



## **Communications Group**

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

### ***April/May 2019 Newsletter***

***Dear Members***

***Welcome to the second Newsletter of 2019.***

***This Newsletter looks at progress on the course and the summer programme, the STRI March report, developments on the marketing of the Club and the wider aspects of events at the Club.***

#### ***Plans and progress on the Course***

***The March STRI is available on the website [www.retfordgolfclub.co.uk](http://www.retfordgolfclub.co.uk)***

***It provides a very positive summary of progress, given the penal impact of the summer drought of 2018.***

#### ***Work on the course***

- Golf courses need grass, and RGC is a prime example of that. After considerable research and discussion, we will be purchasing a Vredo grass seed dispenser, which very efficiently slits the ground, evenly sows seed and covers the slit again. As a major purchase, we shall be using a combination of the annual Capital funding, money raised by the Seniors and Juniors sections, and a John Deere loan. We think that members will appreciate the following explanation of this piece of machinery and the cost-benefit analysis that we think justifies this outlay.***
- We had a demonstration of the unit, and green staff were very impressed by the coverage and efficiency. It has a germination rate of***

*up to 93% and can be used for fairways, greens and tees on a year round basis when conditions permit. Because of the high germination rate, it uses far less seed, saving a substantial sum of money going forward. It is widely regarded as the best machine of its type currently available and has been bought by many clubs. We have been lent the demonstration machine for some days pending the delivery of our own in May. This has enabled us to overseed fairways 2, 8, 13, 14 (twice) 15 and 17. We now hope for rain and warm weather to see the best results.*

### *Spring Programme for course*

- *Copies of the work programme on the course are on club notice boards. Key points are:*
  1. *Continue to gain putting surfaces. This is the main priority as we will gain more and more growth. We will dress greens through April until greens are perfect.*
  2. *Continue work on fairways including over-seeding to repair last year's drought damage.*
  3. *Continue to rake up debris around the course.*
  4. *Course presentation.*
- *On Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April, in the late afternoon, we had a fire on the course in the woods to the left of the 8<sup>th</sup> fairway, probably started by young intruders. About 200 sq.metres were affected, with burning to a depth of about half a metre. 7 fire engines and 14 firefighters were needed to put out the fire. Sadly, this is the sort of incidental issue that may go unnoticed by members but take up time and worry for greens staff. This is the fifth such incident in the last 12 months requiring fire crews.*
- *Many thanks to the dozen or so members who turned up for the "divot morning". We managed, with the help of Carl's green staff before, during and after that stint, to complete the whole course. Divot bags have been put out for golfers to repair divots in the fairways.*

- *The worn and dry patches which have been a problem since last summer's scorching, have responded well to being roped off and seeded, especially on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> fairways.*
- *A plea, to all members and visitors: please keep all trolleys and buggies well away from fringes and surrounds of the greens. Some players are taking their trolleys/buggies too close to the greens.*
- *All greens have new flagsticks and cups, which enhance the consistency and appearance of the course. New rakes in bunkers, and consistent sand texture and depth, should also help that aspect of the course.*
- *The new bunkers on the 10<sup>th</sup> are now in full play, and look very good.*

## Wider Club Matters

### Matches

#### Inter-Club Friendlies

*Captain Dave Stirling and VC Alan Meacher thank players who have put their names forward for fixtures. Please contact Alan, via the Office, or on the notice-board, if you can play in future fixtures.*

*The Match against Doncaster on 16<sup>th</sup> April was lost 4/2.*

### Team results

*A positive feature recently has been the pleasing turn-out of supporters from the club, walking the course with the RGC teams. If you can support in this way, please check the calendar for dates.*

- *The Captain v Vice Captain match on 7<sup>th</sup> April was won by the Captain's team, and was followed by an excellent carvery meal in the Clubhouse.*
- *The Ladies Captain v Vice Captain on 2<sup>nd</sup> April was won by the VC team.*

### Competitions

- ***Seniors' matches*** against other Clubs are under way, most recently with an away draw against Ramsdale and a convincing home win against Carholme. More details are available on the website. See [Seniors Match Overview](#). Many thanks to Iain Fletcher, for organising those matches.
- ***The website diary now includes all mid-week medal competitions.***
- ***The draws for the internal Club knock-out competitions are now posted, with most first rounds to be completed by mid May. Please remember that it is the responsibility of all players to contact their opponents well in advance and fix a date. Contact details are not posted on the boards, but are available from the Pro's shop. Life-Style members are not eligible for internal Kos.***

### **General Play**

***In response to requests from members, the blue tees may now be used for general play. This should make it fairer for all players, to have the chance to prepare for competitions. This is for a trial period, and we'll review the wear and tear on the tees as the summer progresses.***

### **News from the Pro's Shop**

***Don't miss the "New for old" polo shirt offer which Craig is running for a limited period. All old polo shirts brought in will go to charity.***

### **Other Club matters**

- ***When you collect your membership bag sticker, the Office will supply you with a County Card, free of charge as part of your annual fees. The card enables you to play, at reduced rates, at other courses in and beyond our County. For more details, look on [www.nottsgolfunion.com](http://www.nottsgolfunion.com) website, under County Cards.***
- ***The marketing of the Clubhouse for functions, notably weddings and wakes, is proving popular and successful. You can see the marketing flyer that has been delivered to most homes in the district, by clicking on [www.retfordgolfclub.co.uk](http://www.retfordgolfclub.co.uk)***

- *For members who hire the Clubhouse for their own private function, we offer benefits, which you can follow up with the Office. Broadly, a party of over 40 people will mean a return to the member introducing the party, of 10% of bar profits, up to £50, which will be added to the member's bar card.*

### *Ladies' Section*

- *Ladies Locker Room Improvements*

*Meetings are arranged to finalise the work and contract for this project, but a starting date is likely to be in early September. Fund-raising continues, and the Easter Raffle raised over £400 towards the costs. Prize winners will be notified very soon.*

- *On **Friday 26 April** 24 teams from various clubs have entered the Ladies Open Spring Am-Am which will be held from approximately 8.50-1.40*
- *On **Wednesday 16th May** RGC are hosting the Notts County Vets Senior Ladies Spring Meeting - 9.15 to 1.30pm.*
- *The Inter Club Foursomes - 1st round to be played at RGC against Norwood Park on **Monday 20th May** 1.00 - 2.30 pm.*
- *The Taskers Trophy - Commiserations to the team who came up against stiff opposition from Kibworth Golf Club.*
- *The Annodata Cup - The team had a good win 3 & 2 against Sherwood. Many congratulations to those who took part. They are due to play Woodhall Spa @ Retford on **Saturday 11th May** @ 1pm*

### *And finally....*

*As always, if members have any concerns, ideas or proposals, please contact us so we can follow up with you.*

*From*

*Andy Massey, Dean Atherton, Barbara Burton*

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