

RICHMOND PARK GOLF CLUB



THE CAPTAINS TWIG No. 2

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As promised, these notes only appear when there is something to say, so here are a few updates for you all to think about.

Forthcoming fixtures.

There is a lot going on at the Park over the next few weeks. Please keep your eye out for all the competitions but especially the Ladies Invitation on the 27th (is your name down yet Ladies? Have you selected the partner you would like to play with yet?)

The second round of the **Clapham Common** is on the 28th of May and I will be approaching the first round team as well as some of you low handicappers to replace people like me!

Finally, June sees the two rounds of the Club Championship. There are strict rules for the starting procedure for this based on your handicap in the first round and your position in the second. The full rules are on the website so be sure you know what they are. No exceptions will be made for people not putting their name down to play in time or not turning up to play at the right time- the penalties will be applied!

Sunday Starters

This is always a nightmare as players simply do not turn up in plenty of time for their game, the early clubs often have less games than planned meaning we are required to go out earlier and so on. Historically we have had a starter taking control of things for a year or two – and very effective they have been. However, currently no-one has volunteered to be first in and last out every week - (I wonder why?) – and so the committee have instituted a new system. In future the committee members who normally go out before the ladies will take turns to be the starter for the first half of the games, and the two who go out after the ladies will take charge of the second half. Each week the names of the starter for the following weeks will be included on the booking sheets and the starters will be reminded of their role on the day before (the Saturday).

I would ask you all to cooperate with the starters, turn up in plenty of time (not just in time) and be flexible about being moved from game to game. **The starters will try to ensure that the slower players amongst us do not play in the same games. The starters decisions will be final!!**

On the same note, the starters will also nominate the game marshal for each game as we used to do, and this brings us on to the next point.

Slow play.....!

We have all seen recently the re-occurrence of some very slow play. This is not unusual this time of year with the sun and rain making the rough a thick,

lush hiding place for golf balls. This is exacerbated by the number of medal rounds played early in the year. The wilder players and the slower players have real problems – and the faster players have coronaries.

I want the game marshals to ensure that all players watch to see where balls go, that if they are not found in the first 20 seconds of looking where you think they are, you call the game behind through, and that all players are reminded how to avoid slow play and are kept moving.

Classic problems are marking cards on the green or before teeing off when it is your turn to go. Taking much too long over shots or putts – we are not professionals (and they get fined for slow play!). Sauntering up the fairway rather than walking briskly to your ball. The big one still remains as spending too long looking for balls without (or even before) calling the game behind through.

In addition to your efforts, I am going to ask the course marshal to pay particular attention to our club on Sundays and to ensure games are chased up. Please do not be difficult with the course marshal – I have asked him to chivvy you up and if he does, you are too slow or have lost too much ground on the game in front.

So – can we all please try to speed things up, and if you really do like playing slowly, please book one of the last two games.

Enjoy your golf!

Jon Cooper