

Summer Newsletter – July 2002

- Welcome to the first newsletter for a couple of years! One of the findings of the survey conducted at the end of last year was that communication between the committee and members, and communication between members, could be improved. Hence this missive! As all members had the opportunity to express their views, we'll start with the outcomes.

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Important Notice - Annual General Meeting
Due to a clash with examinations in the Lord Woolley Centre, the RGC Annual General Meeting will take place a week earlier on Monday 27 January 2003

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

Golf Club Survey

Firstly, many thanks to all those members that answered the golf club survey. Overall members expressed general satisfaction in the club and course, although there were a number of areas where several people expressed dissatisfaction.

The course

Clearly the majority of players are happy with the course. A copy of the survey was given to the green-keeping staff who were pleased. Lyndon's (head green-keeper) comments – 'I'm pleased with the overall result. Inevitably people will have different opinions, especially about the difficulty of the course! Unfortunately the trees in the middle of the fairways were suffering quite a lot of damage from low flying drives (mentioning no names!). Hence those on the 1st and 5th were removed. A number of other trees that were in poor condition were also removed (e.g. by 6th green), as were some for safety reasons (right of 6th tee). Others were removed as part of the normal thinning out process.

As far as the rough is concerned, we were well aware that it was too long at times. Workload, wet weather and machinery problems were contributory factors. Hopefully these problems have now been overcome. I believe that the longer grass in parts of the course, particularly between the 2nd, 8th and 9th, adds to the definition of the holes and overall appearance of the course. It is good for wildlife and also saves time for more important areas of the course.

I believe that the bunkers have improved, particularly as more sand has been added to some. The profile of some of the bunkers needs to be improved but this is a longer-term job.

I'm pleased with the overall improvement

in the tees and the condition of the greens.'

The Club

Once again, general satisfaction was expressed about the club. The most criticism was concerning the lack of bar and changing facilities and few social events.

Firstly, the bar, or lack of it! There are three main reasons that a bar has not installed:

- i) The relative isolation of the clubhouse renders it susceptible to theft
- ii) The College already has a bar that is used by the golf club, albeit relatively infrequently, especially during winter
- iii) Bars in golf clubs are seldom profitable and are usually subsidised by the green fees

There is a fridge available for the use of all members to cool beer, G&T's, wine etc. during the round. A few members take advantage of it, especially in warm weather.

All members have access to the changing rooms. The larger changing rooms have showers and are available for most of the time, except when team sports are being played. The code is C7890Y. The smaller golf changing room is always available and the digital lock has the same code number as the main meeting room.

A number of social events are held throughout the year. On each Friday evening during the summer there is a 'fun' competition (be there at 6.30 pm) fol-

Golf Club Survey (contd)

lowed by a drink in the Bield bar in College. If you don't want to play golf why not just joining the drinking session?!

Captain's Report

June was a busy month for the Captain, with the two major events of the year, Captains' Away Day at Aldersey Green (incorporating the away day for both men's and ladies' captains) and Captain's Day itself, at Reaseheath.

Attendance at the away day was disappointing, with only 22 players. The longer spring bank holiday and the fact that it was on a Thursday did not help, but those who made the effort had an enjoyable day on a challenging course in good condition. Winner was Geoff Willows, with Mr Captain runner up!

In contrast, Captain's Day at Reaseheath was very well attended with nearly 100 players competing. The weather held up well and the Captain didn't receive too many adverse comments about the absence of bacon butties half way round! Many thanks to all those players that supported the golf on that day.

However, attendance in the evening was disappointing, especially from players in the prizes. The club ruling of not giving prizes unless winners were in attendance in person was applied, that meant a number of players missed out. Apart from lack of support of the Captain members also miss the opportunity of socialising, one of the comments in the Golf Club Survey as mentioned

Ladies' Section

used gifts, offers to mow lawns, do the garden etc. etc. will all help. Please let Caroline or myself have any offers. It is the intention to use the opportunity for a social event, with music, and therefore should be a really enjoyable night. Don't miss it!

The committee will be discussing the survey and how to address some of the issues under its influence during forthcoming meetings. Once more, thanks to those members who responded to the questionnaire. All comments are being seriously considered. Many expressed completely opposite views and therefore general satisfaction cannot be guaranteed! Incidentally, at least one

above. The format of Captain's Day has been discussed at a recent committee meeting and it may be different next year.

Captains' Charity

Firstly I would like to thank members on behalf of the Reaseheath students for the support of the Reaseheath Rag Charity, especially the Rag Trophy when over £170 was raised in the week. The Charity this year was Macmillan Cancer Relief, the same charity as that chosen by the Captain and Lady Captain.

Captains' Charity Events
Quiz night – Friday 27 September 2002
Social & Auction of Promises –
Saturday 9 November 2002
Quiz night – Friday 31 January 2003

So far we have had few fund raising events. We would like to hold three main events to raise money for **Macmillan Cancer Relief** during the year. The dates are shown here. **Please**

put them in your diary.

The quiz nights are great fun, largely thanks to Mick Moss – just ask anyone who has been to them in the past. The question master's decision, or that of his sidekick Bob Ellis, is final. Yellow and red cards are frequently shown to offenders!

The auction of promises will be a major opportunity to raise money for this excellent cause. Any offers of promises, however big or small, will be very welcome. Un-

Forthcoming ladies' fixtures

Junior Golf

A letter to all adult members of Reaseheath Golf Club (from Mick Moss - Junior Organiser)

Reaseheath Golf Club has an active Junior Section of 50 members who have handicaps ranging from 4 to 54. Reaseheath Golf Club and other clubs throughout the country are trying to actively promote junior golfers. We make every effort to teach and guide them in the right direction to mould them into good golfers and teach them etiquette.

Unfortunately it has come to the committee's attention via juniors and concerned parents that a small section of the golf club's membership have on occasions intimidated juniors and have been quite rude.

Whilst it is important that the juniors should be aware of etiquette and good behaviour on the golf course, it is also the responsibility of the older membership of the club to set a good example. Junior members have as much right on the course as any other member. They also deserve respect both in the way that they are spoken too and treated. After all, children learn by example and we should all be good role models.

Membership and revised membership fees

There are still a few vacancies for both midweek and full membership. If you know of anyone who would like to join the club ask them to write to Geoff Willows, membership secretary at Reaseheath, who will send out membership forms.

Full member – Green Fees £105 (£50 reduction)
 Club Membership £20
 Joining Fee £50
 Total £175

From the beginning of July, the cost of joining the club has been reduced for this year. Fees for the rest of the year are as follows:

Speed of Play, Etiquette & Health and Safety

Speed of Play – Despite guidance notes and a letter to all members that **slow play** is still a problem. Please re-read the notes! A main area is the time taken from putting on one green to teeing off on the next. Some important points:

- Leave your trolley/bag nearer the next tee
- Weigh up your putt whilst others are putting (unless in line of sight)
- **If it is your honour tee off before marking your card**
- Select your club for teeing off before it is your turn

Etiquette - Inviting groups to play through – the over-riding rule is – slower matches should let faster matches through, no matter whether in a competition or not or how many players. The exception is single players, who officially have no standing on a golf course. However, common sense suggests that in most cases they can be let through. It doesn't

Vintage Open Report

The Vintage Open was a great success this year with nearly 70 entries, a record. Fine golfing conditions played on a well-prepared course ended up with a 'home winner', John Bersanti, who played one of the rounds of his life!

The students are to be congratulated once again for their effort. Worth particular mention are Andy de Wet and Kevin Butcher, who slaved for many hours on course preparation. Once more there was generous sponsorship, particularly from Bathgate Silica.

Starting Sheets – What do you think?**Back Page Story Headline**

For a number of years the introduction of starting sheets for weekends has been discussed. Currently, the only use of starting sheets is for Monday morning competitions and major events such as President's Day, Captain's Day and Invitation Day.

On most Saturday and Sunday mornings delays have been encountered by a large number of players turning up around the same time. Whilst this has caused inconvenience to players generally it has had most effect on competition days such as medals, when the score is more important. Players not playing in the medal also arriving at the same time have further compounded the problem on medal days.

It is being proposed that priority is given to members competing in the medal by introducing starting sheets for Saturday and Sunday mornings on medal days only, for a trial period. Prior to the day, only players competing in the medal may book a tee time.

However, other players turning up 'on spec' on the day may play at tee times are not taken by those playing the medal if there are times available.

The club would like to encourage more players to join in competitions and it is hoped that this proposal would

North Staffs and District League Report

Update on 6th July – seven matches played so far this season:

Whiston Hall	Home	Won	8-4
Onneley	Away	Draw	6-6
Astbury	Home	Won	10-2
Creda	Home	Won	10-2
Creda	Away	Lost	4-8
Astbury	Away	Lost	3-9
Onneley	Home	Won	8-4
Whiston Hall	Away	Lost	8-4

Won 4 Drawn 1 Lost 3 Points for 53 Points against 43

Friendly Matches

Each year your Captain and committee arrange several friendly golf matches with other clubs and societies that are based in the area. These are for the purpose of fostering good friendly competitive spirit for all concerned and to enhance the standing of Reaseheath Golf Club.

BUT these events need your support if they are to succeed and continue into the future. This year the first event with Malkins Bank Golf Club had to be cancelled due to lack of support from members. The second match on 25 May only just struggled to take place, again through lack of support on your part. Endless requests for members to play were made right up to the last evening. 23 telephone calls were made that should have not been necessary.

These fixtures are usually listed in your membership card and entry sheets are placed on the MATCH NOTICE BOARD in the pavilion well in advance of the date. PLEASE LOOK AT THIS NOTICE BOARD AND ENTER YOUR NAME TO PLAY IF YOU WISH THESE MATCHES TO CONTINUE.

Feedback - Hopefully you will find this