



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

## **Newsletter October/November 2022**

*Dear Members*

*The Biblical images continue, as summer drought gives way to, as I write, torrential rain - and yet another Prime Minister, and massive inflation!*

*It is relevant to our golf club. Some reflections, from the National Club Golfer magazine, are worth noting; about roping off as a means of helping the course recover, and raising fees, as a means of financial survival.*

*Plenty of activity, and positives, on and off the course, to report on, as we head into winter.*

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## **Course Update**

### **Winter Programme**

- Work on path ends, tees, green surrounds and bunkers will be priorities, as well as the irrigation system.
- There will be a 90 degree rule for buggies to take us through the winter. Buggy users are asked to keep to the rough, and only come onto the fairways at 90 degrees to where their ball lies, to minimise traffic on the fairways. (See details below).

- We hope to appoint an apprentice greenkeeper, to bring our green staff back up to six.

## Roping off

We are continuing to rope off vulnerable areas of the course, to help them recover from the summer drought and the traffic from everyday use. We acknowledge the frustrations of members at times, but the longer term survival and improvement of the grass is vital.

This is a national picture; Retford Golf Club is not alone, and we cannot be blind to the bigger picture.

Here is a short precis from National Club Golfer in September 2022.

*“Paul Woodham, Head of Agronomy at STRI, says there will be visible scars from the 2022 heat and drought on golf courses. There is a balance to be struck between protecting the courses, and public perception of water use in the drought. We water while the public suffer hosepipe restrictions.*

*However, we can be more aware by protecting those pinch-point areas, especially the approaches to the greens and under trees, by roping off areas not just in the drought but throughout the year. Similarly, we should consider keeping buggies to the rough as much as possible, all year round, not just in drought times.*

*There is a cost to doing this – restrictive movement, cost of seed and fertiliser, irrigation – but there is also a “failure cost”, of **not** taking action. The bad winters, and dry springs with slow growth of grass and low night temperatures, of the last few years, have contributed to our having to adopt the current emergency/responsible management mode”*

## Notice to 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 guidelines 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.
- 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,

## ***Golf Events and Results***

### **Senior Men's Am-Am September 2022 and Ladies' Am-Am October 2022**

These events continue to be very successful, as showcases for our course and Club, and money earners for our future. They rely on the efforts and support of many in the Club.

Behind the scenes, the organisation and smooth running of the events are driven by Craig and Ian in the Pro's Shop, Jess and Debs in Catering and Diane and Nicky in the Office.

The course gets massive praise, thanks to Carl and his team of Greens staff.

In the Halfway House for the two events, refreshments were by Sue Boyes, Marjorie Crookes, Pat Eccleshall, Cynthia Harrington, Janet Hancock and Angela Dyer, where £181.73 was raised for the Mens' Captain's Charity.

Many thanks to all those involved.

For the **Men's event**, Ray Wood organised another brilliant occasion, with help on registration and raffle from Howard Cooper and Dave Moore, and starters Mike Mahoney, Ted Eccleshall, Eric Basford and Allan Meacher, with Rex Riley checking scorecards. Over 160 players entered

For the **Ladies' Event**, Mary Saddington and her Committee performed the same roles.

For the **Men's event**, over 160 players entered.

Winners were from Radcliffe-On-Trent, runners-up from Styrrup Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> place was Brierley Forest, 4<sup>th</sup> place was Brierley Forest, 5<sup>th</sup> place Retford.

Nearest the Pin was won by M. Draycott (Alfreton).

Nearest the White Line (18<sup>th</sup> Fairway) D.Jones (Stocksbridge)

Results are posted on the Club website

A big thank you to our President Stuart Moore for his support and assistance.

For the **Ladies' Event**, 64 players entered. The winning team came from Dore, Toley and Tapton.

## Ladies' Captain v Vice Captain

Another happy and balanced outcome, with a draw as the overall result.

## Results of Matches

### Inter-Club matches

19/09/2022	Ladies Bronze League	Coxmoor	5	v	2	Retford
30/09/2022	Ladies Bronze League	Woollaton	5	v	2	Retford
29/09/2022	Ladies Friendly	Rufford	2	v	2	Retford
03/10/2022	Ladies Friendly	Gainsborough	2	v	2	Retford
15/08/2022	Ladies Silver League	Retford	4	v	3	Stanton
22/08/2022	Ladies Silver League	Mapperley	6	v	1	Retford
15/08/2022	Notts Scratch League	Mapperley	2	v	3	Retford
15/08/2022	Seniors	Worksop	3	v	3	Retford
24/08/2022	Seniors	Carrholme	5	v	1	Retford
01/09/2022	Seniors	Retford	4	v	3	Worksop
07/09/2022	Seniors	Retford	3	v	3	Thonock
22/09/2022	Seniors	Retford	3.5	v	2.5	Rufford
29/09/2022	Seniors	Retford	3	v	3	Town Moor
06/10/2022	Seniors	Retford	1	v	5	Doncaster
12/09/2022	Seniors Scratch	Retford	p	v	p	County Seniors

## Club Finals 2022

Congratulations to all who reached finals this season. Here are the winners of finals.

Stableford Final Winner

David Wilson

Mid Week Stableford Winner  
Mid Week Stableford Order of Merit Winner  
Saturday Stableford Winner  
Saturday Stableford Order of Merit Winner  
Hospital Cup Winner  
Coronation Cup Winners  
Harry Fitzakerley Trophy Winners  
Norman Cave Memorial Cup Winners  
Player of the Year Award (Order of Merit)  
D.Denton Eclectic Trophy Winner  
Notts Scratch Team Player of the Year

George Bell  
David Yau  
Fred Cheung  
Jason Crooks  
Richard Cream  
Paul Edwards & Dave Wilson  
Ted & Pat Ecclesall  
David Tingle and Neil Bugdol  
Ben Jackson  
Darren Williams  
Chris Wakefield

## **The President's Cup**

The President's final was played over 36 holes, on Saturday 22nd October, on a beautiful calm sunny day; perfect conditions, with the course recovering well after the recent greens regeneration work. The Finalists were last year's winner, Simon Young, and Tony Jackson.



They teed off at 08:30 for the first round, and after a keenly fought first 18 holes Simon ended one up. The afternoon round commenced at 13:30, and continued like the morning round, a very close, well fought match. After 35 holes of competitive golf the match was all square, so ALL TO PLAY FOR. Shot for shot Simon and Tony played the 36th, with Tony holing a magnificent 8 foot putt, to claim the match.

Well played to both finalists, for reaching the final and playing in such a competitive yet sporting manner.

## Men's Winter League 2022-23

The men's Sunday Winter League is well under way now. Match times are shown on the sheet in the Pro's Shop each week, whilst the format and results for each Competition are on the Club website. Go to <https://www.retfordgolfclub.co.uk/winterleague>



### **A Year in the career of our Playing Professional James Freeman**

James continues to spread the reputation of Retford Golf Club with great success. 2022 has seen him claim 10 professional tournament victories, come close to qualification for the Open at St Andrews and lastly secure a final qualifying place for the PGA Championship. Lots of information about his playing record is available on the PGA website at <https://pgagbi.bluegolf.com/bluegolf/pgagbi22/profile/jfreeman107/tresults.htm>

His 2022 season started back in March and continued through to October with a mixture of Pro-Am competitions, pairs and individual tournaments over 1-4 days. In between competitive golf he still finds time for fitness training, practise, coaching and junior group sessions, which makes him a very busy chap.

The Pro-Am events generally comprise a professional with a team of 3 with individual and team prizes. James often finds himself in demand by teams that he has played with before and he also takes teams of people he knows, including Retford Members. Most are at venues around the East Midlands such as Hollingwell, Radcliffe and Worksop, but he also travels further afield and played Bridlington this year.

The really serious golf gets played in the individual events where James has a great record this year. Highlights include numerous top 5 finishes. Tied 3rd in the Manchester Open was followed by 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Midland Open, then a win in the Midland English PGA at Sutton Coldfield.



In June he came so close at the final Open qualifying over 2 rounds at Hollingwell. His T7 finish only 2 shots from a place at St Andrews. About 100 people followed his progress as he worked hard to get to the top of the leaderboard recording the low score of the second round, 70 with a birdie birdie birdie finish.

Season completed with a T2 finish in the Midlands Professional championship over 3 holes at Sapey. His scores of 65-64 were -9

under par and he was absolutely thrilled to make the PGA Playoffs next year at PGA Catalunya in Spain, and the chance to qualify for Wentworth and some DP World Tour Events and Challenge Tour Events. This really was the highlight of this season and hopefully the icing on the cake.

James spends many hours on our practice field providing individual coaching to members and visitors and he is equally proud of their achievements. Owen Rafferty has got down to +0.2 and won our club championship, age just 14. Andrew Cooke has progressed from a handicap of 20 down to 0.1 and still comes back to James regularly for coaching. The regular Saturday junior groups cater for all ages and abilities and allows James to identify



when people are ready for more intensive work which often leads to progression into the County Juniors system.

He also hosted our second Junior Invitational event in August

He has had his first season as coach to the Yorkshire County Girls Intermediate Golf Squad alongside the team headed up by Lysa Jones of The Oaks GC in York.

Retford is rightly proud that James has us as his home club and wish him all the best for even more success in 2023. Well done James.

You can follow James on Facebook search for “James Freeman Professional Golfer”.

If you want to arrange coaching, and he is again offering customised winter packages, he can be contacted on

[jamesfreeman@sky.com](mailto:jamesfreeman@sky.com) 07704 016082

### *Club matters*

#### **Presentation Evenings**

**Men’s Club Competitions; Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November**

**Ladies’ Prize Giving; Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November, following the Ladies’ AGM**

**Senior Men’s Competitions; Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December**

#### **Club Annual General Meeting ; Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November**

#### **Ladies’ AGM ; 1.00pm Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November**

The Ladies’ AGM and prize giving will take place on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November at 1pm.

The meeting will vote in for 2023 the new Ladies’ Captain, Anna Avery, and Vice Captain, Ros Waterhouse. There are two committee members completing their tenure and the places are open to nominations. After the business of the meeting the cups and trophies will be presented to this year’s winners by Lady Captain.



## Getting Ladies into golf

The focus group had a meeting with several ladies on Saturday 22nd October. The coffee and cake provided by Debs was delicious and welcomed by all. An interesting discussion ensued and we were very much enlightened as to why ladies may not want to join golf clubs. We welcomed James's valuable contribution. The focus group are now working with these ideas with the aim that we will be able welcome more ladies into the club.

## Club Management

It is inevitable that we as a Club need to keep abreast of economic and financial issues – never more so than at the present time. Again, an article from National Club Golfer in October sets this in the national scene. Tim Brookes, Chief Executive of the Golf Club Managers' Association, warns that, nationally, rises in prices for energy, water and operational bills (wages, seed, fertiliser, servicing equipment etc) are at least doubled from last winter's levels. It is inevitable that membership fees will have to increase beyond "normal" levels, especially with the inflation rate above 10% now.

Another financial issue is the cash versus card economy. It is now more costly for the Club to deal with cash than card payments. Since every little bit helps, will members please use card payments rather than cash, and especially if topping up your bar card credit?

## *Let Us Know*

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

- The *Suggestions Box* is 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](mailto:retfordgolfcomms@gmail.com), or through the Suggestions Box in the Bar area. If

members have any golf related news items please let Mary Saddington know, via [retfordgolfcomms@gmail.com](mailto:retfordgolfcomms@gmail.com).

- The Club has now re-activated its Facebook Page, but lost all its former followers. Any member who used to follow that page needs to follow the new page “Retford Golf Club” for regular updates and information.
- The next full Management meeting will be on **13<sup>th</sup> December 2022, 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, Dean Atherton, Charles Cooke

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