



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

## **Newsletter**

### **March/April 2023**

Dear Members

Spring is springing, with colour and activity coming back to the Club. This Newsletter highlights progress around the course, competitions, and events in the Clubhouse

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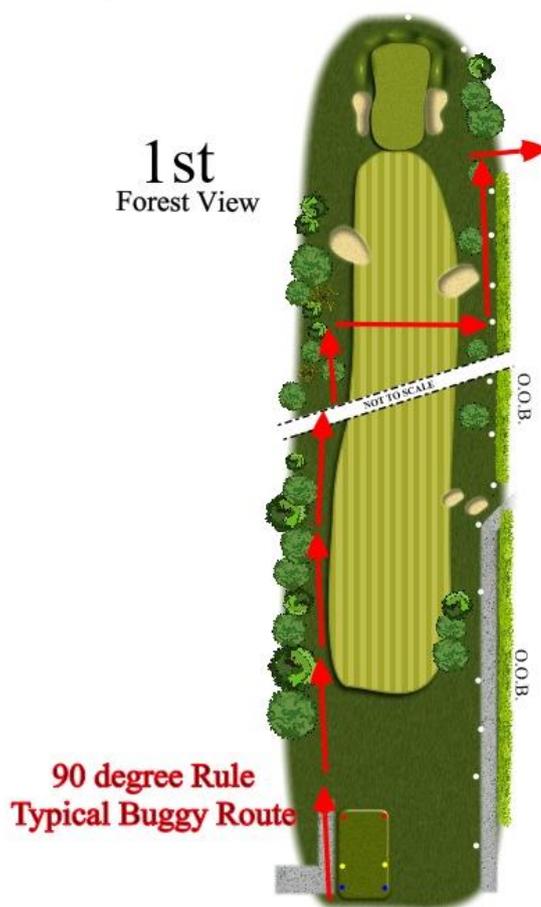
### ***On the Course***

#### **Winter Progress**

- Tree pruning and tidying on the 1st and 18<sup>th</sup> has made play easier there.
- New mats on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> tees (donated by the Seniors) and new turf added to improve the surrounds have helped. The mats are slightly smaller as this will enable the greens staff to remove them more easily to clean and refurbish where appropriate. The old mats still had some life left so these have been positioned on the practice field to improve the area for when conditions are frosty, wet and muddy.
- The 7<sup>th</sup> tee has the new handrail fitted (donated by the Seniors). It was fitted towards the back end of the tee as a health & safety factor, positioning it to reduce the chance of it being hit when players are teeing off.
- Deep shockwaving of the greens will improve their long term health. The work involves treating the 18 greens to maximum achievable depth. We have identified that the ground below the thatch, due to adverse weather over recent months, is very compacted, so it has become necessary to relieve that compaction using the

shockwave machine. Undertaking this work will be another process to allow the greens to drain more easily through the winter months and when we get excessive rains.

- During a break in the weather and from the wet patches and frost the greens have been Verti-drained to a depth of 10 inches. The work was delayed due to the bad weather but strong winds and a bit of sun had started to dry out the course. It should be noted that although the course is starting to look greener the ground below the top surface is still very cold and holding us back on some works.
- All bunkers have been edged off and doing this along with stone removal will help us to bring them up to an acceptable standard. It should be noted that there still appears to be an apathy from members and visitors to rake bunkers after they have used them. The greens staff will rake them each day but the effects of members not raking them after use can be seen very early on in the day. Can we all continue to remind members and visitors to rake bunkers and repair pitch marks?
- We have appointed a new greens apprentice, Ralph Marshall, bringing our greens staffing back up to 6. We welcome Ralph and wish him every success with us.
- We have identified areas around the tees and aprons that would benefit from re-turfing and this work will continue to be completed. Doing this allows us to start the season with a full head of grass with an attempt to remove the issue of having GUR.
- The greens staff have begun renovation of the greens, with hollow tining, dressing and seeding.
- Forward planning work has continued, which hopefully most of you will have seen. This work has included installation of irrigation to the 7<sup>th</sup> surround and approach, and also irrigation to the 9<sup>th</sup> surround. The irrigation to the 18<sup>th</sup> green has been split which will double the output pressure when watering. The 12<sup>th</sup> medal tee has been made much larger and we have improved the irrigation on both tees.
- We are currently having an issue with chafer bugs. They have been



found at the side of the 10<sup>th</sup> tee mat (you can see where the birds have been digging them up) and also on the left hand fairway bunker of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and on the front edge of the 9<sup>th</sup> green. The damage they have caused to the surround of the bunker on the 2nd is beyond repair. The only solution was to pull off all the turf and soil and reinstate the bunker and surrounds. The areas have been sprayed and this issue will have to be monitored around the course.

- A few tees where the grass was sparse have been re-turfed which will give them a better start to the new season.
- A mat will be placed at the chipping area – currently the surrounding area is almost unusable and having a mat will allow members to continue to use this facility while giving the wider area the chance to recover. The area has now been fenced off to prevent traffic from buggies and greens machinery from moving around in that area.
- Sadly there have been continued acts of vandalism around the course, with commemorative benches attacked, and carving up of greens and fairways. The police have been called in and if anyone sees and can report descriptions of incidents and perpetrators, please don't hesitate.
- We continue to have problems with golfers not raking bunkers and not repairing pitch marks on the greens. It's basic; it's everyone's responsibility. Please help.

# HOW TO REPAIR A PITCHMARK



Take your ball mark repair tool and insert the prongs into the turf at the edge of the depression. Do NOT insert the prongs into the depression itself, but at the rim of the depression.

**Then push the edge of the ball mark toward the centre, using your ball mark repair tool in a gentle twisting motion.**



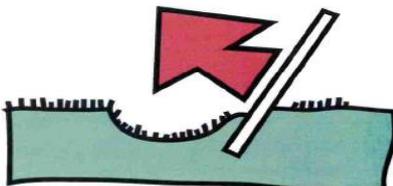
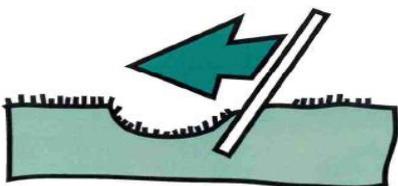
*This is where golfers who try to repair ball marks usually mess up. Many golfers believe the way to fix a ball mark is to insert the tool at an angle, so the prongs are beneath the center of the crater, and then to use the tool as a lever to push the bottom of the ball mark back up even with the surface. **Do not do this!***

Pushing the bottom of the depression upward only tears the roots, and kills the grass.

**Right:** Using the prongs to push grass at the edge of the depression toward the centre



**Wrong:** Using the prongs as levers to push up the bottom of the depression



## Buggies



The club has acquired a new fleet of 4 electric buggies for hire by members and visitors. Any hirer is asked to take great care with these as they are very expensive and are easily damaged, particularly if scraped along the bridge parapet!

They can be hired by arrangement in advance with the Proshop with discounted rates for members. A hire agreement will be introduced to cover insurance and responsibility for damage. Hirers should note that the speed of these buggies has been

limited to minimise the risk of accidents. Because of wear on the course, members are asked not to use buggies in the winter months, unless they need to do so by reason of age or infirmity.

Time for a reminder of the **rules of conduct for buggy users....**

*The use of buggies on the course can lead to significant amounts of damage to the grass etc. Members who use buggies are therefore requested to follow the guidelines below out of consideration for others, particularly in winter when the grass can find it harder to recover. Please observe the following which have recently been updated and are published in the Shop.*

- *Drive carefully and with consideration for others at all times.*
- *Keep to paths and semi rough wherever possible. On holes 3,4,9,11 and 16 buggies must not leave the cart path.*
- *Do not cross white lines or approach near to greens and tees, especially avoiding roped off areas.*
- *Cross fairways at right angles. (90 degree Rule)*
- *Do not enter wooded areas, since this can result in punctures.*
- *Take extra care when crossing the railway bridge.*
- *Alcohol must not be consumed before or during the use of buggies,*

In case of a breakdown on the course, you can contact the ProShop for assistance, but staff may take some time to arrange help as it might mean the shop being closed to release staff to come out to help.

### ***Driving Range; Progress Update***

We continue to assess the potential for a commercial driving range, and we are developing a Business Plan for that. Any decision will be made in consultation with the membership.

### ***Competitions***

***2023 Club Knock Out Competitions*** are now open for entries.

Entries are via the Pro's Shop, closing on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March. The Competitions are:-

- Gents Seniors Singles
- Gents Seniors Doubles
- Rose Bowl (mixed Ladies/Gents)
- President's Cup (Gents singles)
- Rabbits Cup (Gents h/c 16 and over)
- Alan Clark Doubles (Gents 4-ball)
- Mick Walker Foursomes (Gents)

### ***Social Pro-Am Competitions***

Two have been arranged;

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June, tee-offs from 4.30pm

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August, tee-offs from 1.30pm

Details for entry will come later.

### ***Ladies' Competitions***

Ladies continue to play weekly friendlies until April, when weekly qualifying competitions will start. Inter-Club Competitions will also start in April

### ***Golf Elsewhere in the County***

***Is your Handicap Index less than 9.5?***

Would you like to play Wollaton Park GC for £15 for Gross and Nett prizes.

If so you are eligible to enter the Nottinghamshire Union of Golf Clubs

**Eddie Peters' Trophy** on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March this year.

Entry is restricted to 40 players and entries close on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March

Apply on line at: [https://www.nottsgolfunion.com/mens\\_competitions](https://www.nottsgolfunion.com/mens_competitions)

*Is your handicap Index less than 5.5?*

If so you are eligible to enter the **Nottinghamshire County Amateur Strokeplay Championship and the Nottinghamshire Open Championship** on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May this year at Wollaton Park GC. The entry fee is only £40

This is a 36-hole scratch competition.

Entry is restricted to 60 amateur players and entries close on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May.

Apply on line at: [https://www.nottsgolfunion.com/mens\\_competitions](https://www.nottsgolfunion.com/mens_competitions)

## **Ladies in Golf**



Are you a woman who enjoys the outdoors, having fun and making new friends? Then why not...

**SWING INTO SPRING at RETFORD GOLF CLUB**

Join in our **FREE** women's taster session on Saturday 1st April at 3pm

Experience tuition from our Class AA accredited P.G.A. professional - James Freeman

Followed by a glass of Prosecco or hot drink in our clubhouse

Do you know the benefits of playing golf?

- Good for both physical and mental health
- Provides positive, social interaction
- Beautiful outdoor surroundings
- Golf is FUN and any one can play!

Join us at Retford Golf Club, Brecks Road, Retford, DN22 7UA  
[www.retfordgolfclub.co.uk](http://www.retfordgolfclub.co.uk)

For info on how to join in, please email [jworksop3@gmail.com](mailto:jworksop3@gmail.com)  
or contact the club direct



**NB** please encourage any ladies to take part. Also, if any Members have old/spare 7 and 8 irons they can donate/lend please contact the Pro's Shop.

## Abi Kennedy

Congratulations to Abi, one of our members, who has been selected to play for the Army in the Inter-Services Golf Championship in April. This is the premier golf fixture in the Armed Forces calendar.



## *In the Clubhouse*

There are a number of **social** events coming up; separate announcements have been sent to members about these. They include the **Wine tasting** on 15<sup>th</sup> March, and the **Race Night** in October.

**Burns Night** in March was a bit late but enjoyed by all, dining on Haggis, Tatties and Neeps. Many thanks to all those who donated raffle prizes for the event. £170 was raised for the Captains' charities of Weston Park Cancer and Breast Cancer Now.





We are considering a mixed team golf event in May to celebrate the Coronation. Details will follow.

Thank you to everyone supporting the events.

**Terry Cullen**, one of our longest playing members, will be retiring from golf this year. He has been a stalwart of the Mid Week Fiddle, and a massive organiser of fund-raising for the Club's charities. We thank him for all his efforts, and in light of that, the Club will be giving Terry Honourable Social Membership of the Club.



## Subscriptions

Members will have received information about 2023-24 subscriptions. Please make sure you pay your subs before 1<sup>st</sup> April, and that you have set up any direct debit arrangements by 14<sup>th</sup> March.

## Etiquette

We want to keep and enhance the reputation of Retford Golf Club as a friendly Club. There have been some complaints of poor behaviour and members are reminded of the importance of good conduct on the course and especially in the clubhouse, where interactions with other groups of members, staff and general public can take place.

Not everybody is comfortable with the kind of **immoderate language** your group might find acceptable and loud voices can carry far, on the course and off.

Remember that **smoking and vaping** is not permitted anywhere in the clubhouse but the balcony can be used if necessary. Making and receiving **telephone calls** is not permitted in the Club Room/Bar area but is OK on the landing and in reception area downstairs.

If you see someone in breach of any of our general guidelines on etiquette it is OK to point it out to them politely. Repeated breaches should be reported to the Committee via the suggestion box or email [retfordgolfcomms@gmail.com](mailto:retfordgolfcomms@gmail.com). Staff should not be expected to deal with such matters on the spot and are instructed to make similar referrals if they are aware of poor conduct.

## *Rules Quiz December/January*

So, what were the answers to the questions in the last Newsletter? Lots of head-scratching and frowns, so here are the correct answers. In several cases the questions have led to clarifications in our own Club rules.

- What is the purpose of the 4 blue stakes to the left of the 17<sup>th</sup> fairway?. If you need a clue, then read the local rules as printed on the back of the scorecard.

**A** This dropping zone intended to allow players to take a free drop if their ball is too close to the greenshed to play safely. It has been abolished in the new local rules

- What is the penalty under the Rules of Golf for using the short game practice area before a round?

**A** The short chipping area and nets are part of the course and should not have been used before a competition round. A new local rule removes that restriction.

- What should you do if your tee shot on the 16<sup>th</sup> strikes the 15<sup>th</sup> flagstick?

**A** A local rule required you to play the tee shot again, without penalty. This has now been removed as no longer relevant and you should now play the ball as it lies.

### **Local Rules**

A new set of Local Rules, designed to align fully with the latest Rules of Golf and updated to the latest situation on the course has now been approved by the Management Committee.

Some changes include

- Better definition of course boundaries, which will in future be mostly marked with white stakes.
- Inclusion of all roads and paths as immovable obstructions
- Provision for relief from embedded stones in closely mown areas.
- Creation of a drop zone behind 8<sup>th</sup> Green
- Clarification of temporary local rules including “preferred lies”.
- Definition of areas permitted for practice before and during a round.



The full version is posted on various notice boards around the Clubhouse and can be seen in full on the club website at <https://www.retfordgolfclub.co.uk/local-rules>. A summary will be printed on the next print run of scorecards.

### **Let Us Know**

We have further improved the ways members can communicate with the Committee about what’s happening in the Club. To repeat from previous Newsletters .....

- The *Suggestions Box* has been relocated to the reception area, 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 has been set up with a scrolling information display with various elements, including current month diary and notice of social events. Any ideas for further slides to add to this can be suggested to [retfordgolfcomms@gmail.com](mailto:retfordgolfcomms@gmail.com) or in the suggestion box.
- 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.
- The next full Management meeting will be on **27 March 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

Communication Group (on behalf of the Management Committee)