

RICKMANSWORTH GOLF CLUB – NEWSLETTER APRIL 2014



In an effort to reach as many members as possible with the latest Club news, please see our newsletter which is full of useful information for members for the forthcoming season.

Tom Moore

As most of you will know, Tom Moore has been the Club's Competition and Handicapping Secretary for many years now, but has felt the time is right to step down from his post. The Club would like to offer it's sincere thanks to Tom for all his hard work administering the Club's entire competition programme, weekly updates to the handicapping system, the publishing of Club diaries and his experienced and knowledgeable voice at committee on many important issues.

David Watson will step into Tom's position and try his best to continue Tom's good work.

If any members have any questions regarding rules, handicapping or general competition queries, however small you think they are, please contact David on djewatson@hotmail.com or tel: 07921 409624. He will do his best to answer.

Save The Date!

Club Day will be held this season on **SATURDAY 10TH MAY**. The Trophy presentations will take place after golf – please support the efforts of the Club and all the Trophy winners to stay and congratulate your friends and fellow players on last season's successes. It is a fun golf day and full details of the day will be published very soon.

Our Captains will also perform their ceremonial drive in's at the first hole.

Green Fees

Hertsmere Leisure has decided to increase the price of casual green fees across the board, but not annual season tickets. Members can buy a Hertsmere Gold Card for £32 which will give an approximate 20% discount on fees which will bring them back to last year's level, or you can get a Bronze card for free which works like a loyalty card (buy 11 rounds get 12th for free). Please speak to the guys in the pro shop about all the new deals.

Competiton Entry Fees

At the recent AGM, members voted in favour of increasing competition fees from £1 per event to £2. Please remember this when returning your scorecard from 1st April onwards.

Supplementary scores

ENGLANDGOLF in conjunction with CONGU remind players that they should declare **in advance** when they intend to submit a scorecard for handicapping (known as a Supplementary Score). This can be done by writing 'For Handicap' on a scorecard and signed and countersigned by another member. There is perhaps a misconception amongst golf club members that players should only submit a scorecard for handicapping if they have played well and beaten their handicap (provided it is a true score with no 'gimmes'). Any time a player wishes to play a supplementary round, they must submit the scorecard for handicapping regardless of the result. Players are allowed a maximum of 10 Supplementary Scores per year (from 1st March).

Seniors

Martin Holden has stepped down as the Club's Senior Organiser after 7 years in the post. One of Martin's last contributions was to request that the Senior Organiser should actually be known as the Senior's Captain. This was proposed and accepted at the recent AGM.

The new Senior Captain is Frank Haines. Frank has started the season well with a **3-3 draw away to Batchwood Hall**. The Seniors' is now a thriving section of the Club and play many friendlies against other local teams. The emphasis is on 'friendly' and all are welcome. Match sheets for forthcoming friendlies are in the Men's changing room. I'm sure Frank would love to see a few more faces support his ever growing happy section!

Men

As we approach the start of another busy season, new Men's Captain Stefan Kunka will lead the Club into a new venture by joining the **Herts Friendly League**. We will play 4 other teams home and away before the season ending Needle Shield where all teams gather for one last game. The other Clubs in the League are Batchwood, Little Hay, Panshanger & Stevenage. The format will be Pairs Betterball, scored on Stableford points. The winning team will be the team with the greatest total of points from their 5 pairs. Teams will consist of 10 players each. The Club shared the points after a dramatic 191pts-191pts draw at home to Batchwood Hall last Saturday.

The Men will also continue to play their established other friendly matches against Aylesbury Park, Bournemouth & Meyrick Park, Richmond Park and our new alliance with Bushey Golf & Country Club.

Stefan's Vice Captain is Danny Simmonds. Danny will captain the **Clapham Common team** this season and is hoping for continued recent success. We will play Thorney Park in the 1st round. Players should note that this season the NAPGC has changed the format slightly, it is still a pairs greensomes event, played home and away concurrently, but now only 4 pairs per team.

Dave Watson will again captain the **Bourne-Vanneck Trophy** teams as we bid to retain the Scratch Cup and have another great run in the Handicap Shield. The regional qualifier will be held at Wycombe Heights GC on Sat 7th June.

Ladies

June Poppleton is our Ladies Captain for 2014/15. She is holding her Captain's Charity Day on **Friday 30th May** at Rickmansworth. An innovative 2-tee start (1st & 10th) from 9.30am will help get players round and back to the clubhouse without too much delay. June has put a lot of effort into planning the day, please support her and her charity if you can. Poster in Clubhouse, cost will be £20 for Season Ticket Holders, £30 for non-S.T.H.

June has made arrangements for a historic friendly match to be played over 11 holes with Moor Park. It will take place at 3pm on **Monday 2nd June** where a mixed team of 6 men and 6 ladies will take on Moor Park followed by a 2 course dinner at the Moor Park Mansion. We need 6 Gents willing to represent us please. Please contact June on 01923 773388.

As usual we have entered The **Hawtree Mixed Trophy**. We have received a bye in the 1st round, and will play Huntswood in round 2. Please support our Captains if you can. Last year we lost by 1 point to eventual national finalists Little Hay, so perhaps we can go one better this year?

Captain's Away Day

Stefan has made arrangements for the Club to enjoy an Away Day at local club Aldenham, on **Tuesday 4th June**. £40 is the cost for an excellent day's golf, where you'll be welcomed with a hot drink & a bacon roll, an 18 hole Stableford competition on The Church course and a light meal after golf followed by prizes. Please support Stefan if you can.

The Tuesday Club

Colin Timms will again arrange various Away Days at local courses during the season. These days are open to **all** members and are another good way of mixing with different members from other sections of the Club. Watch out for notices on the website and the Club noticeboard.

Rickmansworth Golf Club Website

We endeavour to publish as much info as possible on the Club's website. Please add us to your 'favourites' list and check in regularly for up to date info.

You will also find a link to the **Master Scoreboard** website. If you log in you can view competition results, dates of forthcoming events, knockout competitions, view your handicap record and print your own handicap certificate.

Just select your name from the drop down box and enter your password. The default password is teepeg15 and then you can change it to something of your own choice. Please contact David Watson if you have forgotten your password so it can be reset.

Pro Shop discount

Members are reminded that we enjoy a 10% discount off purchases from the pro shop.

Knockout matches

Please continue to write up the winner's name of knockout matches on the draw sheets posted on the noticeboard. It would be very useful to the successful running of our competitions to email your match results to the new Competition Secretary on djewatson@hotmail.com. It really will help players who perhaps do not visit the Clubhouse every week to keep in touch with the matches they need to be playing.

Past Captain's Day

Club Chairman Dave Miles is organising an event for past Captains of Rickmansworth Golf Club. It will be held on **Friday 16th May** and be the first time since 2009 the Club has organised this type of event. Keep a look out on the website for photos of the day.

New Members

As you are fully aware, Rickmansworth is very small Golf Club that punches well above its weight. Recently the vast majority of Golf Clubs in the UK have seen their membership levels rapidly declining, mostly due to financial reasons and members not being able to commit to golf every week, thereby seeking flexible memberships elsewhere. We have been fortunate over the last few years where we have held our numbers at a steady level, but we are facing a lack of players in the 18-45 year old bracket – the future of our Club.

If you know of golfers who could be interested in a very affordable Golf Club membership, encourage them to try out Ricky. This year we will re-focus on advertising and recruiting players but just like every other club, it is hard work even to just get one new member.

The committee would encourage anyone with realistic ideas to come forward and discuss so we can tackle this issue together.

Christmas Party

Yes, it's a long way off....but one for your diary; the Club will hold the annual Christmas Party at The Fairway Inn on **Saturday 20th December**. We'd like to hear your views and comments on what you'd like to have to make this a great night.

Communication

If you have any suggestions, no matter how small, any complaints (or praise!) please send an email to golf@rickmansworthgolfclub.co.uk and we can address any issues at the committee meetings.

Thanks for reading – enjoy the season!

David Watson
Rickmansworth Golf Club

www.rickmansworthgolfclub.co.uk