



RICHMOND PARK GOLF CLUB

Captain's Log

1 July 2005

Issue 5

Foreign Materials

James Braid, the great Scottish champion, who ruled the roost of British golf for many years in company with Harry Vardon and J.H.Taylor as 'The Great Triumvirate', always carried a piece of chalk in his golf jacket. He advocated that in wet weather the face of the driver should be rubbed with chalk to dry the surface and give a better purchase on the ball to impart backspin. That was a common dodge among professionals of the day but latterly the Rules of Golf Committee have clamped down on the addition of 'foreign material to either ball or club during play for the purpose of changing their playing characteristics'.

That sounds like a straightforward rule, but it had one tragicomic consequence for the English tournament player, Guy Hunt, a smallish man who needs all the help he can get to achieve distance off the tee. He discovered that when his driver was wet it put less backspin on the ball, just as Braid had explained. But Hunt was not interested in backspin, which is what gives the ball a high, floating trajectory. He wanted distance and with a wet-faced driver his shots flew lower and, with more run, farther. He therefore fell into the habit of licking his thumb and wiping it over the face of his driver. It was Lee Travino who first alerted Hunt to the dangers of this practice. Hunt was thoroughly embarrassed at the thought that he might have been infringing a rule of golf and his form suffered badly. He wrote to the Royal & Ancient for a ruling. Meanwhile Hunt experimented with different drivers and adjustments to his swing to improve his driving with a dry-faced club. In due course the R&A exonerated Hunt but later had second thoughts and decreed that spit on the driver was a foreign material added to change the club's playing characteristics. Fortunately, by now Hunt had returned to form and was driving well with his new spit-free method, so the decision did not bother him. That is a way-out example but if you are of an experimental turn of mind, you might, for instance, be tempted to add a piece of lead tape to your driver. If so, do not do it during a round because that most definitely would come under the heading of changing the character of the club during play - just like tweaking one of the new drivers during a round that have adjustable weight differentials to counter your slice or hook would risk disqualification.

July 2005

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1	2 Rickmansworth @ Home	3 Richmond Park GC Open
4	5	6	7	8	9 Men's Invitation	10 Association Trophy
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Monthly Medal
18	19	20	21	22 Ruffians Ryder Cup (Doubles)	23 RRC (Singles) 10 Pin	24 Centurion Open
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 President's Putter

Playing With The Right Balls

Following an incident in last month's Club Championships I believe it is timely to remind everybody to be a little careful when, having marked your ball on the green and put it in your pocket, you ensure that the ball you place back on the green is the same one you picked up off the green. Playing the wrong ball (as happened in this case) incurs a two shot penalty. We struggle to go round the golf course in the number of shots we take as it is; try not to give additional silly shots away through a lack of concentration.



Check it before you deck it

Fourteen Clubs

A recent incident in one of our club competitions has brought to the fore the need to remind individuals of the Fourteen Clubs rule. Despite the fact that manufacturers normally make clubs in sets of four woods, eight or nine irons, wedge, sand wedge and putter (sixteen in all), you're only allowed a maximum of fourteen in your bag at any one time. If you accidentally break a club during a round you can replace it (providing the act of doing so does not infringe the rule of playing without undue delay). However, if in a fit of temper you break your putter over your knee because you missed a simple putt, then that is tough - you must play the rest of your round without a replacement.

A player who discovers an extra club during the round and takes his penalty is permitted to declare that club out of play for the rest of the round. Penalties for carrying excess clubs, *regardless of the number of extra clubs* in the bag are as follows:

- Match-play: loss of each hole on which the violation took place with a maximum penalty per round of loss of two holes.
- Stroke-play: two penalty strokes on each hole on which the violation took place with a maximum penalty of four strokes.
- Stableford: deduct two points from the final tally for each hole on which the violation took place with a maximum penalty deduction of four points.

SUMMER SOCIAL EVENT - 23 JULY

It's our second biggest social event of the year (and we don't have that many), so I am asking all of you to make the effort and give this day your full support.

Proceedings kick off with Ten Pin Bowling in the afternoon and concludes with a BBQ, kindly hosted by Peter & Sheena Harrington. You don't have to attend both sections of the event. If you can only attend the Ten Pen Bowling or just the evening session, that's fine - just let

John Cooper know. It is not expensive (£10 for BBQ & £10 for Ten Pin Bowling) and it offers a wonderful opportunity to mix with fellow club members on a more social footing than our course environment allows.



“Great Swing; superb posture - nothing changes!!”

GENTLEMEN

Don't forget

it is Men's

Invitation

Day on 9th

July. If you

would like to

play I have

been assured

that there

are ladies

who would

like to play

too, but need

to be asked.

The event

promises to

be a good

fun day with

plenty of

spot prizes.

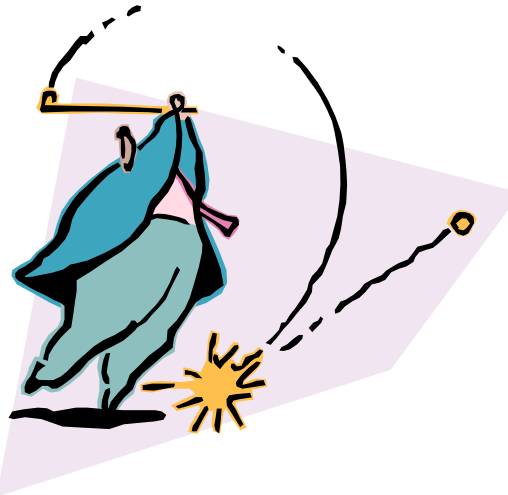
Competitions Page

Last month kicked off with the Hawtree 'B' team playing their first match in this KO competition at Huntswood on 4th June. Huntswood is a short, tight course with some strange slopes and a lot of OOB!! The team performed well but were sadly undone 3-2. The Hawtree 'A' Team play their next round match away at Little Hay on 3rd July - we wish them well.

Maureen Slade and Julian Diamond were victors in the Women's & Men's June Monthly Medals respectively. Maureen won with a respectable Nett 70 and Julian had a good Nett 67 as did Rob Urquhart and Bruce Cuff, but Julian had a superior back nine to clinch the honours.

On 11th June the Ladies took on Mitcham in their annual Home & Away friendly. This was the home leg and our team was successful to the tune of 3 - 1. That gives them a good foundation for the return leg at Mitcham on 13th August.

Mid month saw the male amongst themselves for the Summer Cup; a popular one of the few Stableford in the summer months. (and the first time he has slot) was Adrian Wilder beating Peter Cunningham points into second place.



On 25th June the men

competed in the Association Cup. The weather was agreeable and we came second, beaten by just one point by White Lodge.

Of Course the big competition of the year took place over two Sundays in June; the Club Championships. Ding dong battles were happening all over the place on the Dukes Course as leads were lost, new leads won only to be taken quickly away before the 36th hole. At the end of it all the Ladies Club Champion for 2005 is our President Julie Smith who won by four shots from Tracy Wright. Sheena Harrington won the Ladies Handicap Cup and Jini Beacham took the Pembroke Cup. Congratulations to Bruce Cuff who became the Men's Club Champion for 2005, winning with a Club record 146; he won quite comfortably from a battling Ian Smith who took the runner-up spot. Peter Cunningham came out on top of a ferocious scrap for the Junior Champion trophy to overhaul Geoff Foreman's first round lead; Geoff took the silver medal position. Peter Harrington, after two splendid rounds, won the Handicap Cup (just like his wife!!); John Ahad, Peter Cunningham and Ian Smith tied for second place.

The Putney Park Open was run concurrently with the second round of the Club Championship. Andy Furniss carded a superb Nett 63 to win the day; our conscientious Vice Captain, John Cooper was runner-up with a solid Nett 69.

for the return leg at Mit-

Club members battle the honour of winning the Summer Cup since it is the most popular competition since it is played for the eventual winner who scored 39 points, ham's respectable 38

competed in the Asso-

conditions were quite