

# Richmond Park Golf Club

## NEWS FROM THE PARK



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Editor: Richard Owen

This newsletter seeks to keep members informed of club news and up-coming events. Any items for inclusion in future issues, please advise Richard Owen.

### NEWS : PROPOSED COURSE CHANGES & NEW CLUB HOUSE

#### 1. THE PROPOSALS

At the beginning of November, the Royal Parks Association (RPA) and Glendale Golf finally submitted their planning application to the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames for re-development of Richmond Park Golf Course. The proposals include construction of a new clubhouse in the south-east corner of the course (Princes 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> green area) with access through Clohole gate, a 20 bay driving range (on the adjacent former nursery land), a 5-hole academy course, changes to 11 of the 18 holes on the current Princes Course, and re-ordering of the holes on both courses, including assigning 4 of the Dukes' holes to the Princes Course and 4 of the Princes' holes to the Dukes Course. This planning application follows on from the consultation exercise they held a few months ago. The proposals are little changed from those that are displayed in the Glendale Café. The Council has 16 weeks to consider the application and make a decision, which means we can expect their decision by the end of February 2008. Full details of the application are on Richmond Council's website and Peter Harrington has printed a copy of all the submission documents, which will be available to view in the cabin.

Attached to this newsletter are the 'cards' for the revised courses, indicating the changes that are proposed by Glendale.

#### 2. OUR RESPONSE TO THE PROPOSALS

We are aware from views expressed at the time of Glendale's consultation that a significant number of our members are dismayed at the extent of the changes Glendale are proposing for the course, and the Princes Course in particular. Several members wrote in with their comments and, on behalf of the club, Peter Harrington submitted detailed concerns about the clubhouse and changes/shortening of the Princes Course. Notwithstanding the comments that have already been made, we now have our final opportunity (collectively and individually) to try and influence what developments actually take place at the park. This is by making representations to the Council, as well as collectively to the RPA/Glendale. Please take time to look at the proposals and then let a committee member know your thoughts.

#### 3. MEETING WITH THE RPA & GLENDALE

Peter Harrington and I attended a meeting with the Royal Parks and Glendale last Thursday (Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>) to discuss the comments and concerns that our club submitted about the clubhouse and course change proposals during the consultation period. At the meeting, the RPA and Glendale explained the rationale behind their proposals and we went through our specific comments on their proposed changes to the courses. There have been a few revisions to the original Glendale proposal arising out of Peter's submitted comments and we are hopeful that the discussions at our meeting may lead to other amendments, but we are not holding our breath.

Glendale's position on several points about the future operation of the course and clubhouse were made clear at the meeting. These included that :-

- (i) Glendale will not require the present individual clubs to amalgamate into a single club, and we will be able operate to much have we have done in the past, however we will need to co-operate with the other clubs in arranging a single point of contact with Glendale; and

(ii) Glendale plan to keep the new clubhouse and its catering facilities open for as long as possible, and well after the dusk closing of Richmond Park.

#### 4. THE OTHER ASSOCIATION CLUBS

There have not been any meetings with the other Association of Richmond Park Golf Clubs during the past year, but we have been invited to attend one before Xmas – no doubt to discuss the future !

### **OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

#### 5. 2008 COMMITTEE

Nominations for the committee. We are fast approaching the year end and the AGM will be held on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2008 at All Saints Church Hall, East Sheen. At this time we will be electing the new committee. A form has now been posted on the notice board asking for nominations. If you fancy helping out on the committee – or want to nominate someone else, please put the name on the form now. (Interested, but not sure, please speak to a current committee member).

#### 6. TROPHY PRESENTATIONS & DINNER DANCE

We are also coming up to the time for the Annual Awards Dinner and Dance. This will take place at the Winning Post on Saturday February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Details will be posted on the board soon, but this is the one big social event of the year and a great time is had by all. It is a chance to pick up your cup(s), talk to other members and have a nice meal and a bit of a bop! Guests are very welcome (and always enjoy the event), and tickets will be going on sale soon.

## DUKES

New Hole	Par	Length* (yards)	Currently	Notes
1	4	399	Princes' 10th +11th	New tee near present Princes' 10th tee, existing Princes' 11th fairway and green
2	4	305	Princes' 5th	unchanged
3	4	309	Princes' 6th	unchanged
4	4	414	Dukes' 11th	unchanged
5	4	405	Dukes' 12th	unchanged
6	4	339	Dukes' 13th	unchanged
7	3	176	Dukes' 14th	unchanged
8	4	410	Dukes' 15th	unchanged
9	4	349	Dukes' 2nd	unchanged
	(35)	(3106)		
10	3	189	Dukes' 3rd	unchanged
11	4	316	Dukes' 4th	unchanged
12	5	522	Dukes' 5th	unchanged
13	4	443	Dukes' 6th	unchanged
14	4	433	Dukes' 7th	unchanged
15	4	387	Dukes' 8th	unchanged
16	3	160	Dukes' 9th	unchanged
17	5	486	Dukes' 10th	unchanged
18	4	300	Princes' 7th	New green, shorter (exact length unknown)
	(36)	(3326)	Length * = white tees	
	71	6342 yds	New length is 177 yards longer than present Dukes Course (white tees)	

## PRINCES

New Hole	Par	Length* (yards)	Currently	Notes
1	4	351	Princes' 8th	Shorter (new tee further forward)
2	3	209	Princes' 4th	Reduced to Par 3, new tee over the road (and downhill?)
3	4	370	Princes' 12th	unchanged
4	3	146	Princes' 13th	New tee and green
5	4	343	Princes' 14th	Slightly shorter (new tee forward)
6	4	329	Princes' 15th	unchanged
7	4	428	Princes' 16th	unchanged
8	4	385	Princes' 17th	unchanged
9	5	479	Princes' 18th	unchanged
	(35)	(3040)		
10	4	421	Dukes' 1st	New pond in existing crater in front of green
11	3	159	Dukes' 16th	unchanged
12	4	362	Dukes' 17th	unchanged
13	3	247	Dukes' 18th	unchanged
14	4	263	Driving Range	New tee in area in front of shop/café, new green left of current Princes' 1st fairway
15	4	269	Princes' 2nd	Shorter (new green in existing fairway)
16	3	153	Princes' 3rd	New tee in existing Princes 2nd green area, new green shorter and to the right of existing 3rd fairway (short of oak tree)
17	4	247	Princes' 4th	Existing 4th tee, new green on existing 4th fairway, over road close to trees on the left.
18	4	258	Princes' 9th	Dog-leg right, new tee on path from current Princes 8th to 9th, new green in current Princes' 9th fairway
	(33)	(2379)	Length * = white tees	
	68	5419yds	New length is 449 yds shorter than present Princes Course (white tees)	