

REASEHEATH GOLF CLUB

Autumn Newsletter – October 2002

Welcome to the second newsletter of the year! This one has been prompted by the very positive response that the first newsletter received and also one or two important items of news. Many thanks to all those who did comment on the first newsletter, and remember, this is a means of communicating to all members so please let the editor, presently Chris Bishop, know of any items that you would like to include. The next newsletter is likely to be just after the AGM, in February 2003.

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Captain and Vice Captain for 2003

Congratulations to Dave Farnell on becoming vice-captain for the rest of this year and therefore captain for next year, and also to Brian Cherrington who will be Dave's vice captain and therefore captain in 2004. For those members that did not know, David Witty, originally vice captain this year, very reluctantly resigned for personal reasons. David had already done a tremendous amount of work as vice captain, particularly leading the team for many of the friendly fixtures against other clubs. David would have made an excellent captain.

However, the club can surely look forward to successful time under the leadership of Dave and Brian. Both regularly represent the club in the North Staffs league team and Brian is virtually an ever-present in friendly fixtures. Both players enter club competitions on a regular basis and support the club in many ways.

Good luck to you both!

Reminder - 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 included?

Auction of Promises and social evening 22nd November 2002.

**In aid of the Captains' Charity, MacMillan Cancer Relief
To All Members – Please support this excellent cause**

For the most part, both Captain and Lady Captain have avoided pestering members with raffle tickets and other fund raising methods. Instead, we have decided to raise money in three 'fun nights', comprising two quiz nights (see on page 2) and an auction of promises/social evening.

Please support this extremely worthwhile charity in any the following ways, or all three!

Golf Club Survey (contd)

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

Ladies' Section

So far this year the ladies have taken part in seven friendly matches against Aldersey Green, Malkins Bank, Alvaston Hall, Peover, Queens Park, Onneley and Hill Valley, with three wins, three losses and one halved match. These matches are social occasions with lots of friendly rivalry, everyone has the opportunity to make new friends and play a return match on another course. We would like to see more ladies putting their names down to play. It doesn't matter what your handicap is, come and join in.

Forthcoming ladies' fixtures

20 August Ladies v Aldersey Green (away)
18 September Ladies v Malkins Bank (away)

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.

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. Unused 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!

On 16th June Lady Captain's day took place, the weather was kind and an enjoyable day was had by all, with the main prize of the day and the Peter Wilson Rose Bowl being won by Brenda Cotton. Two new "ladies" joined us for the day, adding a touch of glamour to the proceedings. However, they seemed more interested in their appearance than the golf. We don't know if we shall see Norma and Michelle again!

14 September Ladies Invitation Day
27 September Ladies v Alvaston Hall (home)

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.

Please be aware that Reaseheath GC will no longer tolerate such instances that have occurred recently. Any offending member will be asked to explain their actions to the committee and may lose their membership.

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:

Midweek - Green Fees £80 (£40 reduction)
Club Membership £10
Joining Fee £50
Total £140

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 take much time and they will soon be out of the way!

Health and Safety – a few issues

- Players must use the path from 6th tee to green (as per the mandatory notice)
- Players must follow safety notices concerning 7th tee/3rd green and 4th tee/6th green. The match on the green or tee first has priority.

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 achieve that aim. All members are invited to send comments, both those in favour of the proposal and those against, to the secretary by the end of August. The committee will then review these before deciding whether or not to progress with the proposal.

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

Last season we scored a total of 63 points from 12 games. Hence, we need 10 points from the next 4 matches to have more points. We are currently 3rd in the league table.

There is more interest this year from players wanting to play in the league team and comprehensive reports are appearing in the Chronicle.

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.

HELP YOUR CLUB TO SUCCEED

David Witty (Match Secretary and Vice Captain)

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Chris Bishop – Editor