

REASEHEATH GOLF CLUB

Winter Newsletter – December 2003

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A warm welcome to all new members of the Golf Club.

We hope you enjoy playing the course and also the social events that take place. Keep an eye on the notice boards in the clubhouse.

There will be vacancies for all classes of membership at the start of the new golfing year in February. If you know of someone who would like to take advantage of the playing this excellent little course at very competitive rates, please contact either Chris Bishop or Geoff Willows. Contact details are on the fixture card.

Full membership £180 per annum, including LGU & EGU plus entry to most competitions. 5-day membership £135 per annum, including EGU and LGU. There is also a one-off £50 joining fee. Junior membership £70 per annum

Your Captain and Vice Captain for 2004

Welcome to our Captain for 2004, Brian Cherrington. Whilst Brian has only been a member since 1999, he has already made a great impression on the club. An ever-present in friendly matches, he has also turned out many times for both the league team and its reserves. He has played a prominent role on the Committee and has provided much support for the 2003 captain, Dave Farnell. Brian, previously at Alveston Hall Golf Club, is married to Mary and has two lads.

Originally from Woverhampton, Brian moved to Crewe in 1959. He worked for British Rail from 1964 until early retirement in 1997. He currently works for Ableworld, a Nantwich company selling disability aids and related items. Brian has been a local councillor since 1990, currently representing Waldron Ward (Sydney) in Crewe. His main interests are golf and community work.

In 1983 Brian lost a leg in a motorcycle accident, although most people would not even realise he had an artificial leg (except in summer when he wears shorts a lot!). It shows how much time Brian put into helping in that he is Chairman of North Staffs Amputee Support Group, a committee member of British Amputee Golf Association and a member of British Amputee and Less Autres Sports Association.

I am sure that we all wish Brian a very successful and enjoyable year.

Our Captain will be ably supported by Brian Drakeley, our Vice Captain for 2004. Brian has been a member of Reaseheath since 1998, having previously played at Alsager. Brought up in Fulham and having lived in other London Boroughs, Brian moved to Winsford in 1970 and then to Church Minshull in 1986, when he and his wife still live.

Brian and Anne have 4 children, one in Canada, one in Tanzania, one in Crewe and Philip, who still lives at home and is a member of Reaseheath. Brian is Managing Director of a freight forwarding company – details are on the scorecard, part sponsored by his company.

Brian enjoys music, he reads a lot, and remains an avid Spurs supporter (he says the only one north of Watford!). Brian and Anne also have a spacious holiday villa in Florida (available for rent at reasonable rate says Brian!). They kindly donated a week for the Auction of Promises last year, raising nearly £250 for MacMillan Cancer Relief.

Reaseheath Golf Club is very fortunate to have both the Brians as our leaders for 2004. They will make an excellent team.

At the time of going to press, photographs were not available. Given the quality of the photographs of the Captain and Vice Captain in a newsletter early this year, when they were made to look like criminals on the run, perhaps it is just as well!

PRESENTATION 'EVENING' CHANGE SUNDAY 14 DECEMBER AT 3.00PM

Unfortunately it has been necessary to change the time and date of the Presentation 'Evening'. It will be held in the clubhouse. Also on that day will be a 9 hole competition, the format of which will be notified on the notice board. Prizes for this Christmas competition will be given out at the Presentation. Apologies for any inconvenience caused!

Greenkeeper report—Richard Murray

Twelve months on! Yes, it's twelve months since I started at Reaseheath College Golf Club as the Heas Greenkeeper/Instructor! So what has changed?

- ◆ The first noticeable change was the encouraged completion of the 6th green by staff and students, making this a safer green from the 4th tee play
- ◆ An intense aeration programme has taken place to improve surface drainage with increased root development on the greens, tees and other areas.
- ◆ More grass on the tees (yes, it really is happening!)
- ◆ The construction of a practice bunker with pitching area, again with a big involvement by students.
- ◆ Adopting a more environmentally friendly fertiliser product with an application regime

including the non-use of fungicides and pesticides on the course.

- ◆ The first sports turf machinery show that is developing new links with industry that will benefit the sports facility and other areas at the college.

Development is ongoing, with the construction of a new temporary green, a new trolley park by the side of the 1st tee and bunker at the side of the 9th green. Not forgetting the removal of the large ash tree near the 6th green that will improve this hole as the developing aeration will show (it really will!). Many problems would have arisen in the longer term

Other works will include more sand in bunkers, improvements to existing steps and worn grass areas. After 12 months I am now able to understand this golf course much better which, with the support of the Club, will enable students, staff and myself to improve the course further. Thank you for an interesting first year.

Sponsorship of the scorecard and tee markers

Advertise your company on 20,000 scorecards used by 600 members and their guests. A good quality card raises the profile of the Club—the support of sponsors is greatly appreciated.

Quarter page - £100 plus VAT
Half page - £200 plus VAT

Sponsorship is available on a number of high quality tee markers. Costs include the artwork incorporating logos. Costs are for a three year period.

Single tee markers i.e. only one hole played from the tee e.g. 1st, 8th - £200 + VAT
Shared tee markers e.g. 3rd/12th - £150 + VAT

LADIES SECTION

Janet Orgill—Lady Captain

Hello Ladies—we are now into the winter and most of the golfing year is coming to an end. I am sorry to say that the Ladies section have not given much support to our club, except for a certain few who I would like to thank very much.

Many thanks to Sharon Cartwright who has done a great job in keeping all your handicaps up to date. Also to Brenda Cotton for working hard as competition secretary and keeping all the matches running smoothly.

We had a lovely Invitation day but only managed to get eight of our ladies to attend. It is sad as we have many ladies in the club and don't get much support.

On Wednesday mornings I have tried to get ladies to join us. The most we have had is five. I hope next year

will bring new life into the club. We are waiting for your enthusiasm to see us through.

We have had 9 matches, winning 3, drew 1 and lost 5. Brookfield won the new trophy supplied for our match. I would like to thank Bet Cartwright for her kind donation towards the cost of the trophy.

The Novice Cup was won by Joan Yardwood with Christine English Runner up. Invitation Day was won by Sheila Smith and her partner. The Knock Out Cup was won by Brenda Cotton with Helen Balance as runner up.

I hope to see as many as possible at the 9-hole comp and Presentation on Sun 14 Dec. Have a happy Christmas & Prosperous New Year

Reaseheath Sportsturf Event

In July this year a very successful event was held at Reaseheath, supported by most of the major machinery manufacturers. It was so successful that virtually all the companies asked for it to be

repeated next year and many other companies have also asked for invitations. It will be a major event in the sports turf calendar. Reaseheath has had lots of benefits such as free materials. The date for 2004 is Wednesday 7 July.

READ, NOTE, ACT— SLOW PLAY AND PITCH MARK REPAIRS - Despite numerous requests there are still members who ignore simple etiquette

SLOW PLAY—There is **ONE** rule at Reaseheath. Slower matches should let faster through, whether 2,3,4 ball and whether or not in a competition. Be aware—it is very frustrating to play several holes behind slower games when with some etiquette you could have been let through. Culprits should expect to be reprimanded!

PITCH MARKS—There is evidence that pitch marks repaired within 10 minutes recover in 24 hours. Pitch marks repaired within 24 hours take weeks to recover. Make a habit of always repairing your pitch mark and one other! We should soon be in a situation where we can't find one other! **PROTECT YOUR COURSE!**

Club communications—We are doing our best to communicate with members!

Course mobile phone

A reminder that 2-3 years ago we purchased a mobile phone that members could ring to hear a recorded message on whether or not the course was open. There have been a few hiccups but it works well most of the time! Please let Chris Bishop know if you have problems. The number is 07960 975517

Events and offers files

Details of 2004 Open Events and other competitions away from Reaseheath are accumulating in a file that stays in the clubhouse. Whether gent or lady, senior or junior, you will find events in there to suit you. In addition, there is another file that contains offers of golfing holidays etc that are sent to the secretary.

Club newsletters

This is the fourth club newsletter. Hopefully members find them interesting. It is your newsletter and articles, news items etc from members will be included (space permitting!). Contributions should be sent to Chris Bishop, preferably in electronic form (Microsoft Word) by email. 'Snail mail' will also be included! By the way, if anyone wishes to become editor please contact Chris Bishop. Some expertise in word processing and desk-top publishing would be an advantage!

Club Website

Just before Christmas last year, a Reaseheath Golf Club section was introduced to the Reaseheath College website (www.reaseheath.ac.uk/golf). Progress has been very slow, mainly due to pressure of work and so it is still in its early stages. Once more, it would be really helpful if someone with the necessary skills volunteered to be responsible for maintaining the golf club website. Volunteers please!

Emailing

Patience for members is a virtue! It is still the intention to do a mailing list and emails sent to me have been included on the members' database. It is still the intention to send information sent directly to you such as details of course bookings, closures etc. Experience will show if this is a good idea. However, if you want to be included, please email me at chrisb@reaseheath.ac.uk so that I can add your email address to the list.

North Staffs and District League Report

Richard Chapman

We all rely on statistics to establish how a team has performed over a season and I am sure that a reasonably accurate picture can be gained from these figures. However, judgements can only be balanced considering the strength of the opposition. This year we met some formidable opposition. We have played against some very strong teams and on occasions, the results have not reflected the high standard of our play. The final league table is as follows:

1st	Wychwood Park	111 points
2nd	Astbury	100
3rd	Creda	76
4th	Greenway Hall	60
5th	The Chase	56
6th	Reaseheath	52
7th	Alvaston Hall	49

Wychwood Park are promoted to division 3 and I am confident that they will be promoted each year until they reach the premiership. It is interesting to see that in our league three former division 3 teams have courses over 7000 yards (Greenway Hall, The Chase and Astbury).

In 2002 we finished 7th with 58 points & last year 4th with a staggering 78 points, so it is disappointing to drop back to 6th.

I am delighted to see that the league team continues to receive such good support. In 2001 we had 26 players turn out over the season, in 2002 we fielded 38 players and this year we had 31 players representing the club. My thanks are extended to all of those over the 3 years, with a special thanks to those who have played as reserve. It is only when you manage a team that you really appreciate the support of those who will turn out and not get picked in the front line. It really does make a difference.

I have produced a chart of all the games and players and their results for the season. You will see that we continue to have a 'core' of top players that have given tremendous support and commitment but it is our strength to be able to offer a pool of 31 players that puts us ahead of most other teams. I think that Alvaston Hall only used 14 players this year!

So much for the statistics..

I have a view that to represent your Golf Club by playing in competitions against other clubs and especially to play in the North Staffs League is a privilege. Each player has a responsibility to support a colleague in matchplay, to play to their own highest standards and to win their match. The environment is friendly but serious, professional and enthusiastically participated by like-minded players—everyone wants to win and very importantly, we all know how to lose gracefully!

Match Secretary's Report

Brian Cherrington

Reaseheath Golf Club has been very successful in our friendly matches this year, winning 5, drawing 1 and losing 1. One match was cancelled, due to lack of players of both teams. All matches were keenly contested and no quarter was given. Most games went down to the wire. The best win of the season was in the Brindle Trophy played against Alvaston Hall on a format based on the Ryder Cup, with four-somes, fourball and singles. We recaptured the trophy, winning 15-7 over the 2 days. I would like to thank all the players who turned out to play for Reaseheath, some at the very last minute. Again, thank you to you all. There's a couple of people I would say a special thanks to and they are David Witty & Mike Smith who captained the team in my absence, thanks gents.

Results

Queens Park	Away	Lost
Queens Park Veterans	Home	Won
Macclesfield Probus	Home	Won
Altrincham Baptists	Home	Won
Macclesfield Baptists	Away	Cancelled
Queens Park Veterans	Away	Draw (Played at Reaseheath)
Alvaston Hall	Home & Away	Won (Brindle Trophy)

Ladies and Gentlemen of Reaseheath. I have enjoyed my year as Match Secretary, although at times I was pulling my hair out wondering if I was ever going to find enough players to raise a team, but I got there. I hope that you give support to the incoming Match Secretary, as all the support you gave me during the past year

Odds and Sods!

- ◆ Handicapping System—unified from 1 February 2004
- ◆ **Courtesy shots for Ladies!** A number of gentlemen have been heard to complain about the 3 'courtesy shots' that ladies have in most competitions! **These are not courtesy shots but shots that should be there of right**, as the standard scratch for ladies is 3 shots higher than for men and they play off the same tees as the men. If you are not convinced, ask the Handicap Secretary or Club Secretary for further explanation.
- ◆ Difficult situations and emergencies — there have been occasions when members have faced difficult situations with abusive 'visitors' on the course. Rather than approach these visitors, there is the option of ringing the college warden on duty, either by dialling *352 on the courtesy phone or 07789 216789
- ◆ There are lots of entry details to 'Open Competitions' at other clubs in the file hanging from the notice board in the clubhouse. Also, there are details of 'offers' both in the UK and abroad in a file on the shelf
- ◆ All members can help themselves to the magazines available in the entrance to the clubhouse, unless it says 'do not remove' on the cover.
- ◆ Members may put 'lost and found' notices on the appropriate place on the notice board in the clubhouse. All other notices e.g. adverts, should be put up only after approval has been received from the committee.

Feedback - Hopefully you will find this newsletter helpful and informative. If you have any constructive comments please address them to a member of the committee. What else would you like to see included?

Chris Bishop – Editor