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## WELCOME FROM THE EDITOR



# Ten reasons to be cheerful

**With the weather beginning to show signs of leaving winter behind and us entering spring we all can begin to feel a bit brighter and more optimistic.**

But do we have anything to be optimistic about? On the face of it, perhaps not but if we delve a little deeper there are signs that could conceivably put a smile on our faces.

1. At least now we know what is facing us. VAT has gone up and have we noticed? Well, a lot of shops are still selling on the old rate, or paying the VAT for us. So I'd suggest that extra 2.5% hasn't made a huge impact...yet.

2. Inflation has gone up but it is still only at 4% when in the bad old days of the 70s and 80s it was well into double figures. The same goes for interest rates. They will no doubt start to rise shortly, but they are unlikely to hit the heady heights of 15%, which they did in the early 90s.

3. There is no way that we will endure the horrendous weather conditions we had last year so golf should be due an extended spell of great weather which will do wonders for the game and player numbers. The more rounds that clubs can clock up the better the finances will be.

4. The Olympics next year will mean that sport is at the forefront of most things in this country for the next 18 months and, although golf isn't yet an Olympic sport, that must still be a good thing.

5. Europe's golfers are at the top of the world game and the likes of Lee Westwood, Martin Kaymer, Luke Donald, Rory McIlroy and Graeme McDowell are proving to be great role models for the sport.

6. Fuel. This is a real bugbear, but there is talk of a Fuel Duty Stabiliser to stop the runaway price rises. As the oil price rises the tax drops to compensate and Voila! – we pay about the same – horrendously high though it is.

7. There is no General Election this year, so we won't be bombarded by politicians on TV and on our door steps promising us the earth and slagging off their opposite numbers.

8. On the same theme. There is no World Cup this year so we won't have to put up with the unrealistically high expectations on the one Home Nation which usually qualifies for the final. The inevitable failure, and recriminations of the said team which follow, almost makes up for the fact that the rest of us didn't qualify in the first place.

9. The Royal Wedding. Well, not so much the joining of the lovely Kate to William in Westminster Abby, joyful though that undoubtedly is, but the fact that we are all getting a Bank Holiday because of it!

10. The very fact that I've been able to come up with as many as 10 Reasons to Be Cheerful at all!

I may have missed out some but it does show that if you try hard enough, there are some silver linings to be had.

Scott MacCallum  
**Editor**