



Communications Group

(On behalf of the Management Committee and Club Members)

December 2019/January 2020 Newsletter

Dear Members

This is the final Newsletter of 2019, and the first of 2020, so we review the past year, and look ahead at plans for 2020. There's the winter course programme, a summary of the AGM, including the membership of the new Committees, and recent results on the course.

AGM review

47 members attended the AGM on 21st November, which saw the election of several new Committee members, including new Men's VC Captain Mike Mahony, and Ladies VC Mary Saddington.

Chairman Chris Scholey thanked the employees of the Club and the volunteers in and beyond the committees who had worked hard to make it a successful year. Treasurer Mark Allan gave his report of the financial year.

The full minutes of the meeting will be available 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.***
- ***Members' subscriptions will rise by £16 for a full member, about 2%, in line with the inflation rate.***
- ***Most of the 2019 targets for the course and the clubhouse have been met or are under way.***

Committees 2020

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.

N.B. 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.

Members are welcome to attend the first half-hour of the Management Meetings, to raise any points and questions.

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 (Former Men's Captain), Mr Allan Meacher, (Men's Captain), Mr Mike Mahony (Men's Vice Captain), Mrs Helen Dean (Former Lady Captain), Mrs Lin Tongue (Lady Captain), Mrs Mary Saddington (Lady Vice Captain), Mr Dean Atherton, Mr Fraser Britton, 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 Chris Scholey, Mr Greg Wood, Mrs Mary Saddington

Finance Committee

Mr Mark Allan (Chair), Mr Stuart Moore, Mr Fraser Britton, Mr Chris Scholey

House and Social Committee

Mrs Sue Boyes (co-opted Chair), Mrs Helen Dean, Mr Dave Stirling, Mr Fraser Britton, Mrs Lin Tongue, Mr Mike Mahony, Mr Greg Wood (co-opted)

Gent's Golf Committee

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

Greens Committee

Mr Fraser Britton (Chair), Mr Steve Hyatt, Mrs Lin Tongue, Mr Len Fenton, Mr Craig Morris, Mr Carl Pigott

Communications Committee

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

Interview Sub-Committee (Interviewing potential Gentleman Members)

Mr Alan Meacher, Mr Mike Mahony, Mr Dave Stirling, Mr Stuart Moore

2020 Centenary Sub-Committee

Mr Craig Morris (Chair), Mr Allan Meacher, Mr Mike Grundy, Mrs Sue Boyes (co-opted), Mrs Lin Tongue, Mr Stuart Moore, Mr Mark Allan

Sale of Practice Field Committee

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

On the Course

Winter programme for the Course

- ***Bunker improvements are completed and turf laid around bunkers; this in spite of some heavy rainfall that interrupted the work.***
- ***All new winter mats are in place, and all winter mats are in play until the spring.***
- ***All the fairways have been verti-drained. All the greens will be micro-tined.***
- ***Recent wet and cold weather have needed a rapid and appropriate response, so the greens staff have used trolley bans, holes played short and temporary greens, roping off of some areas of fairway, and ensured that the winter mats were ready. See notes below on frost damage and temporary greens.***
- ***Leaf clearance continues, though we have probably got to the end of that period.***
- ***Work on trees around the 12th green, and canopy lifting more generally, will take place in the coming months***

Temporary Greens

One of the issues that members raise is when and why do we come off the main greens and go onto temporary ones. Here is some of the background to this difficult decision. Some Golf Clubs don't come off main greens at all. Others are cautious about allowing traffic on the main greens during frosty or waterlogged times, wary of damage to the grass. We asked STRI, the professional advisory body that we employ, about this issue, and here is their advice.

Frost – Impact on Greens

- ***The use of regular greens during frosty conditions is a contentious issue and is dependent on a wide variety of factors including course location, micro climate, sward conditions, composition and levels of play. The decision to utilise the main greens during frosty conditions can often be a solely financial one and is down to the individual Club, but it is important to understand the impact of frost, or play in frost, on the health of the grass plant. Whilst we have not seen a green killed by***

use during frosty conditions, there is undoubtedly damage to the structural integrity of the grass leaf and underlying rooting systems by excess foot traffic in frosty conditions.

- *To understand the potential for damage we need to look at what happens to the grass plant in frosty conditions. Generally, the less stress imposed on the grass plant during the season, the greater the longevity of the putting surfaces, particularly regarding the winter period through to the start of the main season. When water in the grass plant freezes, individual plant cells expand putting tremendous pressure on the cell membrane. When golfers play on the frozen green, the footfall causes a rupturing of the cell membranes which can lead to bruising of the plant as it is effectively killed from the inside. As this generally happens during the winter, when the grass plant is dormant, the individual leaves are at their most vulnerable and least able to recover. As temperatures improve and the plant begins to thaw, the dead material will often brown off or blacken and waste away. The damage of frost impacts during the winter months can be seen well into the spring.*
- *Also for consideration are the effects of root shear which can occur when the leaves begin to thaw following a heavy frost. This is when footprints cause a movement between the thawing surface and the frozen root system below, causing a break in the roots. Again, damage may not be instantly visible, but can result in blackening and loss of the grass leaf.*
- *As previously suggested, this is very much a decision for the individual Club and it is understood that financial pressures can often be brought to bear, particularly when a neighbouring Club opens during all conditions on the main greens.*
- *The following short video from the USGA gives a brief overview of the impact of play under frosty conditions.*

<http://www.usga.org/videos/2013/03/05usga-course-care-video-frost-issues-2205019686001.html>

At Retford, we will try to keep the main greens open whenever possible, and minimise the time that is spent on temporary greens, whilst acknowledging that certain conditions, such as extreme frost, and especially waterlogging, need us to take protective action. We are reassured by the continuing quality of our greens and the course as a whole.

18th hole

During the time that the 18th fairway is roped off, will players please not take a short cut across the 1st fairway to get to the temporary 18th tee?

Calendar 2020

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 any offers or sales coming up).

Social Events/In the Clubhouse

- **Carols Evening.** A joyful throng came along on Wednesday 18th December to sing, eat and drink.
- **Presentation to Craig Morris, after the Sunday Winter League event on 22nd December.** This was to celebrate Craig's 2019 Testimonial Year after 20 years as our Club Professional.
- **The Captain's Drive-In was on New Year's Day, 1st January 2020, at 11.00am.**



The ten holes competition was won by the VCs' team.

Other Club matters

- **Please note; following the recent Health and Safety inspection, we can no longer allow members or visitors to go into the kitchens to get hot water. Please see the catering staff if you want something from the kitchen.**
- **The next full Management meeting will be on Tuesday 14th January, 2020, at 6.00pm.**

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

From

Andy Massey, Dean Atherton, Barbara Burton

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