

RICHMOND PARK GOLF CLUB



THE CAPTAINS TWIG

2006

In the footsteps of our last industrious Captain, David Marsh, I felt the continuation of a mailer from time to time was a good thing.

However, not being from a nautical background – and more importantly intending neither to write a lot nor on a regular basis – I have opted for a lightweight version of David's Captain's Log. Welcome to the first edition of the **Captain's Twig**. This august publication will appear from time to random time, whenever there is something worthy of saying. The Captain's Twig will be emailed to members with one copy being printed and pinned to the portacabin, - sorry - *clubhouse* board for the luddites.

My first duty, albeit way too late, is to thank everyone who voted for me to be the Captain this year. I would of course be extremely flattered – had anyone else chosen to stand. So, what should you expect from your Captain this year? I am afraid my new career has already prevented me from attending two evening meetings, and having a job that is busiest at evenings and weekends is not ideal.

However, I hope to be at all the other meetings, and I am extremely fortunate to have a very able committee who do all the work effortlessly without me. Nothing changes really!

I have set myself two tasks to achieve in this very short year as Captain of RPGC. The first is the most important. With the tender for running the courses being undertaken as I write, we will soon have an operator working on a long-term contract. That may be Glendale or it may be someone new, no one will know until around the autumn of this year. Whoever it is, it is very likely that there will be changes at the Park, and one of the biggest as far as we are concerned is the stated requirement from the Royal Parks for one club.

Peter Harrington has done sterling work on this for some years and all that groundwork will now come in extremely useful. None of the clubs in the Park would choose to amalgamate all things being equal, but we all have little choice. My major task for the year is to ensure as smooth an amalgamation as possible, ensuring that the rights and wishes of all the clubs are maintained as best we can so that we end up with a stronger and more flexible club giving greater opportunities to play for everybody. There is no doubt that all the clubs will need to give up a little of what we currently have – there will need to be a new logo, some sharing and thinning of competitions and cups and so on. Since we have to do it, it will all be worthwhile if we end up with a larger, friendly and successful club that has real clout when dealing with the new course operators.

The second task I want to concentrate on is the teams we will be fielding this year for the national and interclub competitions. This is never an easy task, even though we appear to have lots of golfers to choose from. We have a loyal core who have always made the effort to turn out for the teams and it is not easy to miss any of them out after all their past efforts. In addition, many events are pairs competitions and picking winning pairs is an art in itself. Finally, the players in form are often busy on match days.

The ladies have already played some of their White Webs matches, and one team is also through to the Regional Finals of the Mary Foster Bowl. We have the Hawtree (a mixed event away at Abbey Hill) on the 7th of May and the first round of the Clapham Common (with home and away Men's teams against Iver) on the 29th of April. Please try to be available if you are in form at the moment. I have to say on current form, I will probably be a non-playing Captain!

Well, that is all for now, except to cover a few house keeping matters.

Firstly a big welcome to a host of new members, and welcome back to some old faces too. I am not going to name them all as I am sure to miss someone out. You know who you are, and believe me you are all very welcome indeed. Not only is it good to see the club growing, but also there are some great golfers in the new members and some who have enormous promise for the future. LeRoy has already won a cup I believe, and I am sure we can expect similar performances from many new players soon. I would ask all the longer standing members to make a special effort to include the newcomers in everything and to make sure you get the chance to play with them. As friendly as you all are, it can be daunting to join a new club where everyone seems to know each other and you are not quite sure what the form for the day is!

Secondly, please don't forget that Saturday 22nd is Spring Mixed Foursome day. Please arrive at 12 noon (sharp!!). If anyone suddenly cannot make it, please let me know ASAP and we will try to get a substitute (my mobile is 07956 487818). The drawn pairs are:-

Game 1/	J Cooper & N Lynch	+	D Marsh & T Wright
Game2/	S Hunt & C Woodhouse	+	I Smith & R Lake
Game 3/	A Dolby & T Mulhall	+	S Potts & K Marsh
Game 4/	M Wright & S Harrington	+	T Hunt & J Beacham
Game 5/	G Syme & J Smith	+	J Loubser & D Dolby
Game 6/	P Harrington & P Langland	+	T Pickard & V Mitchell

There will be light nibbles and a glass or two on offer afterwards.

Thirdly, have you booked for the away day on May 5th? Details are on the website (www.richmondparkgolfclub.org.uk). I expect Dave Williams can still fit in an extra player or two.

Finally – watch out for the end of 'pick and place', which is likely to happen any time now. We always get some penalty points for players who don't see the notice on the entry sheet or simply forget as they play. You have been warned!

Enjoy your golf! Jon Cooper