nightingale, Children's Activities Co-ordinator, said: "It's so important that children can deal with uncomfortable or difficult situations and this class is great for boosting confidence and



Jenny Nightingale. teaching how to get away safely from danger."

Courses are six weeks long and sessions are around £4-£5 each, depending on numbers. Bookings are taken per course.

Contact reception for more details on all Pack activities, on 01392 874139.

'Nail-biting' squash success

The hero of the hour was Tory Temple Murray, only 13 years old, who walked away with the under 17 girls trophy at the club's national squash

tournament, held in April.

And Jamie Telford became the champion of the under 11s category,

Jamie and Tory were

part of the club's contingent of local county and nationally rated junior players aged between 10 and 17. They battled against

competitors from other areas of the country, to win the tournament's much-coveted Exeter Junior Open trophy.

Coach Jon Rycroft, said: "It was quite nail-biting at times with some very close games. Our players did very well, winning two out of the seven age categories.

He added: "Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped over the weekend."

The club has 14 county standard junior players who regularly compete in events around the area.

Proud: the club's junior squash team.



Outdoor pool area receives a make-over

The mews terrace overlooking the outdoor pool is undergoing improvements to convert it into a purpose-built eating area, which will seat 50 and open in July.

And 100 new pieces of designer furniture is on order for the poolside.

Classic Lloyd Loom tables and chairs will adorn the terrace, and parasols, sun loungers and more seating – also from the Lloyd Loom range – will surround the pool.

Martin Halse, General Manager, said: "The new poolside terrace and the stylish furniture are all part of our long-term investment programme, prompted by consultation with

members. We anticipate the result will be elegant and comfortable.

"We are planning to open the terrace cafe bar each

day between noon and 2pm and from 4.30pm to 7.30pm, from mid July."

The terraced dining area will work hand in

hand with a new waiting service to the outdoor pool for drinks and food. Snacks will continue to be available from the poolside cabin.



Left to right: Adam Tapp, Amanda Cox, Paul Sheaves and Jon Rycroft.



It's game, set and match for the tennis team!

Two new staff on the tennis section means the coaching programme is back to full strength, with new and innovative activities up and running too.

New coaches, Paul Sheaves (full-time) and Amanda Cox (part-time) joined the club's six-

strong team in April, with a view to increase tennis lessons and develop fitness classes, not usually associated with the game.

Head coach, Adam Tapp, said: "As well as increasing our coaching hours we're now running fitness classes aimed

at non-tennis players. Hit fit is a physical work out session on a tennis court, including exercises such as ladders, and tennis related fitness, for example.

"There are also new ladies' match practice sessions on Thursday mornings which run from

9.30 to 11am. And the girls' squad has returned on Friday evenings from 6.15 until 7.15pm and Sunday mornings from midday-1pm."

Contact Adam Tapp for details on 01392 874139 or at adam.tapp@exetergcc.co.uk

Tennis dinner dance - a date for the diary

Saturday 27 September is the date for this year's formal tennis dinner dance and will feature a presentation of the championship trophies, a sumptuous meal and a boogie on the dance floor.

"It was enormous fun last year," said Gael Salzmann, Ladies' Tennis Captain. "And we're looking forward to another great night. But we are advising people to book as soon as possible as places tend to fill up quickly."

Players urged: Join the British tennis scheme now please!

"Players who join the new British tennis membership which replaces the old advantage system, will be helping us attract funding from the Lawn Tennis Association. This will lead to improved

facilities and equipment so please join up now!" urged Adam Tapp, head coach.

The scheme is free for juniors and costs adults nothing this year. From 2009 over 18s will pay £7.50 a year.



Pictured from left to right: Mike Wickins (Mercedes-Benz), Iain Parker, Julia Norman, Chris Quantick, Georgina Snow and Lucy Greenberry.

Cash boost for charities in golfing event

Two Exeter charities will receive a cash boost of over £1000 each, raised in a single day's golfing at the club's first ladies pro-am tournament in April.

Cancer charity, Force and Exeter and District Kidney Dialysis Association will receive the money, which totalled almost £2,500.

Ladies Golf Captain, Chris Quantick said: "Golfing professionals alongside 33 teams from Devon and Cornwall entered. The weather was perfect and some really good scores were returned, with prizes for the best teams and professionals."

Chris added: "Thanks go to our generous sponsors and to Gary Milne for organising what was a most enjoyable day."

"Team winners were led by professionals Iain Parker and Georgina Snow (both from Royal North Devon). Julia Norman (Exeter) and Lucy Greenberry (Exeter) scored 10 under par. Top professional was Chris Gill (Exeter) who shot an amazing 62."

The main sponsors were Mercedes-Benz Southwest. Other sponsors included Progressive Systems and Queen Street Furnishings.

Charity cycle ride aims to support wounded servicemen

An officer serving in the Royal Marines has been training for the bike ride of his life, to raise money for fellow servicemen, wounded in action.

Club member, Major Rick Hall, whose son Dan is also serving with the Royal Marines and has just returned from Afghanistan, has been preparing for an event where 300 cyclists ride 340 miles across the historic battlefields of Northern France.

The event, sponsored by Halfords and dubbed 'The Halfords Help for Heroes Bike Ride' is being organised by the charity 'Help for Heroes' and will raise money for a specialist swimming pool essential for rehabilitative physical training, at MOD base, Headley Court.

Rick said: "I've had to turn myself from a casual ex rugby-playing golfer into a pretty serious cyclist in about



Dan and Rick Hall.

five months – it's been tough, but good fun!"

To donate money to Rick's cause, go to:

www.justgiving.com/rickhall

For people who'd like to donate, but not online, please send a cheque or postal order payable to 'R M Hall (H4H)' to Rick at:

Maj R M Hall RM, OC Base Sqn, RMB Chivenor, BARNSTAPLE EX31 4AZ



Tell us what you think

We want to know if this newsletter 'hits the spot' and what issues and information you'd like to see in future editions.

Please tell us and we will do our best to include stories that are useful to you. You can post or give this slip to reception, or comment via the website at www.exetergcc.co.uk

My comments are:
