

**RICHMOND PARK GOLF CLUB**



**THE CAPTAINS TWIG No. 3**

**Autumn 2006**

The Captain's Twig appears when there is something that is needed to say. So here is the third copy this year.

### **Forthcoming fixtures.**

The Committee have tried hard to set a winter fixture list that is both interesting and suitable for the time of year, the key consideration of winter golf being the lack of daylight hours. This means that the last of our games really struggle to get finished.

I am certain that we all would want every member to have the same enjoyment of their golf and it is therefore incumbent on all of us to play as quickly as possible to ensure the last games have time to finish before the Park closes.

The committee has selected formats that enable players to pick up when they cannot score – or when they cannot beat their partner's score. Please ensure you do this. The different games (bogey, pairs better ball etc) have all been well received and we will use the bogey format for the later monthly medal rounds (for the men at least) to prevent those muddy rounds with big numbers on the cards!

### **Slow Play**

We can all do our bit for the poor players at the end of our games – and for each other – by ensuring we are not the ones causing slow play. The Winter Faster Play sheet is appended to this for all of us to remind ourselves of what we should be doing.

In addition, each week two 'faster play' points will be on the table in the porta-cabin. Please read them!!

Game marshals are being re-introduced. **Their** job is to make sure the game keeps right up with the game in front at all times by doing all the things the reminder sheets say to do to avoid slow play. **Your** job is to ensure the game marshal has nothing to do!

*If the starter has not selected a game marshal for your game, pick one yourselves. This has to happen.*

***Finally – we also want you to write your game number on your scorecards, together with the exact times you start and finish your game. This is to try to help us to understand where the long rounds stem from. Your help with this will be greatly appreciated.***

(And, of course, if any of you really do prefer to play slowly, please feel free to book one of the last two games.)

## **Sunday Starters**

For some weeks the starting process has been pretty ad hoc. Helpful club members who always turn up early have written the latest list of names on the board and made changes where needed due to late arrivals etc. Whilst not being the ideal method, it seems to work and if it is not broke, don't fix it! Thanks to all those early birds who are proving so invaluable!!

However, at this time of year starting times are at a premium and we must make sure we do not have games going out late.

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.

## **£40 Parking Fines**

Car parking in the park is becoming really difficult. More and more cycle clubs are driving in to use the park and in the winter we have an influx of rugby players too. The loss of some places to disabled bays and more space to the cafe has further exacerbated the problem.

Recently at least two of our members have arrived to find no spaces anywhere and parked on the grass in the car park. Both received £40 fines. You have been warned!

We will talk to the Royal Parks about the situation and the possibility of using the space near the old clubhouse. We will be asking Glendale to assist in this approach as well (they will be losing revenue at the golf course through lack of parking) but do not hold your breath waiting for results. If the battle is between golfers on one hand and cyclists/walkers/rugby players on the other we are on the wrong side of the politically correct divide!

## **Anyone know about generators?**

The power supply to the Park is poor and we are adding to the problem, so our winter heater and the fridge will not be in use unless we find another power supply. We are nervous about a generator as we would need to store flammable fuel, keep it serviced and stop it from being nicked! However, we also know nothing about them. If anyone has any expertise on generators or a safe use of calor gas heaters in porta-cabins, please let Peter Harrington or me know!

**Amalgamation of clubs.**

As you probably know, this will certainly not happen in the short term and maybe not at all. This means we will continue as normal at RPGC and therefore will need a committee and officers. If anyone is interested in being any of that please make yourself known to any of the current committee members.

**Dinner and dance.**

The annual Dinner and Dance will be at the Winning Post, Chertsey Road, Twickenham on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January. This is always a great night out so please get your names down now. The booking sheet is in the cabin.

Enjoy your golf!

Jon Cooper

# **RICHMOND PARK GOLF CLUB**



## **FAST PLAY - SPEED IS OF THE ESSENCE**

*With the shortened daylight hours in winter it is important that we all take on board the need to complete our rounds of golf as quickly as possible in order that the later games can be completed before the courses are closed.*

*Here are some memory joggers to help us proceed quickly and efficiently:-*

- *Walk – don't stroll*
- *Be prepared to tee off with a club, ball and tee at the ready – don't dither*
- *Have a provisional ball close at hand*
- *Play a provisional ball if there is any doubt that the original may not be found or it may be out of bounds*
- *Tee off out of turn if this saves time*
- *Tee off before marking score cards if this saves time*
- *Play out of turn if this saves time*
- *Clear the green as quickly as possible to allow approaching players to proceed – and do not stand on the green casually marking score cards*
- *Around the greens, leave bags and trolleys in a handy place to pick up for the next tee*
- *Wherever possible putt out on the greens rather than mark and pick up*
- *In Stableford or Bogey events, pick up when out of points or the hole is lost*
- *Make a conscious effort to speed up if a gap appears between your game and the one in front – and remind your fellow players of the need for 'fast play'*
- *Don't daydream – watch your fellow players to see where their shots have landed and assist in searches as necessary*
- *Call the following game 'up' if a search is in progress – and let the game 'through' if it is ready to proceed before your game*
- *Keep an eye on the following game and assist with ball watching to prevent unnecessary searches (e.g. 3<sup>rd</sup> hole on the Princes).*
- *Don't linger at the tea hut*
- *Don't stand on the 18<sup>th</sup> having hugs and kisses!*