



Wollaton Park Golf Club

Newsletter — Spring 2006



LET'S TRY AND BE A BIT MORE SOCIAL

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Although Wollaton Park is a golf club and not a social club, being a member perhaps involves just a little more than just playing the golf course. The Club holds a full programme of social events during the year which are always both widely publicised and well varied. We are always looking to organise socials that would be attractive to a larger number of members and this year we will be holding a "St Georges (and other British saints) Night" with wholesome British food. The Captain's Charity Night in May is going to be a party with greyhound (not real) racing, disco and a buffet, while in September there will be a social to support the Lady Captains charity in the form of an "Indian Supper Evening" and there will, of course, be the Annual "Black Tie do's" in the form of the Summer and Autumn Balls. The summer BBQ will "sell-out" as usual. Social events could always be better supported, especially from the newer and younger members, along with greater general use by everyone of the bar and dining room facilities. Any idea for a social function will be considered so as to avoid monotonous events and menus, how about "A' La Carte" or "Cordon Bleu", or just plain "Fish and Chips" evenings? Any comments or suggestions in writing or direct to the Secretary would be very welcome along with offers of actually organising an event. That really would be something.

STATUS OF A SINGLE PLAYER

The current R & A "Rules of Golf" now omits the reference to single players having no standing on the course and states: "unless otherwise determined by the Committee, priority on the course is determined by a group's pace of play".

The Committee have ruled that our Club will concur with the R & A Rule and would therefore ask all golfers to play at an acceptable pace and to avoid slow play.

Players are also reminded that they may not play more than two golf balls out on the course or on the pitch and putt course

"Forget your opponents - Always play against par"

Sam Snead



YOUR MEMBERSHIP BAG TAG

When you have renewed your membership for this year please ensure that your "membership bag tag" is clearly visible whenever you play the course. We will also be requesting that all visitors clearly display their "green fee tickets" in an effort to tighten up on potential lost green fee income. If you see a player on the course without either a "membership bag tag" or a "green fee ticket" please don't hesitate to inform the Secretary of the Professional's Shop.

WEBSITE RE-VISITED

All the entry forms for the Club's "Open" competitions during 2006 have now been added as "pdf" files and may be easily downloaded or printed from the website at:

www.wollatonparkgolfclub.com

Further developments have seen the "Preliminary Membership Application Form" also added as a "pdf" file and all the maps of how to get to the Club. Don't forget to mention to potential members or visitors all the information that can now be found on our website, you may even want to have a look yourself.

HAVING A PARTY? HAVING A BALL?

If you are about to organise a special party or family celebration don't forget to consider using the Club's facilities. The Club can also help you to book entertainment, either a live band or a discotheque, through the agencies used for obtaining acts for social events. Room hire charges are very reasonable for members and every effort will be made to ensure that your event is both enjoyable and cost effective. Contact the Secretary for details.

The Club's Annual Pro-Am Competition takes place on Thursday 13th June — £195 a team

CAPTAIN'S CORNER FROM JOHN TODD

The new season is approaching and as usual we have a full programme of competitions and matches for men, ladies and juniors and I would like to thank all those involved in planning the forthcoming year.

The Committee continues to find cost effective ways of maintaining the Clubhouse. Hopefully by the time you receive this newsletter the essential electrical work will be completed and the men's showers back in use. We are going to have to remove asbestos from the roof space and possibly elsewhere in the Clubhouse. A contractor has been appointed and a work plan is being agreed with the local Health and Safety Enforcement officer. You will also be aware that there will be new legislation effective in 2007 to ban smoking in clubs such as ours and the Committee will introduce a house rule to ensure that the Club will comply.

On a personal note I would like to thank Neil Highfield for his tremendous speech at the Men's Christmas Dinner that had us all laughing from start to finish. Ron Turner was at his best as "Master of Ceremonies" and at one point I thought he was bidding to be the "Star Speaker" as well. May I also thank the Ladies Section for inviting my wife, Fran, to join them for their very enjoyable Christmas Lunch. Thanks to John and Sue Riley and their staff for looking after us so well at both events. I was surprised to receive a special Christmas present at the dinner - a signed West Ham United shirt! Thanks to Des and my friends for this treasure.

If you would like to represent the Club in team matches then please add your name to the sheets on display in the men's locker room. Finally, last winter my partner Ron Madden and I had a poor Winter League, no wins, and this year started the same, but we have picked up and are now winning again. "About time" said Fran "the last time you collected a prize at a prize presentation was October 2003". How cruel!

MONEY MATTERS FROM TIM BOWLER

It is with a deep sense of personal regret that your subscription for the financial year 2006/7 will have to be increased by 5%, being a bit more than the annual rate of inflation. This increase really is the lowest possible to remain within the realms of still being prudent with the Club's finances rather than being slightly reckless. Obviously costs will continue to increase at about 3% next year but the Club has experienced an unexpected decline in the income from visiting societies and casual green fee payers in 2005/6. This level of income must now be regarded as the norm through 2006/7 until income from this source is hopefully seen to pick-up again soon. We still have the same number of societies wanting to visit the Club but the numbers they bring are some 20% down on the previous year. 2005/6 was also the first year for some time without the "2 for 1" scheme and although the decision to discontinue this scheme by your Committee was popular with the Membership it has led to a fall in green fee income. These two factors mentioned have subsequently led to a 15% decrease in bar takings and a comparable fall in catering revenue.

Another worrying trend for the Club, which is obviously having a negative effect on income, is the continuing decline in the Ladies Section membership, again some 9% down, leaving the men to pick up the tab (as usual!)

GREENS, MATCH & HANDICAP FROM RON TURNER

Looking at the weather it is difficult to believe that another season of golf is just around the corner. The course has held up well during the winter and the winter works programme is progressing well. Paths leading to the 11th and 14th tees, the extended area at the 2nd tee, are all improving the appearance of the course. It is my intention this year to improve the aesthetic appearance of the course and in particular the area in front of the Professional's shop and entrance to the men's changing rooms. Watch this space for further information.

Again there is a full programme of competitions and matches but so far the response to club matches is very disappointing. Very few of the newer members are coming forward. Playing in club matches is a superb opportunity to play various courses and have a meal, usually all for under £10! More names are required on the team sheets please. The Spondon Trophy teams are on the board and we look forward to considerable progress within this competition. Jonathan Marshall is no longer able to run the Men's Inter-Club League and the Mixed Foursomes teams so Gary Shepherd has taken over these duties together with the Daily Mail competition. Many thanks must go to Gary and Jonathan, who incidentally is leaving soon to take up residence in Holland. Good luck to Gary and the teams and hopefully they will again retain 1st Division status.

The Annual Handicap Revision was published 1st Feb 06 and as recommended by the English Golf Union will be applied yearly.

We look forward to another season of good golf, good companionship and most importantly good etiquette.

HOUSE & SOCIAL FROM ROBIN BOW

My Committee are meeting shortly to agree specification proposals for the Mixed Lounge based upon both finance being available in the year to 31st March 2007 and the plans being agreed by the General Committee.

Before the aforementioned can begin and as reported in the earlier Newsletter, the asbestos still has to be removed and is under the strict control of the City Health and Safety Executive. After it's removal then the immediate work to the electrics can be completed so to comply with statutory regulations (a certificate needs issuing every five years) for insurance purposes.

With regard to the Clubhouse as a whole, all aspects are being considered for extending it's floor space within it's footprint so to keep abreast with the other County Clubs.

JUNIOR JOTTINGS FROM AVRIL JAMIESON

The Junior Social Evening will be held on Wednesday 15th March, starting at 7.00 pm. We're hoping for a good turnout, not only for the games evening, but to introduce new members to the Club, and for everyone to get to know each other. Parents are welcome too; if you have not already done so, please let the Secretary know if you are attending as we need numbers for the buffet supper and don't forget to brush up on the rules and etiquette, as John Lower will be running the quiz as usual.

Many thanks to Gregg Roberts for leading the juniors so admirably during his year as Junior Captain, and we welcome Ashley Dunn as Junior Captain for 2006. Our two big junior competitions - The Ross Trophy, sponsored by David and Brian Ross, will be held on Sunday 25th June, and the Junior Masters, sponsored by Tony Hoffman, on Sunday 16th July; sincere thanks to David, Brian and Tony for their generous continued sponsorship of these events. Entry forms will be sent out to all juniors.

Finally, the Committee members responsible for liaising with juniors this year are Michael Rush and Josie Sedgwick but we also urgently require one or more volunteers to take on the role of Junior Organiser. If you know someone who may be interested, please ask them to contact the Secretary.

WAYWARD BALLS FROM DEREK ALLWRIGHT

Following a recent incident members are reminded that, if a ball goes out of bounds and hits someone or something which may have caused an injury or damage, then the incident must be reported to the Secretary as soon as possible. The Club is required to have a record for insurance purposes of any these incidents in case someone should make a claim retrospectively against the Club, which potentially could be months or even years after the incident. Keep an eye out for passers by who may be in a danger area and delay your shot if necessary.

Spiro Agnew, then Vice President of the USA, hit three spectators in 1971 at a Pro Am event which was well covered by international TV and Dick Cheney, also vice President of the USA, only very recently shot a friend in the face while on a shooting trip. President Gerald Ford famously also hit a spectator with his ball off a drive at a Pro Celebrity tournament in front of live TV cameras in the 1970's. So just have a thought for "spectators" when playing the 8th, 11th and 12th holes especially in order to try not to join this illustrious group of celebrities.

Of course you don't have to be a high-ranking American politician to do someone a mischief on a sporting expedition although it certainly seems to help if you are!

LADIES UPDATE FROM VINOD PALLAN

The Ladies Section enjoyed their first social function of the year as a Christmas lunch on Wednesday 7th December 2005. Some eighty-three lady members attended and we all had a super buffet and some entertainment.

As we have not had much rain on Wednesdays, we have been playing our golf competitions right through the winter. The Ladies Committee are working very hard to improve the quality of golf by arranging some tuition from our Professionals. On the Wednesday 15th February we had our coffee morning which raised for the Ladies Section a total of £241.00. We are having a social evening, which is organised by the Ladies Section, on Tuesday 21st March for both the playing members and the social members of our Club. It is going to be a Buffet Supper and, for light entertainment, we are going to demonstrate the art of wearing a sari.

Unfortunately we lost our "Mail on Sunday" match against Notts GC Ladies on Sunday 19th February - we are hoping for better luck next time.

EUROPEAN UNION RULES ON GOLF CLUBS

The European Commission says new EU equality legislation will apply to golf clubs. A European Union directive which will require member states to treat men and women golfers equally from December 2007 has been given a "cautious welcome". The directive is not thought to have any effect on single-sex clubs such as the Royal and Ancient, but will have the effect that clubs that allow both men and women members will not be allowed to restrict tee times or exclude women from the bar. The Royal and Ancient has pointed out that the rules could raise practical issues. When similar rules were introduced in Australia 15 years ago, many clubs lost women members because of the increased cost to women obliged to take out full membership. On the other hand, if restricted membership became available to both sexes, clubs might lose out financially if, for example retired men decide to downgrade from full membership to 5 or 6 day membership, similar to the membership categories offered to ladies.



WHICH ARE YOU?

PROBABLY SOMEWHERE IN BETWEEN!

We have all felt frustrated at some time or other that the people in front are not moving



fast enough or the group behind are pushing us. We all know the obvious remedies. Do not mark cards on greens. (in fact do not mark cards unless in competition) Be ready ! How often is there a delay as someone looks for a tee peg, a ball a ball marker. Golf is a social game, that is why we all enjoy it, but do not let chit chat delay you in taking your shot. When you are not in contention, why not pick up, or give yourself that last put for an eight.

GOING THROUGH.

Players on their own have equal standing with other games and can play two balls, if they wish. If you are going to let a match through think of:- Teeing off and then waiting for the following match to tee off at the same time. The chances are that by the time you have found your balls the speedier game will be on it's way. This is particularly useful at the short holes.

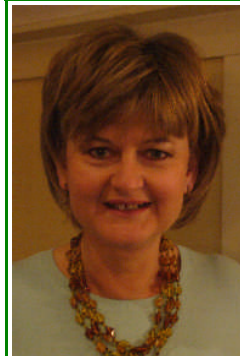
WHEN TORTOISES AND HARES PLAY TOGETHER

If it is a friendly, think of abandoning the 'Honour', whoever is ready first tees off. One player is playing from the front, then walks forward to play the putt, leaving his/her trolley at the front of the green. If you are well positioned think of taking his trolley towards the next tee for him/her.

The Club is offering a prize of a bottle of whisky to the member who comes up with, what is in the opinion of the Committee, the best and most original idea for speeding up play. (No physical violence allowed!)

HAVE YOU A SPECIAL TALENT?

The Club is always on the lookout for members who have the time and talents to help with particular projects. Recently members have helped with advice on asbestos removal, electrical work and website design, so if you think you may have a particular talent that could help the Club in anyway in the future please let the Secretary know. All help is most welcome.



Jane Langford

Our new Assistant Secretary started work with the Club in early January. We all wish her well in this position.

NEWS.....NEWS.....NEWS.....NEWS.....NEWS

The Club is keen to offer a "Corporate Package" to companies for mid-week golf, if any member knows what should be offered please contact the Secretary.

The Club has recently appointed Blythen's as auditors and is also changing bankers to the Royal Bank of Scotland as part of the ongoing cost-saving drive.

8 members of our staff have recently successfully completed the "Qualified First Aider" course with John Riley also becoming a qualified "Fire Marshall".

"The reason the pro tells you to keep your head down is so that you can't see him laughing at you"

Phylis Diller



FORTHCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS AT YOUR CLUB IN 2006

Thursday 30th March - New Member's Evening
 Friday 21st April - St. Georges Night Celebration
 Saturday 20th May - Charity Night
 Saturday 17th June - Summer Ball
 Saturday 29th July - BBQ
 Saturday 30th September - Indian Supper Evening
 Saturday 14th October - Autumn Ball



This means YOU!

Please look out for the main posters in the Clubhouse for full details. Enter your names on the sheets on the Social Notice Board in the Mixed Lounge and put your payment in the envelopes provided.