



Communications Group

(On behalf of the Management Committee and Club Members)

July/August 2018 Newsletter

Dear Members

Welcome to the summer Newsletter of 2018. We are coping with a heatwave and grass everywhere is bleached and tinder-dry, with the exception of our greens, which, as a result of t.l.c., look superb.

This Newsletter looks at progress over the last few months, some match results already in, and events coming up.

Plans and progress on the Course

Work on the course

Graden work

This is an intensive approach to preparing the greens, with machinery hired for a week, from Monday 30th July to Friday 3rd August, and the greens treated so they will not need future hollow-coring. The treatment gives almost instant results, lasts for 3 years, and should allow 12 months a year of greens use, and hence less need to turn to winter greens.

Some questions from Members, and answers from our staff.

What is the state of the new 10th teebox?

The 10th teebox needs a full playing season to settle in, as greens staff aerate and drill sand into the surface. At the moment it is firm and growth rate is similar to the other tees. In October/November we will review its progress.

How is the speed of the greens controlled?

Greens speed is measured with a Stimp meter, taking an average of 4 different directional measurements. We record it every time the greens are ironed, which is 3 times a week during the playing season. We aim to achieve consistency, taking into account both midweek and weekend competitions. This is also dependent on weather conditions; if it rains, ironing can't take place, and this can alter the speed by up to a foot. Our greens are currently running at between 10 and 10.5, but for the Club Championships, the speed was 12 on the Saturday, and 11.5 on the Sunday, as a result of overnight rain.

What about the first/intermediate cut beside the fairways?

We all agree that we would like a first cut, but we have had to prioritise our work and machinery purchases this year, which influences what we can do. We have bought a spindresser, a leaf collector, a pro-Gator and a sweep and fill brush, and all these have been a great benefit to the course. To provide a first cut we would need to convert our old fairway mower, and purchase a new fairway mower, costing £38,000. We don't have that money at present, but we will try to target that in the future.

Wider Club Matters

Matches and Competitions

Match and Competition results are regularly reported in Retford Times. Here are some recent ones.

- *Seniors' matches continue, and details are available on the website. See [Seniors Match Overview](#). Many thanks to Iain Fletcher, for organising those.*
- *The Men's Foursomes and the Mixed Foursomes teams have both won their way through to the semi-finals of the Notts league.*

- *The website diary now includes all mid-week medal competitions.*

News from the Pro's Shop

- *It is a cause for congratulations and celebration that **Craig Morris has just reached his 20th anniversary as RGC Professional.** In spite of Craig's modesty, various informal tributes and presentations have been made to him, including gifts from the Ladies Section and the Mid Week Fiddle, and the Club is awarding Craig a Testimonial event, on **Saturday 22nd September.** Details will be published later. There is also an oil painting of Craig, in perfect swing, at the entrance to the Club Dining Room.*

Other Club matters

- *The Extra-ordinary General Meeting takes place on **Thursday 23rd August, at 7.30pm.** Information has been sent out in a separate July special Newsletter, and formal details, such as the proposal and proxy voting arrangements, will be posted on the information board outside the locker rooms by early August. We hope as many Members as possible will attend. Please let us know, through the Office, if you will be attending, so we have an idea of numbers.*
- *The Ladies Section raised £1000 in the July Coffee morning, towards the refurbishment of the Ladies' Locker Room.*
- *A confirmation about the bar closing times; during the summer, normal closing time is 10.00pm on weekdays and 8.00pm at weekends, but if there is no one out on the course or in the bar, the bar staff will close up earlier.*
- *With the Club Centenary coming up in 2020, we are keen to get Members' ideas and support. We are not after grand projects, but any manageable ideas for celebrations are welcome. Please let Harry, or one of the Committee, know.*
- *"Notts Nippers' Programme" is a project to promote youngsters playing golf, and it is under way elsewhere in the County. We are interested in Members' views about whether or not we should get*

involved in the programme next year. Please let Harry or one of the Committee know what you think.

- *We continue to introduce new marketing ideas to boost our membership. It's good to note that c.90% of the new members coming in over the last two years have been retained. This year we are advertising a "Lifestyle" Membership package, which includes a form of Pay and Play membership, where golfers can purchase points which allow them to play a number of games over the year without taking on full membership. Details of this scheme are available from the Pro's Shop.*

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

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