



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

Newsletter

November/December 2023

Dear Members

Time for winter golf, and winter warmers.

This Newsletter summarises progress on the course, the winter competition results and other Christmas/New Year events coming up.

We also summarise the outcomes of the November AGM, and progress on some of the plans for the longer term future of the Club.

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On the Course

Update on Course maintenance programme

- **With recent bad weather the 7th temporary has been in use.**
- **Tees and approaches were all renovated by mid October.**
- **The 15th fairway was verti-drained to 11 inches deep followed with a top dressing of sand. If drier weather permits, we will repeat this operation. Premier Pitches completed**

the shockwave works on greens and it took about 9 days for the greens to settle. We can already see the benefits, as there is less standing water, even after heavy rain.

- Pugh Lewis completed drainage works on the 1st green and we're now seeing the benefits as the green has stood up well after much heavy rain and is no longer our wettest green. We are already back playing on the green, and we plan to undertake similar work on other greens needing drainage e.g.18th.

- Tree work on the 7th green area has been completed. It now allows a lot more light coming through onto the green, and we should see the benefits in the spring. Similar work has been completed around the 3rd and 12th greens, including the removal of some dead trees. Stuart Moore and John Hallam have supported this work by lifting the height of any lower branches on trees around the course, as well as installing fencing in some vulnerable areas to protect from trespassing and vandalism.

- The heights of grass cuts have been raised to winter heights, which means greens are now at 5mm and fairways at 18 mm.

- The Senior Men's section is funding the laying of mats on the pathway from the 18th green to the Clubhouse, and other tee areas with badly worn mats.

- A big, screaming loud plea!

While we continue to work hard to get golfers back onto all greens, this work is not being helped by lack of PITCH MARK REPAIRS on greens. When pitch marks are not repaired it can take weeks, if not months, for them to recover.

If every member repaired at least one, if not two, PITCH MARKS, then we would not have this problem.

- Additionally, can all buggy users please adhere to the 90 degree rule on fairways, and all buggy and trolley users keep to the paths on par 3's?

Our Greens Team

There have been some changes in personnel and we currently have a team of 6.

Carl Pigott	Head Greenkeeper
Max Wood	Deputy Head Greenkeeper
Rhys Jackson	Assistant Greenkeeper
Karl Stanley	Assistant Greenkeeper
Jared Clement-Doble	Assistant Greenkeeper
Ralph Marshall	Apprentice Greenkeeper

Competitions and Results

Men's Winter League Rd 1, Steve Montgomery Trophy, winners Norfolk and Chance, on 114 points Stableford 2 from with 3 to score on the par 4's, par 90 points.

Lee Sowter, Neil Palmer, Paul Timms and Owen Rafferty.



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Boxing Day friendly golf

The Golf Course will be open on 26th December, as will be the bar, but not the Pro's shop. If you want to play on Boxing Day, please book on-line in the normal way. There will be hot food – pie, chips peas etc available. If you want to book for food after – or before – your round, please contact and book in advance with the catering staff at the bar.

New Event in 2024

We are introducing a 10 hole tournament next year on Thursday afternoons from 3-5 pm.

The event is open to members (ladies and gents) and visitors with a recognised handicap. We have a £5 kitty each week and will pay a £50 first prize.

Visitors also pay £10 to play. Players can play without booking a time, just turn up and play after work or leisure. The event runs from May 16th for 10 weeks.

There will be a trophy and tournament prize for the best 7 scores out of 10

Players can play just once or when available.

WHS (World Handicap System) Changes

Members will be aware that a process of review of our course and slope ratings has been under way, including remeasurement by Craig. The course measurement has shown no changes to be needed but there are now in effect some minor changes to the course and slope ratings.

In addition, Craig has measured the winter tees course which has also been rated. This means that WHS qualifying rounds will be possible through the winter months, subject to other conditions.

There are only small changes of 1 or 2 points to the slope ratings, which mean effectively only 1-2% changes to the calculations of playing handicaps

From April 2024 there will be a further change to the system called "Course Rating Minus Par". This probably needs some explanation.

Tee Name	Gender	Par	Course Rating	Slope Rating
Red	Female	71	73.3	133
		was	73.4	135
Yellow	Male	71	69.3	136
		was	69.7	135
Blue	Male	71	71.2	137
		was	71.4	139
Purple (winter)		71	68.2	130

At present a player receives a stroke allowance based on their handicap index adjusted according to the slope index of the course being played and the type of competition they are in. The returned score in that competition is subject to a further adjustment according to the course rating before the adjustment of the WHS handicap index is made.

From April that course rating adjustment will be applied to the stroke allowance changing the number of shots received. This means that the adjustment of WHS handicaps will relate more directly to the score returned in the competition.

For example

A player with a handicap index of 16, playing from the yellow tees, will have Course handicap of $16 \times \text{slope rating } 136 / 113 = 19.2$ rounded to 19

Stroke allowance for a stableford is 95% of that = **18**

After April

Course handicap of $19.2 + \text{course rating } 69.3 - \text{par } 71 = 17.5$ rounded to 18

Stroke allowance for stableford is then $\times 95\%$ as before = **17**

Official explanations for doing this include:-

- **Other parts of the world do this already**
- **It enables competitions to be played on equal terms on more than one set of tees**
- **Competitions could also be played on different courses**

New stroke allowance charts will be acquired and posted after this comes in next year.

Be reassured. You won't be much affected and your golf will still be brilliant!

Seniors Men's Section

Presentation Evening

On the 1st December 65 Seniors and Partners enjoyed an excellent Christmas Dinner and Presentation evening.

Jan and Pat in the kitchen provided a superb meal supported by Klaudia, Mandy, Sarah, and Josh.

David Halford, Club Captain, and Allan Meacher Chair of the Seniors Committee presented the winners below with their Trophies.

Christmas Cup won by: Graham Cantrell.

The Alan Hunter Trophy won by: Glen Oxford

Doris Cave Cup won by: Keith Tomlinson

Seniors' Championship won by: Rex Riley

Tom Hall Cup won by: Rob Piercy

Seniors Eclectic: Winner: David Shelton

Seniors Eclectic: Runner Up: Nigel Wooley

Seniors Singles Knock Out: Winner: Paul Timms

Seniors Singles Knock Out: Runner up: Brian Armstrong

Seniors Doubles Knock Out: Winners: Ian Lindley and Michael Flynn

Seniors Doubles Knock Out: Runners Up: Keith Tomlinson and Graham Cantrell

Seniors Player of the Year: Winner: John Hayward

Seniors Player of the Year: Runner up: Peter Reed

Seniors Friendly Matches

The fixtures for 2024 friendly matches are below, should any member over 55 years old wish to play, please let Ian Littlewood, John Flavell or the office know with your contact details.

Date Club H/A Date Club H/A

Thurs 28/03/2024 Rufford H Thurs 25/04/2024 Mapperley H

Tues 30/04/2024 Thonock A Thurs 23/05/2024 Ramsdale H

Wed 29/05/2024 Town Moor A Mon 03/06/2024 Wath A

Thurs 13/06/2024 Doncaster A Thurs 27/06/2024 Styrrup H

Thurs 04/07/2024 Ramsdale A Thurs 11/07/2024 The Nottinghamshire A

Mon 15/07/2024 Mapperley A Thurs 25/07/2024 Wath H

Thurs 01/08/2024 Doncaster H Thurs 08/08/2024 Styrrup A

Mon 12/08/2024 Worksop A Thurs 22/08/2024 The Nottinghamshire H

Thurs 29/08/2024 Worksop H Thurs 05/09/2024 Thonock H

Thurs 26/09/2024 Town Moor H Thurs 10/10/2024 Rufford A

Diary Date: Just a reminder, the Seniors AGM will be on Thursday 28th of March 2024 at 16.30hrs in the Club House. All Seniors are invited. A notice will be placed on the Seniors noticeboard nearer to the time.

Mid Week Fiddle Christmas Meal

On a wet, golf-less Monday 4th December, 36 members of the Fiddle gathered for a taxing quiz, a tuck-in Christmas lunch and some presentations. Over the year, players have collected £800 towards the Captain's Charity, and David Halford thanked members for their generosity. Craig Morris contributed a golf day voucher which was auctioned for the captain's Charity.

Eddie Boyle was thanked for all his efforts in organising the fiddle competitions over recent years, as he stands down at the end of this year.

AGM and Management

2023 Annual General Meeting - 23rd November

49 Members received a comprehensive report on the year from the Chair, Fraser Britton and Treasurer, Mike Mahony.

A special mention was made of Carl Pigott who has been on our Greens staff for 23 years. As our Head of Greens he has shown outstanding loyalty and commitment to the Club and his experience and expertise is in a large part responsible for the high quality of the course and its growing reputation.

Tributes were also paid to the long service and loyalty to the Club of Craig Morris as Head Professional and Diane Moore in the office. The Chair was pleased that the Club had managed to secure some future involvement of Craig, though he will be stepping back and giving up the shop. It was impossible to imagine Retford Golf Club without him. Diane was due to retire in the new year and her vast knowledge of the club and its history and workings will be sorely missed.

Long serving Members of Committee standing down were thanked for their service, including Mary Saddington, Dave Stirling, Andy Massey and Jacky Walsh.

2 vacancies were filled by Ray Wood and Paul Bradley and a third space is available for co-option by the Committee. Mike Mahony was reappointed as Treasurer.

Captains for 2024 were introduced as

- John Flavell as Gents Captain with Mark Allen as his Vice Captain**
- Ros Waterhouse as Ladies Captain with Lynda Moore as Vice Captain**

Ladies' AGM; 22nd November

The ladies' section AGM took place on Tuesday 22nd November with 36 ladies attending. Lady Captain Anna thanked the ladies for their support throughout 2023 especially for the many events that took place in the Ladies' calendar.

The Interclub, Silver and Bronze teams were congratulated as well as Friendlies and Taskers along with their team captains. The competitors were thanked for their support of match events.

Ros Waterhouse was accepted as Lady Captain for 2024 with Lynda Moore as her Vice Captain.

Two ladies were welcomed into the section, Diane Bowler and Pat Wilcox, with two further joiners from the Taster group, Angela Flavell and Jo Baker.

Ladies' Taster sessions are continuing well with more offered for the new year, hopefully attracting more new members and adding to the present section of 63 playing members.

At the end of the meeting, trophies and cups were presented by Lady Captain who warmly congratulated all the winners and runners up.

Driving Range Proposal: Update

Plans for the proposed range are still on display in Reception area of the clubhouse. We think we are nearly at the stage of receiving planning permission and are collecting budget costs from various contractors for the construction and equipping of the facility. Recent weather has confirmed the need for field drainage to be installed so that range balls can in future be collected by machine all year round, so a quote for that is also needed.

Subject to the proposal still seeming viable, we will be looking at ways of financing the project and the most tax efficient arrangements for its future management, minimising risk to the Club.



Meanwhile, we are exploring the potential for a mobile shelter/dry range to give extended use of the practice ground through bad weather. Possible contributions from the Nottinghamshire Union and within our own Club look like this will become possible and an order is expected to be placed soon for delivery in the New Year.



Please note; the Chairman confirmed that Members will be consulted before any decision is made on this whole project

Captain's Christmas Party Night

Another night of live music is being organised for **Saturday, 16 December 2023**, 6.30 for 7.00pm start. Entertainment by Rick Stanton and BluePrint

There will be a two course meal before the music. Tickets are £22 per person, available from the bar in advance.

Menu

Main Course

Homemade Chicken and Mushroom Wellington

Honey and Mustard Loin of Pork with apricot stuffing

Fresh Salmon and Prawns in lemon and parsley butter sauce

Spiced Christmas Shepherd's Pie

Sauteed broccoli, Mushrooms and Stilton with garlic crumb

Served with fried new potato wedges with parmesan, fresh chunky carrots, green beans, cauliflower, cabbage and peas

Dessert

Hot Chocolate Pudding with White Chocolate Cream

Gingerbread Trifle

Apple and Mincemeat Puff Pastry Slice and Custard

Cheese Platter

Christmas Cake



Carols Evening

Wednesday 20th December

6.30 p.m. for 7.00 p.m.

Christmas starts with our evening of Carols.



To include

Ordsall and West Retford Handbell Group.

An interval for mince-pies and sausage rolls

Family and friends' welcome

Staffing

We are in the last stage of agreeing with Craig Morris the form in which he will continue to act as our Professional, but with limited involvement in operational responsibilities. He will continue his residency on site and hopes to be offering more coaching time to members and others, whilst continuing to provide the club the benefits of his experience and knowledge.

The recruitment process for a new General Manager is underway and a full month of advertising yielded a very large number of applications. There appear to be some very well qualified and experienced candidates on our shortlist and we are hopeful of agreeing terms with one of them in December for a start around the end of March 2024.

Shop

It is currently proposed that the Club will take over the running of the shop when Craig takes his step back, currently planned to take place at the end of March. The details of that transfer of the business are yet to be determined but we will be advertising for a new staff member to work with Ian to continue to provide a standard of service. Someone working towards a PGA qualification through their Foundation Degree course is thought to be ideal, as they will continue to add to the skills on offer.

Another issue is the member shop accounts which hold, in some cases, significant amounts of credit which Craig is keen to honour in shop sales before he lets go the reins. Members are therefore needed to use any remaining credit in their account before March, through purchases from Craig.

Although it is intended that the Club will set up its own member credit accounts for the distribution of competition prizes etc, exactly how that will work has yet to be decided. It is therefore imperative that members should treat themselves this Christmas and get their credit spent with Craig!!!

Office

The office is also likely to have some major changes with Diane retiring after many years service, early in the new Year. We are advertising for a replacement to work alongside Nicky on administration, data entry, bookkeeping etc. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please put them in touch through retfordgolfcomms@gmail.com.

Buggy Compound Extension update

The extension of the buggy compound structure is complete and the follow up installation of electric power will start soon. Again, we will keep members informed of progress there.

Let Us Know

We continue to try and improve the ways members can communicate with the Committee about what's happening in the Club.

- The *Suggestions Box* has been relocated to the reception area, in the left hand slot below the computer terminal used for entering competition scores. Members can put any ideas or suggestions to the Management Committee but please make sure each has your name clearly marked on it or no action can be taken.
- There is also a printed leaflet available in the foyer and bar area of the Clubhouse, giving details and photos of the Management Committee members.
- If Club members want to raise any points/issues/queries for the Committees, please contact the chair of the appropriate sub-committee, via the e-mail address retfordgolfcomms@gmail.com, or through the Suggestions Box. If members have any golf related news items please let Andy Massey know, via retfordgolfcomms@gmail.com.

- **The Club has a re-activated Facebook Page, “Retford Golf Club”, for regular general updates and information for the general Public. A group “Retford Golf Club Members” has also been created where information aimed just for members will be posted.**
- **Copies of Committee and AGM minutes, constitution and bye-laws together with annual accounts are routinely filed in lever arch files below the TV in the Bar.**
- **The next full Management meeting will be on 19.12.23 * If members have any points they would like to raise for future meetings, please write to the Chairman, via the Office.**

Best wishes, from

□

Andy Massey, Mary Saddington, Charles Cooke, John Flavell

Communication Group (on behalf of the Management Committee)

(NB Mary and Andy are standing down from the Management Committee and therefore the Communications Group, but will continue to help where called upon.

We thank you for all your comments and support over the many, many, many years!)