



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

Newsletter

Summer 2024

Dear Members

The summer competitions and events are in full swing and the course is flourishing with the earlier and ongoing work on it.

Members will have received other single item newsletters and results summaries. This Newsletter picks up some of those and takes a look at other matters at the Club.

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Let Us Know

General Manager

By now we hope most Members will have been able to meet the new General Manager, Simon Collingwood, who joined us at the beginning of April. His feet are well under the table now and the impact is already being felt by staff, who are clearer about their line management and the Directors who are relieved of the day to day executive responsibility and can start to think more strategically.

Members may have noticed more marketing activity seeking to promote the club and attract more income from visitors, one of the core priorities he has been asked to focus

on, and our green fees are moving up to be more in line with other comparable courses in the area.

Directors remain confident that this has been a radical but important development for the Club and that it will enable us to move forward confidently in the future.

Range Development

Simon's contacts and experience have now also been drawn on in respect of the proposed practice field development. Since the award of planning permission, more work has been done on the likely construction costs and sources of finance to fund the development. Two of the difficult areas here are the need for land drainage on the upper part of the field and the slope of the land which restricts visibility of the ball landing area from the tees.

Simon introduced an option to consider selling rights to import and deposit soil on the field which can deal with both these issues and also generate funds to contribute to the development cost. There are companies with the expertise and experience of working with other clubs to implement schemes like this and a few have been contacted to assess interest. The indications are that such a collaboration could meet most if not all of the capital costs of developing a range.

This is now the focus of a feasibility study one of them is undertaking to look at the scope and design of the necessary earthworks, the likely income generation and the amendment that will be required to the planning permission. There is no cost to the Club in this feasibility study and no decision to proceed has yet been made.

On the Course

- **The long awaited equipment is now in use, so the fleet of new machinery is as follows: Toro pro core (tining machine) , Toro Fairway mower, Toro Greens mower and Kuyota tractor. The total cost of the fleet comes to £188 k. but we're very sure that everyone will see the improvement in quality and outcome.**
- **We have a new assistant greens keeper, Robert, bringing the total to 6, and he is settling in well.**
- **There have been many positive comments about the course in recent months, from visitors and Members alike, and this reflects the hard work, planning and financial outlay we have made.**

- The renovation work on greens during the week Monday 29th July to Friday 2nd August involves a slightly different process from normal, as we now have another tractor. We will verti-drain to a depth ranging between 10 inches and 11 inches with a 19mm tine and then hollow core with a 13mm tine. This allows us to get sand deeper into the greens profile and in return creates better drainage. We will over seed all the greens, applied through our spreader. We will then apply our MM35 top dressing at a rate of between 45 tonnes to 50 tonnes and follow up with our sweep and fill to brush the sand in. Once we have completed this we will iron the greens before trying to cut.
- Once the greens have settled we will tackle the approaches to the greens. The process will be exactly the same as for the greens. We expect to apply roughly 20 to 25 tonnes of top dressing.
- By the time our approaches have recovered this will bring us into September. This is when we will continue renovation works on tees. Again, we will repeat the same process, verti-draining but to a depth of 8 inches followed by hollow coring, seeding and then top dressing, this time with 70/30 mix.
- The bore hole is looking to be finished in August. We are waiting on security fencing which should be anytime now, then pipe work and electrics. We will probably not see any benefits from this until next year, especially with the summer weather we have had.
- As ever, can we ask Members – and visitors- to help by repairing pitch marks and divots when they see them? To that end we will be providing divot bags, which we ask you to use on the course with you.
- There has been some minor vandalism on the course recently and sadly this is likely to increase as the school holidays are with us. We ask Members not to tackle any vandals, but to report what they see, and if possible provide photos, which will be useful in any follow-up.

Competitions and Results

Ladies Golf

A mixed start to the season for Retford ladies.

We lost the mixed inter-club v Rufford.

Ladies silver match v Sherwood we lost for 3/2

Ladies friendly match v Worksop, we lost 3 1/2 to 1/2.

Ladies bronze match v Oakmere was a draw, 2 1/2 2 1/2

Ladies silver v Norwood WON 4/3

We are through to the 3rd round of the ladies doubles inter-club, beating Radcliffe, and will play the next round on the 22nd July at Notts v Beeston.

LADIES SUMMER AM-AM 2024

Club VI makes it so much easier to run a Am-Am.

Rather than spending hours checking handicaps and converting to 85%. We just printed off a sheet on the morning. Impressive.

We then signed in players, collated the players scores and closed the competition and ClubVI did all the work.

Interestingly, a few other clubs are ahead of us. Players have to record all 4 scores and input them into the computer themselves. Cards are given in and winners are verified by the organisers.

Handicaps can be affected!

RETFORD LADIES EXCHANGE DAY WITH MARKET RASEN

Wednesday 3rd July 2024

What a great day was had by both parties, enjoying great courses.

Results

Winner Belinda Briggs 39 Market Rasen winner scored 40

2nd Helen Dean

3rd Pat Fox

4th Liz Fitzakerley

Senior Men's Summer Am-Am, Thursday 20th June

168 players from around and beyond our region arrived on a sunny day for a splendid event. Volunteers, including RGC past captains Mike Mahony, Ted Eccleshall, Dave Stirling, Stuart Moore and Allan Meacher, greeted the players and explained the course and format of the competition.

With the course in magnificent condition, thanks to the efforts of Carl and his greenkeeping team, players were also treated to lavish refreshments at the hallway house, arranged by several of our lady golfers. Over £180 for the Captains' Charities was collected from donations there.

The nearest the pin on the 11th was won by Greg Shelton with a hole in one, whilst the straightest drive on the 18th was won by Dave Colgate. Full results are published on the Club website.

Organiser Ray Wood thanks all the many staff and volunteers who worked behind the scenes to make this such a successful day. Howard Cooper and Andrew Morris dealt with registrations and raffle tickets, Sue Boyes, Marjorie and Pat looked after the halfway house, Jan and her catering team made post match meals a treat, while Craig Morris and Ray Wood verified the final scores.

Captains' Charity Day Saturday 20th July

Captains' Charity Day was a huge success raising just over £2,000.00. The Captains would like to thank all those who took part, those who gave their time and supported the day by donating gifts for the raffle and helping at the halfway house.



Captains' Charity Day Results

Team	M, Mi, L	Score	Place	
M. Bradshaw / D. Smith / S. Deal / C. Morris	Mens	92	Mens 1st	
S. Clifford / T. Burns / R. Lee / A. Pointer	Mens	85	Mens 2nd	
F. Britton / D. Bainbridge / A. Massey / J. Broughton	Mens	84	Mens 3rd	BB9
P. Lockwood / D. Richardson / S. Young / R. Cream	Mens	84	Mens 4th	BB9
J. Cope / A. Evens / B. Searston / G. Ilett	Mens	84	Mens 5th	
G. Lane / N. Blake / G. Bell / S. Corringham	Mens	83	Mens 6th	BB9
G. Young / M. Rennie / K. Tomlinson / G. Cantrell	Mens	83	Mens 7th	
R. Wood / N. Sly / G. Corr / M. Allan	Mens	80	Mens 8th	BB9
A. Dyer / K. Hutchinson / S. Nickless / B. Crossland	Ladies	84	Ladies 1st	
K. Gill / H. Dean / S. Machin / J. Cooper	Ladies	81	Ladies 2nd	
L. Tongue / J. Walsh / M. Saddington / J. Birtles	Ladies	79	Ladies 3rd	
H. Fitzakerley / E. Fitzakerley / E. Eccleshall / P. Eccleshall	Mixed	83	Mixed 1st	
M. Briggs / B. Briggs / P. Stern / M. Stern	Mixed	81	Mixed 2nd	
A. Salmon / D. Hancock / J. Hancock / F. Wagstaffe	Mixed	77	Mixed 3rd	
Mary Saddington	Nearest the Pin on 9th 76 Cms			
Andy Salmon	Nearest the Pin on 11th 1mtr 82 Cms			
Peter Stern	Putting Competition			

Captains Day July 7th 2024

Captains day was very well supported with 98 members taking part in a



shotgun start at 09.00hrs. The weather was a little unkind with a couple of showers, but this did not distract from an excellent day.

Susan Boyes, helped by the captains' wife, provided excellent ham or well as cheese rolls, teas and coffees as cold drinks.



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ham or well as

Jan and Pat served up basket meals of scampi and chips or chicken goujons when players returned to the club house for results and presentations.

The Captain would like to thank all the members who took part in the day, Susan Boyes for the Halfway House, Jan, Pat and the bar staff for excellent service after the game, Craig and Kevin for doing cards and providing the results.

Results

Overall	Score	Name	Count Back
Best Net Overall	40	Philip Lane	
Best Gross Overall	74	Ian Hardman	
2 nd Overall	38	Tom Hopkinson	
3 rd Overall	37	Kev Vardy	Count Back
4 th Overall	37	Ted Eccleshall	

Division 1 First	36	Andy Rogers	
Division 1 Second	35	Geoff Young	Count Back
Division 1 Third	35	Chris Glover	Count Back

Division 2 First	35	Paul Lockwood	Count Back
Division 2 Second	35	Paul Burgin	
Division 2 Third	34	Jim Hughes	

Division 3 First	35	Roger Lee	Count Back
Division 3 Second	35	Paul Balcome	
Division 3 Third	32	Martin Eden	Count Back

Nearest the Pin 11th		Paul Burgin	
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Nearest White Line 18th		Tony Jackson	
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Halfway House garden ; “The Stumpery”

In January the Lady Vice Captain, Lynda Moore, decided to improve the half way house garden, creating a natural habitat. She submitted plans to the Greens committee and the green staff supported this action whole-heartedly, by collecting a variety of stumps and woodland features from the course and cleaning the area to form the foundation. Carl used a JCB to place huge tree roots as the focal point of the Stumpery.



Many thanks to the lady members who contributed with a range of woodland style plants from their gardens, and Lynda who spent much effort and time rejuvenating the garden to its present day state. A bug hotel has been added as well as an area for Lace wings. The cost to the club for the Stumpery was £0.00!



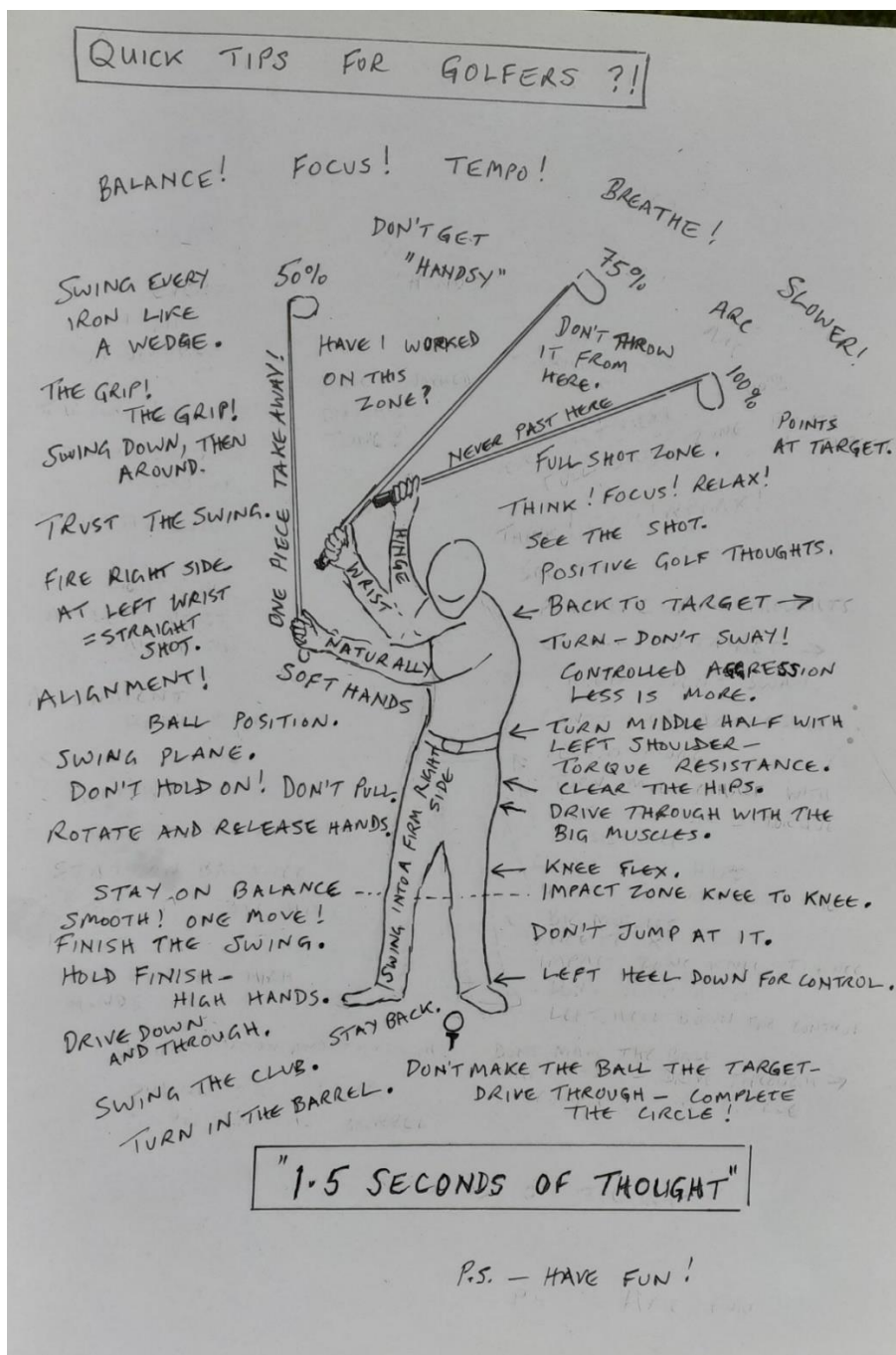
In March, Lynda then moved her efforts to improving the planters and shrubberies around the clubhouse, adding a drainage system to the planters. With £150 budget from the Senior men’s section, planters and window boxes were repaired, restored and repainted. They were filled with low maintenance plants, with the plan that there will be all round cover.



Lynda is grateful for all support and encouragement she has had from the Club, and the Club is equally grateful to her for such a great project.

In need of golfing technique help?

Here's a handy summary sheet from a recently unearthed coaching manual (from the last century!), which you may find helpful. If you think there are items missing, please feel free to let us know!



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 Charles Cooke 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 **13 August 2024**. *** If members have any points they would like to raise for future meetings, please write to the Chairman, via the Office.**

Best wishes, from

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Andy Massey, Charles Cooke, John Flavell

Communication Group (on behalf of the Management Committee)