

Tim Bowler is elected Captain for 2006



The outgoing Captain John Todd congratulates Tim Bowler on his election at the AGM in October to be Captain for 2007.

Ron Turner becomes Vice Captain, Reg Carter is the new Treasurer and Steve Parton joins the committee. The following morning Tim walked to the first tee through an archway of hockey sticks and tennis rackets reminding him of former glories in his other sports. Tim's wife Bernadette is also a member of the club and they are enthusiastic participants in mixed golf competitions.

Josie Sedgwick becomes Lady Captain



The Ladies Section AGM was held on 1st November when the new Lady Captain Josie Sedgwick was elected. Her Vice Captain is Jeanna Parton and Mavis Marshall continues her role as Lady President for another year.

Josie and her husband Albert are long standing members of the club and enthusiastic golfers.

80 Years of Wollaton Park Golf Club

The Club will be celebrating its 80th anniversary on 5th May 2007. We would like to compile a list of current members who were born in 1927 or earlier. Unfortunately our membership records do not show everyone's date of birth. If you were born in 1927 or before, please let the Secretary know your date of birth so that we can include you in our celebrations.

NO SMOKING PLEASE

A reminder that smoking in the Clubhouse will be banned from 6.00 am on Tuesday 2nd January 2007. Please comply with this new rule.

Captains Corner from Tim Bowler

It's a great honour and privilege to be your Captain. Having to have to fight an election, the first time in the Club's 80-year history, although not an altogether pleasant or welcome experience, certainly helped to concentrate the mind. Firstly, on what needs to be done at our Club and secondly what can then reasonably be achieved in the ensuing year of office taking into account all the limiting factors. Of course having won the election on a "published manifesto" I've every intention of making sure that those promises made are all carried out. This task will be made much easier by having an excellent committee in place, a really good blend of experience and enthusiastic newcomers. I'm also utilising a streamlined committee structure, having decided to reduce the number of main sub-committees down to three, each with a Chairman and a newly created position of Vice Chairman. I'm also extremely fortunate to have Ron Turner as my Vice Captain and John Todd as the Immediate Past Captain working alongside me.

The newly merged committee of Finance & Membership, under the chairmanship of John Todd, with his Vice Chairman being Reg Carter, the new Club Treasurer, will for the first time be able to consider all financial matters together with monitoring membership numbers. This committee will also be responsible for considering all the financial implications of potentially introducing new membership categories once the Equality Working Group, again chaired by Derek Allwright, has made it's final recommendations to the General Committee

The Greens, Match & Handicap committee, under the chairmanship of Peter Dion with Steve Parton as his Vice Chairman, have been instructed in no uncertain terms to improve the general standard and quality of the course throughout the year. The course is not only our main asset from the member's viewpoint but is also a vital stream of income from societies and casual green-fee payers where "returning customers" are essential. When you play the course week in week out you see blemishes that irritate you week in week out too, well every effort will be made by this committee to eradicate as many of these blemishes as possible as quickly as possible. The commitment I made of reviewing the working practices of all the green staff will be carried out in time for any amendments to be written into new contracts of employment from 1st April 2007

Robin Bow continues as Chairman of the House & Social Committee with Peter Hyland as his Vice Chairman where the main project for the year will be to refurbish the Mixed Lounge. This refurbishment was planned for last year but was delayed due to the electrical work required and the asbestos in the roof space having to be removed. General repairs and maintenance of the Clubhouse must remain a priority where a programme of minor repairs and improvements will also be instituted

The General Committee is there to serve the membership to the best of its collective ability but it can only do that if the members in turn give their help, support and best advice in ensuring that our club remains the premier golf club in Nottingham.

Ladies Update from Josie Sedgwick

The ladies enjoyed getting together for cheese and wine prior to the AGM on Wednesday 1st November 2006. It was well supported. It felt very special to become lady captain and I am honoured to hold this position. This year has been a sensational year for me, having been adopted at birth and tracing and meeting my birth family at the age of 66years is something you can't describe.- then becoming Lady Captain of Wollaton Park Golf Club - wow - how much can a gal take.!

The first event was the Lady Captain's drive-in. Once again Lyn Coxon loaned her hickory shafted club for the tee shot. Members were generous in supporting this event to guess the distance and £86.00 was raised for my chosen charity Cancer Research UK.

The Turkey Trot competition went very well, with everyone bringing a gift, so everyone was a winner that day. The ladies helped to put the Christmas decorations up in the clubhouse in preparation for the festive events. Its that time of year again when the committee are arranging next years fixtures for competitions and matches. lets hope we have success and reap the benefits of all the efforts put in by the committee and the support of the members.

Finally my husband Albert and I would like to wish you all good health and good golf for 2007. Merry Christmas and thank you all for your support.

What Happened to the Competition Money?

Answer from Derek Allwright



Last year the Greens Match and Handicap committee had a look at how the prize money was distributed for Medal and Stableford competitions. It found that although there might be twice as many entries in the First Division as against the Third Division the prize money for each division was the same thereby creating an inter-divisional subsidy.

The winner of the First Division on for example Saturday 15th July had to beat 70 other competitors to win. The Winner of the Third Division had to beat 30 others to win.

The committee decided to treat each Division as a separate competition and distribute prize money in accordance with the entry in each Division. This means that the prize money varies according to the number of entries. It was also decided that if the entry in a division is less than 41 there would only be two prizes rather than the usual three prizes. For example:

No. of entries		1 st prize	2 nd prize	3 rd prize
1 st Division	71	£35.50(50%)	£21.30(30%)	£14.20(20%)
2 nd Division	53	£26.50(50%)	£15.90(30%)	£10.60(20%)
3 rd Division	31	£18.60(60%)	£12.40(40%)	

At this same time it was also decided that the Scratch prize would be reduced from £25 to £15. Following through with thinking as for the entry in each division, it was decided that although only very few members could have aspirations to win the scratch prize it was non-the-less reasonable to make an award to the player shooting the best gross score, even though there is no entry fee charged for this prize.

Continuing with the principle of no cross subsidy it was also decided that the seniors should pay to enter the Seniors competition if they so wished (previously it had been free entry). The first prize for the Seniors is £25 and the second prize £15, so that it is possible that there is a small subsidy still going towards that competition (but don't forget that with a bit of luck you will be old and still playing one of these days).

The Club's programme of members Medal and Stableford Competitions is formulated to be self funding and non-profit making as far as is possible, so that just over 50% of the entry fees are allocated as prizes. The rest goes on engraving trophies, updating the honours boards, card printing, payments to the professional for helping to run the competition etc.

Hope that the head scratching can stop now.

INFORMATION FOLDER

A folder has been compiled for members' reference, containing Summary Minutes of General Committee Meetings, AGM Minutes, Summary of Ladies' Section Minutes, Ladies' Section AGM Minutes, Agronomist's Report, and Club Rules.

This folder can be found on the shelf next to the TV in the Mixed Lounge.

Handicap Reviews from Michael Rush

As I am now in my third year as handicap Secretary I have been asked to explain how the handicap system works.

Just because a member can hit the ball 500 yards up the fairway etc does not automatically mean that his handicap must be adjusted. 95% of handicaps are adjusted automatically by the computer software system (Club Systems) when you play in a qualifying competition. Incidentally Club Systems run the web site howdidido.com so that you can view the competition results on your PC. Club Systems works out the changes in handicap in accordance with the CONGU rules (Council of National Golf Unions). Social Golf, Society Golf, Roll Ups very often have their own internal handicapping but this does not affect your official Club handicap.

This table shows how your score affects your handicap.

Category	Handicap	Reduction for each stroke below standard scratch score on the day	Buffer zone above standard scratch for day
1	5 or less	0.1	1

2	6 to 12	0.2	2
3	13 to 20	0.3	3
4	21 to 28	0.4	4

The calculation of the Standard scratch Score is complicated and depends upon the proportion of players who enter from each Division and how many of them return low scores. The computer of course deals with this with ease.

CONGU rule 19 gives the Handicap Committee the power to change a player's handicap based on general play, but a handicap would seldom be adjusted by reason of just one, out of the blue, marvellous round. Very often junior members are improving very rapidly and we have had the odd occasion to reduce a handicap several times in a season.

In Jan/Feb there is the annual revision when we have a look at each member's returns for the year and if it is obvious he is struggling with his current handicap, perhaps not getting within 3 or 4 shots of his handicap all season, then he will usually be given one or two strokes back.

DO NOT THINK THAT IF YOU HAVE A NO RETURN (N/R) ON ONE HOLE IN A MEDAL COMPETITION THAT YOU MIGHT AS WELL RIP UP YOUR CARD.

Club Systems will credit you with a score on that hole (or any other where your net score is more than 2 strokes over your net par on that hole.)

For example if you are handicap 24 and you score a 10 or n/r at the first, your score is shown as 7 (par 4 + 2strokes +1). Think of it as a Stableford, you would be just one stroke away from getting a point. You cannot win the Medal with an N/R but you can save yourself from getting 0.1 back on your handicap.

If you enter a Competition you are duty bound to return your signed card and enter it on the Computer.

Hopefully the information above may lead to fewer nil returns but even if you have only completed one hole enter your card as this saves the Committee and Secretary much heartache in looking for the missing cards.

KEEP SWINGING

House & Social from Robin Bow

The House and Social committee has taken note of the points raised at the AGM and in letters regarding the opening hours of the bar and clubhouse during the winter period and the new hours are posted on notices around the clubhouse. At times the clubhouse is empty all evening but staff are being paid. Whilst we appreciate that the clubhouse is a facility for members to enjoy the committee also has a responsibility to reduce unnecessary expenditure. I hope that the new arrangement is an acceptable compromise.

My committee's aim is to provide a variety of social evenings for the coming year. So please consult your club diary and notices displayed in the Mixed Lounge and put your name on the sheet. We would love to see you.

Work will start in January on the Mixed Lounge upgrade and progressively continue into the Men's Bar and Dining Room as finances are made available for specific elements of the work. Obviously this will cause some disruption for members but we will endeavour to keep this to a minimum. Please bear with us.

Green, Match & Handicap from Peter Dion

We are fortunate that the General Committee have approved the acquisition of a leaf-collecting machine which will greatly improve the condition of the course. A gradual process of reviewing the Course Policy document is proposed and the revised copy will be available in the clubhouse in due course.

The Committee have initially concentrated on the repair and maintenance of the bunkers and instructions have been given for the bunkers to be raked as follows:

Greenside bunkers will be hand raked on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday morning and Friday afternoon. In addition these bunkers will be hand raked on the morning of a competition.

Fairway bunkers will be machine raked on Monday, Wednesday mornings and Friday afternoon and additionally on the morning of any competition.

It would be appreciated if members ensure they rake bunkers after use and take care not to pull sand onto the surrounding grass.

Steve Parton has provided small bags, which will be available from the Professionals shop with the intention of members collecting a mixture from boxes on selected tees to make good divots on tees and fairways.

The winter programme is now underway. It is intended to leave the carry between tee and fairway to grow into rough in order to give more definition to the course whilst some swathing of selected fairways will be considered in the spring.

Recent very heavy storms have made areas of the course very slippery and it is advisable for members to check the condition of their spikes if accidents are to be avoided.

We have a thriving Junior Section and our grateful thanks go to David Kirk for his work over several years in arranging matches and looking after the juniors. We are, however, in the position where urgent additional help is required to take over from David so would any member in a position to assist please contact the Secretary as soon as possible.

CHANGE TO LOCAL RULE

We have decided to revert to the original local rule for deer marks on the putting greens. It will now be: "If there is a deer mark on the line of putt, no relief will be given but the mark may be repaired prior to the putt being taken."

SUGGESTION BOOK – Green, Match and Handicap

A suggestion book for Green, Match and Handicap along with a plan of each hole with the bunkers marked by letter will be provided in the Mixed Lounge and the committee will be pleased to receive helpful comments and suggestions from members.

Club Matches from Derek Allwright

Starting in April, teams from the Club have a number of friendly matches with other Clubs. The men's fixture list will be posted in the New Year on the notice board just by the steps in the Locker room. Members are invited to put their names down for as many matches as they like and make a note in their diaries. It would be nice to see a lot of new faces playing in these matches. These are friendly matches, four ball better ball, with a drink and a meal afterwards. They are open to all members, cost about £10 and it is customary to wear jacket and tie for the meal.

There are three teams; the 1st team with handicaps up to 12, 2nd team handicaps 10 to 24 (there is an overlap 10 to 12 who can play for either team) and a combined Club team of any handicap.

This season, for home matches, we will be experimenting with a two tee start (1st and 5th) so that the last team out will be in a little quicker and we estimate that the meal will start about 25 minutes earlier than in the past. Tees are reserved for team matches.

A few weeks before the date of the match, a list will be posted, listing all members who indicated their interest in playing on the fixture list. At this point it is in order for anyone to add their name to the list. The sheet will ask those who appear on it to sign to confirm that they are still available to play.

Approximately 21 days before the fixture date the list will be taken down and about 10-14 days before the match the team selected will be posted. Those selected should initial to confirm their availability (including staying for the meal).

IF, AFTER SELECTION, YOU FIND THAT YOU ARE UNABLE TO PLAY YOU MUST ADVISE ME IMMEDIATELY SO I CAN FIND A REPLACEMENT.

Please insert your telephone number on the sheet. I have the e-mail address for a number or regular players, for any others please insert your address. You can imagine that a Competition organiser's job can be very frustrating and speed of communication makes life far easier.

Senior members (aged 60+) can also put their name down for matches that are listed on the senior's notice board just inside the entry door to the locker room. Mike Wade is the organiser and he follows the same procedure as above. The senior matches are usually played on Monday morning.

COME AND JOIN US!!!

ALLAN DEAR HUNTER



Allan Hunter captured this superb image. It was published in the Evening Post and featured on local television news.

During the autumn the television series "Autumn Watch" featured a study of deer in the rutting season. It made observing the behaviour of deer in Wollaton Park much more interesting.

As well as photography Allan is not bad at golf, achieving a handicap of plus 1 this year.