

RICHMOND PARK GOLF CLUB



ANNUAL REPORT - 2014

Looking back at the start of 2014 I see that we encountered a wet period and in places the courses were completely water-logged. Our fixture programme was interrupted because there were occasions when we found that the Duke's course was closed and we were all herded on to the Prince's course. At one time the conditions were so poor that Glendale had to introduce a composite course. For all but the Canadian geese, the wet conditions were very unpopular and our activity levels at the Park were low as a consequence of the poor quality of the courses. The overly wet conditions had a knock-on effect!

When spring arrived the sun appeared and the grass grew with some gusto. This is a common annual feature of Mother Nature but our friends at Glendale had great difficulty coping with this completely natural annual phenomenon. Glendale acknowledged that it had failed to keep pace with the rate of grass growth and the complaints were fast and furious, and perfectly reasonable. It is fair to say that the beginning of 2014 was a tough time for all of us on the Park's courses.

It was in April 2013 that Glendale's new building opened and from this time the Prince's course had been a 9 hole configuration. We knew that the original intention was to open the new 'landraise' holes in 2014 and of course this would enable the Prince's course to be restored to the correct configuration of 18 holes. The targeted move to 18 holes had to be deferred from 1st April because of the bad state of the new holes however we were all facing the eventual inevitability of the changeover. In advance of the adoption of the new holes, on 28th May 2014 Glendale hosted an 'opening ceremony' at the Park with the new facility being officially opened by Princess Alexandra. On the day I am pleased to say that the arrangements fell into place very well and Princess Alexandra had a word with just about everyone in attendance. After the completion of the ceremony there was an opening '1st tee drive' and by popular demand this was duly performed by the inimitable Bob Marshall.

Sunday 1st June was the Club's first outing on the revised layouts of the Duke's and Prince's courses. The new Duke's course is a good test of golf and to score well it is necessary to play well. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for the new Prince's course which has a relatively long front 9 holes and a very short back 9 configuration. We had known all along that the designers had modified the Prince's course to produce this unequal sequence of holes but our comments about this fell on deaf ears. However, irrespective of the layout of the Prince's course it is nonetheless very pleasing to be able to play the full 18 hole course instead of the previous need to play twice round the 9 hole arrangement.

Behind the scenes there has been a huge volume of email activity through 2014 and this was all triggered at the very beginning of 2014 when Glendale announced that as part of its new marketing plan commencing on 1st April 2014 it would include automatic golf club membership to all buyers of its annual 7-day and 5-day season ticket cards. The new marketing plan was not just intended for the Richmond Park facility but it has been rolled out to other Glendale locations. In addition to club membership the new card-holders would, according to the original plan, have the ability to enter all club competitions held at the Park

no matter which of the three clubs is hosting the event. In order to formalise this process Glendale requested the three clubs to enter into an agreement to adhere to the conditions set by the marketing plan. It will come as no surprise to hear that through the course of 2014 there has been a huge volume of email traffic associated with Glendale's desires and in the main this has all been looked after by Richard Owen. To date, RPGC has had just one card referral from Glendale and the potential flood of membership enquiries has not materialised. Moreover, the formal agreement has been toned down and whilst RPGC is comfortable with the latest wording we find that our colleagues at White Lodge are not yet happy. Once this situation has been resolved it has been intimated that Glendale is prepared to do more in the main building to assist Club development and the presence of notice boards will be a starter.

As you may imagine, our Committee has spent a lot of time during 2014 discussing the implications of the twists and turns of Glendale's actions and the possible impact on our Club operations. We have an acknowledgement from Glendale that as an independent Club we will always have the ability to refuse membership to any referral who does not meet an acceptable playing standard. Looking forward to 2015 Glendale is expecting an uptake in new 7-day card subscribers and this could yield a supply of potential new members for the Club. It will remain the case that all potential new members without handicaps will have to complete the CONGU requirement for three medal cards to be submitted before a playing handicap is awarded. One important feature of the Glendale card system that we have considered is the rolling annual renewal basis of issue which is in direct contrast to the RPGC 'subscription year'. We could very well have the situation where some referrals may have a 'club membership year' that is not the same as our standard subscription year but the Committee will keep track of this. The final comment to make on the Glendale card is that the 2015 fee is inclusive of a club membership charge of £70 and we will be returning this to our members as we receive the payment from Glendale.

It was back in May 2012 that the development work at the Park commenced. At this time we lost the old 7th and 9th greens from the former Prince's course. In the following 25 months we endured all manner of course changes and finally, as mentioned above, we started to play the new course configurations in June 2014. This means that for the first time since 2011 we are on schedule in 2015 to have a full year of golf on two full golf courses without some form of messy development interruption. For those of us that have had to play the mixed bag of offerings over the last three years this coming year is a welcome relief. Moreover, the expected period of stability at the Park will be good for all our members and for the Club as a whole.

Annual Prize-giving

In February 2014 we held the prize-giving for the 2013 events. It was decided to venture to a new venue at The Telegraph pub that is located on Putney Heath. We are grateful to Veronica Mitchell for taking care of the booking arrangements. Captain Jon 'volunteered' to provide the 'entertainment' for the evening in the form of a quiz session and his son James ably assisted him. The food service by the pub was very slow and this interrupted Jon's quiz timetable but in spite of the timing hic-cup the evening was voted a success.

For the presentation of the 2015 prizes we are returning to The Telegraph on Saturday 7th February. A full list of the 2014 winners is presented below. For the first time in a few years we were able to follow the fixture programme with just a few modifications.

The 36 hole Club Championship is regarded as the Club's premier event of the annual calendar here's a summary of what happened in 2014. In the men's senior division the leader after round one on the Prince's course was Pete Davis with a score of 76, four ahead of Aiden Hurley in second place with a score of 80. Also in contention were Ed Henery on 81, Graham Terry on 84 and James Barker on 85. A week later the second round was

played on the Duke's course and Pete Davis continued his form by winning this round with a score of 84. Pete Davis is therefore the very convincing winner of the senior Club Championship with a total scratch score of 160. After falling foul with a 12 on the par 4 15th hole, Aiden Hurley completed the second round with an 86 and our winner from 2013 finished as runner-up for 2014. The three close first round contenders did not pose a threat for main prize.

The men's Junior Club Championship is our scratch event for those playing off 17 and above. The leader at the end of the first round was Charles-Marie Dulpuech with a score of 84, three strokes ahead of Liam Bridger with a score of 87. Also in the running were Danny Duprez with a score of 89 and Phil Flanagan with a score of 90. When it came to the second round on the Duke's course Liam did not play which left Charles-Marie with a relatively comfortable margin. He scored 96 for his second round and this was good enough to enable him to take the Junior title with a scratch score of 180. Danny's second round score of 97 gave him a total scratch of 186. Lying in fourth place after round one Phil had the best round two score of 94 and with a combined scratch of 184 he managed to promote himself to the Championship's runner-up position.

The men's Handicap Trophy is played in conjunction with the Club Championship. At the close of round 1 the leader by a narrow margin was Pete Davis with a net 65, just one stroke ahead of Arthur Dolby with a net 66 and Charles-Marie Dulpuech followed with a net 67. In round two Pete Davis maintained his leading form with the day's winning net 74 and he takes the Handicap Trophy for 2014 with a combined score of 139. Pete's nearest challenge came from Arthur Dolby who scored a net 77 in the second round and finished with a combined net score of 143.

The Ladies' Club Championship is also a 36 hole scratch challenge. The leader at the close of the first round on the Prince's course was Jayne Maxwell, just three shots clear of Val Riziotis running in second place with a 94, with Susan Smith running a close third with a score of 95. In the second round Jayne extended her lead by a further three shots with a score of 96 to take the 2014 title with a total of 187, and by retaining the trophy she holds it for the third year in succession. Val recorded a score of 99 to take the runner-up position with a total of 193. Chasing hard was Susan who scored 101 for the second round and she finished with a combined score of 196.

The Ladies' Handicap Cup is played in conjunction with the club championship and this is for players with handicaps up to and including 20. In the first round it was Val Riziotis who took the lead with a net 74. Jayne followed her closely on 76 with Gina not far behind scoring a net 79. In the second round Val retained her winning way with a net 79 to take the trophy with a combined net 153 for the two rounds. Although Jayne could not match Val her second round net 81 was sufficient to take the runner-up position with combined score of 157. Gina chipped away at Jayne with a net 80 for the second round but had to settle for third place with a combined score of 159.

The Ladies' Pembroke Cup is for the ladies' with handicaps above 20. At the close of the first round of the club championship the leader was Susan Smith with a net 72. In close pursuit was Alison Chadwick with a net 74 and Doreen Dolby was still in the reckoning with a net 79. For the second round Susan scored a net 78 and with a combined score of 150 this was enough to enable Susan to retain the trophy for a second year. Alison scored a net 79 for her second round to take the runner-up position with a combined score of 153. Doreen had the best second round score of 76 but with a combined score of 155 she did not improve on her first round place.

Here follows the full prize list for 2014:-

RPGC 2014 PRIZE LIST

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>WINNER</u>	<u>RUNNER-UP</u>
Senior Men's Club Championship	Pete Davis	Aidan Hurley
Ladies' Club Championship	Jayne Maxwell	Val Riziotis
Junior Men's Club Championship	Charles-M Dulpuech	Phil Flanagan
Men's Club Championship Handicap Trophy	Pete Davis	-
Ladies' Handicap Cup - handicaps 0-24	Val Riziotis	Jayne Maxwell
Ladies' Pembroke Cup - handicaps 25-36	Susan Smith	Alison Chadwick
J H Taylor – matchplay 0-16	Liam Bridger	Nick Rogers
Two Courses Cup – matchplay 17+	Mike Shabani	Phil Flanagan
Ladies' Challenge Cup	Jayne Maxwell	Veronica Mitchell
Men's Fourball – matchplay	Paul Grand & Patrick Murphy	Pete Davis & James Barker
Ladies Double C Cup	Gina Jillett & Val Riziotis	Doreen Dolby & Susan Smith
Mixed Foursomes – matchplay	Val Riziotis & Paul Brown	Cheryl Woodhouse & Nigel Ward
Ladies' Committee Cup	Val Riziotis	Jayne Maxwell
Grand Medal Trophy	Liam Bridger	-
Silver Jubilee Trophy	Toby Hunt	Jim Fogarty
Golden Jubilee Trophy	Tim Meyer	Phil Flanagan
Diamond Jubilee Trophy	Chris Jones	Paul Grand
Platinum Jubilee Trophy	Ed Henery	Jon Cooper
Anniversary Cup	Chris Jones	-
President's Putter	Ray Esin	Paul Patching
Captain's Prize	Paul Patching	Ahmad Al-Bader
Lady Captain's Prize	Alison Chadwick	Sheena Harrington
Richmond Park Golf Club Open	Alan Richardson [PP]	Toby Hunt
J Q Robertson Trophy	Phil Flanagan	Mike Shabani
Coronation Cup	Alfred Weightman	Ed Henery
Shaw Cup	Danny Deprez	Jim Fogarty
Spring Mixed Better-Ball	Maureen Slade & Richard Owen	Doreen Dolby & Toby Hunt
Autumn Mixed - Handicap	Fiona Coombe & Pete Harrison	Kate Emanuel & James Barker
Autumn Mixed - Scratch	Kate Emanuel & James Barker	-
Burgess Cup - Greensomes	Not played	Not played
Summer Cup	James Barker	Steve Cross
Top Dog Trophy	Phil Flanagan	-
Ladies' Dowling Cup	Val Riziotis	-
Lissaman Cup - 3 clubs + putter	Anthony Tama	Pete Davis
Barton Bowl - Play-off – top 8 against captain	Veronica Mitchell	-
Charity Cup	Jim Deissler	James Barker
Spring Stableford Trophy	Ed Henery	Andrej Moxnes
Winter Competition	Ken Ukoko	-

Membership

Here's our 11 year table and we can see where we stand at 31 December 2014.

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
Men:											
Regular	80	88	98	100	97	89	78	62	69	69	73
Senior	6	5	4	4	4	7	7	7	8	6	7
Junior	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hon (playing)	1	1	4	4	5	1	1	1	1	3	1
Total Men	<u>89</u>	<u>95</u>	<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>
Ladies:											
Regular	26	28	29	31	40	36	38	36	34	33	32
Senior	10	9	8	9	6	7	5	5	5	2	4
Hon (playing)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
Total Ladies	<u>37</u>	<u>38</u>	<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>
Total	<u>126</u>	<u>133</u>	<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>
Joiners:											
New men	14	22	25	23	24	26	27	7	15	13	19
New ladies	2	2	2	1	9	5	6	4	5	4	4
Junior	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rejoiners – men	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	4	2	0
Rejoiners – ladies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Total	<u>17</u>	<u>25</u>	<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>
Leavers:	<u>24</u>	<u>37</u>	<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>
	18%	26%	22%	18%	15%	15%	14%	15%	18%	19%	22%

On 2nd January 2004 we had an auspicious start to the year when the original 1920's Pavilion cafeteria facility that we used as a 'clubhouse' was destroyed completely as a result of an electrical fault. It was later that year that by courtesy of one of our members the clubs had the use of a portacabin and this was followed by another cabin in 2005. Also in 2004, on 1st October 2004 we witnessed the arrival of Gendale.

It is well known that when there is some element of upheaval at the Park we find that our 'membership drift' is downwards. In the aftermath of the fire, in the years 2004 to 2006 we were coping with the general state of disorganisation at the Park together with the constant threat of the 'redevelopment'. From the analysis it is shown that it took a while for the Club's membership numbers to grow again. At the end of December 2011 we heard that Gendale had received planning consent for the major reorganisation of the golf at the Park. With Glendale's decision to reduce from 36 holes to 27 holes of golf in play we knew that we were entering another messy period that would have a detrimental impact on the Club's membership numbers and this is born out in the figures above.

The resumption of the full 36 holes of golf did not occur until the summer of 2014. We hear from Glendale that playing numbers are up which is to be expected but there has not been a major influx of new golfers. For RPGC it is clear to see that 2013 and 2014 have been poor years for membership numbers but with a period of stability expected at the Park there is

every indication that the Club can expect to see the membership numbers start to grow again.

Inter-Club Matches

Here's what happened in 2014:

Men vs Rickmansworth:

Some years ago it was decided that the first leg should be played at the Park because Ricky often obtained an insurmountable lead in the first leg on their own course. On home soil and with the 'benefit' of having played just one round on the reformatted Duke's course the Club's team finished the day with a 4 - 2 lead. Under normal circumstances this lead would not be sufficient assuming that we would be subjected to another 6 – 0 thumping. However, the good news is that we found a weakness in the Ricky defences and the second round finished all square at 3 – 3. For the first time in 7 years the trophy came back to the Park with an overall 7 – 5 win.

Ladies vs Mitcham:

In 2013 our ladies achieved a 6 – 0 victory over the Mitcham ladies. The first leg of the 2014 match was played at Mitcham and there was a reversal of fortune. When the Mitcham ladies came to Richmond they started the second leg with a 3 – 0 lead. On home soil all three separate matches ended on the 18th hole with two wins to our home team and a score halved. The overall result was therefore 3 ½ - 2 ½ to Mitcham. It was Mitcham's first win in 11 years, and you have to give the Mitcham ladies some credit for perseverance.

Mixed match vs. Amida:

In 2014 this friendly was played at Amida's course. Amida struggled to find 6 ladies for the match and in the final analysis fielded 2 ladies and 10 men. Those from the Club that played at Amida enjoyed the day and came away with a 4 – 2 win.

N.A.P.G.C. Competitions

Clapham Common Shield (men's greensomes Stableford)

In the first round the Club recorded a success against the Southsea 'A' team. As luck would have it the draw pitched the Club against the Southsea 'B' team for the second round and optimism was running high. Unfortunately, the 'B' team was the stronger of the two and the Club lost.

Hawtree Trophy (mixed greensomes)

In the first round of the Hawtree our team was drawn against one of our regular competitors, Hoebridge. For the second year running our Club was bumped out by Hoebridge with the score 125 – 112.

White Webbs (ladies singles Stableford)

Under the new format of two home and two away players the Club was drawn in the first round against Easthampstead. Unfortunately, the new format did not suit our team and we lost the match 116 – 95.

Internal Matches and Competitions

The Bontor

In 2014 the ladies clawed one back on the men with a win of 6 ½ to 5 ½.

Ladies' Invitation

Played in May with our usual American Greensomes format the winners on the day were Val Riziotis and Paul Brown with a total of 34 points. Alison Chadwick and her partner Ziggy Lubkowski captured the second spot with 32 points.

Men's Invitation

This was played in July with our familiar American Greensomes format. Sadly, at the time of going to press the details of who were the winners are not recorded and the memory banks are all a bit foggy..

The Ladies' Spring Weekend Away main event - The Lockie Trophy

For 2014 the Club returned to Tudor Park near Maidstone. The main event comprises 36 holes and on a countback the winner of the Lockie Trophy was Val Riziotis. The runner-up with the same overall score was Jayne Maxwell.

The Ladies' Autumn Weekend Away main event - The Gill Hibbs Trophy

For the Autumn Weekend Away the Club returned to Donnington Valley near Newbury. Playing over two days for the Gill Hibbs Trophy the winner was Christine Stewart and Veronica Mitchell was the runner-up.

Individual Achievements

- As shown above the winner of the RPGC Open was Alan Richardson with a net 69. His gross was 73 and with three birdies in his round he dropped just two shots to par. On a countback Toby Hunt was declared the runner-up with a net 70. We were unsuccessful in our attempt to retain the Putney Park Open and our best position was Peter Osgood's third place.
- Holes in one are normally something of a rarity but in 2014 we had a case of the bus syndrome when it was all quiet for a good period and then we had four in very quick succession:
Mike Shabani scored his on the 10th on the Duke's course on 7th September.
James Barker scored his on the 11th on the Prince's course on 28th September.
Lia Donath scored hers on the 16th on the Prince's course on 12th October.
Pete Davis scored his on the 7th on the Duke's course on 25th October.
- In the NAPGC singles championships we had three members of the Club who really excelled in 2014:
 - * Paul Patching played in the final of the NAPGC (medal) Championship at Woodall Spa and came 5th in his handicap division.
 - * Toby Hunt ventured up to St Andrews to play in the final of the UKPCC Championship (Stableford) and he captured 3rd overall place.
 - * Val Riziotis also ventured up to St Andrews for the final of the ladies' UKPCC Championship and she captured the 4th overall place.

- At the time of looking, for the second year running Ed Henery topped the men's birdie tree with 28 (compared to 32 in 2013). Hot on his heels with 24 birdies was Pete Davis.

Extra Curricular Activities

Two of the regular annual highlights of the Club are the weekends away that are organised by the ladies' section. In 2014 those of us that participated were fortunate to enjoy two very comfortable weekends with the bonus of good weather.

For the Spring weekend a good contingent of the Club set off to Tudor Park near Maidstone. The course was a good length and proved to be more deceptively difficult than it first appeared. As mentioned before, the winning lady was Val Riziotis and for the men the winner was Phil Flanagan.

The Club ventured in the opposite direction to Donnington Valley near Newbury for the Autumn weekend. Some of the course was open but many sections required a good relatively straight ball and this was the undoing of many promising cards. The very short par three was a real teaser. As mentioned, the winning lady was Christine Stewart and for the men the winner on his first weekend away was the 'iron man' Pete Harrison.

A special vote of thanks goes to Veronica Mitchell who took charge of the organisation of both weekends.

On 21st September the Club had a belated birthday party. The minute book records the inauguration of the Priory Golf Club on 13th April 1924. It is not known why the name 'Priory' was given to the Club but it is worth noting that the section of road inside the Park from Roehampton Gate to Robin Hood Gate carries the name 'Priory Lane'. If my memory serves me correctly the Club's name was changed to Richmond Park Golf Club in the 1950's because the Committee felt uncomfortable with the Club being associated with the 'Priory lunatic asylum'. Whilst the Committee dithered about how to celebrate 90 years of Club golf it was Captain Jon who first suggested and then organised the 'Hickory Day'. This was great fun and a huge success with the Edwardian dress code being the order of the day. The weather was brilliant and this helped the spectacle which attracted some bemused looks from members of the public and also from those potential new members entering cards for their handicaps. The winner by a good margin on the day was Richard Owen, but just as important were our two 'best dressed' winners – Veronica Mitchell and Liam Bridger.

In the early part of 2014 John Ahad volunteered to make the arrangements for an away day. After a lot of persuasive bargaining John managed to book a top value away day to Finchley Golf Club on 15th October. The attendance on the day was not as high as hoped but by all accounts those that attended had an excellent day's golf. The winner on the day was Pete Harrison and this followed his success at the Autumn weekend away. At the time of writing it has not be able to confirm the day's runner-up but in third place was Alison Chadwick.

www.RichmondParkGolfClub.Org.Uk - The RPGC Website

As we move to another new golfing season let's not forget that Tim Meyer very patiently maintains the Club's website which has a number of information feeds on a weekly basis. Although Tim contends that he is the website Editor we all know that there is far more to this than meets the eye. The website contains more than 2,000 pages of information and archive data that has accumulated over the last 12 years and all the pages are 'linked' within the website in order that we can see the Club's diary and the results data.

Just as importantly as the archive record, Tim ensures that for the benefit of everyone the website looks forward to provide information of the events in progress and the plans for our future events that we have in the pipeline.

It goes without saying that the maintenance of the website is time-consuming and we are all continually grateful for Tim's devotion to this task.

..and the website hit-rate for the month of December 2014 was 25.5 seconds – a run rate of 1.23million per annum!

Absent Friends

When reviewing this year's performances I was reminded of the sad loss of Andy Furniss who died of a heart attack in his early 40's in August 2014. Andy joined the Club in 2003 and returned to the Club a few years ago when his posting to Australia ended. We believe that Andy is the only RPGC member to have won the Putney Park Open twice, and his last victory was in 2013.

The Committee and helpers

At start of 2014 we had two safe pairs of hands at the helm with Jon Cooper as Captain and Jayne Maxwell at the Club's Lady Captain.

It was at the close of 2013 that Captain Jon had completed his two year stint as Captain and it was unfortunate for the Club that his natural successor Osman found it necessary for family reasons to emigrate for an indeterminate period to Pakistan. The 'grand plan' was that Jon should act as a caretaker Captain for a short period whilst the Committee consider the options for a replacement. As time drifted and Jon became absorbed in the detailed arrangements for 2014 we managed to convince him to carry on for a third year and mightily pleased we were that he did so. In fact, taking account of previous periods it was Jon's fifth year as Club Captain, and let's not forget that it was Jayne's second term as Lady Captain.

On the Committee we all knew that 2014 would be a tricky year because we were still in the transitional period whilst Glendale considered the timing options for commencing the new course layouts. The original plan envisaged the resumption of the 36 holes of play on 1st April which turned out to be a foolish idea but the uncertainty did not help the Captains who were endeavouring to keep the Club in ship-shape order so we are very grateful for their stewardship during 2014.

Everyone on the Committee contributes in varying degrees and making the meetings can be a challenge in itself. For special mention we have members with specific roles that are essential for the well-being of the Club and it does no harm to remind ourselves what is involved:-

- Whilst he was busy packing for Pakistan in the early months of 2014 we were very fortunate that Osman was able to find the time to continue to look after the game bookings data and our membership records. The Club then encountered a stroke of good luck when Paul Brown 'volunteered' to give the bookings a go. We all know that setting up the games on the website, maintaining the bookings process and issuing the end of week message is both time consuming and requires some lateral thinking to provide encouragement to those who have their eye on the weather forecast.
- The Club encountered another stroke of good luck mid-way through the year when Paul was caught off-guard and he 'volunteered' to be our 2014 Vice Captain and 'give it a go'..

It is normal for the VC to have a period of familiarity with Committee life and Club activities before wearing the Captain's hat but with a case of needs must we are fortunate that Paul has agreed to pick up the reins early.

- There is one task at the Park which is possibly the most arduous and unrewarding of any and I am referring to the position of Glendale Liaison Officer for the three clubs. This is a role that Richard Owen has been performing for a few years. The position is more akin to a referee trying to arrange some measure of conciliation between opposing factions who are at loggerheads most of the time. As mentioned in the introduction to this report the volume of email traffic has been huge and Richard has been in the thick of all of this. Moreover, Richard has had to contend with situations when some club sections are being unnecessary awkward and likewise when Glendale has been totally unrealistic. On more than one occasion we have praised Richard in our committee meetings for having the patience of a saint, however, after all this hard work there is now a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel.
- Rather like a set of accounts that roll forward year on year we are lucky to have had Nick keeping track of our numbers for another successful year and for keeping the Committee up to speed with our financial condition.
- Finally, we have to give a special mention and thanks to our two Handicap Secretaries - Paul Grand and Sheena Harrington. With events occurring each week we rely upon our handicap secretaries to process the weekly scores and publish the results data. There is no let-up in this process because everyone's playing handicaps need to be up to date. Earlier in 2014 both Paul and Sheena were able to use the Club's data in order to give advice to Glendale for setting the new stroke indices for the new configurations of the two courses.

The Final Word

There is a ring of optimism about the Club's 2015 year. I hope that this helps you all have a most enjoyable golfing year and some success along the way.

Peter Harrington
Secretary
25th January 2015