



## **Communications Group**

***(On behalf of the Management Committee and Club Members)***

### **February 2018 Newsletter**

***Dear Members***

***Welcome to the first Newsletter of 2018. As we look beyond a (so far) mild winter, it's good that we are still playing on most of the greens, and on durable winter tees, and looking ahead to a year of enjoyable golf on an ever-improving course. This Newsletter highlights the progress of the winter programme on the course, and the plans for 2018.***

#### **Plans and progress on the Course**

***The **Winter Programme** continues and is if anything ahead of schedule. The additional greens staff have helped to make a significant difference, and we thank all the greens staff for their work over the last few months.***

***Some of the key areas tackled so far are:-***

- ***Leaves? "What leaves?" The new leaf collector/secondary mower has proved a massive help in clearing leaves and debris.***
- ***Work on the trees continues to be a major project. Selective felling, and targeted planting, is already looking good, and allowing more light and drainage, and providing more definition to fairways, such as the 10<sup>th</sup>, where 20 new fir trees have been planted. All the tree stumps have been removed and turfed over, including some wind-destroyed trees on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> fairways.***

- ***Vertidrainage is complete on greens, aprons, tees and walk-off areas, and so is tinng and slitting on those, and the fairways, whilst fairways have been sprayed with soluble iron to keep the moss at bay.***
- ***Bunkers have been radically improved, with reshaping, lining and sanding in many, and drainage in key areas such as the soakaway on the edge of the 5<sup>th</sup> green.***
- ***Mr Mole is having another active year, on our course and generally in courses and gardens across the country. Our greens staff keep tackling their routes, and lay traps.***
- ***The in-house servicing of machinery has continued by the greens staff.***
- ***The worn patches which have been an eye-sore, notably around the 9<sup>th</sup> green and the 11<sup>th</sup> tee, have been re-turfed and roped off for protection, and other worn areas, such as the path below the 12<sup>th</sup> green, have been roped off. We urge members, and visitors, not to disregard those roped-off areas, and especially not to take carts or buggies near them.***
- ***As well as the planned winter programme, we have had to deal with the constant problem of vandalism on the course. Fences have been broken, posts, ropes, flags and rakes stolen, and all have needed repairing/replacing. Nearly £500 worth of flags and rakes over the winter months gives a measure of the problem. The police are involved, and the Whittaker Estate staff have put up information signs pointing out which paths are public, and that access is only between dawn and dusk.***

### ***Schedule for February, March and April.***

- ***The remodelling of the area ahead of the 8<sup>th</sup> green will be carried out next year.***
- ***Tracks and paths are being improved with stone chippings and hardcore.***
- ***In February, greens will be micro-tined and verti-drained, and tees and aprons will be solid-tined.***

- ***In March fairways will be fertilised, greens will be hollow cored and top dressed using the spin-dresser, and then swept and filled; tees will be tined and top-dressed.***
- ***April will see all greens, tees and aprons fertilised, and greens will be spin-dressed using drag mats to gain levels.***
- ***Other issues. We will consider ways to tackle the worn areas on the left side of the 17<sup>th</sup> green, the banking behind the winter tee on the 11<sup>th</sup>, and the firmness of several greens, notably 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.  
(Incidentally, the firmness testing of a green is done with a “Clegg Hammer” – not a tool that many of us have ever heard of!)***

## **Wider Club Matters**

### **Competitions**

- ***The entry lists for the Club knock-out competitions are now available in the Pro’s shop, and, when all the entries and payments are in, the draws will be made later in the spring. Please be sure to include your current phone contact details when you enter your name. We will not display phone numbers on the notice boards; it will be the responsibility of all competitors to get their opponents’ contact numbers from the Pro’s shop, and then to contact their opponent asap to arrange their matches.***
- ***Seniors’ matches are now provisionally booked and are available on the website. See [Seniors Match Overview](#). Many thanks to Iain Fletcher, who has picked up the organising reins from Lewis Walker.***
- ***Captain’s Away Days. Ted Eccleshall has arranged for a two-day event at Greetham Valley on June 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. Details and payment in the Pro’s shop.***
- ***The website diary now includes all mid-week medal competitions.***

## **News from the Pro's Shop**

***During 2018, Craig will be holding a number of “launch weekends”. When new products come into the store, Craig will be holding promotional launches, with big discounts and great free offers. He will send out information about a fortnight ahead of each launch, so watch out for those. For more details, please see Craig.***

## **Other Club matters**

- ***Please don't use the hose near the compressor below the clubhouse to wash your trollies (or any other part of your golfing paraphernalia). The area is slow to drain, and quick to freeze, so it's a potential danger.***
- ***Fraser Britton thanks all members who contributed through various collections to his Captain's charity, which has a very personal resonance to him. The Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospitals Charity were very grateful for the amazing £3000 they received from RGC, and it will be a fine memory of the spirit and generosity of our Club.***



- ***Similarly, Pat Stirling is very grateful for all the support she received during 2017 from members for her chosen charity of Canine Partners. A £2000 cheque was gratefully received by the charity.***
- ***Steve Hyatt has been co-opted onto the Management Committee, following the February meeting of the full Committee.***

- ***The Management sub-committees meet regularly to look after the various elements of the Club. Contact names for these committees are listed below. You can e-mail or leave a message for them, in the Office.***

***Communications: Andy Massey***

***Golf (competitions etc): David Stirling***

***Greens: Jim Robinson***

***House and Social: Mary Saddington and Ted Eccleshall***

***Marketing: Harry Fitzakerley***

***Finance: Mark Allan***

### ***Marketing***

- ***As part of our drive to attract new members, there are several special deals and incentive schemes. Current Members who introduce a new full-time member or Group members to the Club will receive £120 off their 2019 subs, or £120 put on their Club card, with pro rata amounts for other categories of new members.***
- ***If you bring up to three guests after 1.00pm, at £15 each, members will earn £10 on their Club card. Details of all these offers from the Pro's Shop, on the Club website and from the Office.***
- ***New arrangements have been made for Members choosing to pay their subs by monthly debits. We have a new payment scheme provider, with a slightly lower interest rate than previously. At the time for subs renewal, a letter will be sent out to all Members with subscription details, and details of these payment changes. You will need to let the Office know your e-mail details, and follow guidance on how to enter your credit or debit card details onto the Future Pay Portal. The Office will help you set this up if necessary, and similarly if you do not have access to e-mail.***

- ***Centenary Year, 2020.*** We are looking for ideas, and volunteers to join a working group to plan for our big year. Please let Harry Fitzakerley know if you have any ideas or would like to join the working group.

### **Another “Blast from the Past”**

**Here are some more snippets from the Minutes of the Management Committee, this time from winter 1949-50.**

- ***“The Greens Committee were worried about the amount of worms that were working on the greens, although they had been dressed with lead arsenate” (the greens, not the Committee...)***
- ***“The electric wiring in the clubhouse was unsafe, and an estimate was accepted of £36.16s.0d to rewire the premises, with 20 lighting points and three power points.”***
- ***“Following a complaint about the inability of Members to replace divots, it was agreed to put up notices in the clubhouse and locker rooms, saying that all Members must replace divots. The Club Professional might be asked to point out this rule when giving lessons to new Members.”***
- ***“Mrs H... asked if action could be taken with regard to people being on the course looking for chestnuts. It was suggested that the Police Superintendent be approached to see if a policeman could visit the course during weekends.”***
- ***“The Christmas Staff Fund, from donations by Members, was paid out as follows:***

***Club Professional £6.12s.6d***

***Stewardess £6.12s.6d***

***Handyman £6.10s.0d***

***Stones Drayman £1.0s.0d***

- ***“It was agreed to instruct the Club Professional to tell the Brewery delivery draymen to put deliveries straight into storage in the Professional’s shop, and not in the clubhouse. The draymen should also have any offered refreshments in the bar, and not the Club Room.”***

***And finally....***

***As always, if members have any concerns, ideas or proposals, please contact us so we can follow up with you.***

***From***

***Andy Massey, Dean Atherton, Mary Saddington***

***Communication Group (on behalf of the Management Committee and Club Members)***