



RICHMOND PARK GOLF CLUB

# Captain's Log

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1 October 2005  
Issue 8

## Handicaps Part III

### Clause 19.8

### Captain's Whereabouts

**I plan to be out of the Country (on honeymoon) from 29th October until 14th November. To this end there will be no Captain's Log for November; however, normal service will resume from December.**

In this final part of the handicapping system I believe all Club members should be aware of the infamous Clause 19.8 that you often (or not ) see alongside your name on the results sheet each week when there is a Medal (stroke play) qualifying competition. This clause has no impact on the score you shoot as far as the competition itself is concerned; it does, however, have an impact on the score used to assess whether your exact handicap changes up or down, or stays the same, as a result of your efforts over the competitions eighteen holes.

In effect Clause 19.8 acknowledges that on holes where you have an absolute nightmare (and I'm sure most of us have experienced that from time to time), it reduces the impact on your handicap by acknowledging that the score on that hole is not truly representative of your golfing ability. The way it works is very simple: if, on any hole your medal score is greater than a nett double bogey, the score for that hole is reduced to a nett double bogey. Looking at it from another angle; if you were scoring Stableford points, the score awarded on that hole would be the highest score that would not qualify for one point. For example; let us say that you are playing the second hole on Princes (which is index 7 for men and ladies) and you had one shot on that hole, to get one Stableford point you would need to score six. If you scored nine in a medal round, for handicap purposes that nine would be reduced to seven (but NOT for the competition score where the nine would still count!!). I hope that this makes the whole issue clearer and that you all now have a much better appreciation of the machinations surrounding this black art and which, thankfully, we have two excellent handicap secretaries who are masters/mistresses of their craft.



# October 2005

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1 Autumn Mixed Foursomes	2 Yellow Ball
3 Ladies Cup and	4 Competition The Barton	5 for 2nd is Bowl Play-	6 Round Two plus the	7 Committee Autumn	8	9 Monthly Medal
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 Burgess Cup Autumn Medal Better
17	18	19	20	21	22	23 Charity Cup (all) Macmillan CR Day
24 Away Day North	25	26	27	28 Kate Friswell	29	30 Lissaman Cup (3 clubs & a putter)
31						

## Away Day

Dave Williams has been kind enough to organise our next away day on 24th October at North Downs Golf Club. There will be coffee and a bacon roll available between 0745 - 0815 before a 9-hole stableford round at 0830. On completion a light lunch will be taken followed by an 18-hole stableford competition starting at 1200. There are prizes for longest drive and nearest the pin to be presented on completion of the afternoon's event, and all of this for a mere £45 per head. These days are always enjoyable - support it if you can.

## No Improving of Lie or Line

The rules say that you must not improve the lie of your ball or the line of the shot or the area of your swing by moving, bending or breaking anything fixed or growing, or by removing or pressing down sand, loose soil, cut turf placed in position or other irregularities of surface which could in any way affect your lie. There are four exceptions: first *In fairly taking your stance*. The important word here is *fairly*, and you must be the judge of that. If your ball is in the bushes you must clearly bend growing branches when taking your stance. What you must not do is wield your wedge like a machete and hack away inconvenient vegetation. Nor must you pull aside branches and trap them under your foot; that is not fairly taking a stance. You must not trample behind the ball, flattening the undergrowth for a clean shot (other than when teeing the ball - second exception). Often saplings and young trees are 'staked' or 'guarded' and a local rule may dictate that you have a free drop clear from them. The purpose of the local rule is not to benefit the golfer but to protect the young tree. Wilful destruction of growing vegetation has no place in golf and if there is no local rule the thoughtful golfer will accept the penalty of declaring his ball unplayable than risk demolishing a young tree or shrub.

Thirdly, *in making the stroke*. When you swing the club you may well break or bend growing vegetation and provided it does constitute the kind of vandalism mentioned above, that is perfectly acceptable.

Finally, *on the green*, covers the repair of pitch marks.

Therefore, if your ball is in the long grass, or similar concealing conditions, you can only touch as much of it as to enable you to find and identify your ball; you have no divine right to a sight of it as you play your shot.

## Autumn Mixed Doubles

A severe thunderstorm with frequent flashes of forked lightning resulted in the premature curtailment of the Autumn Mixed Doubles competition on 10th September. Disappointingly we had little option other than to abandon the event, even though all had completed at least two-thirds of course, because the conditions were becoming ever threatening to the point of downright dangerous. Needless to say, once we had all trudged through the driving rain to return to the Portacabins, the thunderstorm began to subside and after 90 minutes all was right with the world again. However, because some couples had other social commitments that evening and could not wait around to see what the weather outcome was likely to be, it was considered fairer on all (apart from perhaps Nick and Veronica who were playing like demons at the time) to rearrange the fixture on 1st October. For those of you taking part you should be warned that the first tee-off time is 1133 (a bit earlier than usual), so if you could be at the park for 1100 that would be great. Order of play will be sorted out on the day.

**The annual  
Dinner &  
Dance takes  
place on  
28th January  
2006. Block  
the date out  
in your  
diary now  
and come  
along to  
what always  
proves to be  
a great  
night out.**



# Competition's Page

From a personal perspective September started very well for me - I had a rush of blood to the brain during the Platinum Jubilee and shot a nett 60; one less than John Sowter who carded an excellent nett 61. This resulted in me having my handicap reduced to 16.8 (first time I've ever been below 19) and John came down to 19.7. This concluded the tussle for the Anniversary Cup which was won in some style by Michael Rossiter, who took the trophy ten shots clear of second placed John Sowter.

I have mentioned earlier that the Autumn Mixed Foursomes has been postponed until 1st October because of lightening, but the following day the weather was much kinder to host the Monthly Medal competitions. Bruce Cuff came up trumps in the men's version with a fantastic score; playing off 1 he completed his round in nett 64 - 3 under course par, and rightly earned a reduction in his handicap back to zero (0.4 exact). Geoff Foreman took second place, one shot behind with nett 65. The ladies version was secured by Julie Smith, winning with a superior back nine from Sheena Harrington; both scoring a nett 72. The Grand Medal Trophy is now shaping up quite nicely for an exciting finish with Julian Diamond currently heading affairs five shots ahead of the in-form Paul Appleton. However, Bruce Cuff has played in just four Monthly Medal competitions and needs only to card a nett 75 or better in October to overhaul Julian's consistent performance. Similarly, if Geoff Foreman cracks a nett 73 or better this month, he too could be in the shake up for victory.

On 18th September men and ladies competed for the J Q Robertson Trophy. This is always a hotly contested competition - especially as it is in stableford format. Our Vice Captain, Jon Cooper came out top of the pile with a magnificent 41 points, just one ahead of Michael Rossiter, who in turn pipped Tim Meyer with a better back nine to take the runner's-up honours. The following weekend was the Ladies away weekend, and even though the Sunday competition was merely a stableford sweep, it did not inhibit Stuart Nash and George Martin from having splendid rounds of 42 points apiece; Stuart was given top honour on the strength of a better back nine.

The various Knockout Competitions have almost reached full conclusion. Paul Grand and Cheryl Woodhouse are our Mixed Double champions this year. That wily old fox Dave Williams played like a trojan to beat off Kerry Sargeant in the final of the J H Taylor Shield senior singles knockout, and Geoff Foreman could not quite do enough to withhold the strong challenge of John Ahad, who ran out victor in this year's Two Courses Cup junior singles knockout. The Ladies Challenge Cup final was quite a battle between Kate Friswell and Siobahn Clake; Siobahn eventually beating off a strong comeback from Kate to take the spoils. It only remains to see the conclusion of the men's doubles final between Bruce Cuff & Kerry Sargeant against Robert Urquhart & Dave Lawrance before this aspect of our fixture list is complete for 2005.