

RICHMOND PARK GOLF CLUB



ANNUAL REPORT - 2012

2012 started with a mixture of anticipation and apprehension. This had nothing to do with golf. We were all eager to hear the news of the celebrations that would be held for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, and there was also a sense of apprehension concerning our ability to host the Olympics without making a complete hash of everything. In the final analysis the events were arranged with excellent preparation and precision and we all had the satisfaction of knowing that for both it was a case of 'job well done'.

Whilst the world had a snapshot of the UK for a few weeks in the year and everything looked fine and dandy we all know that this was far from reality for a large proportion of the year. A quick scan of the 2012 competition reports reminds us that we started the year with near drought conditions. The courses were closed for two consecutive weeks in February because of snow. The hosepipe ban started in March. In April it started to rain with a vengeance and we lost a Sunday. In May we were still encountering full winter conditions. In July we lost another Sunday to give way to the Olympic bike race and just when the rain abated we had to make way for the September duathlon. It didn't take long for the miserable weather to return and we lost another Sunday to rain in early November. If 2012 seems rather disjointed it is not unduly surprising given that the proportion of unplayable Sundays exceeded 10%.

At the close of 2011 the prognosis for the golf industry for 2012 was very positive. The weather at the beginning of 2012 soon put paid to any initial optimism. The foul spring weather deterred all but the hardy from venturing into golf and later in the year just about everyone was captivated by all the sports activity spread around the country. It is no secret that the impact of austerity measures has filtered through to leisure pursuits and the golf press has highlighted the overall drop in club membership numbers. For the majority of clubs the membership shrinkage has been in the region of 5% to 10% and finances have been stretched to the point of failure. Against this backdrop the good news is that RPGC has managed to hold its station very well. The Club's membership number for 2012 is down on 2011 by a small number but this does not give any major cause for concern, and the Club's finances remain in good shape.

For 2012 it is estimated that the membership participation in events at the Park was in the order of 8% less than 2011. This is not welcome news but it is clear that 2012 was an exceptional year with a mixture of rubbish weather and a full array of very appealing alternative Sunday options. Some would contend that a drop in activity of 8% is not such a bad number given the nature of the impediments thrown at us in 2012.

Of course, this summary of 2012 will not be complete without a mention of the 'Glendale effect'. It was in 1986 that Gilbert Lloyd first proposed to the Department of the Environment the construction of a clubhouse in the vicinity of Chohole Gate. This proposal was made at the time when golf was in the ascendancy and cash was passing across the counter faster than the guys could count it. A mere 26 years later the original vision started to become something of a reality when work commenced on the development, but the current plans are

some way short of the original proposal for a major 'quality enhancement' for the full golf complex. It seems pretty clear that the changes at the Park during 2012 have had a detrimental effect on the appetite of a significant number of golfers to play regularly and this has no doubt had a corresponding influence on the desire of prospective members to join our Club. Unfortunately, the mayhem caused by Glendale and the mistiming of the development work will continue to present the Club with a series of unwanted challenges through 2013 and into 2014. However, on a positive note the Club has just rolled forward into its 89th year and it has come through from far more serious difficulties in previous years so a period of disruption is just another annoyance that we will have to take in our stride.

Dinner-Dance and Annual Prize-giving

In 2012 we held the annual Dinner-Dance and Prize-giving ceremony for the 2011 winners at Coombe Wood Golf Club on Saturday 4th February. On a previous visit to Coombe Wood for an away day we encountered a day with torrential rain and a near impossible playing condition. Perhaps we should have taken this experience as a warning. On our fateful Saturday the day was cold but the conditions were nevertheless very pleasant, however the forecast was rather disturbing. As we arrived for evening the first few flakes of innocent looking snow started to fall and the views from the windows were very picturesque. As the evening's events proceeded there came the realisation that being perched half way up Kingston Hill with inches of snow outside may present a problem. There was an early exit of everyone from the clubhouse and the person most relieved to be able to beat a hasty retreat was the dj. Susan Smith organised the evening excellently for us and we thank her for her many hours of activity behind the scenes to make sure that everything ran smoothly.

During 2012 the Committee decided to change the formula for next award ceremony and it was agreed to hold a dinner and comedy evening. Our Captain Jon Cooper put the arrangements together and for those that could not make Friday 1st February they all missed an excellent social evening. We had a good number of members present and there was of course the 'entertainment'. Jon masterminded the evening and at one time we did wonder if he had decided to try his hand and compete with the comedy acts. We thank Jon for looking after the arrangements and ensuring that the evening ran like clockwork and also we thank his behind the scenes supporting cast; Veronica Mitchell, Sheena Harrington and Richard Owen.

The premier event of the year is the Club Championship and in 2012 we experienced another year of personal challenge and drama as follows:

- The first round of the CC was played on the modified Prince's course and there was uncertainty how the 'made up' holes would affect the scoring. The men's leader in the cabin after the first round was Adam Hogg who amassed five birdies in his score of 71. In second position was Paul Patching with three birdies to his credit and a score of 73, and just one shot behind Paul was Steve Byers who carded a 74. The second round was played on the more challenging Duke's course and it was Paul's score of 77 with three birdies that brought him home as the Club Champion for 2012. Adam could not maintain his first round form and he dropped away from the leading pack. Steve also managed a score of 77 for his second round and he finished in the runner-up position just one shot behind Paul.
- The men's junior division is for the players who start the event playing off handicaps 17 and above. Tony Kopczak was the leader in the cabin at the end of round one with a tidy score of 83. Following Tony just one shot behind was Paul Grand and further adrift was Steve Cross with a score of 90. On his second round Tony found the course a tougher challenge and he completed his round with a score of 91. Paul Grand was in contention when an upset at the 15th hole

resulted in a dreaded 'no return' and this left Tony with an unassailable lead to become the Junior Club Champion of 2012. Steve played well on his second round and matched Tony's score of 91 to take the runner-up place.

- In the Men's Club Championship Handicap trophy it was Paul Patching who proved to be the best performer against his handicap with net scores of 63 and 68 to give a combined total of 131. To indicate that he had also played well it was the Junior Champion Tony Kopczak who was the runner-up with net scores of 64 and 73 to finish with total of 137.
- At the close of the first round of the Ladies' Club Championship the lead was shared between Sheena Harrington and Rianda Markram, both returning scores of 92. Trailing five shots behind was Jayne Maxwell with a score of 97.

In the second round there was a definite change of fortune. Jayne played to a score of five shots under her handicap with a second round score of 82. This was too strong for her close challengers and she finished as the 2012 Lady Club Champion with a total score of 179. In the contest for the runner-up position Sheena Harrington finished on top with a score of 94 and an aggregate of 186. Rianda's second round was 98 and she finished with a total of 190 for both rounds.

- The Ladies' Handicap Trophy is combined with the Club Championship and is for players with handicaps up to 21. After round one the leader in the cabin was Sheena Harrington with a net 75, two shots ahead of Rianda Markram on 77 who was four shots ahead of Jayne Maxwell with a net 81. In the second round on the Duke's course it was Jayne's remarkable net 66 which leapfrogged over her competitors' scores to enable Jayne to clinch the Handicap trophy with a total net score of 147. For the second round there was a reversal of fortune for Sheena who finished with a net 79 compared to Rianda's net 81. With both ladies finishing on a score of 156 it was Sheena who took the runner-up position on countback.
- The ladies' Pembroke Cup is run similarly in conjunction with the Club Championship and it applies to the ladies with handicaps of 22 and above. At the close of the first round Fiona Coombe was in a commanding lead having played to her handicap with a net 71. Lying in second position was Christina Muller with a net 78 and next placed was Cheryl Woodhouse with a net 81. In the second round Fiona could not match her earlier score but her net 78 was sufficient to capture the Pembroke Cup with a total net of 149. In the contest for the runner-up position it was Cheryl who pulled out the stops with a net 74 to finish with a total net of 155, two shots better than Christina whose final round of 79 produced a combined net of 157.

Here follows the full prize list for 2012:-

RPGC 2012 PRIZE LIST

| <u>EVENT</u> | <u>WINNER</u> | <u>RUNNER-UP</u> |
|--|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Senior Men's Club Championship | Paul Patching | Steve Byers |
| Ladies' Club Championship | Jayne Maxwell | Sheena Harrington |
| Junior Men's Club Championship | Tony Kopczak | Steve Cross |
| Men's Club Championship Handicap Trophy | Paul Patching | - |
| Ladies' Handicap Cup - handicaps 0-24 | Jayne Maxwell | Sheena Harrington |
| Ladies' Pembroke Cup - handicaps 25-36 | Fiona Coombe | Cheryl Woodhouse |
| J H Taylor – matchplay 0-16 | Nick Rogers | Shaun Feldon |
| Two Courses Cup – matchplay 17+ | Rory Colfer | Gurpal Sekhon |
| Ladies' Challenge Cup | Gina Jillett | Lia Donath |
| Men's Fourball – matchplay | Tony Kopczak & Stewart McDonald | Kerry Sargeant & Graeme Syme |
| Ladies Double C Cup | Sheena Harrington & Julie Smith | Maureen Slade & Cheryl Woodhouse |
| Mixed Foursomes – matchplay | Val Riziotis & Paul Brown | Veronica Mitchell & Nick Rogers |
| Ladies' Committee Cup | Veronica Mitchell | Lia Donath |
| Grand Medal Trophy | Graeme Syme | - |
| Silver Jubilee Trophy | Mark Bean | John Morris |
| Golden Jubilee Trophy | Danny Deprez | Jon Cooper |
| Diamond Jubilee Trophy | Nigel Gaymond | Sheena Harrington |
| Platinum Jubilee Trophy | Cuneyt Sazer | Steve Cross |
| Anniversary Cup | Nigel Gaymond John Morris | - |
| President's Putter | Gina Jillett | Stuart Kerr |
| Captain's Prize | Ed Henery | John Ahad |
| Lady Captain's Prize | Susan Smith | Jayne Maxwell |
| Richmond Park Golf Club Open | Con Callaghan (PPk) | Jon Cooksley (PPk) |
| J Q Robertson Trophy | Toby Hunt | Itsawat Mahadumrongkul |
| Coronation Cup | Julian James | Graeme Syme |
| Shaw Cup | Richard Owen | Paul Cook |
| Spring Mixed Better-Ball | Kate Emanuel & Ed Henery | Gina Jillett & Stewart McDonald |
| Autumn Mixed - Handicap | Jayne Maxwell & Russell Cavell | Veronica Mitchell & Nick Rogers |
| Autumn Mixed - Scratch | Jayne Maxwell & Russell Cavell | - |
| Burgess Cup - Greensomes | Paul Brown & Chris Jones | Juergen Bossler & Kai Pflughaupt |
| Summer Cup | Ed Henery | Ahmad Al-bader |
| Top Dog Trophy | Nick Rogers | - |
| Ladies' Dowling Cup | Sheena Harrington | - |
| Lissaman Cup - 3 clubs + putter | Ahmad Al-bader | Anthony Tama |
| Barton Bowl - Play-off – top 8 against captain | Jayne Maxwell | - |
| Charity Cup | Rick Smith | Cheryl Woodhouse |
| Spring Stableford Trophy | Danny Deprez | Jon Cooper |
| Winter Competition | Cuneyt Sazer Rick Smith | - |

From the results above there are a couple of interesting points. With regard to the Sunday events a total of five events were decided on a countback. The results for the Anniversary

Trophy and the Winter Competition were a tie for the winners. The inference is that in many cases the margin between those in the winners' column and those in the runner-up position is very small. In addition, there are some that have made it to the runner-up list by virtue of being successful in a countback.

Possibly the most remarkable score of the year was from our junior player, Ahmad Al-bader, aged about 12 or thereabouts who walloped us all in the Lissaman Cup with a net 59 playing with three clubs and a putter. His timing was impeccable because the event was a non-qualifier.

Membership

Here's where we stand at 31 December 2012.

| | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 | 2005 | 2004 | 2003 | 2002 |
|---------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Men: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Regular | 98 | 100 | 97 | 89 | 78 | 62 | 69 | 69 | 73 | 78 | 67 |
| Senior | 4 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 6 |
| Junior | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Hon (playing) | 4 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Total Men | <u>107</u> | <u>109</u> | <u>107</u> | <u>97</u> | <u>86</u> | <u>70</u> | <u>78</u> | <u>78</u> | <u>81</u> | <u>87</u> | <u>75</u> |
| Ladies: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Regular | 29 | 31 | 40 | 36 | 38 | 36 | 34 | 33 | 32 | 29 | 30 |
| Senior | 8 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| Hon (playing) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Ladies | <u>38</u> | <u>41</u> | <u>47</u> | <u>44</u> | <u>44</u> | <u>42</u> | <u>40</u> | <u>36</u> | <u>36</u> | <u>32</u> | <u>33</u> |
| Total | <u>145</u> | <u>150</u> | <u>154</u> | <u>141</u> | <u>130</u> | <u>112</u> | <u>118</u> | <u>114</u> | <u>117</u> | <u>119</u> | <u>108</u> |
| Joiners: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| New men | 25 | 23 | 24 | 26 | 27 | 7 | 15 | 13 | 19 | 22 | 13 |
| New ladies | 2 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 7 |
| Junior | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rejoiners – men | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 5 |
| Rejoiners – ladies | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Total | <u>28</u> | <u>24</u> | <u>34</u> | <u>31</u> | <u>34</u> | <u>12</u> | <u>25</u> | <u>19</u> | <u>24</u> | <u>24</u> | <u>26</u> |
| Leavers: | <u>33</u> | <u>28</u> | <u>21</u> | <u>20</u> | <u>16</u> | <u>18</u> | <u>21</u> | <u>22</u> | <u>26</u> | <u>13</u> | |
| | 22% | 18% | 15% | 15% | 14% | 15% | 18% | 19% | 22% | 12% | |

The final position for 2012 shows that our year on year total is down by 5 members; 2 men and 3 ladies. This is disappointing but in percentage terms this represents a fall of 3% which is not a major concern.

The trend that has become apparent from the membership data is that we are experiencing an enhanced 'rotation' ratio with a higher proportion of joiners and leavers occurring each year. In the years 2004 to 2006 the Club's leaving ratio was between 18% and 22%. For the last two years we have been back at these former levels where the 2011 ratio was 18% and for 2012 this increased to 22%.

On a positive note, the Club is maintaining a healthy ability to attract new members and there has already been some interest for membership in 2013. The high ratio of leavers does however signal that membership retention is problem for the Club. We all know that members relocate for work or family reasons, and with a higher component of the Club's membership comprising golfers from overseas countries it is not surprising that some members return to their home territories. To my knowledge we had three overseas relocations in 2012. Each year we also have members who move to other golf clubs and this group normally represents about 25% of our departures. Finally, we have the contingent of members who decide to put the golf clubs at the back of the garage and give the game a rest. For this group of leavers it is difficult to see how the Club can change to provide a more appealing or appetising "golf club experience" with which we can entice golfers to the Park on Sunday mornings. Sadly, on this point it is not so much the Club that is lacking in application but more a case of our compatriots at Glendale whose attention to the facilities at the Park has been disappointing to say the least.

It is clear to everyone that from an operational standpoint 2013 will be a very testing year for the Club. History tells us that on every occasion that there has been a change of status quo at the Park the Club's membership numbers have been affected; e.g. the Pavilion fire in 2004, the 8th month flood on the Duke's course, the foot and mouth epidemic, and the messy course arrangements during 2012. The move to the new clubhouse building will present new opportunities for the Club but the inevitable mayhem of 2013 will also present new challenges for us to provide the appropriate ingredients for a pleasurable "golf club experience".

Inter-Club Matches

Here's what happened in 2012:

Men vs Rickmansworth:

Our recent quests against Ricky have been unsuccessful but there was hope when our home team took a first round lead of 4 ½ to 1 ½. In previous years we have struggled when playing away at Ricky and we succumbed to a similar problem in 2012. Although not confirmed it is believed that Ricky won on their home course with the score 5:1, providing Ricky with an overall win of 6 ½ to 5 ½. However, on a positive note, the deficit is shrinking!

Ladies vs Mitcham:

Over at Mitcham in June our Richmond ladies came away with a lead of 2 ½ to 1 ½. Unfortunately, the Mitcham ladies had to postpone the second leg of the match to be played at Richmond Park and the attempts to reschedule were unsuccessful. Accordingly, the Richmond ladies were declared the winners and retained the trophy.

Mixed match vs. Amida:

In 2012 the Amida friendly was played at the Park for the second year in succession. The normal match comprises three pairs of ladies and three pairs of men playing a 4-ball better ball format. For 2012 the Richmond Park team at home was again successful and the reported win was 3 ½ to 1 ½ which implies that both teams were a smaller than normal.

Ladies vs. Wimbledon Common:

It was the turn of the Richmond ladies to entertain the Wimbledon Common team at Richmond Park. On home territory the Richmond ladies won the fixture 3:1.

N.A.P.G.C. Competitions

Clapham Common Shield (men) [Greensomes Stableford]

In the opening round the Club had a win and we moved forward to the regional semi-final, but for the second year running we were drawn against Lullingstone. With a home win of 11 and an away loss of 16 we were trumped again at this stage of the competition.

Hawtree Trophy (singles stableford)

The NAPGC introduced a new singles Stableford format for 2012 with home and away being played simultaneously. In the opening round the Club was drawn against Portsmouth. Members of the Portsmouth Club misunderstood the playing format and insisted that the event be played according to their own interpretation of the NAPGC competition rules. The Richmond team won the match by the narrowest of margins, just one point. Portsmouth decided to claim the match on the basis that format played had been incorrect. The situation was reviewed by the NAPGC and the Club's win was confirmed. The Richmond team went on to play the Hoebridge B team in the regional final and managed to secure points wins at both the home and away fixtures.

The regional final win meant that for the second time in two years the Richmond team had secured a place in the grand final at the Shropshire Golf Club. The final comprises four teams competing for the number one spot and the Club came a creditable third.

White Webbs (ladies singles matchplay)

Details are rather thin on the ground. It is known that the Club lost its first round draw.

Internal Matches and Competitions

The Bontor

After two years of ladies' dominance there was a change of fortune for the men in 2012 with a narrow win of 7 to 6.

Ladies' Invitation

The format played was our usual American Greensomes and the winners on the day were Veronica Mitchell and Nick Rogers. Jini Beacham and Steve Cross captured the second spot.

Men's Invitation

Sorry – details not found.

The Lockie Trophy

For the Spring Weekend Away in 2012 the Club returned to The Tewkesbury Park Hotel in Gloucestershire. The winner of the ladies' weekend Lockie Trophy was Gina Jillett and Louise Williams took the runner-up position.

The Gill Hibbs Trophy

For the Autumn Weekend Away the Club returned to the Five Lakes Crown Plaza resort near Colchester in Essex. In the contest for the Gill Hibbs Trophy Gina Jillett was the winner with Veronica Mitchell in the runner-up position.

Individual Achievements

- Osman Chaudry was the winner of the Putney Park Open in 2012.
- Ed Henery scored a hole in one at the Prince's 13th hole on 25th November in the Captain's vs Secretaries' challenge event.
- In the NAPGC men's singles medal championship both Rory Colfer and Paul Patching were successful in their respective divisions and qualified to play in the national final at the home of English Golf at Woodhall Spa in Lincolnshire. The scoring shows that on foreign territory both played well but did not return with a trophy.
- In the NAPGC ladies' Stableford championship Val Riziotis was successful in the regional final and secured a place in the final which is played over one of the courses at St Andrews. Unfortunately, Val was not in a position to make the journey to Scotland for the final.
- In the SCGU Kelso Hamilton event the pairing of John Morris and Richard Owen were successful in their first round playing against Horton Park. In the second round they came up against the 2011 finalists and their expedition finished at this point.
- Through the winter months the NAPGC has team competitions for men and ladies – playing for the Gordon Forster Bowl and the Mary Forster Bowl. The event comprises a series of local grouped inter-club Stableford competitions and the winners move forward to a national final. For the winter of 2012 a private entry of ladies going by the name of the Midriffers managed to beat the local opposition and head off to the June final at the Abbey Hill Golf Club. Well – they won – and were crowned National Champions for 2012!! Congratulations are extended to the team comprising Alison Chadwick, Kate Emanuel, Gin Jillett, Suzanne Malloy, Veronica Mitchell and Maureen Slade.
- For the fourth year of reporting Kerry has excelled at the top of the men's birdie listing. Here are the results for 2012:
 - Kerry Sargeant 47, Graeme Syme 31, Ed Henery 27
 - (Sorry – equivalent info for the ladies is not available)

2012 – a relatively quiet year at the Park? Well, the answer has to be no. It was a year of transition, but there is a case for suggesting that much more should have been done!

(a) Development Plan

When we closed off 2011 we had the confirmation that Glendale's planning application with the Richmond Upon Thames Council has been approved. Like it or not, we were resigned to the prospect of the new development commencing at some time during 2012 and the early indications were March 2012. However, we all waited with baited breath it was not until the

end of May that we first encountered any major disruption when we found the Prince's 7th and 9th greens sectioned off behind a large hoarding fence.

From the summer months through to the end of 2012 we all witnessed the gradual emergence of the new building. Prior to the commencement of the building work there was a general acknowledgement that the course alterations would take the longest period or time from the start of the work to 'in play' completion and despite comments to this effect to Glendale the Club was not privy to all of Glendale's timing plans. At the beginning for 2012 the message from Glendale was that the minimum level of alteration would be applied to the Prince's course but this position was superseded by the decision to revert to the full Hawtree plan that involves a total of seven of the old Prince's greens to be replaced or moved. The course work will be completed during 2013 but it is expected that it will not be until 2014 that some of the affected areas will be in a playable condition.

The driving range is the third component of the development project and the co-ordination of this area is also out of sync with the remainder of the project. The range is being moulded with a high concentration of inert landfill waste involving anything up to 100 lorry deliveries per day. The preparation of the topsoil and seeding cannot be undertaken until the heavy work is completed and Glendale has advised that we cannot expect the new range to be open before 2014.

(b) The Clubs at Richmond Park

The three clubs at the Park pursued their own agendas during 2012. A few meetings were held with Brian Lafferty of Glendale Golf to discuss the impact of the development but the comments from him lacked clarity and there was high degree general uncertainty. With the benefit of hindsight it is clear that some important aspects of the development were being agreed upon and the information was not filtering through to the staff at located at Richmond Park. Brian left Glendale in the autumn and following his departure Glendale installed a new director of golf and two further managers at Richmond Park. The new team has expressed a keenness to have greater contact with the clubs which is an improvement although we sense that Glendale has a desire to impose a stricter regime of authority and discipline.

Comments from both Putney Park and White Lodge indicate that the deterioration in the playing conditions have had a detrimental impact on club membership levels. By comparison it would appear that RPGC is weathering the effect of the changes very successfully.

Extra Curricular Activities

In 2012 we were again lucky to have a change of scenery and some activities away from the Park.

In March, a good number headed westward for a return visit to the Tewkesbury Park Golf and Country Club for the annual Ladies' Spring Weekend Away. The course provided a good test of golf though this didn't both Gina Jillett who was the overall winner and recipient of the Lockie Trophy. By some miracle of nature we had good weather for the weekend.

In September another good number headed eastward for a return visit to the Five Lakes Golf and Country Club near Colchester. On the previous visit there had been a few hic-cups with the hotel's arrangements but with the hotel operated by a new owner we were pleasantly surprised that standards had improved significantly. We were also surprised to find that a former member Matt Abbott was also resident at the hotel during his wedding weekend. Although slightly chilly, by another miracle of nature the weather behaved itself for the weekend. Five Lakes is another facility requiring accuracy for good scoring and Gina Jillett negotiated this course to add the Gill Hibbs Trophy to her spring win.

Again we have to express a very big thank you to Julie Smith for handling the arrangements perfectly for both the weekends right from the moment of sourcing the venues all the way through to everyone's departure at the end of the prize ceremonies.

On 23rd August the Club enjoyed an excellent away day to Leatherhead Golf Club for the Janet Fox Memorial Golf Day. Janet passed away on 10th October 2010. She bequeathed £2,500 to the Club and we were delighted to use a major proportion of her gift to support the golf day in her memory. At the evening dinner we heard speeches from her friends and the occasion was a fitting memory of Janet's time with us. Congratulations go to Lia Donath who was the day's champion golfer. The day's arrangements were organised by Susan Smith and we thank her for her work on this event which was indeed a great success.

www.RichmondParkGolfClub.Org.Uk - The RPGC Website

Another year rolls forward and we must thank our President Tim Meyer for continuing to provide the Club with the website service. Tim always conveys the message that he is the editor, but we all know that he devotes a huge amount of time to the maintenance of the site and the overall design that gives us the consistent presentation.

Our 'hit rate' fell in 2012, probably closer to an average of one every 35 to 40 seconds which is pretty good by anyone's standard. At 31 seconds our score is 1 million hits per annum so the drop in hits is not really a cause for concern.

There is however one record of note. If we click on Latest News and go backwards in time we see that the first entries occurred in 2002. This means that 2012 was the 10th anniversary of the website. It may only seem like yesterday that we started to look at the website but 10 years of data is no small achievement !!

The Committee and helpers

After two years of careful stewardship by Gurpal we saw Jon Cooper return to the Captain's Chair that he last occupied in 2007. Susan continued as Lady Captain for the second year of her term. Both captains were very keen to get the 2012 activities and outside fixtures organised at an early stage this helped with the fixture scheduling. Each year there is a hiatus of activity when the NAPGC events need to be arranged and 2012 was no exception but the captains managed to ensure that we had good representative teams in attendance.

The Ladies' Committee and officer roles 'rotate' at the AGM of the ladies' section and the AGM is held in December each year. In December 2012 Susan handed the reins back to Veronica Mitchell who was the Club's Lady Captain for 2010.

In addition to our two captains the Club did rely upon some very notable help along the way:-

- At the beginning of 2012 Gurpal was soldiering on with the bookings sheets but was in need of a rest from the daily barrage of email traffic which can be very time consuming at dreadfully inconvenient moments. Osman volunteered to step in to help out and he has been looking after the Club's order of play since July 2012. In addition to the daily updates of the bookings sheets Osman has spent many Saturday's popping up to the cabin to make sure that the first games on Sunday mornings can organise themselves. Of course, when Osman is not on bookings officer duty he is looking after the Club's main membership records.

- Carrying on from 2011 our Treasurer Nick continued to make sure that everything was shipshape with the custody of the Club's accounts, and the Committee had the benefit of his monthly reports to ensure that the Club continues to be on the straight and narrow.
- Finally, but by no means least I have to report that the persons who are critical to the successful operation of the Club are the Handicap Secretaries, Paul Grand and Sheena Harrington. Both have had to deal with the weekly compilation of the results data and have had to contend with tweaks to the handicapping rules and the software system. In Paul's case he used to provide the regular Saturday courier service to drop off the results and refreshed bookings sheets at the Park and from time to time Paul is called upon to help out with this task.

The Final Word

I hope that you all have a most enjoyable golfing year in 2013 and some success along the way!!

Peter Harrington
Secretary
7th February 2013