



## **Communications Group**

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

### **July/August 2021 Newsletter**

**Dear Members**

***Covid 19 restrictions are starting to be relaxed, but we remain cautious. This Newsletter looks at how we have responded to recent concerns, how the course is doing, and how we are planning for events, especially our revamped Centenary celebrations. As in previous Newsletters, we give many thanks to all the staff, and members, who are working behind the scenes to keep the course, and the Club, going.***

***An enormous “thank you” to the Greens staff, especially Max, who have coped with massive reductions in staffing at the beginning of July, due to Covid isolation.***

#### **On the Course**

- ***The grass is growing, with the recent welcome rain and sun, and areas that were bare are flourishing.***
- ***It’s good to see several areas at the back of greens now bright with wildflower plantings, especially behind the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> greens.***
- ***A combination of Covid, pinging and planned holiday meant that for the best part of a week, Max was on his own. His efforts meant that we still had an excellent course to play on. Huge thanks go to Max for this. We would also like to extend thanks to Stuart Moore and Steve***

***Hyatt for the very real help they gave Max over this time. We are now back up to full staffing.***

- ***Greens have been micro-tined, verticut and all greens and approaches spin dressed. Weedkiller has also been applied to fairways.***
- ***In the next weeks, bins will be reinstalled round the course. Thanks to Brendan for renovating them. We will also be installing new ball washers and repairing existing ones.***
- ***In response to comments from members, work will be done to trees at the top of the dip on 17 to improve visibility and we will be looking to install a handrail to the back steps on 7 to improve accessibility.***
- ***The roping off and white lines continue to bring improvements in grass cover around greens. Thanks to members for their help in this regard.***

### **In the Clubhouse**

- ***Please note that, as the Covid restrictions are relaxing, there will be bar service, rather than table service, and wearing face masks will not be obligatory.***
- ***We are having ping problems – not the golf kit, but Covid. We have had some difficulties with the Covid Test and Trace, which has caused sudden loss of staff, especially in the bar, when someone is pinged and has to isolate, leaving us short-staffed. We're not alone – at least one Nottinghamshire golf club has had to close down its clubhouse entirely – so we ask members, and visitors, to please bear with us in this difficult phase.***
- ***We had an incident recently when a member was taken ill in the Clubhouse and was taken to hospital. There may be members who are not aware that we do have a defibrillator in the corridor by the changing room, and anyone can use it – the equipment explains exactly how to do it – and there are also some staff and members trained to use it.***

## Centenary Year

***We have had to scale down our original plans, and the focus will be on 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of August. Please get involved, follow the guidance from Craig in the Pro's shop, and enjoy some great events.***

- **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> August Hickory Event (2.00 Shotgun)**

***One of our highlight events. Members will have the chance to play 18 holes using genuine 100-year-old hickory clubs, supplied by Timewarp Golf. Teams of 4, playing a Texas Scramble format. There will be a prizes presentation at about 7.30pm. Entry £40 per four ball team. Unearth those plus fours to look the part! Ring or visit the Pros Shop to enter and pay.***



- **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> August Social Pro-Am (Tee times 4.00-6.00pm)**

***A very friendly event, with pairs playing 10 holes. One player and one putter in each team, with families, young and less young, welcome, and a generous prizes table. All under 16s will receive a free gift. Entry £20 per pair, for golf, prizes and pie and peas supper. Entries opened on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July and continue, either in person at the Pro's Shop, or by phone. Fees must be paid on entry.***

- **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> August Centenary Championship (Tee times 6.00am-1.30)**  
*This is a one-off Competition, for Members only. Format is an Individual Stableford, with separate Trophies for Ladies and Gents. Entry is £5 per player, payable at the Pro's shop from 4.00pm on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> August. There will be a Presentation in the evening, after the Trick-shot Show.*
- **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> August Trick Shot Show (6.30) followed by Championship Presentation**  
*David Edwards, former World Trick Shot Champion, will put on a show.*

### Seniors Men's Am-Am on 24th June

*A roaring success!*

*Many thanks to all those involved. Ray Wood organised a brilliant event, with help on registration and raffle from Howard Cooper and Dave Moore; starters in blazers and ties Allan, Fraser, Geoff, Rex and Ted; Halfway House refreshments by Helen, Janet, Sue and Pat; and admin in the Office by Diane and Nicky.*

*172 players entered, representing 32 different clubs from as far afield as Loughborough and Derbyshire, and we raised £238 for the Captains' charities, as well as boosting the Seniors' bank account.*

*Winners and runners-up came from Brierley Forest, with Thonock in 3<sup>rd</sup> and Sitwell Park in 4<sup>th</sup> place.*

*Universally there was praise for the course, the friendly welcome from our club, and the organisation.*

### Ladies' Am-Am – 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021

*Many thanks to all the ladies who helped with the setting up of this day and/or made themselves available to give their services on the day.*

*It was a very successful day in every way. Whoever booked the weather did an excellent job!*

*The course was much admired by the players so thanks to the Green staff. The Welcome Desk worked hard to conquer the new WHS and working out*

*the shots on the day, the Halfway House proved extremely popular, the Catering Staff did a good trade, the Lady Captain as Starter welcomed teams onto the first tee and I can't miss mentioning the ball spotters (Lady and Lady Vice Captains and Lady Secretary) on the 17th hole including two male volunteers (Ted Eccleshall and Andy Massey).*

*Diane and Nicky worked hard to deal with the on-line entries and also ensuring that we had portaloos at the Halfway House! Craig and Oscar must also be thanked for all the support given to the players and helpers.*

*There were 22 teams (88 golfers) originating from 18 Clubs. The winners represented Southwell, Burleigh Park, Thonock, Mapperley, Radcliffe on Trent as well as Retford.*

### *James Freeman; Questions and Answers with our members*

*James kindly responded to questions that a range of our members asked, about James' career, his approach to golf, and help in improving our game.*

**Q. *“When did you get the golf bug?”***

**A. *11 years old, my grandparents introduced me to Retford GC and started having junior coaching with Jonathan Willis.***

**Q. *“Who is your golfing hero, and why?”***

**A. *Lee Westwood – local lad and was lucky enough to have played & practiced with him a few times and he passed on some valuable advice for when I turned pro.***

**Q. *“What have been your major golfing successes?”***

**A. *Got a full England Cap as an amateur, and over 60 Wins as a Professional gained a category on European Challenge Tour.***

**Q. *“What are your goals now?”***

**A. *To play at as high level events as possible, keep winning, be a positive influence to as many golfers as I can at the club and keep growing the game at Retford; it's my boyhood club and is a huge part of my life.***

**Q. *“Who are the most famous golfers you have played alongside?”***

**A. *Lee Westwood, Ross Fisher, Richard Bland, Paul Waring, Andy Sullivan***

**Q. *“what's the single most important tip you'd give to any golf beginner?” (apart from “pay me”!)***

**A. *Work on solid fundamentals and practice/play a lot but enjoy it !!!***

**Q. “What advice would you give a young golfer who wanted to make it big?”**

**A. Hit it a long way and be a World Class Putter, work hard & smart, never give up and if your round has gone you’ll always learn something about yourself or the game.**

**Q. “What advice would you give to an old golfer to stay fresh?”**

**A. Walk for as long as you can, do Yoga or Golf Related Mobility (ask me for more details)**

**Q. “What shots are the hardest to coach?”**

**A. Draw with Driver as most people fade it, low shots in general from under trees etc**

**Q. “Are there particular faults that golfers find hardest to solve?”**

**A. I don’t coach a particular method as everyone’s very different but I see a lot of players who struggle to control their club face or have no awareness of whether it’s open or closed (mainly open) so however hard they try the shot will go right and then move further away from the target which can be of huge frustration to a player. My coaching allows players to understand their own style and how it all fits together to achieve the best possible result.**

**Q. “ Why Leeds FC?!”**

**A. My Uncle took me when I was about 7/8 years old and I’ve been a fan ever since. Let’s just say there’s been some highs and lows !!!**

**James is happy to arrange a golf clinic, for a manageable number of our members, showing them his shots, responding to their frustrations (!) and giving tips for future improvements.**

**He also suggests a “Walk 10 with James”. Members would walk the 10 holes as James played the holes, and we would ask James about his shots.**

**We would present proceeds to the club Junior Section.**

**Let Andy Massey ([andymassey32@hotmail.com](mailto:andymassey32@hotmail.com)) know if you’d like to be involved in either of these sessions.**

**Very best wishes from**

**The Communications Group**

**(on behalf of the Management Committee)**