

ROWLANDS CASTLE GOLF CLUB NEWSLETTER



NOVEMBER 2020



Rowlands Castle Golf Club Newsletter - November 2020

In this issue.....

GENERAL MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER	3
CAPTAIN'S REPORT	4
NEW LADIES CAPTAIN UPDATE	7
SENIORS CAPTAIN'S REPORT	9
JUNIOR REPORT	11
HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT	12

GENERAL MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER

By Shahin Bani-Sadr



FOUNDED 1902

Dear Members

I want to keep my section of the newsletter brief, as you hear enough from me and it's a great time to hear about all of the good stuff that has happened or happening at the golf club.

Though it was not a season like I would have wanted, we had some great days and it reminded me why I love this job! The highlights for me were Club Championship week and the Green Keepers Revenge. Both of these events gave a very 'normal' feel and COVID was almost a distant memory (apart from sticking to all of the rules!). It was awesome to see Tom lift the Club Championship Trophy again and fly the flag for the staff, unfortunately he couldn't achieve the same heroics in the GKR as we missed out by a shot... But I think his playing partners were more of the problem on that day...

As you will now have seen, the subscriptions have come out and this was one of the most difficult tasks I have been involved with since being in golf club management. Coming through the type of year we have and then having to increase the subscriptions was never going to be an easy task, but the survival of the golf club must always come first and I must thank many of you for your understanding and support with this decision.

2021 is probably going to be even more difficult than 2020, but we will enter it with smiles on our faces and fire in our bellies to get through it, as we know the good times will return!

I look forward to seeing you all soon, but if I do not get the pleasure, have a brilliant Christmas and a fantastic New Year.

Stay safe.

Shah

General Manager

CAPTAIN'S REPORT

By Steve Doel

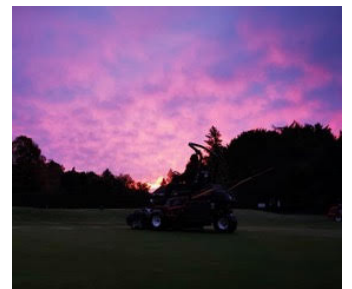


Nearly Business As Usual

It is several months since the last RCGC Newsletter and a great deal has happened at the club both in terms of golf and progress towards a comprehensive service in the Clubhouse. Of course, the most recent lock down has paused what was becoming a positive journey back to normality.

Despite the most recent pause, the question perhaps in these changed times is how do we measure success? Since we came out of lockdown and were able to run golf without restrictions the club has managed to run a full programme of competitive golf. To see the course full day in day out with members practising, playing socially or in competition and then enjoying food and drink after a golf is truly success.

The Ladies and Seniors have been running their trophy competitions making the most of the fading days of Autumn. I am confident the Course, with the help of our excellent green keeping team will stand up until the end of the year. The Men's golfing season was meant to run until Quaffers on the 28th November, however that has now been put on hold. Having a full formal Quaffers presentation night seems unlikely, but we will keep our options open. It could just be a very small affair with the winners and perhaps partners attending the club. A drink from the Captain might encourage one or two to brave some winter weather to collect a piece of Silverware. We need to wait and see what will be allowed.



The Ladies, Seniors, Mixed and Men's match fixtures have been a casualty but the diary for next year is currently being built and all the usual matches are pencilled in for 2021.

For me there have been three very successful events despite the constraints placed upon us. The Captain's weekend, The Club Championships week and the Green Keepers Revenge days that replaced the ProAm.

The Captain's Charity Weekend

The weekend was very well supported, the entry fees and individual donations boosted support to my chosen charity the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance to the tune of £1009.50. Brian Chappell with an excellent 41 points took the Captains Charity Shield. The mixed competition on the Sunday, won by the new pairing of Andy Berks and Catherine Hargaden, meant the two events gave me a great opportunity to see so many members over the weekend. The gratitude shown and the charitable contributions given by players made the challenge of not being able to play golf myself and putting together over 300 doggy bags worthwhile.

CAPTAIN'S REPORT (continued)

By Steve Doel

The Club Championship

All Club Championships took place over days 10 in August, I will leave reports on the Ladies, Seniors and Juniors successful competitions to their respective Captains.

This year's Men's Club Championship was played over two days, with the top 24 and ties from the Saturday going through to the second round on the Sunday. Darren Wright led by one shot from Tom Robson at the end of the first days play in this pinnacle event. Dan Chambers a very keen new member was in third place and having played off a handicap of 5 had already bagged the handicap trophy before heading into the final round of the scratch competition.



The weather and course played their part, excellent greens and fine conditions ensured a good turn out to spectate on the Sunday. The trophy was hotly contested throughout but some excellent play from Tom Robson saw him retain the Club Championship by 4 clear shots from Darren Wright, with Dan Chambers achieving a creditable third place in his first full season at Rowland Castle GC. Well done Tom.

Green Keepers Revenge

The cancellation of the ProAm was a disappointment but I was determined to offer those that could make a midweek event something to tide us over until next May. The hope this year was that the ProAM would be a celebration of Peter Klepazc's 40 years as a golfing professional. Unfortunately, Peter, it will have to be 41 years. The aim is to see a return of a traditional ProAm in 2021.



Despite this we managed two days of golf with over 300 members taking part. The results were posted recently but unlike other golfing days these revenge events always seem to put a smile on all players faces. Team events tend to do this, you play together, win together or miss 16 putts together. I think it is fair to say Kevin, our Head Green Keeper, enjoyed setting some tricky pins. It was good to see the team of Shah, Tom, Harvey and of course Kevin playing with us all in this and suffering the same frustrations. A great couple of days that saw further significant contributions to my charity.



CAPTAIN'S REPORT (continued)

By Steve Doel

A special thanks go to Janet, my wife who in fit of madness agreed to play 4 rounds in day for sponsorship money. The current Captain of the Ladies Louise with Kevin, the Head Green Keeper, were there to see Janet tee off at 5.30am – I managed the first round in this trek on what was a cool and quite



windy June day. 15 hours and 72 holes later she putted out on the 18th to a small socially distanced group of supporters. Janet was supported by Diana Littler, Jane Laundon and Janine Catterall each doing 18 holes with her. This challenge raised another huge chunk of money for my charity.



But the giving goes on and I remain immensely proud of the generosity of members and staff at RCGC, Tom Robson donating his Club Championship prize of a Porsche Driving experience, the October Green Keepers Revenge Draw and the Blind Bids for 4 ball rounds at North Hants and Frilford Heath Golf Clubs have truly boosted the support to the important charitable service that the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance provides. The most recent support coming from Billy Mackenzie who is accepted a blind bid to play with him a ProAm at Corhampton this month. This will further boast the growing pot.

We all know that there remain challenges ahead in managing the club through this continuing crisis. To date with the full support of the Management Committee, the General Manager, Shah, the Green Keeping team and the Clubhouse staff have met the challenges head-on. They have provided an excellent service to members whether on the course or upstairs in the bar.

There remains the realistic possibility of further constraints on what we do in society as we move further into winter. Our hope is that after this most recent 'lockdown' any further constraint will not affect golf or the current service we provide in the Clubhouse. We can only work within and continue to follow and abide by the Covid 19 guidance. Whether booking and playing golf and enjoying a drink or two after playing we need to keep everyone safe.

Finally some may have noticed that since we returned to golf I have put myself on the booking or start sheet on a Saturday at either 1000am or Midday and also around 1.00pm on Wednesdays – I do this purely to meet and play with members new or longstanding that I might not usually play with. So, if you fancy sharing the frustrations of an up and down golfing performance, I would be pleased to play with you.

Steve Doel
Club Captain 2020



<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Steven-Doel>

NEW LADIES CAPTAIN UPDATE

By Louise FitzRoy-Stone



November 2020



2020 will certainly go down in history as a strange and difficult year; an unprecedented time, when a 'new normal' way of life emerged, disconnected from any spontaneity. After all large events and gatherings were banned, online meetings, booking systems and the Rule of 6 transformed the way we lived and socialised. Life at RCGC changed immeasurably, but with a gallant effort from the Management, Pro shop, Groundsmen and Caterers, golf kept going! Many thanks to everyone who has been involved in keeping the club safe for us all.

As Bobby Jones once said, "Golf is the closest game to the game we call life. You get bad breaks from good shots and you get good breaks from bad shots, but you have to play the ball as it lies." I think this is probably going to be the case for my future year as Ladies Captain! Covid-19 has knocked us into the rough, with no easy way to the green. Unfortunately, when we first went into lockdown, it was as if we had hit completely out of bounds and I'm sorry part of Christine Richardson's Lady Captain's year was spoilt by this. Thankfully, we were set free for what turned out to be a gorgeous spring and early summer and she saw a large number of ladies turn out for her Lady Captain's Day at the end of July. It couldn't have been a nicer, sunnier occasion and I'd like to thank Christine, on behalf of us all, for everything she has done for us during her Ladies Captain's year.

After playing the AGM Cup on Wednesday 14th October, our handover took place in the lounge, with a supportive crowd of ladies enjoying a socially distanced drink and raffle! On accepting the badge of honour,



I feel reassured to have a fantastic committee behind me. Susan Mundy, Chris Link, Sandra Healy, Fiona Dinnis, Di Pickford and Paula Williams are continuing to serve, with Ange Goater and Jayne Laundon joining for their first year. I am also delighted to welcome Diana Littler on board as my Vice-Captain.

I have chosen to support the Rowans Hospice as my charity, knowing that many of you already have personal reason to feel generous to their cause. All charities have endured a disastrous year in fund-raising. It has been impossible for them to organise their regular, social events, and I believe smaller, local concerns have been

particularly hard hit, suffering proportionately higher losses of revenue than national ones. It has also been a year when the NHS and other medical, nursing and care institutions have shown their true worth and immense value to us all. Hopefully, we can go some way to assisting in their efforts to continue providing a wonderful care service to residents of Rowlands Castle, Havant and surrounding areas.

Celia Lynch has agreed to take on the challenge of the monthly newsletter. Her first edition was circulated a couple of weeks ago and it was a stunning effort, full of all our latest news and competition results. I hope other ladies enjoyed reading it as much as I did. She reported on a very enjoyable Past Captains Lunch, kindly organised by Sue Slight on Thursday 22nd October, which involved 17 ladies dating back to Dawn Spencer's year in 1974. Pat Meech was the winner of the golf played beforehand, with Shelia Russell in second place.



NEW LADIES CAPTAIN UPDATE (continued)



RCGC hosted the Hampshire Ladies' Hull Shield on an extremely wet and windy autumnal day. Diana Littler and Jane Laudon flew the Rowlands flag at the front of the field and came 8th out of 40 teams, which was an excellent result considering the horrendously tough conditions they endured. Later tee times were luckier and benefited from the opportunity to dry out!

Until the second lockdown started, we enjoyed a good run of competitive golf, getting through the majority of our important, boarded trophy events. The winners of all our weekly competitions have been congratulated in the recent newsletter, but one lady deserving a particular mention is Shona Winslow, for her wonderful Hole in One on the 14th in the club's Greenkeeper's Revenge. I hope it wasn't too expensive for her!



It would be amiss of me not to mention the Ladies Club Championships that took place earlier in the summer. Sixteen players competed for the Hargreaves Trophy, contested over 36 holes in the same day, which always proves a fitting challenge both physically and mentally. Debbie Tapply is congratulated on becoming our 2020 champion, with Lisa Mitchelmore and Jan Ostrom in 2nd and 3rd places for the gross prizes. Shirley Stanton, Sheila Russell and Chris Bodey were the top placed contenders for the Hargreaves Handicap Salver and Chris Link won the inaugural Silver Salver (18 holes Medal) with Linda Fitton in second place. On the same day, Celia Lynch became the overall winner of the Bronze Championships, after playing her second Stableford round on a much sunnier and drier day than the first.

With competitive golf in mind, I am sure we would all like to see our representative teams enjoying a more active and successful season in 2021, to make up for the one they have lost this year. I am delighted that Chris Bodey is going to continue captaining the Stoneham Squad and Di Pickford is now taking on the Hayling Trophy team. Debbie Tapply will continue to lead the North Hants Trophy team, Yvonne de Mellow will organise the Annodata, whilst Janet Doel and Shirley Stanton have kindly agreed to captain the Knight Cup and Legg Bowl teams respectively. I feel privileged to gain all these captains' support and wish them the very best of luck for a happy and successful season ahead.

Finally, I'd like to mention that our new Hampshire county delegate is Jane Holland. Clare Jury is finally stepping down after many dedicated years of service, for which we are all extremely grateful. Clare leaves large shoes to fill, but we have an excellent candidate in Jane, who is looking forward to growing into the role.

As I write this, we are in the middle of the Government's second lockdown, with no idea about how we will emerge to play normal golf and enjoy a decent Christmas. As Brian Solis states, "Community is much more than belonging to something; it's about doing something together that makes belonging matter." I have seen first-hand how hard our Club Captain, Manager, Management, Course and House Committees are working to ensure we get the best out of our club and I have no doubt they will do everything possible over the coming weeks to keep the course in good shape and safe for our return.

I also hope we can enjoy a few festive drinks in the bar soon!

Louise FitzRoy-Stone
Ladies Captain



SENIORS CAPTAIN'S REPORT

By Tom Goodale

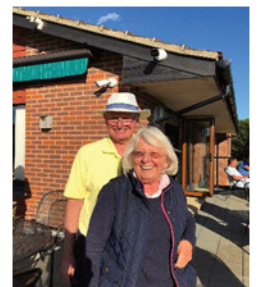


And summer's lease hath all too short a date

Well I am sure we would all agree that this summer lease, with the Covid-19 virus- this summer's lease, was not too short a date as Shakespeare suggested. However, thanks to Phil Sparshatt, some of our competitions were rescued from the competition wreckage.

This signalled in my Captain's day which was a great success thanks to all the seniors who entered, with record entries of 98. Laon Hulme won the stableford with a very respectable 41points, just in front of Ray Ruzewicz 40 points, followed by Clive Bird 37points (cb) with many snapping at his heels.

After much discussion the bar was opened on my Captain's day and that too proved to be a worthwhile venture, and from the picture one can readily see why. This picture of my wife and I, taken by our newsletter editor Keith Young very cleverly hides the large beer stain on my tee-shirt, the result of a small collision in the bar. Thank you, Keith you have the job next year.



This year's Seniors Championship was won by Steve Lapage and other notable successes were, Bowers Cup James Stewart, Centenary Trophy Mark McGinn, Challenge Cup Alan Wells. Congratulations to you all and all the winners of our 9-hole competitions.

The annual trip to Dorset Golf Resort enjoyed by 21 of us, was as usual much fun. The stableford competition on the first day was won by Steve Lapage reprising last year's performance - well done Steve. A stableford team event was held on the following day, the victors were Chris Jenkins, Mark McGinn, David Frost and Matt Murphy, and to think this was the result of much merriment the night before.

SENIORS CAPTAIN'S REPORT (continued)

This year for the first time, we ran a Porsche 2020 competition over 4 weeks, where the combined best 3 scores, count out of 4. The trophy below was so generously given by our club Captain Steve Doel -thank you Steve for all your support that you have so generously given to the Senior Section. Ian Barrowcliffe won this trophy with a very respectable 110 stableford points, well done Ian.

It is indeed an ill wind that does not blow someone some good, because this year I am sure for the first time, the Seniors have won all their inter-club matches, albeit only one against Corhampton. However we did have a bit of a scare one of our members showed symptoms of covid 3 days after the match. We did take precautions by issuing tissues and sanitizer, and no further cases were reported.

Lockdown has now descended on us once again and the end of my captaincy is finishing the way it started, but, I am alive and perhaps this is a good time to remember those members who have been struck down with this terrible virus and wish them all a speedy recovery. So it just remains to quote the last line Hamlet uttered into the air "and the rest is silence". However, we can all look forward to next year with the knowledge a effective vaccine is now a reality .STAY SAFE.

Tom Goodale



JUNIOR REPORT

By David Sawford



The Juniors section has been active and successful since the return to golf in the Summer...

OLIVER ROGERS



Oliver Rogers with the
Peter Alliss Trophy

Congratulations to 14 year old Oliver Rogers on winning two prestigious trophies. In August, Oliver won the RCGC Junior Club Championship with a gross 157 (82+75), thereby winning the Salter Trophy. Then in October, Oliver won the Peter Alliss Young Masters Trophy at Ferndown Golf Club, beating top juniors from all parts of Dorset.

LUCA ALONSO

13 year old Luca has also enjoyed an excellent summer. In July he won the county under 13 championship with a gross 83 at Sherfield Oaks GC. The following month he won the Bowers Trophy (RCGC junior handicap championship) with 135 net (66+69). Recently Luca has been appointed as Captain of the Hampshire under 14's team for 2021. Well done Luca!

WILL DOYLE

Our thanks go to Will Doyle who is nearing the end of his two-year stint as Juniors Captain. In this time Will has always supported all junior activities and competitions, setting an excellent example to all junior members.

TROPHY WINNERS

Three trophies have been won in internal junior events recently:

- Harvey Trophy (20 Sept): Will Doyle 73 net
- Autumn Cup (18 Oct): Jayden Cole 35 points
- Zimmer Trophy (30 Oct): Will Doyle 76 net

INTER-CLUB MATCH

A seven-strong junior team played an away match against Meon Valley juniors in August. This was the only inter-club match of the year, played on one of the hottest days of Summer. The match result was a narrow defeat for our juniors.

JUNIORS SECTION AGM

This year's Annual General Meeting is scheduled to take place on the afternoon of on Tuesday 29 December, with social distancing, preceded by the Pompey Cup teeing off at 9.30am.

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

By Carol Taylor



Since the last newsletter much has changed.

The Club successfully planned and managed the return to golf. To compliment this, albeit a little later, we were able to re-open the Clubhouse and the bar and catering operation and it was imperative that the Clubhouse was as COVID secure as possible for staff, members and visitors alike. The measures introduced have been comprehensive and detailed – all in compliance with the Government's guidelines and if you ventured up to the bar you would have seen the many efforts and processes that have been put into place to facilitate this and to ensure safety for all as far as is possible.

The House staff has worked very hard since re-opening to maintain the integrity of the Clubhouse ensuring a safe environment for us all. It was decided to progress with the re-opening as a phased approach taking a number of factors into account. It was important to keep our staff safe and to this end the bar and catering team were split into two teams of three to ensure they never worked together to ensure that we would not lose the whole team if someone was to become ill or show symptoms.



One team opened up initially just the bar with limited opening hours. As time progressed, we were able to open the bar on a full time basis welcoming back all the bar staff still split into two teams and, in addition, a limited food offering was also available.

The next phase was the reopening of the kitchen on limited days where we able to bring back the kitchen staff. Special Friday food nights (including a take away service) were introduced as were Sunday lunches and a revised day menu - all of which were very well received by the members

Needless to say, navigating the Club through the difficult times so far has entailed the General Manager and the House Manager making critical decisions, supported by the House Committee and the Management Committee, to provide a service to members in the best manner possible under the circumstances. It has been heartening to see thus far how many members have been very supportive of their Club.

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT (continued)

The second lockdown at the beginning of November came as a shock for us all. The course was closed as was the Clubhouse. As a result of this, the entire bar and catering staff have been put back onto Furlough. However, as is usual at Rowlands Castle Golf Club, we are ever optimistic and hopeful that the Clubhouse will re-open soon. Kevin Creese and the team have already published the menus outlining the December Supper Nights.



Going forward, and, rest assured, as for the first lockdown, the Club will be rigorous and meticulous once we get the green light for re-opening to ensure your safety. When we do re-open the House team will be there to welcome you back. They are all really keen to get back to work at the Club as soon as possible.

The House Committee will continue to support the Club Captain, the General Manager and the House Manager in whichever way possible through these continuing uncertain times.

If you have questions or concerns on any House issues please feel free to contact me – my email address is taylor396@btinternet.com.

Carol Taylor

Chair of House



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