



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

## Newsletter

### September/October 2023

Dear Members

A bit of an Indian summer, with warm, sultry weather, and plenty of golf activity.

This Newsletter summarises progress on the course, the final competition results and other golfing events.

We also note the dates for the coming AGM, and some of the plans for the longer term future of the Club.

#### In this Edition

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## On the Course

### Update on Course maintenance programme

- The greens have come through the season well, with work on seeding and renovation, including shock waving.
- The irrigation piping on the first fairway has been replaced and the ground is recovering well. We have sorted out some leakages but to repair them all we need to wait until the irrigation system has been drained for the winter.
- The temporary 7<sup>th</sup> green has been turfed ready for use this winter.
- Tree thinning on the 7<sup>th</sup> is due to be completed by November.

- Tees and approaches to the greens will be renovated (cored, dressed and seeded) through the autumn.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> green has suffered from poor drainage for some years, so we are carrying out major drainage work, which will take that green out of play for several weeks. There will be a temporary green in play some 80 yards in front of the normal green.
- Over the winter the plan is to continue the programme of tree canopy lifting, notably on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> holes, bunker improvements around about half the greens, and irrigation improvements on tees, greens and some fairways.
- The Club Management Committee continue to investigate the possibilities of installing our own borehole for irrigation.

## **Why do golf courses aerate peak-condition greens? Hint: Not to annoy you!**

By: Josh Sens, GOLF Magazine, September 8, 2023

*Aerated greens are a necessary evil.*

Along with death and taxes, [aerified greens](#) are a certainty of life. Golfers don't love them. Greenkeepers get no special pleasure from them either. But aerifying is a crucial practice. What makes it so important? And why does it often seem to happen when greens appear to be at their best?



*Taking action on compaction*

Grass is just like us. It needs to [eat, drink and breathe](#), all of which are hard when the soil beneath it gets compacted. Aerification is a vital antidote to compaction, relieving the pressure of all the foot traffic greens receive.

*Getting rid of thatch*

Thatch is [dead organic matter](#). Over time, it builds up on the surface of the soil, forming a suffocating layer. Punching and topdressing help get rid of thatch while opening passageways into the root zone that allow for the healthy movement of air and moisture, improving drainage and promoting smoother, more consistent conditions.

*Timing it right*

Aerification schedules vary from one course to another, and can hinge on a range of factors, including weather conditions, turf varieties and maintenance staffing. You may have noticed that it often seems to happen in peak season, when the greens are running at their best. That's not because greenkeepers want to annoy you. It's because

aerification is like a surgical procedure: It involves trauma and recovery. The healthier the body, the faster it heals. If you aerify when turf isn't growing robustly, it takes longer for it to return to tip-top shape.

### *Adding sand*

We'd all rather putt on grass than sand. But that irksome sandy layer serves a purpose. It helps smooth out the turf while improving air flow and drainage. It also helps those holes in the greens heal more quickly.

## **Here's a pleasing feedback for Retford Golf Club**

The golf magazine organisation Golfshake conducts surveys of feedback from visitors to golf courses. In a recent survey across the East Midlands, Retford Golf Club came 4<sup>th</sup> out of 100, well above courses like Worksop, Lindrick and Coxmoor. Well done to all our staff who have helped to make us so well regarded.

**Here is the link, for more details.**

<https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.golfshake.com%2Fcourse%2Ftop100%2Ffeast-midlands%2F&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cd7a6f2c331f6478d6afc08dbc806c23a%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638323703582703316%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLjB2Iiwi6Ikl1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=boPQfqYNNqeb3QzHH%2FiHU1ixqvy%2B23DolZ4OLxQ%2BrCs%3D&reserved=0>

## Competitions and Results

### Lady Captain's Day

Lady Captain celebrated her special day on Saturday 2nd September with magnificent sunny weather. Thirty ladies braved the unexpected heatwave to play 18 holes and 6 more played in a 9 hole competition.

The Captain's prize was won by Joan Self with 34 points and Keran Hutchinson won the scratch prize with a gross score of 92. Sue Boyes won the Silver prize with 31 points and in the Bronze section Sheila Robinson won with 32. The 9 hole competition was won by Val Layton with 18 points.

The halfway house fare met with approval and was served by Lady Captain's husband, daughter and friends. After the 18th, Lady Captain, her daughter and Mr President served some bucks fizz and Mr Captain, Dave Halford, organised a putting competition won by Jean Cooper, the only one to get a hole in one.

The ladies returned in the evening for a 3 course meal, speeches and prize presentations. Lady Captain gave many thanks to all the helpers and especially to Craig for his unstinting support and help over the year.

### Retford Men's Scratch Team Promoted

The top players at Retford Golf Club are celebrating their most successful season following their promotion to the Championship Division 2 of the Nottinghamshire Golf Union League in commanding style, winning 7 of their 8 matches against other Nottinghamshire Clubs.

6 wins out of the first 6 matches meant promotion was guaranteed well before the season ended. The team included Mark Nicholson, Owen Rafferty, Andrew Cooke, Chay Rafferty, Chris Wakefield, Alex Woodcock, Ralf Marshall, Qinqin You and Peter Wheatcroft, most of whom gathered for a celebration dinner at Fred's Cantonese Restaurant in Grove Street, Retford.



**Club President, Stuart Moore, who manages the team, was delighted. “It is a stunning performance from the guys and we hope to progress and do the same next year to get promotion again onwards to the Premiership Division 1.”**

**Outstanding player of the year was Owen Rafferty who at age 14, playing scratch, won all 7 of the matches he played including a dominant 10 and 8 victory against Ratcliffe. This means winning all of the first 10 holes of the round, a rare feat, after which he could not wait to tell his dad, Chay Rafferty, who was playing the match behind.**

**Club Captain, Dave Halford walked round to watch all the matches . “I have been proud to witness some great golf being played by everyone on the team and this is a highlight of my year”, he said.**

**Next year’s fixtures will include home and away derby ties against close neighbours Worksop Golf Club, as well as Wollaton, Stanton and Norwood. Full details of these matches will be found on the website of the Nottinghamshire Union of Golf Clubs. [www.nottsgolfunion.com](http://www.nottsgolfunion.com).**

### **Season 2023 Men’s Medal Winners**

**Kevin Vardy; Martin Eaton; Jonathan Isaacs – also Medal Final winner; Oliver Bacon; Kevin Cousins; Lee Scott; Chris Naylor**

### **Men’s Stableford Winners**

**Dennis Smith; Luke Atherton; Neville Blake; Lewis Travis; Phil Lane; Lucas Walters; Jonathan Knowles; David Bell; Michael Houghton; Ian Lindley; Dan Lee**

### **Other Competitions; Winners**

**Hospital Cup – Jonny Bowles**

**Coronation Cup – Adrian Harrop and Ian Howlett**

**Harry Fitzakerley Trophy – Jim and Sheila Robinson**

**Norman Cave Memorial Cup – Michael Henderson and Paul Lockwood**

**Order of Merit Player of the Year – Jonathan Knowles**

**Denton Eclectic Trophy – Robert Moore**

**Harry Ledger (under 30’s) Cup – Owen Rafferty**

**Goeff Sharpe (30-50) Cup – Oliver Bacon**

**Percy Laws (51-60) Cup – Simon Young**

**Ray Johnson (61 and over) Cup – Martin Eden**



**Middleton Rose Bowl – Ros Waterhouse and Rob Buclaw**  
**Mick Walker Foursomes – Dave Heath and Scott Millership**  
**Allen Clarke Pairs – Dave Heath and Scott Millership**  
**Captain’s Cup – Liam Bennett**  
**Club Championship – Andrew Cooke**  
**Champion of Champions – Paul Lockwood**  
**President’s Cup – Phil Lane**

## **In the Clubhouse**

### **Ladies in Pink**

The ladies held a Pink Lunch to have fun “Eating Pink, Drinking Pink, Wearing Pink” and raised money for Breast Cancer Now charity with a Pink Raffle and a Pink Quiz with pink chocolates for prizes! The catering team provided a splendid spread and the ladies entered into the spirit of the day with their dresses!



### **Retford Golf Club donates**

Mary Saddington, Retford Golf Club’s Lady Captain for 2022, recently presented a cheque for £3220 to Bluebell Wood Children’s Hospice - her nominated charity for her year as Captain.

The Golf Club raised this money by organising various golfing events, a Fashion Show, a Coffee Morning, and from generous donations from other Club members.

**“Our Club members are always happy to join in fundraising events for local charities” said Mary. “They were particularly pleased to support my charity, which allows the Hospice to continue to provide the very best support to children and young people with life-shortening illnesses as well as extending this support to families.”**

**“It was a pleasure being last year’s Lady Captain as the Ladies section at the Golf Club is particularly lively and is always welcoming new members, whatever their capability”. If any ladies are interested in giving it a go, now is the time to take advantage of some Taster Sessions currently underway at Retford Golf Club.**

## **2023 Annual General Meeting**

**This event is on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November, at 7.30pm. Before then, members will be sent details about the agenda, nominations, proposals, voting and other procedures. There will also be information on the notice board near the changing rooms.**

**We are looking for 3 new committee members to fill vacancies that are arising. If you need more information about what is involved in being on the committee email [retfordgolfcomms@gmail.com](mailto:retfordgolfcomms@gmail.com) for an informal chat**

## **Retirements**

**Members will have seen the recent e-mail from the Management Team, confirming that Craig Morris is set to step back from the role of Club Professional which he has fulfilled with such commitment, energy and enthusiasm for over 20 years. There is scarcely an area of the club that he does not touch, support or enable and there is no doubt that he will be difficult to replace. He has agreed to continue his association with the club providing advice and assistance in a number of areas, which means we will continue to benefit from his knowledge and experience. We will be looking at ways in which he can be thanked and his enormous contribution celebrated over coming months**

**Also Diane Moore is due to retire at the year end from her long service in the Office. As part of the enduring backroom team she has seemed like a permanent fixture and her knowledge and commitment to the club is also going to be missed.**

## **New Staff**

**The changes being proposed for the Club’s management structure arising from these retirements and our internal management review means that we need to**

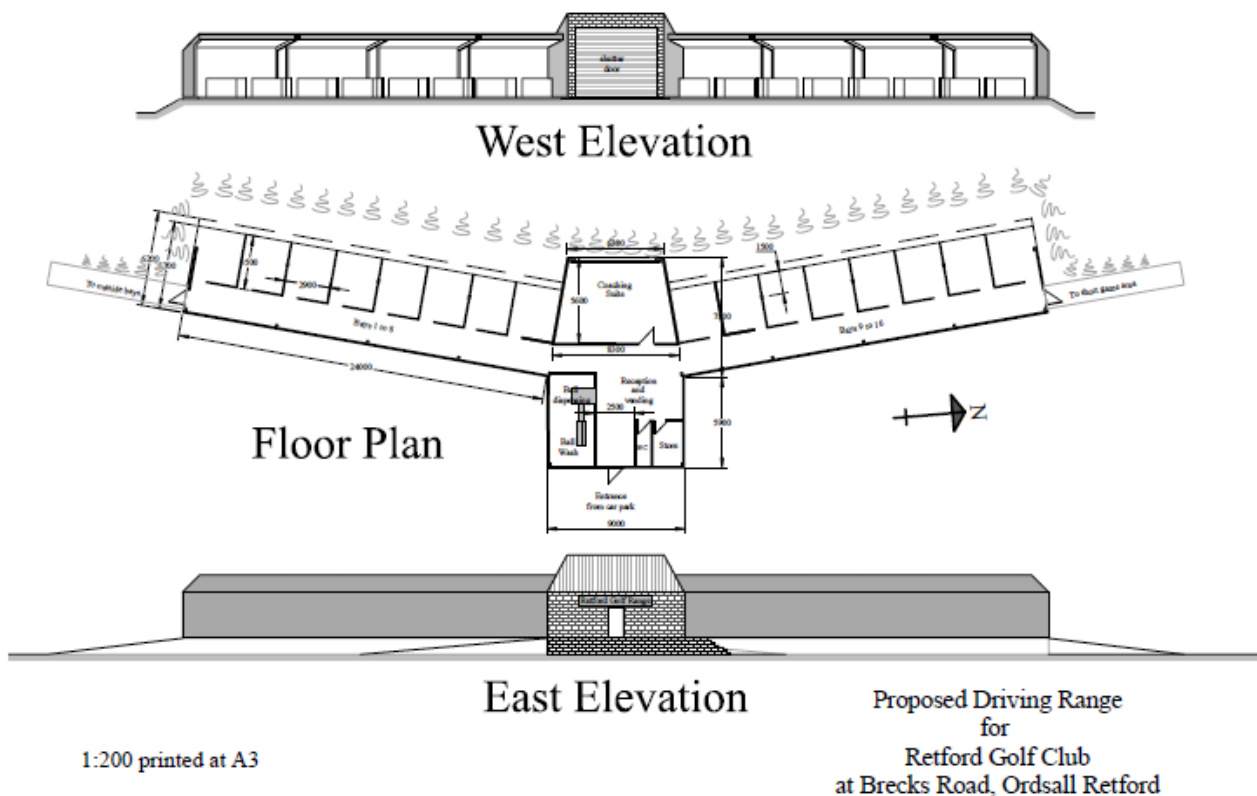
be recruiting to a number of positions. Crucially we are decided on appointing a new full time General Manager and this is now being advertised. Full details can be obtained from [retfordgolfcomms@gmail.com](mailto:retfordgolfcomms@gmail.com).

Since the club will also be taking on the running of the shop, there will be a need to recruit more shop staff to work with Ian Lindley, who we expect will continue. Additional Office staff will also be needed though Nicky is expected to continue and more details of these additional posts will be published soon. These represent major changes to the organisation of the club management, so we will keep everyone informed of developments as best we can.

### Driving Range Proposal Update

Project development work has continued on the project since the planning permission application was submitted. Additional market research has been undertaken looking at the wider scope to attract people to a range. This has suggested that demand might be significantly greater than previously expected.

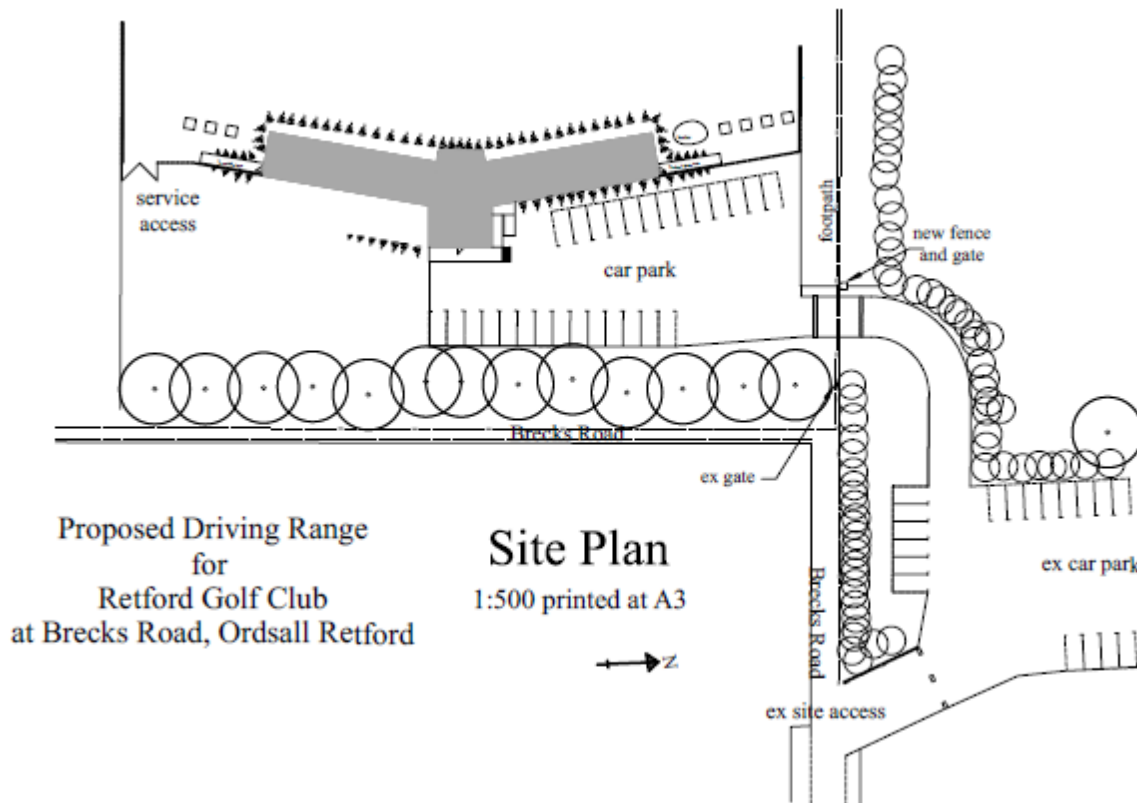
An alternative design for a 16 bay range, rather than the 12 looked at before has been prepared.





Costings for this have not yet been sought, but are expected to be proportionately higher than the smaller version, justified by the extra income that will come from more users.

The planning application raised concerns from Highways and Rights of Way Officers about vehicle access, car parking and the treatment of the public footpath. These have been addressed with a new site layout.



Officers at Planning have indicated that they are likely to support an approval, if the access and footpath issues are resolved. The current scheme uses the existing club access and provides protection for members of the public using the footpath, both where the entry road crosses and by a fence the full length of the range. All the deposited plans are on display in the clubhouse reception area.

Meanwhile the sub-committee are continuing to develop the business case, firming up costings and analysing the revenues. At present they are considering that the development of the range might be undertaken by a separate, member owned, company set up for the purpose and used to secure grant and loan funding without creating any significant commercial risk to the Club.

Such a company might be able to apply to the Lottery and elsewhere for grants and to secure favourable loan terms for any borrowing needed. If there is sufficient interest from members they might also be able to purchase shares in

the range. To take this further, members will be consulted on the plans in more detail and asked whether there would be interest in a share purchase scheme. More details of this will be produced later.

Depending on the final costings and how much finance can be raised, the business case is thought likely to show a short run up to a break even position with a good return on the investment as well as providing members with a top class range, with Trackman or similar installed. Such a facility will also attract more new members and visitors creating additional revenues for the Club.

### **Buggy Compound Extension**

We will also be starting the extension of the buggy compound in the near future. Again, we will keep members informed of progress there.

### **Let Us Know**

We continue to try and improve the ways members can communicate with the Committee about what's happening in the Club.

- The *Suggestions Box* has been relocated to the reception area, 1th left hand slot below the computer terminal used for entering competition scores. Members can put any ideas or suggestions to the Management Committee but please make sure each has your name clearly marked on it or no action can be taken.
- 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.
- The Club Room TV was set up with a scrolling information display but this has been suspended as the mouse controlling the computer has gone missing.
- 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](mailto:retfordgolfcomms@gmail.com), or through the Suggestions Box. If members have any golf related news items please let Andy Massey know, via [retfordgolfcomms@gmail.com](mailto:retfordgolfcomms@gmail.com).
- The Club has a re-activated Facebook Page, "Retford Golf Club", for regular general updates and information for the general Public. A group "Retford

**Golf Club Members” has also been created where information aimed just for members will be posted.**

- **Copies of Committee and AGM minutes, constitution and bye-laws together with annual accounts are routinely filed in lever arch files below the TV in the Bar.**
- **The next full Management meeting will be on **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023, at 4.00pm.** \* **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**

**Communication Group (on behalf of the Management Committee)**