



Communications Group
(On behalf of the Management Committee and Club Members)

Newsletter

December 2022/January 2023

Dear Members

Looking Back, Looking Forward.

We wave goodbye to a chequered 2022 and look forward to a positive 2023. On the course, winter golf rules, but conditions remain remarkably good, and the signs are bright for activity in the Clubhouse.

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On the Course

7th Hole and winter green; an update

About two years ago it was decided to make the temporary winter green into an acceptable alternative green. After numerous attempts, which included re-turfing, re-seeding, fertilising and a lot of staff time, it was reluctantly decided to discard the temporary green as a waste of time and money.

In general the overall plan for winter has been to use the approaches to the greens as temporary greens, as we are already investing money and time to improve the playing surfaces for the season and then subsequently the winter period. The current 7th temporary green (approach) has clearly not been a success, mainly due to some extreme winter conditions. There is also limited space around the 7th where we can locate a

temporary green and of course cost also presents a barrier to any further development. As part of the winter programme we hope to put a water system in front of the 7th green right hand bunker which will also help us to move the winter green to that area.

Course protection during the winter

A big “thank you” to buggy users who are keeping to the rough and following the 90 degree rule. The extensive system of quality roping has also worked well in protecting the course.

A special plea; will players please keep buggies and trollies off the practice area to the right of the first tee? It has become a bit of a bog!!

On-going work on the course

- Leaf clearance is in hand and continues. It is still a major part of the week’s work. Due to the prolonged summer temperatures, the leaves are hanging on slightly longer this year. Hopefully the recent frosts will fetch them all off but the leaf clearance will be ongoing into the new year.
- We do recognise that where the leaf collecting machine is potentially causing damage to the course a focus will be to use the handblowers to push leaves off the key areas to pathways for collection - this is of course more time consuming but a necessity.
- We hope to change a couple more mats and we have bought different colour flags – luminous green - to indicate temporary greens. We will also be putting up a handrail to the 7th Tee. Many thanks to the Seniors Section who donated the money for the flags and additional new mats and handrail.
- Two weeks of solid frost have put planned development work on hold slightly. Greens haven't been micro tinned and will now be completed in the new year. The adverse weather has also put on hold any more turf cutting and development of bunkers.
- The bunkers that have been worked on are; 2 on the 5th fairway; right of the 6th green; 18th fairway bunker. Sand will be added once turf has knitted in.
- Pot holes on most paths have been filled as some were becoming very noticeable and potentially dangerous.
- The irrigation system is now completely drained off, to protect the system, with the last of the water drained just before the frost was forecast.
- Machinery service work has started and will be ongoing to have all machinery ready for the new year; machinery serviced so far includes greens mower, Gator, and tees mower.

- A new acquisition is the Pole saw. During the recent cold spell, all the right-hand side of the 1st fairway, including the big oaks growing out of the hedge, have been trimmed. It's a great tool to have and we plan to finish the rest of 1/18 and 2/10 and also 5/6 in the new year.

Work which is to be continued through January/February

- Carry on with turf cutting for the smaller bunkers.
- Hopefully start the installation of new irrigation to 18th green, 7th surrounds and 9th surrounds.
- Verti drain all greens.
- Micro tine all greens

Golf Events and Results

Captains' Drive-In, New Year's Day 2023

A red letter day, as the Club welcomed our new Captains and Vice Captains in their traditional "Drive In".

Bright sunshine and a big breakfast, and a near full house in the Clubhouse, said thank you to the 2021-22 Captains, Mary Saddington and Mike Mahoney, for all their hard work over the last two years.

We welcome Anna Avery as 2023 Lady Captain, and Ros Waterhouse as her Vice Captain, and David Halford, Gents' Captain, and his Vice Captain John Flavell.

The Captains narrowly beat the Vice Captains in a close- fought match. The winner of the Longest Drive lottery prize was Ian Purdy.



Captains' Charities 2022

Each year our Captains raise funds for their chosen charities. There was a notable presentation in December when the men's Mid Week Fiddle group (MWF) gave £1000 to the Captains, the outcome of regular contributions over the year from all the golfers in that group.

The Captains and their charities – the Bluebell Children's Hospice, and the Cystic Fibrosis Charity - were very grateful for that tremendous contribution to their work. They made the point that these quiet but powerful impacts are a major force for good in Retford Golf Club.

The photo shows Eddie Boyle, organiser of the MWF, and others from that group, presenting the cheque for £1000 to Mary and Mike.



The Captain's Charities for 2023 are "Breast Cancer Now" and "Weston Park Hospital".

Within minutes of announcing these charities at the New Year's Day Drive In, an anonymous gentleman donated £10, to start the ball rolling. We'd like to thank him for his kindness, and for affirming that generous spirit that thrives in our Club.

Senior Men's Section

It's been a good year for the Seniors' Section. To celebrate, 55 Seniors and partners enjoyed an excellent Christmas Dinner and Presentation evening on 1st December.

Mike Mahoney, Club Captain, presented the various Cups and Trophies to the winners.

Christmas Cup won by: Nick Sly.



Nick Sly

The Alan Hunter Trophy won by: John Flye

Doris Cave Cup won by: Garry Smith

Seniors' Championship won by: Andrew Salmon

Tom Hall Cup won by: David Hallam

Seniors Singles Knock Out

Winner: D.D. Smith

Runner up: Terry Reeves

Seniors Doubles Knock Out

Winners: Paul Timms and Lee Sowter

Runners Up: Graham Batchford and John Archibald



Andrew Salmon

Seniors Player of the Year

Winner: Garry Smith

Runner up: Nigel Woolley



Garry Smith

Advance notice; the Seniors' AGM 2023 will be held on Thursday 23rd March at 7.30pm. We'll provide more details closer to the time.

Seniors Friendly Matches 2023

The fixtures for 2023 friendly matches are shown below. Should any member over 55 years old wish to play, please let Ian Littlewood, John Flavell or the office know, with your contact details.

Date	Club	H/A
Thurs 06/04/2023	Ramsdale	A
Tues 02/05/2023	Thonock	A
Wed 24/05/2023	Ramsdale	H
Mon 05/06/2023	Wath	A
Tues 20/06/2023	Styrrup	A

Date	Club	H/A
Wed 19/04/2023	Styrrup	H
Mon 15/05/2023	Mapperley	H
Wed 31/05/2023	Town Moor	A
Wed 14/06/2023	Doncaster	H
Mon 10/07/2023	Carholme	H

Mon 17/07/2023	Mapperley	A
Thurs 27/07/2023	Wath	H
Mon 14/08/2023	Worksop	A
Thurs 31/08/2023	Worksop	H
Thurs 21/09/2023	Rufford	H

Thurs 20/07/2023	Rufford	A
Thurs 03/08/2023	Doncaster	A
Wed 23/08/2023	Carholme	A
Wed 06/09/2023	Thonock	H
Thurs 28/09/2023	Town Moor	H

Club matters

Catering

The Catering staff are looking forward to making 2023 a year of establishing and growing their service offered to the Club. We thank them for their work and commitment to the Club.



Bar and Catering Staff

The team is led by Jess Parker, the Bar and Catering Manager, and Debs Spence, the Catering Manager.

Ryan Atkinson has continued to provide a Sunday service in the Halfway House which has had an intensive improvement programme to bring it up to standards required for food hygiene reasons. However, Ryan has decided to terminate his service at the end of March. The In-house team will look at what can be provided after that.

Any suggestions to retfordgolfcomms@gmail.com.

A quick reminder again. Whenever possible, will you please pay your bar bills with card rather than cash?

New Management Committee

At the AGM in November the new Management Committee members were elected. Here is the list of the Committee members and their roles. There are also some members co-opted onto Sub Committees.

President	<i>Stuart Moore</i>
Chairman	<i>Fraser Britton</i>
Treasurer	<i>Mike Mahony</i>
Men's Captain	<i>David Halford</i>
Men's Vice Captain	<i>John Flavell</i>
Ladies' Captain	<i>Anna Avery</i>
Ladies' Vice Captain	<i>Ros Waterhouse</i>
Greens Committee Chair and members	<i>Steve Hyatt; Lin Tongue, Ian Lindley (co-opted)</i>
Golf Committee Chair and members	<i>David Stirling; Craig Morris, Allan Meacher (co-opted)</i>

House Committee Chair and members	<i>Fraser Britton, Stuart Moore, Mary Saddington, Andy Massey, Jess Parker, Charles Cooke, Paul Burgin, Jacky Walsh, Sue Boyes (co-opted)</i>
Marketing Committee Chair and members	<i>Stuart Moore, Mike Mahony, Jacky Walsh, Paul Burgin, Chris Scholey (co-opted)</i>
Communications Committee Chair and members	<i>Andy Massey; Mary Saddington; Charles Cooke; John Flavell</i>
Ladies Committee Chair and members	<i>Anna Avery (Captain), Jacky Walsh (Secretary), Marjorie Crookes (Treasurer)</i>
Club Professional	<i>Craig Morris</i>

Local Rules Quiz

- **What is the purpose of the 4 blue stakes to the left of the 17th fairway?. If you need a clue, then read the local rules as printed on the back of the scorecard.**
- **What is the penalty under the Rules of Golf for using the short game practice area before a round?**
- **Is the Practice Area Out of Bounds?**
- **What should you do if your tee shot on the 16th strikes the 15th flagstick?**
- **When your ball is on a main green which is GUR, from where should you play your shot?**

A query from a member made us realise that our Local Rules have not been updated alongside recent years' revisions to the Rules of Golf. Hence a full revue of the local rules is under way by the Golf Committee. Any member with a view about the Local Rules and suggestions for amendments exclusions or inclusions, please send to retfordgolfcomms@gmail.com

Let Us Know

Just to reiterate from previous Newsletters, we have improved the ways members can communicate with the Committee about what's happening in the Club.

- The *Suggestions Box* is in place in the bar area, where members can put any ideas or suggestions to the Management Committee.
- There is also a printed leaflet available in the foyer and bar area of the Clubhouse, giving details and photos of the Management Committee members.
- If Club members want to raise any points/issues/queries for the Committees, please contact the chair of the appropriate sub-committee, via the e-mail address retfordgolfcomms@gmail.com, or through the Suggestions Box in the Bar area. If members have any golf related news items please let Mary Saddington know, via retfordgolfcomms@gmail.com.
- The Club has now re-activated its Facebook Page, but lost all its former followers. Any member who used to follow that page needs to follow the new page "Retford Golf Club" for regular general updates and information. A page aimed solely at Members has also been set up "Retford Golf Club Members"
- The next full Management meeting will be on **24th January 2023, at 6.00pm.** *** If members have any points they would like to raise for future meetings, please write to the Chairman, via the Office.**

Best wishes, from

Andy Massey, Mary Saddington, Charles Cooke, John Flavell

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