



Communications Group

(On behalf of the Management Committee and Club Members)

February 2019 Newsletter

Dear Members

Welcome to the first Newsletter of 2019. Like last year, we look beyond a (so far) mild winter, and note that it's good that we are still playing on most of the greens, and on durable winter tees, (many of which have been repaired or relaid) and looking ahead to a year of enjoyable golf on an ever-improving course. This Newsletter highlights the progress of the winter programme on the course, and the plans for 2019.

Plans and progress on the Course

*The **Winter Programme** continues and is if anything ahead of schedule. The additional greens staff have helped to make a significant difference, and we thank all the greens staff for their work over the last few months.*

Some of the key areas tackled so far are:-

- All greens have been micro-tined, and sprayed to control disease.*
 - Badly worn tee areas, on 7th, 11th, 13th and 17th, have been selectively repaired and returfed.*
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- *The temporary 7th green has been completely returfed.*
 - *Fairway bunkers on the 10th have been reconfigured and turfing.*
 - *To protect the course at this, the harshest time of the year, we shall continue to rope off areas of some fairways – and we can see the benefits already, eg on the 15th and 14th fairways. We urge members to follow the instructions to tee up on fairways; we hope to remove this restriction as soon as possible, but it's in everyone's interest to be careful and supportive at present.*
 - *In the same vein, will buggy users please obey the buggy policy rules at all times? It is vital that buggy drivers keep to tracks or the semi-rough, and not drive up the middle of the fairways. Follow the 90 degrees rule, i.e. only cross the fairways at right-angles from the rough. Most buggy users follow these rules, but some golfers are ignoring them and damaging the fairways, and that will lead to a buggy ban if it continues.*
 - *The fairway bunker on the 7th has been redesigned and turfing as a long grass hollow.*
 - *All tree stumps have been ground down and soiled and turfing over.*
 - *Signage around the course is now upgraded to meet our obligations to clarify public footpaths and dangers.*
 - *The 11th bench has been repaired; sit and enjoy.*
 - *The extension of the buggy compound is well under*
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way, with removal of conifers and a hard-core base laid, ready for the walls and security features. The practice net will be re-instated once the compound is completed

The spring programme is also planned with the key targets as follows.

- *All servicing of summer machines to be completed*
- *Regular fertilising and moss treatment to the fairways*
- *8th and 14th fairways to be seeded in early March*
- *8th fairway to be verti-drained before seeding*
- *Continuation of the micro-tining aeration programme on the greens*
- *Debris to be raked from under trees*
- *Sprinkler heads to be made more visible by trimming grass around them*
- *STRI visit in mid-March to monitor progress and make recommendations*
- *Buggy shed extension to be completed by end of February, and practice net to be replaced*

Wider Club Matters

Competitions

- *The entry lists for the Club knock-out competitions are now available in the Pro's shop, and, when all the entries and payments are in, the draws will be made later in the spring.*
 - *New guidance will be issued to all members entering the*
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competitions. The key points are, with regard to deadlines to play matches

1-3 days extension – call the Professional shop

4-7 days extension – submit a request by e-mail or letter to Pro shop

<7 days extension – submit a request to Chair of Golf Committee

- *Players opting to play their matches on a Saturday will not have priority on the 1st tee, or anywhere else on the course.*
 - *All finals will be played between 7th and 15th September. No extension will be permitted. Course maintenance will be undertaken following the finals.*
 - *Please be sure to include your current phone contact details when you enter your name. We will not display phone numbers on the notice boards; it will be the responsibility of all competitors to get their opponents' contact numbers from the Pro's shop, and then to contact their opponent a.s.a.p. to arrange their matches.*
 - ***Seniors' matches** are now provisionally booked and are available on the website. See [Seniors Match Overview](#). Many thanks to Iain Fletcher for organising that again.*
 - ***Captain's Away Days**. Dave Stirling has arranged for a two-day event at Greetham Valley on Friday 14th and Saturday 15th June. Details and payment in the Pro's*
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shop.

- *The website diary now includes all mid-week medal competitions.*

Update on Practice Field Sale Project

The Working Group on this project continues to meet, and has also had meetings with land agents to make progress. There is no clear best option at present. There is currently an early interest in a large scheme based on a much larger area around the practice field, of which the practice field would make a small but valuable contribution and would involve other landowners.

There is also potentially interest in a smaller scheme based on just the practice field but this needs further investigation. Either way, it is unlikely that any clear-cut decisions will be made for the next year or so. Local developments are also affected by changes in planning targets for Bassetlaw. We will keep members informed of progress.

Management Meetings

Management meetings are planned for the rest of the year. The next one is on Tuesday 5th March . Members are invited to an open forum at the beginning of that meeting, between 6.00 and 6.30pm. This will provide an opportunity for members to raise any issues they wish with the Committee.

Marketing

- *As part of our drive to attract new members, about 30 new members have been recruited onto the new Lifestyle Membership package. Interest in this package has also been expressed by some existing members. There will be a cap on total numbers accepted onto this scheme, so it may require a draw of existing members who wish to be included.*
 - *We are seeing a healthy increase in the marketing of the catering side of the clubhouse for functions, especially wakes, and we are advertising in brochures to local funeral directors. This is an important element of our efforts to bring in additional revenue to Retford Golf Club, and to keep the catering side of the club viable. <https://www.retfordgolfclub.co.uk/funeral-receptions-and-wakes>*
 - *New arrangements have been made for Members choosing to pay their subs by monthly debits. A separate e-mail/Newsletter will be sent out later to members to explain the details*
 - *Centenary Year, 2020. We are looking for ideas, and volunteers to join a working group to plan for our big year. Craig Morris has arranged the first meeting of this group and is happy to receive any suggestions and support from members.*
 - *Comedy Night. Following the success of the Comedy Night last year, we are holding another event, on*
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Saturday 16th March. *Three acts – at least one finalist from “Britain’s Got Talent” – and pie and peas supper, all for £20. Book now for a brilliant evening.*

- **RGC Video.** *A very professional and attractive video of RGC and its features is now available. Please enjoy it and share it with family, friends and fellow golfers.*
https://youtu.be/_a_GPORRaqa

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

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