



RICHMOND PARK GOLF CLUB

Captain's Log

1 May 2005
Issue 3

Do you know where there might be an advertising sandwich board going begging? We often get strange looks from other golfers on a Sunday morning whilst huddled around the Portacabin. A sandwich board promoting who we are might attract potential new membership enquiries!

PENALTY REF!!

Many golfers are confused over the scale of penalties and even after years of experience they are still unsure about which situations call for a two stroke penalty and those which carry only one stroke. Generally speaking, the two shot penalty, or loss of hole in match-play, is the punishment for a player accidentally breaking the rules of golf. (Deliberate breaking of rules, or cheating, is always punishable by disqualification). So all those mishaps like playing the wrong ball, or shanking and hitting your own golf bag with your ball, or having your putt hit the flagstick, incur the standard two stroke penalty.

One stroke penalties are not really punishments. They are in two categories, the first of which we might think of in terms of prices. For example, if your ball is in the heavy rough you may have to decide whether to have a hack at it or whether it is worth the price of declaring it unplayable and dropping clear. In that case you are exercising your right to lift and drop at the cost of one stroke. In effect, you are buying yourself out of trouble. The same principle applies to the case of having your ball land in casual water in a bunker. You have to ask yourself whether to take a free drop in the bunker or whether it is a worthwhile bargain to 'spend' a penalty stroke on the right to drop the ball outside the hazard. You don't have this option if it is in the sand! The other class of one stroke penalties are 'ghost' strokes. The rules of golf say in effect that if your ball is moved accidentally, perhaps as you were picking up a loose twig, then that is the same as if you moved it with a club; it's a stroke. An air shot is a ghost stroke in that you intended to hit the ball and must count it as a stroke. Another common ghost stroke is when you address the ball and it moves as you ground the club. Now we have to be absolutely precise at this point. It is quite common for the ball to move slightly when it is addressed, notably with a putter, and it is up to the conscience of the golfer to identify the type of movement. If the ball simply rocks slightly and settles back in exactly its original position, then no penalty is involved. But if the ball moves, if only by a fraction, and comes to rest in a new position, then rule 18 states that that is a one penalty stroke, except when addressing the ball on the tee, and the ball must be replaced. It often happens that a ball sitting in the rough will move when addressed by a club, that is why many professionals make a point of never grounding their club in the rough - an excellent tip given the prevailing conditions on our two courses at present.

May 2005

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
						1 Monthly Medal
2 Bank Holiday	3	4 Rusper GC Awayday	5	6	7	8 Ruskie Open Hawtree 'A'
9	10	11	12 Committee Meeting	13	14	15 Golden Jubilee
16	17	18	19	20	21 Clapham Common v	22 Shaw Cup (NAPGC Stapleford)
23	24	25	26	27	28 Ladies Invitation	29 KO Comp Day - get your next
30 Bank Holiday	31					

Match Report - Spring Mixed Foursomes

Apart from a few spits and spots the weather held firm for what was, compared to recent events of a similar nature, quite a quick competition with little bunching. Despite high scores proving to be elusive on the Dukes Course, all competitors enjoyed the day; the highlight probably being a birdie scored by both teams in the same game on the 14th. George Martin and Kate Friswell were the eventual victors, scoring 34 points from Jon Cooper and Doreen Dolby (31 points), with Martin Wright and Jini Beacham third.



"Come on - get it in the hole!"

RUFFIANS RYDER CUP

Richard Owen has kindly accepted the challenge of organising this year's team to take on Ludlow and win back the Ruffians Ryder Cup. The Competition takes place over two days - Friday 22nd and Saturday 23rd July. For those members who are not familiar with the format, Doubles Better Ball Matchplay is the order of the day for the Friday and on the Saturday it's Singles Matchplay. Tee off times have yet to be advised by Glendale, but it is suspected that they will be allocated an afternoon start on Friday and (hopefully) a mid-morning start on Saturday. Richard will begin to approach potential team members this month, but if you want to play don't wait to be asked, let Richard know of your interest, after all one volunteer is worth ten pressed men (or women - either sex are eligible). You will probably have twigged on to the fact that the Saturday is the same day as our Summer Event. This is no coincidence; it gives us a chance to entertain the opposition socially after the event, and present the Cup to the winning team in the presence of an audience.



Don't come up short, go all the way and volunteer for the Ruffians

RULES - KNOWLEDGE IMPROVEMENT

Do you want to improve your knowledge on the Rules of Golf but find the whole process somewhat boring - especially when it comes to the thought of ploughing your way through the Book of Rules? Well, apart from reading this publication each month, which gives you snippets at a time, log on to the Royal &



Ancient's website at www.randa.org. On the home page you will see a question on the Rules of Golf that will give you a true or false option; answer it and the next

page gives you the chance of playing a quiz at different levels (Easy, Moderate or Advanced) and you can choose to answer 10 or 15 questions. At the end you receive your score together with an analysis of the question, which Rule the scenario comes under

"In or out; number of strokes - this book's a hoot"

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER

**At the last
Committee
Meeting on
14th April
Julian Ratnage
was proposed
and accepted
as the latest
member to
serve on the
Committee.**



Lady Captain's Page

The Challenge Cup draw has taken place, and if the lady members have not yet seen this year's format, you can find it on both the notice board in the portacabin and on the website. Please make every effort to ensure your game is completed within the time limits allowed for each round. The Barton Bowl qualifier sheet will soon be promulgated for dates from the 15th May until the end of September; clearly there will be plenty of opportunities for you to pit your skills against me and give yourselves an excellent chance of winning this rather attractive trophy for a year.

The Ladies Invitation on 28th May this year. on the Notice Board in the can append your name For those ladies who do ner, don't be afraid to ask company you for the day - asked 'for a date' and of-in refusing such an offer!! to emphasise that the for-can Greensomes; it helps 'hanging around' that can urday afternoon.

The Whitewebbs 'B' Team Team when the draw was nately lost their match at for greater success for the the 'B' Team)!! The Haw-play their match against Park, and all involved tacted. The Hawtree 'B' be arranged, but it is away



Competition is to be held There is already a sheet portacabin on which you and that of your partner. not have a 'natural' part-one of the men to ac-they're not used to being ten have great difficulty And please don't forget mat for the day is Ameri-to eliminate some of the so often occur on a Sat-

(which became the 'A' made known) unfortu-Portsmouth; let's hope 'A' Team (which is now tree 'A' Team are due to Ruislip on 8th May in the have already been con-Team's match has yet to against Huntswood.

On a completely different note, for those who missed our get together after the second leg of the Spring Meeting on 17th April, our President triumphed yet again in the cake department. This time producing a sweet little number called a Hummingbird cake. The vegetarians and slightly more squeamish amongst us were assured that not one of these little creatures lost their lives in the interest of our stomachs. We look forward to the next event and a new 'Julie recipe'!