

## **A Time for Reflection and Exciting Plans Ahead**

We love this time of year—it's a chance to pause, reflect, and look back at how far we've come, what we've achieved, and where we're heading next.

Our little business has grown so much over the past few years, and we couldn't be prouder. A huge thank you to you—our loyal members—and to our incredible team for standing by us and supporting our vision. Together, we've been crafting a unique, friendly environment that not only offers top-quality facilities for everyone to enjoy but also cares deeply for the world around us.

Your feedback from our recent satisfaction survey has been invaluable. Member sentiment is strongly positive. Colmworth is widely appreciated for its friendly, welcoming culture, good value for money, and enjoyable course layout. Members feel the club provides a relaxed and inclusive environment compared to more traditional clubs.

The main areas members felt we should improve were with tee box improvements, continuation of bunker renovations, improving our communications for course works & events, enhancing the practise facilities and continuing to strengthen the club's friendly, community focused identity.

We've read every comment and will be taking them on board as we plan for the future. Of course, we can't do everything at once—but in true Colmworth style, we'll keep moving forward with steady, thoughtful steps.

## **Celebrating Our Amazing Team**

Our clubhouse team, led by Joy, is the heart and soul of Colmworth. Their warm welcome is what makes this place feel like home. They're also champions of our sustainability mission—every order they place is researched thoroughly to ensure we make the most sustainable choices, from biodegradable packaging to locally sourced produce. For us, sustainability always comes before price.

Joy is now joined by Linda and Charlotte, and with our growing team, we're planning a much-needed upgrade to their working space. Our goal is to create a larger, more beautiful office while keeping them accessible to you. Watch this space for updates!

## **On the Course**

Bradley has made an incredible impact on our golf course over the past 2 and a half years - improving drainage, renovating bunkers, and enhancing greens. His commitment to sustainability is unwavering. While many courses rely on chemicals for quick fixes, Brad ensures we stay true to our environmental pledge, finding solutions that balance nature with top-quality playing surfaces.

This year, we've invested heavily in our greens team: two new robotic mowers, a fleet of battery-powered hand tools, and a new electric greens mower. You've probably already noticed the improved playing surfaces—and hopefully the reduced noise from our

almost silent machines! These upgrades help us cut noise pollution and fossil fuel consumption. Work on bunkers will resume in spring, but this winter we'll focus on improving some of our most challenging tee boxes.

## **Growing Our Junior Section**

We're thrilled to welcome Tom to our professional team! His impact on our junior section has been phenomenal—seeing so many enthusiastic young golfers out on the course (and even winning county competitions!) fills us with pride. Well done, Tom! We can't wait to see this section grow and thrive in the new year.

We'd like to hand over to Joy and Brad now - so they can update you on their year of events and plans!

Take it away guys!

## **Joy's Year Roundup**

Another busy year for the clubhouse team. We've welcomed some new members of staff this year and said a sad goodbye to others.

I do often sit in the office and giggle at the interaction that goes on between the staff and members/visitors. It's always so nice to get review after review about how friendly the atmosphere is and that so many of you are all on first name terms.

Event wise, we have had a good mixture throughout the year of anniversary parties, birthday and wedding celebrations, supported families by hosting a wake for their loved one and quite a mix of business meetings (yes including British Gas which always gets noticed and commented on!)

I have the enjoyable task of organising the Alma Trophy each May, a competition named after Julie's mum, with each tee time made up of a new member (within the last couple of years) an established member and a member of 'staff' (I do often push the boundaries with this asking the better halves of staff!), commandeering Tom this year may have given us the edge as for the first time in quite some time we won!! I am always so pleased at the response I get when putting out the invitation each year to you all.

We had 2 large outside charity events this year, one was a large group booking in aid of Sue Ryder, the other a shotgun start of the course in aid of SANDs. We always allow 2 of these events to happen in a calendar year and I'm pleased that we have already allocated both of these for 2026.

We have had a few small and large events for Parkinsons this year, supporting the local Bedford Support Group. Julie & Tilly were kindly invited to their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration a few weeks ago but with Tilly being on holiday I took her place. Both Julie and I were warmly welcomed and thanked for the support and money raised this year.

As we know there are so many deserving charities out there and with in house competitions and Captains Day's it's great to see the mixture of charities supported. I have particularly been so proud of what we have done for Parkinson's, for two reasons. On a personal note, I have a cousin diagnosed in his early 40's and from a work point of view to see how playing golf helps physically and mentally with this and other conditions.

I hope some of you have enjoyed the mix of 'specials' on our menu this year as well as our regular homemade options. We will continue with our specials next year using seasonal local produce. Please remember that everyone is welcome to use our upstairs bar and snug area for extra seating when it's just that bit too chilly outside for you, however we do have the lovely heating on each of the patios if you still prefer to sit outside.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you all enjoying your golf in 2026!

## **Brad's Year Roundup**

We've had a very busy and productive year here at Colmworth. As you will all well know the Great British weather likes to keep us on our toes, and this year was no exception. We've battled through a particularly difficult spring and summer (a complete contrast on the previous year) requiring heavy watering of the greens and tees, followed by a very high disease pressured Autumn and Winter. However, despite the challenging conditions we have completed a significant list of improvements to ensure the course remains in top condition for 2026.

Here's a brief look at some of the things we've achieved this year.

Water management has been a massive priority this year. To help keep the course playable during the wetter months we have improved and installed new drainage on the 12<sup>th</sup> tee and fairway as well as significant new drainage on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> fairways. On the opposite end of the spectrum, to insure the turf survives the dry spells, we have installed new irrigation on the tees 7,8,9 and 10, and improved greens irrigation on holes 2,6,7,8 and 9 as well and general tweaks and replacements on all the rest.

You have hopefully noticed and appreciated the work we have done on upgrading the front 12 bunkers with holes 2,4,8,9,10 and 11 being completed this year. Please understand that this is a slow and costly process with our small team and is NOT as simple as "putting more sand in the bunkers."

Alongside the everyday job of maintaining the course and its facilities, we have also managed to do some behind the scenes maintenance such as coming in in the evenings

during the summer to cover the greens for the removal of leatherjackets which were then collected and used to feed our fish and chickens, to maintain our proud status of Pesticide, Insecticide and Fungicide free. You may have also noticed the "professional" driveway repairs that we did in house and are quite proud of 😊. And how could I forget the success and great turn out for our Greenkeepers revenge competition this year raising in excess of £6000 for Parkinson's UK.

Back on topic, this year we have been lucky enough to be able to invest in the future sustainability of our equipment with the arrival of a fully electric greens mower and battery powered hand tools by Kress helping us to maintain the course more quietly and efficiently, allowing you to enjoy the peace and quiet of Colmworth, (when Adam's not around on the rough mower!)

Moving into the new year I am planning to get the back 6 bunkers completed, continue installing irrigation to the tees, further drainage work and a dry path on 6 and 7. However, the big-ticket item for next year will be levelling and expanding some of the tee boxes. You may have noticed we have started putting out winter mats - these, to start with, will be optional when you are not scoring a card or in a competition. We would really appreciate it if you could use them to help protect the tees during the winter - particularly with the increased foot fall year round - this will really help them to recover. The tees will be closely monitored and if required we will have to move everybody to the mats on certain holes.

Thank you all for your patience during the works this year, and as always let's pray for better weather next year. From Brad and the greenkeeping team we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## **Looking Ahead**

We hope you've enjoyed reading these updates and look forward to welcoming you back for an exciting 2026 season!