



Communications Group

(On behalf of the Management Committee and Club Members)

May-June 2021 Newsletter

Dear Members

Have you ever seen such lush grass on the golf course, especially on some of those notoriously bare areas?

In this Newsletter we'll be looking at the yearned- for return of our golf, and some of the back-up in the Clubhouse, and our plans for the season ahead.

On the Course

- ***During the most recent lockdown, the Greens staff were furloughed for most of the time, as the winter programme, including major work on the 11th and extensions to irrigation on the 1st and 18th approaches, had already been completed.***
- ***Renovation work on all the tees and greens continued prior to golf restarting at the end of March.***
- ***Tree work was carried out on the 12th and 17th to remove overhanging branches and encourage grass growth, and we can see the benefits already.***
- ***Similarly, a number of areas were identified around the course as needing improved grass cover and playability, and these have been addressed with turf or grass seed, and fertiliser. Regular watering and now the recent rain have transformed those areas.***

***Good news!
Golf is back, with the
course looking as good
as many of us can ever
remember.***

- *You will have noticed the increase in roped-off areas around many greens. This has been done after consultation with members, to improve grass cover and avoid traffic on these playing areas – and it's working. We urge all members/players to observe and follow these restrictions, including white lines near the fringes, and to keep buggies and trolleys away from these areas to protect them.*
- *Similarly, if you see visitors in these areas, please encourage them to keep trolleys and buggies away from fringes and approaches.*
- *We hope you will have noticed our investment in equipment has resulted in a big improvement to the quality of fringes and approaches to the greens, and we can maintain that, if we can reduce trolley and buggy traffic in those areas.*
- *We hope you are enjoying the course, which, to judge from many visitor comments, is among the best-conditioned around. We thank Carl and his team for all their hard work in bringing the course back to such good form, with continuing improvements beckoning as weather improves.*
- *Similarly, many thanks to all those members who have helped on the course and around the club. Especial thanks to Steve Hyatt, who has managed the project of getting the new tee markers made, and to Stuart Moore, assisted by new member John Hallam, for installing them. Stuart has also put in a huge amount of work on other aspects of the course and club in recent months. Retirement clearly suits him!*
- *The winner of the Silent Auction for the advertising slot on the first tee post is Barry Brown, of the Brick and Tile pub, Moorgate. Congratulations to him, and thanks to everyone who supported the auction.*
- *There is a Greens Twitter feed, where you can get lots of information and photos posted by Carl and his team. Go to #retfordgreens. If you have any questions or comments, please contact any member of the Greens Committee, chaired by Fraser Britton.*



The new tee markers on the 2nd and 18th; a very professional image.

Health and Safety

There was an unfortunate accident recently, with one of our members falling into the pond on the 13th and struggling to get out, even with the assistance of playing partners. The water is deep, and the water vegetation can make it difficult to get a footing, so we urge all players to avoid going too near to retrieve balls. Similarly, a reminder that the orange lifebuoy hanging on the nearby tree is there to help in such situations.

Competitions and Results

- ***Please note that the blue tees on the course are reserved for competitions. For all informal/friendly play, please use the yellow or white tees only (or red tees for Ladies).***
- ***There are two open Am-Am competitions in June; the Ladies on 23rd June and the Senior Men's on 24th June. This is not normal practice, to have two open events on successive days, but it is a necessary carry-over from the centenary week which we have to honour, as many visiting teams have already subscribed from 2020. We hope it will not inconvenience members too much.***
- ***The Ladies held a very successful Am-Am day on 23rd April; the winning team were from Dore; our own team led by Sue Boyes came 2nd.***
- ***The Club competitions for Ladies are well under way now, with two already decided. Pam Beardsall won the Kayser Cup, and Mary Saddington the Johnson Trophy.***

- *The internal Knock-outs are under way for both Ladies and Gents, as is the mixed Rosebowl event.*
- *There are matches for the Scratch Team, and the support of members in walking with the teams round the course is welcomed.*
- *There are also Club matches, including Seniors matches home and away.*

Here are some results.

- *Retford Seniors Men beat Carholme Seniors on 15th April.*
- *Retford Gents lost to Mapperley on 29th April.*
- *Retford Mixed team lost to Doncaster on 9th May.*

At present the Centenary celebrations, moved from 2020 to 2021, are still on hold, and we'll let you know as soon as possible about events and dates. Similarly, the Captain's Charity Day details will be announced later.

Junior Golf



The Junior Section is flourishing, with internal competitions, coaching on Saturday afternoons, a Junior Committee planning ahead, with the aim of entering a team in the regional Dukeries Shield for the first time in a long while, and a Lottery Bonus Ball for fund raising.

We are very grateful for the tremendous efforts of James Freeman in his coaching, enthusiastic Twitter feeds and positive example as a model professional. The regular coaching sessions attract large numbers, with the added bonus of support from parents and grandparents.

The work behind the scenes by Kev and Kris Vardy, Stuart Moore and James Allen has meant that an exciting spring competition series of five rounds was successfully completed on 15th May. The top three places were 1st Jack Grinter, 2nd Jack Burns, and 3rd Mia Allen.

There will be a summer series of five rounds, and we hope for similar success, in numbers involved, and results.

Many, many thanks to all the volunteers and supporters in this success story.

Club House, Social Events and Wider Matters

- ***Our star professional, James Freeman, has again hit the headlines with a fabulous victory in the Notts Open at Coxmoor. Congratulations to him on a score of 8 under par, winning by 3 shots. James now holds all three major Notts events – Strokeplay, Matchplay and Open Championships.***



- ***A warm welcome to an already well established member, Ian Lindley, who will be helping out Craig in the Pro's shop. As ever, massive thanks go to Craig for the way he keeps everything running, spending***

many hours in front of, and behind, the scenes to keep our club running smoothly, not least during the troubled times over the last two years.

- *Bag tags for 2021-22 are available from the Office. The Office is open Mondays to Fridays, 10.00-3.00.*
- *County cards, which enable you to play at reduced rates at many other clubs in the county, are available from the Office. Please note that you need a CDH number to obtain the card. There is more information on www.nottsgolfunion.com.*
- *We are intending to replace the main gates with a more effective cantilever system (similar to those at Worksop GC).*
- *We are still operating a provisional catering service in the Clubhouse.*
 - a) Greg and Charlotte will continue to provide a bar service and “Golfers Snack Menu” for members, but there will not be a full menu, nor the Sunday carveries nor private functions.*
 - b) We welcome Cathy Caudwell, from the Gate Inn in Ordsall, who will be involved in some of the catering for visiting teams and events, as will Greg and Charlotte.*
 - c) If you are arranging any events/matches at the club, please contact Craig in the Pro’s shop, who will direct you to the appropriate person for catering.*
 - d) We will let members know when any changes are possible in this situation.*
- *Membership has increased significantly over the last few months, with numbers up by over 40, which is very healthy.*
- *We will be introducing a joining fee, from 1st August, of £300. Would members please let anyone know who may be interested or intending to join this year?*

Very best wishes from

The Communications Group (on behalf of the Management Committee)

