

Richmond Park Golf Club

NEWS FROM THE PARK



Issue 1/09
March 2009

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

- The club AGM took place on January 28th at the Barnes Home Guard Social Club. The meeting was well attended and it was a time to thank our outgoing President (Julie Smith) and outgoing Treasurer (Dave Williams) for their fantastic personal contribution to the club over many years. Julie, Dave and Ian Smith will all become honorary members of the club in recognition of their contributions. The Secretary's Annual Report for 2008 can be found on the club's website at :- http://www.richmondparkgolfclub.org.uk/2009/extras/2008_Secretary_Report.pdf
- Tim Meyer takes over as club President, and Richard Owen and Gurpal Sekhon were both voted in for their second years as Captain and Vice Captain respectively. Peter Harrington and Paul Grand continue as Secretary and Handicap Secretary. Other members of the committee for this year are Sheena Harrington (Vice President), John Morris, Tony Kopezak, and Gary Flounders, together with three members of the Ladies Committee - Jayne Maxwell (Lady Captain), Louise Williams (Lady Vice Captain) and Sonia Inniss (Lady Secretary). Since the AGM, Nick Rogers has agreed to take on the vacant Treasurer position, and Ron Linden will also join the committee as a co-opted member. It's really good to have 'new blood' on the committee.

- The trophy presentation dinner and dance took place on Saturday January 31st at the Winning Post. Members who took the major honours (and needed a sack to take home all their trophies and mementos) were Dave Winter and Paul Doran for the men, and Jayne Maxwell for the ladies.

It was nice to see some of our regular dinner & dance attendees step up to collect their first major trophy (e.g. Dave Keen pictured).



- Your annual subscriptions became due on February 1st. This has been held at £50 pa. (senior ladies and men £25 pa.). For those who haven't yet paid, please do so asap. You will not be able to play in club competitions, or be entered into the draws for the knockouts until you have. You can pay Richard Owen or Sheena Harrington on a Sunday, or send a cheque to Peter Harrington.
- A liaison meeting was held between representatives of the Royal Parks Agency, Glendale and several of the Richmond Park Association golf clubs in January, Richard Owen represented RPGC. It was agreed that such meetings, which have lapsed since Glendale took over the golf course management, were useful and should occur regularly. Meetings with Glendale will be on a 3-monthly cycle, and those with the RPA every 6 months. Three matters of particular note from the meeting were:
 - **New clubhouse development** : Following the GLA's objection to the scheme that was submitted in November 2007, Glendale and the RPA have decided in principle that they

will submit a new application for a smaller floorplan clubhouse on the same Chohole Gate site. They advised that the revised scheme would “retain all of the same functions as previously and there would be a loss of catering space”. However, Glendale have taken a commercial decision not to do any work on the re-design of the scheme until “the summer of 2009” in view of the recession. There would have to be a further period of consultation and timescales mentioned were “submit for planning during late 2009, obtain consent in early 2010, followed a 6 month build through with an autumn completion”. My comment would be that this all sounds very optimistic. Realistically we should expect to be operating out of the portacabin for at least another 2 years.

- **Parking** : The under-capacity of the Roehampton Gate car park was discussed. In view of the difficulties at weekends, especially for matches played later than our regular tee off time, it was agreed that we could park cars in the “Disabled and Authorised Users Only” area (over the cattle grid), with a parking permit system arranged with Glendale. The RPA also advised us of their proposal to introduce controlled parking in Richmond Park. There is consultation on this proposal, which ends on May 1st. The proposed charge for parking over 3 hours is £3. More details of the RPA’s proposal can be found at http://www.royalparks.org.uk/press/2009/press_release_190.cfm. The RPGC committee has decided to respond to the RPA concerning the proposal, but individual club members may also wish to reply individually.
- **Course Conditions** : Maintaining the courses in the best possible condition, so that it is a place where golfers will choose to come and play, is in Glendale’s interest as well as our own. We expressed the view that the courses were not in as good condition as they have been, or should be. Glendale’s view was that the courses had “held up well” despite the awful weather. They also advised that they were committed to maintain a high standard and had made very substantial capital investments in equipment. The RPA said that they had the courses independently audited and were satisfied.
- Glendale has announced its annual season ticket prices from April 2009. These are £780 for the unlimited golf 7-day card and £370 for the ‘half price’ 7-day card. If you buy either before March 31st, they are offering two free 18 hole rounds for friends or family. For regular club members playing at Richmond Park, these season tickets represent value for money. Assuming the single weekend green fee remains at £23, the unlimited season ticket is cheapest option if you play 36 rounds or more in a year; the half- price ticket works out cheapest if you play 33 to 35 rounds.
- A reminder that you can order very good quality Glenmuir golf clothing with the club’s logo at discounted prices through Peter Harrington. Brochure in the cabin – have a word with Peter to place your order (or drop him an email). The club colours for external competitions this year are yellow shirts and navy blue jumpers (a change from green jumpers). Of course, many more colours are available for other occasions.

UP-COMING FIXTURES AND EVENTS

- The fixture list for this year has now been published. It’s on the noticeboard in the portacabin and will be progressively loaded on the website over the coming weeks.
- We have entered teams in several of the NAPGC team competitions : one team for the Clapham Common Platinum Shield and Ellis Cup (men’s stableford greensomes); two teams for the Hawtree Trophy (mixed foursomes); and two teams for the Whitewebbs Shield (ladies singles matchplay). In addition, several of our club competitions are qualifiers for individuals to play in other NAPGC events.

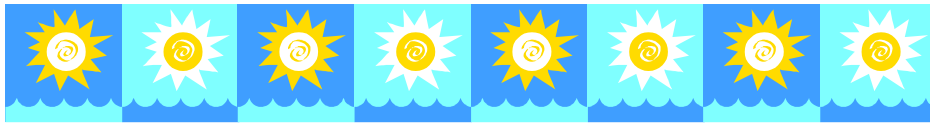
- The men will be having their usual two-legged match with Rickmansworth Golf Club and we are also trying to arrange a second friendly with Amida (at home). The ladies will be having friendly matches with Mitcham and Amida.
- As many of you already know, we are not having qualifying rounds for the club knockout competitions this year. Instead you need to get your name down for the singles, pairs and foursomes competitions by Sunday April 4th. Forms are now in the portacabin, or email Peter Harrington.
- The first of our club Saturday events (the Spring Mixed Foursomes) is only just over a month away, on Saturday April 18th. A form will shortly appear in the portacabin, or please let Jayne Maxwell or Richard Owen know if you would like to play. These are always very enjoyable events. Tee off will be about 11am and ‘picnic’ refreshments will be served afterwards.
- Friday 1st May is our Spring **Away Day** at Epsom golf course (see flier at end of Newsletter). This has been arranged for us by John Morris. Both club members and friends are welcome. If you would like to play, let John or any other committee member know asap as numbers may be limited. A minimum £10 deposit is payable. It’s the start of the May Bank Holiday and promises to be a great day out.
- Club competitions on Sundays during the remainder of March and through April are :

	Course	Men	Ladies
March 22nd	Dukes	36-hole Competition	Spring Meeting - medal
March 29th	Princes		Spring Meeting -stableford
April 5th	Dukes	Sweep - stableford	Sweep - stableford
April 12th	Princes	Monthly Medal	Monthly Medal
April 19th	Dukes	Coronation Cup (NAPGC medal qualifier, Top Dog (men))	
April 26th	Princes	Shaw Cup (NAPGC stableford qualifier, Top Dog (men))	

WEBSITE and COMPETITION RESULTS

- Our excellent website (www.richmondparkgolfclub.org.uk) is continually being updated with reports and results on last week’s matches (usually by Paul Grand and Lia Donath) in the “Latest News” section. The men’s next 3 weeks booking sheets are edited almost daily. Tim Meyer, our webmaster, has also revised the weather forecast links – worth a look. If you are not using the website, then you are definitely missing out.
- From January 2009, Paul Grand has also been loading all the men’s results onto MasterScoreboard <http://www.masterscoreboard.co.uk/ClubIndex.php?CWID=2319>. Each week’s results will appear on this website a day or two before appearing on the club website – so if you are desperate to know how you did, this is the place to look. This website also has a host of options to view the competition results and your personal performances. You can also print off a Handicap Certificate. When you use the website for the first time, the password is ‘caddie48’ . Give it a try.

RICHMOND PARK GOLF CLUB



SPRING AWAY DAY

When? **FRIDAY 1ST MAY 2009**

Where? **EPSOM GOLF CLUB** - A traditional Downs Course with some fine views over London, particularly revered for the challenge of its fast, undulating Greens

What's included?

- ❖ Coffee and Bacon Roll
- ❖ Morning 13 Hole team event
- ❖ Ploughman's Lunch
- ❖ Afternoon 18 Hole competition
- ❖ 2-course Dinner

What's the damage? A very reasonable **£50.00** (including Prizes) - **guests welcome**

How do I reserve a place? Numbers need to be limited so hurry up and pay your **£10 Deposit** (cash or cheque payable to 'RPGC') to **JOHN MORRIS** or **RICHARD OWEN**