



# Reaseheath Golf Club Newsletter—July 2006

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## Turf Machinery Event

The 3rd Turf Machinery Event is being held at Reaseheath on 5 July Apologies for the course closure on 4th and 5th July. This event is very prestigious for the College and has many benefits in terms of free materials and treatments for the golf course and sports field. Over 50 companies from the sports turf industry have booked to attend and stage the various working and static exhibits.

## Presentation Evening Sunday 16 July

Whether you have won a prize or not, join us for a drink and chat!

**NB. Change of venue!  
Now in Clubhouse**

## A Golf biography of our President Richard Chapman



I first played golf at Reaseheath when there were only 3 holes that crossed over the football pitch, down towards the 9<sup>th</sup> green and back towards the 7<sup>th</sup> tee! I feel that I have grown up with the club, although I didn't become a member until 1992. The following year I played in every medal/competition and was Golfer of the Year in 1993, my handicap reducing from 18 to 12 in 18 months! I joined the committee in 1996. In 1999 I was vice Cap-

tain and Match Secretary and became the Club Captain in 2000. That year the Club joined the North Staffs and District Golf League and I took over as team Captain the following year. I held the position for 4 years and found the experience of league competition very rewarding and I got to know many of the Clubs members through this, making some good golfing colleagues. I was invited to become the Chairman of the NSL in 2004 and the President for 2005. I am delighted and honoured to become the President of Reaseheath Golf Club for 2006/7 and I look forward to representing all the members whilst I am on the committee. I hope to see more and more members participating in the competitions throughout the year and attending the golfing/social events that will be organised as ongoing, such as the Captains day, Presentation evenings, Summer BBQ, Car Boot Sales, Quiz nights and hopefully one or two Friday evening 9 hole comps.

**Richard Chapman**

PS The editor did not have a recent photograph of Richard available at the time of going to press! The above photograph was taken two years ago. Please try to imagine the same face but a bit older, and with considerably more hair! You then stand a chance of recognising him on the course!

**Sponsorship**—does anyone want to sponsor a business (or themselves!) by sponsoring a tee marker or the fixture card for three years?? £100-£200. Contact Chris Bishop for details

## Membership availability

All types of membership are available. Reduced rates apply from 1 July. Let your friends and/or work colleagues know! Membership forms are available from the Secretary.

## Lady Captain's Report

With seven members, we played away to Onneley on 2 May, but unfortunately we lost, after a close match.

On 2 June, with four members, we joined the Captain's Away Day at Priors Hayes, with Brenda Cotton winning first prize for the ladies team. The weather was very good and we enjoyed an excellent meal after the match. Thank you Brian for organising this event.

10 June saw nineteen members competing in the Lady Captain's Day, incorporating the Peter Wilson Ladies Rose Bowl. Beryl Young won with 45 points, second was Jean Longworth, with Brenda Cotton third.. A splendid turn-out!

I am pleased to report that 5 new members have recently joined us on for Wednesday morning [09h30] social games.

Looking ahead, we have the following matches arranged:

Wed 12 July, Reaseheath v Brookfield.

Sat 15 August, Ladies Invitation Day.

Wed 30 August, Ruth Whitehead, ELGA Exec & former Reaseheath member

Thank you ladies, for your continued support.

**Mary Moran**

## Captain's Report

My Captains away day was held at Priors Hayes Golf Club On Friday 2nd June

We could not have had better weather, and on a very pleasant day, the course was in very good condition and was a very fair test.

On the day 18 played in the 9 hole competition in the morning, this was won by Geoff Willows, 27 played in the afternoon and this was won by Nick Sproston, 2nd Geoff Willows with Jonathan Staton winning the longest drive. Richard Chapman won nearest the pin, and the Ladies competition was won by Brenda Cotton, 2nd Jean Wiskar.

Judging by the comments made to me by the players and their guests. they all seemed to have enjoyed the day, and this, I must say, was really helped by the staff at Priors Hayes, for their friendly approach and help during the day, the food provided both at lunch time and evening was excellent.

I had a pleasant surprise to find my son in the clubhouse after the game, he had flown overnight from Saudi Arabia, to be with me on the day, and we shifted a couple of bottles of Moet in celebration.

I would like to thank Jonathan Staton for his help with the cards and results, and once again thank all the members and guests who attended, for making it a memorable day for me; we also raised £60 in the raffle.

Last Sunday (25 June) was my Captain's Day. My thanks to the 50 members who played. There were some excellent scores and the result will be announced at the Presentation Evening on 16 July. The raffle in aid of MacMillan Cancer relief raised £70 and will also be drawn then. Special thanks to Margaret Chapman for the excellent butties and to Eddie for doing the cards

**Brian Gough**

## Important Notice - Car Parking Permits for golfers

To improve security at Reaseheath, staff and students have registered their cars and have been issued with parking permits for a number of years. Visitors are required to report to College Reception. However, golfers have not been issued with permits. Recently, in an attempt to identify cars that were parked at Reaseheath illegitimately, several cars belonging to golfers had notices threatening clamping put on them. The College apologises for any upset caused. To avoid this happening again, and to further improve security, the College has decided to issue parking permits to all golfers and to register car numbers. It is hoped that all golfers will appreciate the College's attempts to make Reaseheath a safer place!

Enclosed is a parking permit. Please display it on your windscreen. Also, please register your car make, model & number by using one of the following methods:

- A) email the Secretary at [chrisb@reaseheath.ac.uk](mailto:chrisb@reaseheath.ac.uk)
- B) telephone Chris Bishop on 01270 613204, leaving a message if necessary, or telephone Reception on 01270 625131
- C) put a note in the 'suggestion box' in the clubhouse

If you require another permit e.g. for a second vehicle or change of vehicle, please contact Chris Bishop or Reception. If you dispose of your vehicle, please remember to remove the permit and destroy it.

**PLEASE DISPLAY A PARKING PERMIT**

## **NORTH STAFFS LEAGUE**

The league season finally started on the 8<sup>th</sup> April, at home to Whiston Hall, in cold wet conditions, unfortunately due to more rain and the already wet course the match had to be abandoned after 9 holes.

In the matches we have played so far we have accredited ourselves very well, although we haven't won any games yet, they have been very close. The best result was at home to Gorsty Hill which we drew 6 all against a very good side with several of there players off single handicaps.

Things are getting a bit more of a settled side now as we are getting the team sheet nearing full a good week before our matches, and my sincerest thanks to all those players who have given up there Saturdays to represent Reaseheath in the North Staffs League, and we will strive to do our best for the rest of the season.

**Brian Cherrington, Captain of North Staffs League team**

PS—Since Brian wrote this report, the team has played 2, won 2! The rearranged match v Whiston Hall was won 8 points to 4. Last Saturday (24 June) the team beat Onneley. Both matches were at home.

## **A few words from me, your Head Green Keeper.**

What have we done since my last contribution to the newsletter?

We managed to complete the 2<sup>nd</sup> / 11<sup>th</sup> tee, this was a large construction project for the students with two main groups being involved, after much encouragement from myself (I think that's the correct way to describe it). With poor weather and ground conditions the work was prolonged but we got there in time to open the new tees for the Vintage Open competition. There is some surface work to carry out but these tees have made the 2<sup>nd</sup> / 11<sup>th</sup> green a new challenge.

A late start to the growing season has created a number of issues with work carried out on the greens which I know has encouraged some interesting comments, however looking at the course today I would say we have moved forward to improve your enjoyment of the game.

We are now busy keeping the grass cut, top dressing, over seeding and all the other tasks that are required to maintain the course to a higher standard, your constructive comments are always welcome to keep me and the staff on our toes.

**Richard Murray**

## **Golf Course Questionnaire- Very important**

From some quarters recently there has been mixed comments on the condition of the course. Green-keeper Richard Murray and his team are very keen to ensure that the course meets the expectations of the members. One of the first steps to achieve this is to get an accurate picture of the members' perceptions of the course. Enclosed is a questionnaire that will help to achieve this.

Members are asked to complete the questionnaire, ensuring any criticism is constructive, and return it to Chris Bishop or Richard. This can be done by hand or post, via College Reception or in the suggestions box in the clubhouse.

A small group consisting of Jonathan Staton, Chris Bishop and Richard Murray are now meeting on a regular basis to discuss the development and maintenance of the course. Please pass any comments to any of this group so that they can be discussed and acted upon as appropriate. Richard Murray will post monthly reports in the clubhouse, listing his plan of work for the next month.

## **Committee vacancies**

The club still has vacancies for two very important posts, those of Competition Secretary and Handicap Secretary. As the computer programme produces reports for both competition results and handicaps, there is logic in combining the posts. Eddie Jackson has kindly agreed to continue until a replacement(s) is found.

If you might be interested, please contact Chris Bishop, Secretary

## Reaseheath Vintage Open

What an excellent response we had to this years special Vintage Open, why special? Because it was the 10<sup>th</sup> year that this competition has been run by students for the benefit of their chosen charity, Air Ambulance this year.

An increase in numbers to nearly fifty lady and gentleman golfers from all over the northwest, one golfer celebrating his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday having attended all the vintage opens! To add that extra special mark of the occasion Reaseheath's own Frank Rogers achieved his first hole in one on the 4<sup>th</sup> green, after playing for 47 years! Reaseheath's Joan Yarwood took first prize for the ladies. Our Captain, Brian Gough, was overall runner up. Congratulations to all three.

The students carried out work on the course, organised all the presentation gifts, the food, all the administration and even organised the good weather or so they told me to help towards achieving their qualification. I would however like to thank the reception, catering, and bar staff with others behind the scenes from Reaseheath College.

Bathgate silica sand have been main sponsors to this event for the last ten years, represented by Mr John Hammond.

## Junior Golf News

I am pleased to say that the regular coaching sessions taken by PGA Pro Andrew Pointon have been a success. These sessions happen at least once a month, on Saturday mornings, 10 till 12, and ages ranging from 10 to 16, boys and girls. Our newest junior member is Oliver, who is ten years old, who knows he could be on his way to becoming the next Tiger Woods. Everyone has been improving and the sessions have been fun.

Last Saturday the juniors did the second seasonal National Golf Skills Challenge, where they were scored on putting, chipping, bunker play and full swing, there were some excellent scores. These scores are entered into a National league table; the leaders compete in a final skills challenge later in the year.

The free junior coaching is for any members who have children or grandchildren interested and are encouraged to bring them along with their friends to have a go, join in and see if they like it.

**The next coaching session is on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July; put your name on the board if you are interested.**

We have had two junior competitions this year, numbers entering have been slightly low. Thanks to all juniors who have taken part.

The BMW trophy competition was held on 17<sup>th</sup> June, the weather was excellent and the golf was just as good. Nicholas O'Malley scored 41 points (Stableford), with a handicap of 13; a close second was Carl Morris with a tremendous score of 40 points, handicap 28.

**The next junior competition is Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July, Club Championship.  
Please put your name on the board if you are able to play.**

Any queries regarding the junior section please contact Ian O'Malley, Junior Organiser on 01270 567171.

## **Email and website**

Quite a few of the members have email addresses registered on the club database. As yet, newsletters and other communications are sent out by post (snail mail!!!) As more members add their email addresses to the list, we will be able to communicate electronically to a greater extent, thus speeding things up and saving money for the club. Please email secretary Chris Bishop ([chrisb@reaseheath.ac.uk](mailto:chrisb@reaseheath.ac.uk)) to get your email added. Don't worry if you are not on email, you wont miss out!