



Communications Group

(On behalf of the Management Committee and Club Members)

February 2022/March 2022 Newsletter

Dear Members

Writing this as the blasts of Storms Eunice and Franklin recede, (and all the other winter woes too, we hope) there's a lot of good golf news to report.

Some major improvements on the course are well under way, the planned programme of matches and events for 2022 has started, and we are working towards new arrangements for catering in the Clubhouse.

In the Clubhouse

Members will be aware that we will be making new arrangements for the bar and catering in the Clubhouse. Once details are confirmed we will inform everyone. It is clear, however, that whatever we put in place, it needs to be sustainable, and that means we need the support of all members in using the facilities. It's "use it or lose it".

Social Events

- *On **Saturday 2nd April, from 10.30am**, there will be a **coffee morning and sale**, arranged by the Ladies' Section. The aim is to support the Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice. Plants, cakes, jewellery, cards and paintings, tombola, books/puzzles and many more. Everyone welcome.*

- The last **Quiz Night** of the season will be held in the Clubhouse on Wednesday 6th April, with big prizes available for the winners! Check the notice board in the foyer for details of how to enter.
- There is a **200 Club** meal and presentation on the last Saturday of each month. Again, all members are welcome even if you are not a member of the 200 Club. Please see the social notice board in the foyer for further information.
- We are looking at the possibility of arranging a golfing and social event at the **Queen's Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday** in early June. More details to follow.
- **Past Captains' charities.** On 10th February, past Captains Lin Tongue and Allan Meacher presented cheques to their chosen charities from the past year. Lin's was to the Friends of St Giles School, and Allan's was to the Heart Foundation. Between them they shared £4795 – a magnificent sum. Lin and Allan would like to thank everyone for their generous donations. They will never forget that kindness. Lin and Allan wish everyone a good golfing year ahead.



On the Fiddle

by Charles Cooke

Like most Golf Clubs, we have a number of groups of members who organise themselves to play regular informal competitions. There is at least one on most days of the week throughout the year. These “fiddles” are happy to have new members join them.

One such group is the Midweek Fiddle (MWF) which organises competitions twice a week at present. It is a large group with over 50 members signed up for a £1 annual admin fee and regular attendance of between 20 and 30 for each event. They play a 3 or 4 ball AM-AM format with a £2 entry fee which is divided between the winners with a proportion reserved for a charity donation at the end of the year.

On a Monday, members of MWF wishing to play are put into a draw and one member from each match makes a reservation on the tee booking system for their match, usually between 10 and 11 AM. On Wednesdays MWF have a “roll up slot” reserved for any member who wants to play from 10.00am. Fiddlers attend the clubhouse to enter a draw at 9.40am on the day with no advance booking needed.

The MWF also organises trips away to stay and play at other courses and an annual Christmas dinner with prizes awarded for performances through the year.

MWF has a wide range of handicaps from 1 to 30 and everyone is welcome. The AM-AM teams are drawn in a way that seeks to ensure a range of handicaps in each team and they play off yellow tees. Anyone new to the MWF can join by rolling up on a Wednesday and making themselves known. Also Craig is usually happy to make any necessary introduction.

Of course many other Fiddle options are available in different sizes and formats. If you would like to let more members know about a fiddle you enjoy, then the Communications Group would be happy to help you publicise it.

Ladies' Roll-Up

The Ladies also have time allocated for their Roll-ups. Potentially 17 ladies can play on a Monday morning and 30 on a Friday morning.

So far the allocated tee times have been used efficiently but if the organisers have advanced knowledge that some ladies cannot play, they inform Craig so that he can release the tee times to the Booking System. The format played is normally a 4 ball competition with 2 to score. Each lady pays 50p so that the winners can receive £1 and the runners up 50p. Any surplus goes into the Charity box. As always, anyone wishing to join the roll-up is very welcome.

Rare Bird Sighted

Buzzards, Crows and Starlings are common on our course, but recently we had a very rare sighting of an Albatross which wandered on to the 10th hole. I expect you know that this represents a score of 3 under par, or a 2 on this par 5.

The author of this achievement was not, as might have been expected, the long driving Andrew Cooke, but his elderly father, Charles, who said "In 53 years of golf I have had 3 holes in one but this is the only Albatross I have ever seen".

Charles, (now known as "The Ancient Mariner"), described his triumph modestly. "A well struck drive was followed by a 3 wood which I thought had gone in the green side bunker, but despite a multiplayer search the ball could not be found. No-one thought to look in the hole, but there it was. With a handicap shot, that made 6 stableford points!"

Annual Subs

Your renewal subscription for 2022-23 has now been sent to all members. Please be aware that payment is due by the 1st April at the latest. If you have not received your renewal, please contact the office.

On the Course

Course Update

- 1. Construction and development work; a JCB was used on the 6th medal tee, and stripping the 11th medal tee, which will give more teeing area. The 5th fairway bunker has been re-instated, to remove excess stones and define the edges.**
- 2. Because of very little grass cover and growth, a number of tees have been stripped and have been re-turfed.**
- 3. The planning and installation of the new wash down bay in the Greenkeepers' compound is under way, to meet efficiency and H&S standards.**
- 4. Tree work on a number of holes has been largely completed. You'll see a major improvement on the 3rd, 4th, 8th, 12th, 13th and 17th. A large clear up after the February storms has also had to be done.**
- 5. Leaf clearance is now about complete but leaf and wood debris accumulation will be monitored to ensure a final sweep is completed.**
- 6. A new waste bin has been installed at the 7th tee; 2 other bins have been refurbished and will be put out onto the course.**
- 8. We are regularly monitoring the posts and ropes and keep repositioning them to avoid excess wear and tear around them; this is ongoing.**
- 9. Our programme for servicing of machinery has now begun, starting off with the greens mower; the rest of the machinery will be serviced in line with our plan.**

Current Planned work

February/March

- 1. All stripped areas to be turfed**
- 2. New bunkers to be filled with sand**

3. Remaining bunkers to be edged off and sand added where needed.

4. Micro-tine greens

5 Tee yardage markers to be cleaned and reinstalled onto tees; this should make them more visible

6. Continuation of tree work for tree maintenance

Max Wood (from the greens staff) is currently off work and we wish him a speedy recovery. This has meant the greens staff have been down to 4, and we're very grateful to them all for the great job in covering and keeping the programme up to speed.

Use of the 7th temporary green.

In answer to a query from a member, the Management Committee agreed that the 7th temporary green will not be used in the future. It has proven over a couple of years difficult to develop the area and the time and money given to this was not cost effective. Temporary greens are just that - 'temporary'. The greens staff use them, after inspections of the course and greens justify their use, to prevent any longer-term damage to the key areas of the greens and course.

Golf Tips from James Freeman

"Strong Winds"

If you have been playing in strong winds, spend some time between games resetting your fundamentals – for example, grip, aim, stance, posture, ball position, and swinging in balance.

We all make subtle adjustments, sometimes sub-consciously, to allow for the wind, so from time to time we all need a reset.

Juniors

Saturday morning coaching sessions continue for Juniors, with James Freeman. There will be a Retford team entered into the Notts Juniors

competitions, and a friendly match has been arranged against Rufford on Sunday 3rd April. More events are planned for later in the year.

NB we continue our policy of free membership for Juniors if they have a relative with full membership playing at Retford.

Winter League/Matches/ Bookings

Just a few rounds of the Winter League left to play.

Club matches have been arranged against Gainsborough (home, on 2nd April) and Worksop (home and away, at the end of April).

The Management Committee will review at the meeting in March the booking system for playing golf, and will inform members as soon as possible of arrangements for the months ahead.

Captain's Away Event.

There are still places available for this event, on 15th and 16th of May, 2022. The course is at Greetham Valley, and the cost is £120 for two rounds of golf, dinner, bed and breakfast. Please contact Craig in the Pro's Shop to book your place.

Other Club matters

- We are looking at ways of further communicating with members about what's happening in the Club. To that end we will be putting a **Suggestions Box** in the bar area, where members can put any ideas or suggestions to the Management Committee.*
- The next full Management meeting will be on **Tuesday 15th March, 2022, at 7.00pm.** * If members have any points they would like to raise, please write to the Chairman, via the Office.*

Best wishes, from

Andy Massey, Mary Saddington, Dean Atherton, Charles Cooke

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