



## **Communications Group**

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

### **December 2018 Newsletter**

*Dear Members*

*This is the final Newsletter of 2018, so we review the past year, and look ahead at plans for 2019. There's the winter course programme, a summary of the AGM, including the membership of the new Committees, and a celebration of the work of our professional support coach, James Freeman.*

#### **AGM review**

*A cold and rainy evening did not deter stalwarts on 22nd November, which saw the election of a new Chairman, Chris Scholey, and some new committee members.*

*Departing Chairman Harry Fitzakerley was thanked for all his work for the Club, and he in turn thanked the employees of the Club and the volunteers in and beyond the committees who had worked hard to make it a successful year. The full minutes of the meeting will be available later in December from the office and on the website, but here are some key points.*

- *Membership of the Club has been maintained, through the vigorous marketing programme, which has kept a fairly healthy financial balance.*
- *Members' subscriptions will rise by £41 (or pro rata) for 2109.*
- *Most of the 2018 targets for the course and the clubhouse have been met or are under way.*
- *Elections confirmed the Management Committee, with several retiring and being thanked for all their work, and some replacements joining. Dave Stirling is the Captain for 2019, Alan Meacher is the Vice Captain, Helen Dean is Lady Captain and Lin Tongue is Lady Vice Captain.*

## **Committees 2019**

**The details of Committees and their Memberships are shown below. The Management Committee meets regularly, and separate sub-committees meet when relevant, usually a week or so in advance of the full management meeting, to consider aspects of the Club's work.**

**NB If members want to raise any points/issues/queries for these meetings, please contact the chair of the appropriate sub-committee, via the Main Office, at least a week ahead of the date of that meeting.**

**If members have any golf related news items please let Barbara Burton, our Press Officer, know, via the Office.**

### ***Management Committee***

**Mr Chris Scholey (Chair), Mr Mark Allan (Treasurer), Mr Stuart Moore (President), Mr Dave Stirling (Captain), Mr Alan Meacher, (Vice Captain), Mrs H Dean (Lady Captain), Mrs Lin Tongue (Lady Vice Captain), Mrs Sue Boyes, Mr Dean Atherton, Mr Fraser Britton, Mr Ted Eccleshall, Mr Andy Massey, Mrs Barbara Burton, Mr Len Fenton, Mr Steve Hyatt, Mr Craig Morris (Club Professional)**

### ***Marketing Committee***

**Mr Dean Atherton (Chair), Mr Mark Allan, Mr Craig Morris, \*Mr Iain Fletcher (co-opted member)**

### ***Finance Committee***

**Mr Mark Allan (Chair), Mr Stuart Moore, Mr Ted Eccleshall (Chair of the Social Committee), the Chair of the Greens Committee (to be announced), the Chair of the House Committee (to be announced)**

### ***House and Social Committee***

**Mr Ted Eccleshall (Chair of Social), Mrs Helen Dean, Mrs Sue Boyes, Mr Dave Stirling, Mr Fraser Britton**

### ***Gent's Golf Committee***

**Mr Dave Stirling (Chair), Mr Craig Morris, Mr Stuart Moore, Mr Leonard Fenton**

### ***Greens Committee***

**Mr Fraser Britton (Chair), Mr Steve Hyatt, Mrs Lin Tongue, Mr Leonard Fenton**

### ***Communications Committee***

**Mr Andy Massey (Chair), Mr Dean Atherton, Mrs Barbara Burton**

### ***Interview Sub-Committee (Interviewing Potential Gentleman Members)***

**Mr Alan Meacher, Mr Ted Eccleshall, Mr Stuart Moore**

### *2020 Centenary Sub-Committee*

*Mr Craig Morris (Chair), Mr Alan Meacher, Mr Mike Grundy, Mrs Sue Boyes, Mrs Lin Tongue, Mr Stuart Moore*

### *Sale of Practice Field Committee*

*Mr Harry Fitzakerley, Mrs Mary Saddington, Mr John Moorhouse (all co-opted members), Mr Andy Massey*

## **On the Course**

### **James Freeman**

**What an asset to Retford Golf Club!**

**James joined the Club as PGA professional Coach in 2016, and his work with adults and juniors is already producing great success. Look at the juniors who join him on a Saturday, having fun as well as improving their game .....look at the many adult members who have found new energy and skill levels with his help.**

**Working hand in (golf) glove with our Club Professional, Craig Morris, and College Coordinator Ian Lindley, James is also coaching the Balby Carr College students at RGC. Alongside that, James has continued to thrive on the professional golf circuit, raising his profile and bringing kudos to Retford Golf Club. A brief list of his achievements shows what a class act he is:**

- **He won the 2018 Notts PGA Order of Merit**
- **He played in the PGA 2018 Europrotour, qualifying in 9<sup>th</sup> place from over 100 golfers from across the UK and Ireland**
- **On the PGA Europrotour, James played in 12 of the 15 events, making the halfway cut in every one, and overall playing under par (that's the good meaning of "under par"!) in virtually every round he has played in**
- **James sits on the top of PGA English rankings**
- **He has just qualified for the European Tour Stage 2, having finished 6<sup>th</sup> out of 134 players from across the world**
- **He has won 5 individual PGA Midlands events this season and set a course record at Beedles Lakes in Leicestershire**

**His head has stayed the same modest size, and he is happy to support Retford golfers at all levels. He thanks Craig for paving the way at RGC on the coaching and communications side of his role.**

**If you want to get some coaching from James, or want more information, contact him on 07704 016082, or e-mail [jamesfreeman@sky.com](mailto:jamesfreeman@sky.com)**

## **Winter programme for the Course**

- *The course survived the stresses of a heat-wave summer, and the fairways and greens are responding well to steady repair work and aeration as we go in to winter.*
- *The greens will continue to be micro-tined each month, and the rest of the fairways will be verti-drained. We are using winter mats, but will stay on proper greens as much as we can.*
- *For the time being we ask golfers to protect the fairways by teeing up their shots.*
- *During January the stump-grinder will be seen around the course, removing the stumps after the tree removal programme. This particularly refers to the 11<sup>th</sup> hole.*
- *Also during January we will be making alterations to the fairway bunker on the 10<sup>th</sup>, so this hole will be closed for a while. 10a will be available during that time.*
- *We may also tackle some alterations to the fairway bunkers on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> fairways.*
- *We intend to extend the buggy shed area, to allow space for more buggies, and this will also mean the practice net will be moved and repaired.*

## **Rules Changes 2019**

*Here is a summary of the key rules changes for 2019. Most are about simplifying and speeding up play, (to be warmly welcomed!).*

*Here is a link to very good U-Tube video, showing these changes in practice.*

<https://youtu.be/chPOtFLUHC0>

- **Dropping**; *when taking relief, drop from knee height. If a ball is embedded, anywhere (including rough and semi-rough), you get a free drop.*
- **Measuring when taking relief**; *use longest club in bag (other than putter) for one or two club-lengths.*
- **Double-hits**; *no penalty for accidentally striking ball more than once.*
- **Ball lost or out of bounds**; *for local rules, drop ball in vicinity of where ball is lost/out of bounds, for two stroke penalty i.e. don't involve stroke and distance, back to tee. \*This is not allowed in competitions.*
- **"Ball moved"**; *no penalty for accidentally moving ball on putting green, or in searching for a ball. Also player is not responsible for causing a ball to move unless "virtually certain" he/she did so.*

- **Putting green**; no penalty if ball played on putting green hits unattended flagstick – players OK to putt if flagstick is not attended or removed (so you can always leave the flag in and unattended). The ball is deemed to be in the hole if it is touching the flag stick. Players can repair spike marks/other damage on green, and can touch the line of putt, without any penalty. (You can't do major repair work to improve your putt!)
- **Lining up the ball**; you are not allowed to lay your club down as a direction guide for your shot/putt.
- **“Water hazards/penalty areas”**; these red and yellow-marked penalty areas may now include areas of desert, jungle and volcanic rock, and lateral relief is allowed without penalty. (Retford Golf Club is not intending to bring in any deserts, jungles or volcanoes to test this...). No penalty for moving loose impediments or touching ground or water in a penalty area.
- **Bunker rules**; no penalty for moving loose impediments in bunker or for generally touching sand with hand or glove. Still not allowed to ground club right next to ball. Can now deem a ball unplayable in a bunker and play it outside bunker with two-stroke penalty.
- **Player integrity**; player may now use “reasonable judgement” in estimating/measuring spot, line, area or distance. Player also no longer needs to announce when lifting ball to identify or see if damaged.
- **Pace of play**; reduced time allowed in looking for lost ball (from 5 minutes to 3); make use of “ready golf” in stroke play; no more than 40 seconds to play a stroke. Generally, keep moving!

## **Calendar 2019**

***There is a wide range of events and fixtures already arranged for 2019. As well as the Winter League matches on Sundays, there are regular Stableford and Medal events for Ladies, Men, and Senior men; the monthly 200 Club draw and dinner; Quiz nights; and as the spring approaches, the start of fixtures against other clubs.***

***The club website gives details and regular updates, and so too does the Pro's shop. We will also send out specific news items to Members (eg Craig's new year sale of golf goods).***

***Looking further ahead, there will be a finals week in 2019, (rather than weekend) with all matches completed by 15th September 2019. The Course maintenance programme is scheduled to commence on 16th September. Details will be announced later.***

## Social Events/In the Clubhouse

- **Hallowe'en; 40 Ladies in witchy gear played in the Hallowe'en match in October. Squirrels hid and men fled. Great fun was had by all, and Ladies' Captain Sue Boyes was very delighted by the turn-out and the outfits.**



- **Carols Evening; come along on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm and join in the singing, eating and drinking; everyone welcome, whatever your singing voice!**
- **There are still tickets available for the New Year's Eve event at the Olde Bell, Barnby Moor, which replaces our event at the Golf Club. Please ask at the Office.**
- **The Captain's Drive-In is on New Year's day, 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019, at 10.00am, followed by a brunch in the Clubhouse**

## Other Club matters

- **Please note a clarification about the use of the Member's discount bar card. The bar card is for the benefit of the individual Member of RGC. However, it has at times been more widely used than originally intended. To keep usage to a reasonable and manageable level, we ask that the bar card is presented at the bar only by the owner of the card, not a friend, relative or associate.**
- **The Office will have reduced opening times in 2019, from 11.00am to 3.00pm. Outside these times the Office will not be open to members.**
- **In response to the extremely small demand from members for any Restaurant/food service on Wednesdays, there will only be a limited range on Wednesdays, unless there is a function or event to cater for. The bar will remain open as usual.**
- **The next full Management meeting will be on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2019, at 6.00pm.**

*We wish all Members and their families a really happy Christmas and New Year.*

*From*

*Andy Massey, Dean Atherton, Barbara Burton*

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