



Clandon Regis Golf Club

Captains' Newsletter - Spring 2020

Latest News

We hope that this newsletter finds you and your families in good health. We are in extraordinary times and the speed with which we found ourselves in this unprecedented situation is incredible. We all have new priorities, whether it be adapting to isolation, impact on work and income, shopping for food, looking after relatives or home schooling. We have great admiration for those who are working to tackle the virus, those who have volunteered to support and, in particular, those is the NHS who are facing, head-on, this disease and its knock on effects.

You will have received Alan Jenkins' Chairman's letter describing the temporary closure of the club in line with government guidelines. We would like to thank everyone, players, club employees and the Board for the support in the days preceding this announcement as we adapted to golf under social distancing guidelines.

Alan describes the steps taken to control costs during the temporary club shutdown and how to maintain the course so that we can return, whenever that may be, to a club that gives us as much pleasure as it always has done. These cost controls have, despite the government's financial support, led to the club employees taking a reduction of wages during this time. We recognise that these same challenges impact many members, but ask wherever possible that Alan's request for early payment of subscriptions be supported to allow the club to pass successfully through these headwinds. Remember you can pay your subs by credit card over the phone. Elaine is in the office every morning and is waiting for your calls!

What this will mean for our summer programme of golf is uncertain. It is clear that many of the events will not be able to be rescheduled, so will not be held in 2020. All tournaments have been put on hold, externally and internally. We will look at options as the situation progresses, rescheduling where possible and ensuring alignment with the government's guidelines at that time. The section committees will continue to stay in touch and meet albeit through web based conferencing facilities rather than face to face.

We wanted to recognise in our newsletter the golf that has taken place since our last issue – it continued to rain! According to media reports February 2020 was the wettest February on record in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Nevertheless, our course was open almost every day. The course is in remarkable condition considering the weather. Well done to Darren and his team, and to previous greens committees who instituted drainage work for which we are all very grateful.

Our charity is Horsley and Bookham Riding for the Disabled, a local charity based in Bookham which does fantastic work for disabled young people. We recently held a silent auction for the charity, which raised £215. The annual Captains' Charity bridge afternoon on 29 November raised £1025. Many thanks to all those who helped – especially Jane and Susie Forbes who did a wonderful job selling raffle tickets. There were 23 tables, a great turnout. Thank you also to all who played.

Subject to the current cessation of golf, the new World Handicapping System is due to come into effect in November. Our handicap secretaries are well up to speed on the new system. They have attended courses on how it will work. We have been asked to remind all members that your "handicap index" will be calculated in November and will be based on the average of the best eight of your last twenty qualifiers. This will include rounds in previous years if necessary. Our handicap secretaries will be giving more detail later in the year about how it will all work. We will keep you updated as we know more.



The Course

15th Fairway:

Spring has sprung in more ways than one. Those of you who played the course in the days before it was closed will have experienced an unusual occurrence. The lakes on the right of the 12th tee and the by the 14th green are full. Water is running in the swale in front of the 15th tees, and water is running down part of the 15th fairway. It looks as if a spring has sprung up somewhere in the area of the lakes. As the weather dries, the spring should dry up.

Approach to the eighth

Those brave enough to face the elements will no doubt have had a look at the work in front of the eighth green.

The area in front of the eighth green has been GUR since September last year, and had been very wet for some time before that. Water was being trapped in front of the green, and a solution had to be found. The club obtained quotations to carry out drainage work in front of the green by outside contractors but these were prohibitively expensive. After much discussion, Darren Wales, our head greenkeeper, drafted a proposal for a ditch with a bridge to the green to make the approach look more attractive than just a plain ditch, and to reduce the size of the bunker in front of the green. All sections (Ladies', Men's, and Seniors') were consulted, and so was our head professional Steve Lloyd. The proposals were finalised, and work is being done by Darren

Course Continued ...

were consulted, and so was our head professional Steve Lloyd. The proposals were finalised, and work is being done by Darren and his team, some of it in winter monsoon conditions, using equipment already at the club. The only external cost was raw materials. This has saved the club thousands of pounds in payments to outside contractors.



The ditch will be a “penalty area”, marked by posts. Members will not be permitted to play out of the ditch itself. Ball retrievers will be provided. Please look after them!

As part of the improvements to the hole, the self-seeded bushes at the back of the hole will be removed and the ditch at the back of the hole will be a “penalty area” marked by red posts. The boundary of the course (and therefore out of bounds) will be at the far side of that ditch. The slope into that ditch is steep, and members should not attempt to go in to the ditch to retrieve their balls. Some of the trees and bushes to the left side of the approach to the green have been cut back, which opens up the green a little and allows more sunlight to the grass near the green.

A big thank you to Darren and his team for all their work on this project. We hope that you agree that the green and its approach are fantastic and work should be completed shortly.

Open Day

The club was due to hold another Open Day on 20th March. The purpose was to try to recruit new members. In view of the restrictions in place at the time, the club felt that it could not be seen to be inviting about 40 people to the club to take part in an event. Paul Napier phoned all the people who had signed up for the Open Day and offered them the chance to play the course with a member. A number of those who had signed up asked for brochures, and some of them even came down to the club to play a round. Paul will keep in touch with them.

Event News

Social Events Unfortunately, these have had to be cancelled. Social events will resume when the clubhouse can be re-opened.

Mixed Events Since our Autumn newsletter there have been three mixed events, the Turkey Trot on 7th December and the Cross Country on 28 December, and a mixed Rye Foursomes on 22nd February. The Turkey Trot was won by Ody Costa and Keith Britton. The Cross Country was run over a new layout, which was well received. Over 70 members took part. The winners were Claire Charlier and Richard McGuire.

The mixed Rye foursomes was won by Joanne Burke and Dave Osborne. Congratulations to them.

We will resume mixed events when the course re-opens.



Cross Country Winners

Ladies Section

Because the weather has been so bad we have had very few qualifiers since our last newsletter – only 10th December and then 17th March – so we were looking forward to a drier spring! Despite the weather the turnout for both Tuesday and weekend competitions when the course has been open has been amazing. Playing off the blue tees more often has encouraged a lot of ladies to take part who might otherwise have been put off. We are thinking about having more Tuesday competitions with blue and red tee competitions running in parallel next winter to include everyone. Many ladies have come to the clubhouse for coffee and lunch on Tuesdays even if they are not playing. We look forward to being able to see our friends again at the club before too long.

Surrey-wide competitions

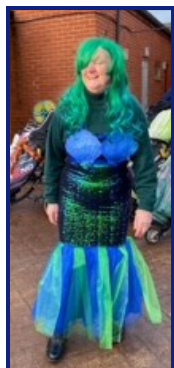
The ladies' Pearson team had a stunning win away on 30th January against Dulwich and Sydenham in their final group match to qualify for the knock-out stages. The first leg of the knockout round against Surbiton was due to be played on Thursday 26th March with the return fixture on 9th April. We are very lucky to have such a large and talented – not to mention enthusiastic – squad, captained by Claire Charlier. It looks as if Surrey Ladies Golf will cancel the competition for this year.

The Wallis trophy was introduced in Surrey last year to provide a knockout competition at bronze level – 21-36 handicaps – to mirror the Pearson trophy. Clandon was drawn against Puttenham but the matches were cancelled. The team was captained by Gillian Allen.

Ladies Section Continued ...

Christmas

Our main December event was the Turkey Chase. 66 intrepid golfers turned out for a fun team competition, with 13 additional ladies joining us for a delicious Christmas lunch. After prize giving, we had our traditional rousing rendition of the Twelve Days of Christmas, conducted as always by Madeleine Rye.



The prize winners were:

- 1st: Teresa Britton, Anne Sutton and Jan Waite
- 2nd Romaine Smalley, Margaret Waghorn and Sue Karlsen
- 3rd Julie Risley, Gloria Smith and Linda Wickens
- 4th Fiona Summerfield, Carol Viney and Julia Woodley

Alex judged the fancy dress competition. Sue Lindsay won with an amazing mermaid costume which she managed to wear for the whole round. A worthy winner.

Not to be outdone, the weekend ladies played 9 holes before sitting down to a lunch and Secret Santa, serenaded by the Barbershop Group of singers who were having their own Christmas party at the club.



Handicaps

The annual handicap review resulted in a lot of changes, both increases and decreases, in anticipation of the new World Handicapping System which will be introduced in November. 7 handicap reductions and 20 increases were approved. Thanks to the committee for their hard work on this: Joanne, Anne Davies, Claire, Lesley and Anne Mitchell.

In January the committee had a long hard look at the eligibility criteria for entry to club knockout and trophy competitions to make sure they were consistent and in keeping with the range of handicaps now available. What we ended up with, after comments from some members had been taken into account, is a clear statement. This can be found in the files in the locker room.

Friendly matches

We don't know how many, if any, of these matches will be played.

Dates for the first matches currently are:

- 30th April Burhill away (25-36 handicaps only) - now cancelled
- 2nd May Chobham home
- 7th May Surbiton home
- 14th May The Drift away
- 18th May Guildford home
- 1st June Roehampton home

Forthcoming events

We don't know how many events we will be able to hold this year. Please keep an eye on your emails and we will publish details as soon as we can.

Seniors Section

Despite the weather there have been very good numbers at our Monday competitions.

The Winter Blues competition was played over three rounds, sometimes in atrocious conditions. This is a very popular competition which gives a very different perspective of the golf course, as compared with yellow or white competitions. It is played over three weeks, with the best two scores counting. The winner was Martin Elbourne with an amazing 93 points, who just beat Geoff Seabrook by one point. Chris Stone was 3rd, and a new member, Dave Edwards came a very close 4th. It was a keenly contested competition, well done to all who braved the conditions.

Malcolm Handyside has captained our 3 Counties Seniors Winter League team. This is a league played between CRGC and eight other teams. Our team finished second in the league. This is the first year that we have entered this competition, and finishing second is a great result. The team's most recent victory was against Horsham, the team winning by 18 holes. The team has only lost 4 matches out of 32 pairs matches, which is a tremendous achievement. Gatton Manor has won the league. It is worth pointing out that with a scoring system that gave 3 points for a win, and one for a draw, we would have won the league.

We do not know when we will be able to resume playing. As soon as normal golf can be resumed we will publish information about competitions for the remaining months of the season. Please read emails from the club!

Men's Section

The men's section would like to add our thanks to Darren and his team for their tremendous work in keeping the course open on nearly every day during the winter.

We decided to have only one qualifier per month during the winter months, which is probably just as well given the weather.



The weekend team events had good numbers and the adoption of relief 'Through the Green' was well accepted.

The Christmas Cheer was very well attended, with a full field and was a most enjoyable event. It was won (the golf, that is) by Peter Young. The prize for the best dressed member was won easily by Malcolm Handyside wearing his distinctive black & white striped suit.

As for the Ladies and Seniors, we will publish more information about competitions when we know when we can resume normal golf.

Even though the future of these events is uncertain, I wanted to recognise those that have agreed to captain the club teams for 2020. Being a captain is a big commitment to organise the matches. The team captains for this year are:

Surrey 5s A: Ronnie Epstein

Surrey 5s B: Kris Steadman

Surrey Scratch: Ed Keep

Southern Counties Southern Scratch League: Ed Keep.

Tigers: Peter Chuter

Rabbits: Richard Hughes

Waffrons: John Fitzpatrick

Men's Friendlies: Jeff Thomas and Bruce Hobson.

Let's hope they get the chance to show off their captaincy skills!

We would like to say a very big thank you to Malcolm Hinkly and Ian Allen for all their sterling work in captaining the Rabbits and the Friendlies over the years.

Jeff has secured new friendly matches for this year, and is looking to expand the number of clubs to play in friendly matches, if it is possible to play friendlies. We will press on with this initiative for next year even if we can only play a few friendlies this year.

Just for Fun

Do you recognise these holes?

The green keeping staff are doing a great job on the course. Many thanks to them.



We wish all members and their families a happy and healthy spring, and look forward to seeing you all at the club when the course re-opens.

Julie Risley and Richard Harris