



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

Newsletter

August/September 2022

Dear Members

Heatwaves and drought, autumn in August – and floods! We look at how this is affecting our golf club.

Plenty of events, on the course and in the clubhouse, to report on.

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Coping with the climate on the Course

We are reminded by England Golf about the need to conserve water around the course and in the club house. It is not an unlimited supply that we have (which we have to pay for) and, to ensure the greens, approaches and tees - key areas - do get watered, the irrigation has to be managed. Carl does this through a computer-based programme which he amends accordingly. Day-time hand watering is very time-consuming and not always beneficial or cost effective due to evaporation, so again this is done under controlled conditions to ensure it does remain cost effective. Additionally, if we hand-water to any large extent during the day it does not give the water tanks time to re-fill, which can affect the amount of programmed night-time watering.

Carl has also had another fire to put out beside the course. Will Members please note and report any sightings and concerns about young people in the woods where they seem to convene around a bonfire?

Another concern is for golfers' health. All too often Craig has been called to attend to players who have fallen ill on the course and need rescue. Please ensure you and your guests are well prepared to play in hot conditions, with plentiful supply of water for rehydration, and protection from the sun by shades or sunscreen. If you have any doubt about your physical condition, please have a rest in the clubhouse instead.

Course Update

Practise Ground Update

The fencing along the side of the practise ground is now complete.

We have installed a gate that is secured with a chain and combination lock.

If you wish to use the practise ground, you will need the code which can be obtained from the office or Pro Shop.

How to Rake Bunkers

Useful information from the Greens Committee – help keep our course in good shape. If you can do so without delaying play, why not also pick out a few stones while you are in there?

1 Basically you're trying to get the sand as level as possible so it's fair for the next golfer who visits that bunker. What you must remember to do is to push the sand forward with the rake. Nine times out of ten when a golfer comes out of a bunker, he or she will rake the sand backwards toward the rear, causing the majority of the sand to build up at the back edge of the bunker, which is what you don't want.



Remember to push the sand forwards



Use two hands
Try not to drag the rake with one hand while holding a club in another

2 The other thing golfers tend to do is use one hand on the rake, perhaps with their club still in their other hand, and drag the sand out towards the back of the bunker. Far better to use two hands and again, remember to push the sand forwards, not just backwards.



Always make sure you use two hands



3 Finally, as you come out of the bunker, just bang the sand off your shoes with the rake, and then rake your final footprints as you exit. And once again, don't just drag the sand towards you as your parting shot, which many golfers do – push the sand forwards into the bunker, rather than raking it all up towards the rear lip. As you will have gathered, remembering to push the sand forwards and not just dragging it all backwards with you is the key to preventing too much sand accumulating in one area.

Golf Events and Results

Captains' Charity Day, Saturday 30th July

Mr Captain (Mike Mahony) and Lady Captain (Mary Saddington) were delighted that so many signed up to play, which meant a contribution to their charities of £1840 alone, but then raffle tickets were sold and contributions made at the Halfway House. The total amount raised therefore was £2866. .

The Captains were amazed at the generosity of our members by not only making donations but also contributing items for the raffle. Special thanks must also go to Morrisons who contributed much of the food and drink on offer at the Halfway House. The two charities that will benefit are The Cystic Fibrosis Trust and Blue Bell Wood Children's Hospice.

The winners on the day were:

Gents

1st (95 points BB9) - Dave Heath, Scott Millership, Keith Lancaster and Neil Bugdol

2nd (95 points) - J Swift, I Adamson, J Cheesman and D Mitchem

3rd (94 points)- James Moore, Isaac Moore, W Mortimer and A Mortimer

4th (93 points BB9) - R Bowley, S Pickerhill, S Burgin and D Sugden

5th (93 points) - Wayne Kwasnica, Lee Bradbury, Mark Higham and Andy Mills

6th (92 points BB9) - D Barrow, R Bird, S Clarke and D Driver

7th (92 points) - George Slaney, Mick Howsam, Vic Wagstaffe and Richard Macey

Ladies

1st (79 points BB9) - Lin Tongue, Marjorie Crookes, Joan Self and Jacky Walsh

2nd (79 points) - Belinda Briggs, Pauline Harris, Pat Fox and Biddy Johnson

Mixed

1st (86 points) - Andy Salmon, Phil Brunt, Dave Hancock and Janet Hancock

2nd (85 points) - Barbara Burton, Bryony Crossland, Sally Anderson and Simon Anderson

Nearest Pin on 3rd

Gents - Garry Smith Ladies - Lin Tongue

Nearest Pin on 11th

Gents - Dave Hancock Ladies - Liz Fitzakerley

Two's Competition - 23 golfers scored a two

Lady Captain's Day, Saturday 3rd September

Mary Saddington, our Lady Captain, celebrated her Lady Captain's Day on Saturday 3rd September. 47 ladies played on the day. Debbie Rose won the Captain's prize after scoring 42 points. Keran Hutchinson won the Scratch prize with 87 points. Joan Self won the Silver prize with 41 points and Wendy Pine the Bronze prize with 37 points. Sue Boyes was nearest the pin on the third and Debbie Rose on the 11th.

The ladies were treated to a picnic at the Halfway House, served by members of Mary's family. They were also met at the 18th green by our Chairman, Fraser Britton and Mr Captain's wife, Veronica Mahony, with a glass of Bucks Fizz, whilst Mr Captain, Mike Mahony, organised a putting competition, won by Julia Wright..

In the evening 44 ladies sat down to a three-course meal followed by the presentation of prizes.

Mary wishes to thank all those who helped her organise the day, especially Craig and our President, Stuart Moore.

Gents Finals, Stableford and Medal

The Gents Stableford Final is on Sunday 4th September.

The Medal Final is the following Sunday, 11th September.

A list of players who have qualified has been sent out by Craig. The tee bookings are in the usual way.

Gents Invitation Day 18th September

- This is a better ball stableford event, on 90% of the course handicap
- The event will be a 12 o'clock shotgun start, with numbers limited to 50 pairs.
- Entry fee is £25 per pair which must be paid on entry at the Professional Shop.
- Draw for tees will be made approximately 1 week before the event.
- For those wishing to eat after play there will be Steak pie or a vegetarian option available which must be booked and paid for via the bar or kitchen no later than Wednesday 12th September.

Results of Matches

28/07/2022	Ladies Bronze League	Retford	4	v	3	Nottinghamshire
12/08/2022	Ladies Bronze League	Wollaton		p		Retford
20/07/2022	Ladies Friendly	Gainsborough		p		Retford
05/08/2022	Ladies Friendly	Serlby	3	v	1	Retford
07/07/2022	Ladies Silver League	Retford	4	v	3	Mapperley
25/07/2022	Ladies Silver League	Norwood	6	v	1	Retford
03/07/2022	Mixed Friendly	Retford	1	v	5	Gainsborough
24/07/2022	Mixed Friendly	Nottinghamshire	7.5	v	0.5	Retford
04/07/2022	Notts Scratch League	Retford	4	v	1	Chilwell manor
08/08/2022	Notts Scratch League	Stanton	4	v	1	Retford
11/07/2022	Seniors	Retford	2	v	4	Carrholme
08/08/2022	Seniors	Mapperley	5	v	1	Retford
21/07/2022	Seniors	Rufford	5	v	1	Retford
28/07/2022	Seniors	Retford	0.5	v	6.5	Wath
04/08/2022	Seniors	Doncaster	4.5	v	3.5	Retford

Scratch Team

We played our last scratch match of the season at Mapperley. Our team won 3-2, a great result away from home. This secures our position above them in Division 3 of the Notts Union Interclub Scratch League.

DIVISION THREE:							
Golf Club:	Played:	Won:	Halved:	Lost:	Games won:	Games Lost:	Points:
Stanton on the Wolds	8	7	0	1	27 - 1/2	12 - 1/2	21
The Nottinghamshire	8	5	0	3	24 - 1/2	15 - 1/2	15
Retford	8	4	0	4	18 - 1/2	21 - 1/2	12
Mapperley	8	3	0	5	21 - 1/2	18 - 1/2	9
Chilwell Manor	8	1	0	7	8	32	3

Our (Retford Golf Club) scratch league player of the year is Chris Wakefield, gaining 4 and a half points for the team. Well done to Chris.

Club matters

Safe Golf Accreditation

The Club has again achieved Safe Golf accreditation for a further 12 months. This status is a requirement of England Golf and confirms that the Club has policies in place to safeguard junior players and vulnerable adults. In particular the Club had to prove that all staff and volunteers helping with our juniors have been DBS checked and undergone further training and that the Club has a Welfare Officer, which is currently Steve Hyatt.

Club Management

The golf club is managed by three elected Directors. Their responsibility is to run the golf club efficiently and safely. To support them we have a Management Committee made of elected members of the golf club.

This committee is divided into sub committees, namely Golf (responsible for the running of golf comps and handicapping); Greens; House; Communications; Seniors section; Junior section.

The whole committee meet on a monthly basis, chaired by the Club Chairman, where club matters follow an agenda, with each sub committee reporting to the full committee. The minutes for Management meetings are published and filed in the clubroom for membership to read. The sub committees usually meet within the month, to discuss items that have been raised or matters concerning their section of responsibility.

For the management to function effectively, any matter arising or item requiring discussion follows a formal process where members are asked to write to the management committee, or address any issues concerns to the relevant sub committee.

We have now included a suggestion box that is situated at the end of the bar. This box is regularly checked, with any suggestions passed on to the relevant committee for their meeting.

The Directors and Management Committee request that for any club matters requiring their attention, they be contacted directly.

To allow Club Professional Craig to focus on the running of his own business, the Management Committee has instructed him to advise members in the first instance to contact the Management Committee or relevant Sub Committee chairs.

The management structure can be found outside the club office, with relevant sub section chairs, including contact details.

Len Fenton is standing down from the Management Team. We thank him for all his work over the recent years, not least as a part of the Greens Committee.

Catering Assistant

We are delighted to announce that Deborah Spence has joined our catering team as Catering Supervisor, working with Manager Jess. This will give us more flexibility on the catering hours available and improve the catering service that we provide.

Deborah has a golf club background, starting out at Torksey Golf Club in her teenage years, and progressing to be a member of the bar staff. She later managed the catering side of the business, covering for the chef, and working alongside him to create exciting new menu ideas.

One of her previous positions was as a catering manager in the care sector, with full responsibility to prepare and cook quality home-made meals.

Deborah is enthusiastic to join our team, and a return to the hospitality business .

We are sure that with Deborah's experience she will establish herself as a valuable asset to our current catering staff.

Please make her feel welcome and part of our community.

Breakfasts and more!

From Friday 26th August, breakfasts will be available from 9.00am, and on Saturdays and Sundays from 8.00am. This is on a trial basis, so please support our catering team and help to make it a success. A full menu was sent out to Members recently; here is a sample of what's on offer.

- Full English Breakfast £6.00

- Bacon Sandwich £3.60
- Toasted Teacake £2.00
- Tuna Sandwich £3.70
- Ham, Egg, Chips and Peas £6.00
- Scampi, Chips, Peas £6.50
- Beef Burger £7.00

Cathy Caudwell



The golf club wishes to take the opportunity to thank Cathy for all the help that she has given to the golf club, giving the club the chance to take back the in-house bar and catering service to members and visitors. Cathy has been very supportive of the day to day running, as well as providing a catering service for league matches, seniors' matches, ladies' matches, 200 Club functions and visiting parties. Cathy is looking to pursue other career options, but is still prepared to offer her help in any way she can, for the benefit of Retford Golf Club.

Cathy was presented with a bouquet of flowers as a thank you on behalf of the golf club.

200 Club

The purpose of the 200 Club is to provide financial support to the club and encourage social and playing involvement of members.

Membership of the 200 Club is open to all adult members of the Club in any category on payment of the annual 200 Club subscription and is entirely voluntary. There is no limit to the number of members of the 200 Club.

Benefits of membership are

- Attendance at 11 social dinner functions in the Club at a price agreed for each event
- Free entry into the monthly Prize Draw
- Exclusive free entry into 2 weekend club competitions each year, which have specific prizes

Applications for inclusion in the 200 Club can be made at the joining interview for new members or at the Office.

Payment of the annual fee is normally invoiced automatically with the annual subscriptions each year for continuing members.

Constitution

Constitution Update

All members should by now have had opportunity to look at the proposed new Articles of Association. A couple of questions have been raised and responded to as follows.

- The benefits of Community Amateur Sports Club status are mainly in the complexities of taxation. Most obviously CASCs are exempt from Business Rates but there are also reliefs from Corporation tax and possible benefits from gift aid. This is balanced by possible disbenefits in our current business where we could be liable for more VAT. The overall advantage is not clear cut at present but that might change in future.
- Company Directors are, as members are, protected from personal liability by the limited status of the company. The exception is if they are fraudulent or negligent in their actions. The risks for shadow directors are the same as for registered directors with an added issue that insurers might not deem them covered in a future claim. As all our Committee members are volunteers, it is thought that this is an inappropriate additional risk for them all to take, particularly when they are not hands on with many of the decisions taken by the 3 Directors alone. With frequent annual changes to the management committee this would mean an instability within the board of directors.
- There is no current perceived deficit of skills or experience in the current directors, but making provision for additional skills to be brought in in future is thought to be a sensible move.

Copies of the Articles will be sent by email on request. Comments and questions can be raised through the email retfordgolfcomms@gmail.com or 0796987546a or the suggestion box.

Members are encouraged to make any further comments or queries by the middle of September so that an appropriate format for a motion to a General Meeting can be formulated and published. At the latest the motion should be put to the next Annual General Meeting.

New Security Gate

Our new car park security gate has been installed and is now operational.

This works on a different principle from the ones that were originally fitted. We have one cantilever gate, therefore one drive, one gearbox, a simpler system to maintain and give a continuous service life.

The original entrance will now be used as both ENTRANCE and EXIT. When opening, the gate will slide across behind the old exit gate, so it does not impact on the number of car parking spaces available and allows large service vehicles the space to swing out when entering and leaving the car park.

To gain access to the car park in a vehicle, please drive up to the gate, (as a guide, stop at the pointed end of the first arrow painted onto the tarmac). The gate will then open automatically.

To exit the car park a 5-digit code is required. This code is available from the pro shop, office or behind the bar. There is a short section of armco barrier on your right; behind this is a post with a keypad. Just type in the code and the gate will slide open.

As a temporary measure there is a sign on the post with a telephone number to call should you not have or have forgotten the code.

Any member entering on foot can do so by entering a code. This is a slightly different code from the exit code; again this is available from the pro shop, office or behind the bar. The keypad is situated on the centre column.

The gate is fitted with all required safety features, e.g., should, for any reason, the gate detect any pressure or resistance it will automatically return to its open position.

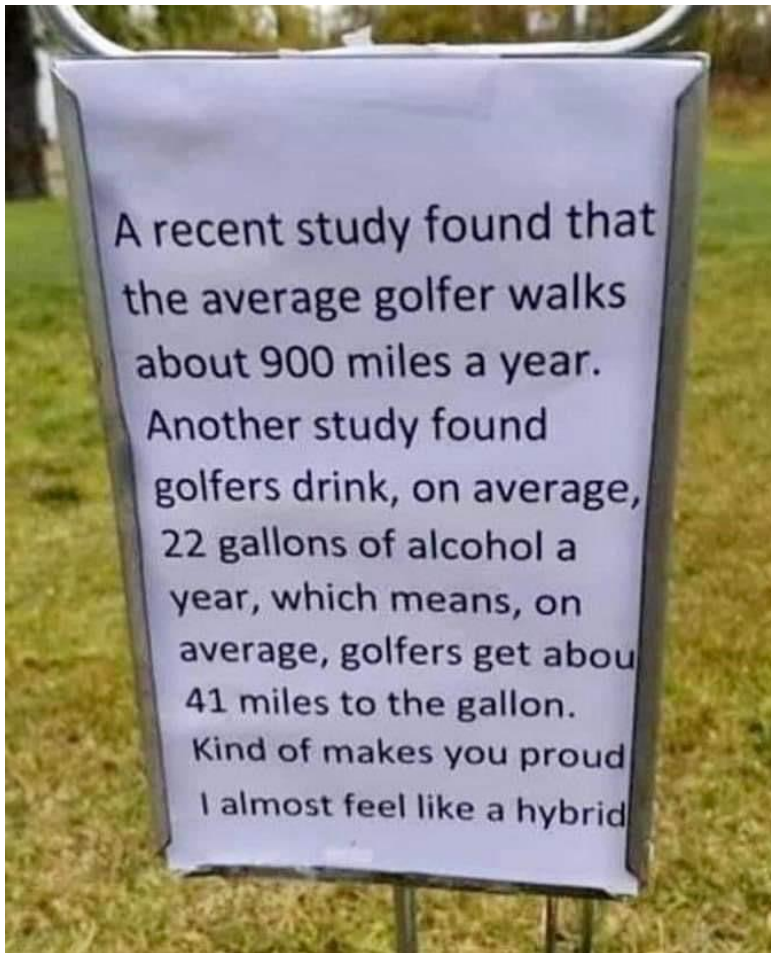
The gate has a soft closure, meaning its speed of travel slows down as it gets closer to its end of travel to its opening or closing position. Therefore please allow the gate to reach its maximum travel.

Can we also request that on entry and exit through the gate you show courtesy to others? We do have a number of visitors who may not be aware of our procedures so bear this in mind please.

Let Us Know

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

- A **Suggestions Box** is now 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, or to **mobile 07969 875464**.
- If members have any golf related news items please let Mary Saddington know, via retfordgolfcomms@gmail.com
- The next full Management meeting will be on **1st September 2022, at 7.00pm**. *** If members have any points they would like to raise for future meetings, please write to the Chairman, via the Office.**
- Finally, a word of caution about statistics!



Best wishes, from

Andy Massey, Mary Saddington, Dean Atherton, Charles Cooke

Communication Group (on behalf of the Management Committee and Club Members)