

# REASEHEATH GOLF CLUB

## Summer Newsletter – July 2003

This is a bit like London buses—there was a big gap between the last two newsletters and now this one closely follows the last! However, the committee agreed that we should circulate all members now as a number of events are due to take place in the near future.

Unfortunately, club events have not been well supported lately, with the exception of the Monday morning competitions. Captains' Away Day at Vicars Cross was a very enjoyable event but only 21 club members played. Both the recent Captain's Day and Lady Captain's Day were poorly supported.

### What do members want from their golf club???

We realise that some members just want to play a quiet game of golf and that's fine. However, there's much more to a golf club and we are sure that given the right encouragement and format we can get a much higher participation rate.

Playing competitions can improve your golf tremendously, surely the aim of most of us. However, it can also be a very social sport. Admittedly the absence of a bar in the clubhouse is a disadvantage to a lot of us but there are other means of meeting people and enjoying yourselves.

Please help the club to develop by joining in. There are a number of opportunities to do so shortly. Please note the following events. Please contact a member of the committee if you have any suggestions to encourage more people to take part in club events.

### This is YOUR club—use it!

#### Forthcoming Events

#### **Presentation Evening—Friday 11 July**

You may not have won a prize but it is a good opportunity to have a sociable evening. Bring a bottle to the Bield Bar in the College, starting at 9.00pm.

**Summer BBQ—Sunday 13 July. 6.00 pm until late** -Food and entertainment provided. Bring your own drinks. Tickets £5 from Josie (01270 650663).

<b>Inside this issue:</b>
---------------------------

<i>Forthcoming Matches</i>	2
<i>Junior Section</i>	2
<i>Ladies Section</i>	2
<i>Machinery Event</i>	3
<i>Course Etiquette &amp; Dress</i>	3
<i>Course Developments</i>	3
<i>Les Wootton</i>	4
<i>North Staffs League</i>	4
<i>Junior section</i>	5

#### **Invitation Day—Saturday 19 July—open to ALL members. Only £5 per couple.**

The course is in very good condition. Take the opportunity to bring a golfing friend to play the course and win one of the excellent prizes! The starting sheet is in the clubhouse.

#### **President's Day—Sunday 27 July**

Support your president, Allan, by playing in this competition. The starting sheet will be displayed in the clubhouse shortly. Entry is free and lots of prizes to be won. All club members, with or without handicap, are invited to play.

## Captain' Day—29 June 2003

1st—Clive Orgill 40 points  
 2nd—Andrew Oliver 39 points—19 on back 9  
 3rd— Gary Jones—39 points—18 on back 9  
 Best front 9—Allan Sproston with 22 points  
 Best back 9—Eddie Jackson with 33 points  
 Longest drive 12th—Jim Shenton—261 yards  
 Nearest the pin 17th —Ken Birch—6ft 2ins

## Forthcoming matches

Put your name down on the team list in the clubhouse! Whereas many matches are mainly for full members, the services of mid-week members are also being called upon!  
 23 July v Altrincham Baptists—5.00pm at home—Mixed Match  
 5 Sept v Macclesfield Probus away 9.30am

## Junior Section

Recent events in this section have been very well received and enjoyed by all who attended. A match Juniors vs Adults was very keenly fought and ended with the Juniors losing very narrowly 3½ - 4½. Everyone who took part really enjoyed it. The event was concluded by refreshments in the clubhouse.

The BMW Trophy consisted of target golf and a putting competition before lunch followed by 18 holes in the afternoon. Many thanks to the adult volunteers who accompanied each group providing guidance in both rules and etiquette. Prizes were provided by Blue Bell Garage and our thanks go to Philip Brown. The over-13 trophy was won by Craig Allen with the under-13 trophy going to Brendan Carpenter.

The monthly medals have so far been disappointing with little or no support.

Forthcoming events for you to come and enjoy are:

12 July—Junior Championship  
 24 July—RGC Juniors match v Hill Valley home 2.00pm  
 26 July—RGC Juniors match v Crewe away  
 12 August—RGC Juniors v Hill Valley away 2.00pm  
 13 August—Junior Captain's Day  
 27 August—S.W.G. Challenge which promises to be a super day, sponsored by Paul Griffiths.

The summer knockout is under way with 16 players battling their way to victory. This competition will be renamed the Vice President's Junior knockout and been very kindly given a trophy for this event by Mrs Edith England.

Professional golfer Andrew Pointon has been giving free lessons to novice golfers so come along and join in the events organised on your behalf. Enjoy your golf!

## Ladies Section

Since the spring newsletter we have narrowly lost to Onneley at home, had a win against Queens Park and an away win at Hill Valley. Matches now stand at Won 3, Drawn 1, Lost 2.

The ladies bring and win in April was won by Sheila Smith and Helene Rogers was runner up. Eighteen ladies played on Lady Captain's Day, when the weather could not have been better. The winner of the Peter Wilson Rose Bowl was Brenda Cotton with 39 points. Runner up was Sheila Gourlay with 37 points. The Captain, Dave Farnell, kindly helped with the presentation.

Please try to come along and join the Wednesday morning socials. We meet at 9.30 and have a friendly game of golf with coffee and a chat afterwards in the clubhouse.

I hope that you are beginning to think about your partner for Ladies Invitation Day on 13 September. It's a shot gun start at 1.00pm, a friendly game of golf with refreshments in the clubhouse afterwards.

I hope that the rest of the season is as enjoyable as the first half has been— Janet Orgill

## **Reaseheath Sports Turf Event**

By the time that you receive this newsletter the inaugural Reaseheath Sports Turf Event will have taken place. The College has had tremendous support from the sports turf industry and hopefully golf club members will

reap the benefits to be gained from closer liaison with several major machinery suppliers and other companies. Reaseheath College apologises for any inconvenience caused to golf club members.

### **Course etiquette and dress code**

All members are reminded that Reaseheath Golf Club is like most other golf clubs in insisting of certain standards of dress on the course. Details are on a notice board on the end of the clubhouse.

Please observe the normal rules of golf etiquette. You will find some of these on the same notice board and also in the front of the 'Rules of Golf' booklet. If you want a copy, please see the club secretary.

## **Golf Course Developments**

Over the last few weeks members will have seen big changes in the condition of the course. The Reaseheath Vintage Open on 15 May was very successful with a full entry list. They played the new first tee and sixth green for the first time. Whereas the former has some way to go before it is in good condition, the new green has proved a big hit with many players. There is no doubt that it has increased the degree of difficulty of the course. However, it will be easier to 'hold the green' when the automatic irrigation system is installed in the near future.

Richard and his team have been working on the course in several other ways. Richard's idea of 'course definition' in terms of rough perhaps was a bit too severe for some (most?!) of us but he has been persuaded to cut back the grass in some frequently visited areas. Long grass remains in several areas of the course, both for environmental and aesthetic reasons.

Over the next few weeks quite a lot of work will take place on the tees. Whereas the grass cover has improved considerably there are still some thin and uneven

patches. These will be sorted out. Work will also continue on the 'green to tee' areas that wear badly during the winter months. In particular, areas around the 2nd, 3rd and 5th tees will be developed with trolley parking areas.

The 9th green has always suffered in dry conditions. This is partly due to 'capping' but also due to the construction of the green. Founder members of the club may remember the loads of sand arriving for the 'root zone'. New products will be used to improve the water retention properties of this green.

Unfortunately, no further progress has been made on the approach to the clubhouse and putting green but this will take place during next winter.

Overall Richard and his staff are to be congratulated on the condition of the course. Each green-keeper we have employed has improved the course and in the short time that Richard has been here we have seen an overall improvement again.

Improvement of a golf course is a long term project and we will benefit from the team's efforts.

**10% discount on plants for Golf Club members at the Greenway Shop and Garden Centre. High quality Reaseheath-produced plants, dairy produce, etc**

## Les Wootton

The club lost a very valuable member last week when Les Wootton died. Les was a good friend of Reaseheath well before joining in his capacity as Captain of Malkins Bank. We were always assured of a friendly welcome from him. More recently we have been privileged to have him as a member here. He joined in all the club activities and regularly played in both the North Staffs league team and friendly matches.

Les spent a tremendous amount of time for the local community and for charity and he will be much missed. The club passes its condolences to his family and friends.

## North Staffs and District League Report

Playing in this league competition gives the club's full members the opportunity to compete at the next level of competition above the normal friendly knock. A list is pinned on the notice board, weeks before the games to give everyone the opportunity to be considered to join the team. There are 12 team places with 2 reserves and there are always places to be filled in addition to the core of the team that try to play in most games. We welcome new players, so let me encourage you to add your name to the list.

We are having a tough season, results wise, having played 8 of our 12 matches. We stand at, 2 wins – Greenway Hall and Alvaston Hall, both at home, 1 halved match at home –v- Astbury, with 5 losses, 2 at home –v- Wychwood Park & Creda and 3 away –v- Astbury, Greenway Hall and the Chase. Like a quality wine, our team does not travel too well! So far we have amassed 36 points and conceded 60. However, we have an away match at Alvaston Hall this Saturday and as this is the venue of our only ever away win, we as always, fancy our chances of a win.

Underlying the results, is the very reason that we play in the league, the camaraderie and friendship, competitive spirit from your partner and your opposition and to represent your club to the best of your ability (on a good day!). I am pleased to report that Reaseheath is a well respected venue and team in the league and we are welcomed at all the clubs that we visit. We are in the 4<sup>th</sup> Division and as in most leagues, they continue up to the Premiership.

In addition to the league matches, we are also drawn in 3 knockout competitions, from teams across the leagues. We have drawn premiership teams in each of these competitions! Very much the Manchester United taking on Bristol Rovers... However, we did quite well. In the 'Jim Cumberbatch Scratch' we lost 5 singles to one, with two games that could have gone our way. In the 'Houghton Salver', 3 Greensome Foursomes we lost 2 & 1 –v- Alsager, one game was lost on the 18<sup>th</sup> green, it was that close, whilst in the 'Dofsky Cup' we again lost 2 & 1 –v- Burslem, we were no push overs!

With 4 league matches to play this season still holds some good golf and hopefully some more points on the board.

## **Don't lose you club membership! - Pay for your guests**

There have been a number of occasions when members have invited guests and not paid the green fee. Please be aware that this will result in the loss of membership. All green fees must be paid before playing. Also, there are occasions when non-members are playing the course without paying. If you suspect this to be the case, either ask them politely or bring it to the attention of a committee member or the green-keeper.

### **Membership still available**

Junior membership closes at the end of July as newcomers would have missed much of the coaching scheme.

There are a limited number of places for both full and midweek members still available at the reduce fee of £120 and £80 respectively, plus the £50 joining fee.

### **Two more 'Don'ts'**

Please **don't** use the bunkers on the course for practice. Those on the 9th in particular are being used.

In the practice bunker, play **away** from the putting green. There is serious risk of breaking windows and hitting people when playing towards the putting green and clubhouse

**Please support the Club**

Editor—Chris Bishop—until someone else volunteers to take over! Please feel free to use your publishing skills to produce the club newsletter! - If you want to have a go contact Chris on 01270 627847