

# **RICHMOND PARK GOLF CLUB**



## **ANNUAL REPORT - 2013**

Well – we all knew that 2013 would be a tough year for the Club. The year started as it finished – with pouring rain. The 2012/13 winter was a very miserable period with lashings of rain, snow in January and blizzard conditions extending through to the end of March. April wasn't much better with an uncommonly cold spell.

Through the early winter months we could start to appreciate what was about to happen at the Park. The legacy from 2012 was the shortened Prince's course where a perimeter fence had been installed round the site of the new building works. Discussions were in progress with Glendale concerning the move to Chohole Gate and it was on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April that the new building was opened for use.

At the moment of the changeover both the Duke's and Prince's courses were reconfigured. The Prince's course was reduced to 9 holes and the layout of the Duke's course was changed to incorporate some holes from the former Prince's course. It is fair to say that in the new format the new Duke's course presented a similar test of golf to previous configuration, but with regard to the Prince's course the story is not the same. On the Prince's we were confronted with the need to play two circuits in order to make a full round.

Alongside the Prince's course we were able to witness the dumping of landfill waste. A huge amount of the stuff was dropped on the former holes of the Prince's course and also on the area that is to become the new driving range. It is no secret that for Glendale this was a simple moneymaking exercise but for us aged golfers it felt like an act of sacrilege to destroy 90 years of golfing heritage for a financial bonus. Additionally, for some unknown reason Glendale decided to re-route the ditchwater into a doughnut pond in the rough on the Duke's course.

A short while after the centre of operations moved to Chohole it became apparent to everyone that the configuration of the new building is not especially helpful to the members of the public and it is decidedly unhelpful to us and the two other golf clubs at the Park. Unfortunately, the Glendale management team did not wish to discuss the general operational aspects of the new building. We found that trying to run a golf club from a coffee table with no notice board facility tested our versatility and we have coped reasonably well under the circumstances.

In stark contrast to the dreadful winter and spring months the summer of 2013 turned out to be one of the best on record for many years. At the Park it was very noticeable that our members were happy to play the Duke's course but attendances dropped for the events on the Prince's course. This preference was hardly surprising and a similar trend was in evidence with regard to desire of the members of the general public to play the Duke's course. Overall, the Club's 2013 attendance levels at the Park were lower by a measure of 10%, however when we put this into context with the marginal fall in our membership this result is favourable with all things being considered.

Our membership data is presented below, however I will mention that it is clear that the state of turmoil at the Park in 2013 has had a detrimental impact on both the retention of members and the ability to gain new members. We understand that this pattern is common amongst the other clubs at the Park except perhaps for the White Lodge ladies' section which continues to hold a waiting list of membership prospects. However, when we look back at the overall disruptive nature of 2013 it is fair to say that our members have by and large endured the mayhem and our end of year result is better than some of us thought might be the case.

In closing 2013 it is worth reflecting that the year was a tough one for the Club, made all the more difficult by activities occurring beyond the Club's control. The Club has encountered far more testing difficulties and it has bounced back. I have every confidence that once life at the Park has become more settled the Club will again resume a pattern of steady growth. In the early 1980's the Club's membership was twice the size that it is at the end of 2013, but with an overdue fair wind blowing in our direction we will start to head in this direction.

There is one question sitting at the back of everyone's mind – what is going to happen at the Park during 2014. Unfortunately, the crystal ball has a very cloudy hue and it is rather difficult to predict how the year will pan out. Glendale would like to see 36 holes of golf in play from 1<sup>st</sup> April which, by some remarkable coincidence just happens to be the date that the new 2014/15 charges come into force. Glendale also wants to open the driving range and the academy area as soon as possible. Glendale also wants to have a very grand opening ceremony at the Park once all the facilities are in operation. The prognosis is that these events will happen but much like the state of the Duke's course, the timetable is very fluid.

## **Annual Prize-giving**

It is a bit tricky trying to provide a commentary on the 2013 prize-giving evening given that at the time of writing it has not yet happened.

For the 2012 prize-giving we moved away from the traditional dinner-dance evening in favour of a comedy evening. For Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February we have again avoided the dinner-dance format and we have opted for a quiz evening.

A special mention has to be made for Veronica who found the venue, booked the venue, organised the venue, promoted interest within the Club, arranged for the collection of monies and constructed the seating plan – i.e. just about everything. Another mention has to be made for Captain Jon who volunteered very courageously to prepare the quiz.

By the time that this note is read I am sure that the Club's annual dinner will be a memorable event for those that participated in the fun and games.

Of course, a serious component of the annual event is the presentation of the prizes to the winners of the Club's 2013 events. The year was disrupted on a few occasions by the weather and where Glendale hi-jacked a Sunday but we did manage to wrap everything up before the end of the year.

The highlights of individual members are noted below. The premier event on the club's calendar is arguably the Club Championship and here's a summary of what ensued.

Glendale decided at last notice to host its own Sunday event and for the men the CC had to be played in reverse order, starting on the Duke's course. At the end of round 1 Aiden Hurley's score of 77 was leading Nick Rogers' 79 by just two shots. The closest contender was Paul Patching with a score of 81. The second round was played one week later with two circuits of the 9 hole Prince's course. On this occasion it was Aiden again who finished best with a score of 71, and Nick finished one shot adrift with a score of 72. Paul Patching collected an n/r for his second round. With his back-to-back wins Aiden had secured the (senior) Club Championship with a total combined score of 148. Nick was the runner-up with a combined score of 151.

In the men's junior category for players with handicaps of 17 and above the first round finished with Paul Grand and Nigel Gaymond sharing a top spot with scores of 89. Following these two with a score of 93 were three challengers, Steve Cross, Liam Bridger and Chris Jones. In the second session on the Prince's course it was Paul who produced the best score on the day with an 84 to take the CC prize. Paul's aggregate was 174. In the second round Nigel returned a score of 90 which dropped him out of contention. In the trailing pack Steve and Chris both had scores of 85 which gave them an aggregate of 178. Liam could not match these two and his score of 87 put him out of contention. Whilst the leaders were comparing their results they'd have been forgiven for missing Tony Kopczak who scored 98 for his first round. Tony pulled out the stops for his second round with his score of 79. Tony's leap from the back gave him an aggregate of 178 and by virtue of his superior back 18 Tony captured the runner-up place.

The men's Handicap Trophy is awarded for the net 'net' result achieved over the two CC weekend scores. The winner was Nick Rogers with a net 61 on the Prince's and a net 68 on the Duke's, a total net 129. The next best score was Stephen Wilcock's net 132.

Glendale's impact on the fixture list was a bit more severe for the ladies and it was decided to hold a 27 hole event at the end of September. The day commenced with a relatively quick 9 hole start on the Prince's course and at the mid-course stage Jayne was in the lead with a score of 42. Trailing just a short way back was Rianda Markram and Susan Smith, both holding scores of 45. On the Duke's course Jayne pressed home her advantage with a score of 84, giving her a combined score of 126. Rianda had the next best score on the Duke's course and 87 was enough to hold the runner-up place with a total of 132.

The ladies' section has two handicap awards that are run in conjunction with the CC. The Handicap Trophy is for players with handicaps up to and including 24. It was Rianda's turn to reverse the main CC result. Both Rianda and Jayne scored a net 105 over the full 27 holes but Rianda clinched the Handicap Trophy on countback with a net 69 for the Duke's compared to Jayne's net 70.

The Pembroke Cup is awarded for the best handicap result for those playing off 25 or higher. Susan Smith had the advantage at the end of the Prince's section with a net 33. Amy Hocking and Anne Holding-Parsons were trailing Susan, both scoring a net 36. On the Duke's course Susan maintained her form with a net 68, giving a total of 101. On the second leg Amy crept ahead of Anne and her better Duke's net 70 gave her the runner-up place with a total of 106.

Here follows the full prize list for 2013:-

## **RPGC 2013 PRIZE LIST**

| <b><u>EVENT</u></b>                            | <b><u>WINNER</u></b>            | <b><u>RUNNER-UP</u></b>          |
|--|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Senior Men's Club Championship                 | Aidan Hurley                    | Nick Rogers                      |
| Ladies' Club Championship                      | Jayne Maxwell                   | Rianda Markram                   |
| Junior Men's Club Championship                 | Paul Grand                      | Tony Kopczak                     |
| Men's Club Championship Handicap Trophy        | Nick Rogers                     |                                  |
| Ladies' Handicap Cup - handicaps 0-24          | Rianda Markram                  | Jayne Maxwell                    |
| Ladies' Pembroke Cup - handicaps 25-36         | Susan Smith                     | Amy Hocking                      |
| J H Taylor – matchplay 0-16                    | Brett Colley                    | Tim Meyer                        |
| Two Courses Cup – matchplay 17+                | Patrick Murphy                  | Paul Grand                       |
| Ladies' Challenge Cup                          | Veronica Mitchell               | Julie Smyth                      |
| Men's Fourball – matchplay                     | Paul Brown & Chris Jones        | Nigel Gaymond & Anthony Tama     |
| Ladies Double C Cup                            | Sheena Harrington & Julie Smith | Lia Donath & Jayne Maxwell       |
| Mixed Foursomes – matchplay                    | Veronica Mitchell & Nick Rogers | Val Riziotis & Paul Brown        |
| Ladies' Committee Cup                          | Sheena Harrington               | Susan Smith                      |
| Grand Medal Trophy                             | Steve Cross                     |                                  |
| Silver Jubilee Trophy                          | Nick Rogers                     | Ahmad Al-Bader                   |
| Golden Jubilee Trophy                          | Ed Henery                       | Nigel Gaymond                    |
| Diamond Jubilee Trophy                         | Charles Ajani                   | Nigel Ward                       |
| Platinum Jubilee Trophy                        | Gina Jillett                    | Ahmad Al-Bader                   |
| Anniversary Cup                                | Charles Ajani                   |                                  |
| President's Putter                             | Paul Brown                      | Cuneyt Sazer                     |
| Captain's Prize                                | Nigel Marsh                     | Richard Owen                     |
| Lady Captain's Prize                           | Veronica Mitchell               | Jayne Maxwell                    |
| Richmond Park Golf Club Open                   | Mike Church [PP]                | Mark Jenkins                     |
| J Q Robertson Trophy                           | Alan King                       | Paul Grand                       |
| Coronation Cup                                 | Darrin Siiankowski              | Susan Smith                      |
| Shaw Cup                                       | Ahmad Al-Bader                  | Steve Cross                      |
| Spring Mixed Better-Ball                       | Jayne Maxwell & Paul Grand      | Nina Humphries & Osman Chaudry   |
| Autumn Mixed - Handicap                        | Veronica Mitchell & Ed Henery   | Sheena Harrington & Rick Smith   |
| Autumn Mixed - Scratch                         | Veronica Mitchell & Ed Henery   |                                  |
| Burgess Cup - Greensomes                       | Liam Bridger & Mike Shabani     | Peter Harrington & Paul Patching |
| Summer Cup                                     | Alan King                       | Guy Williams                     |
| Top Dog Trophy                                 | Paul Grand                      |                                  |
| Ladies' Dowling Cup                            | Jayne Maxwell                   |                                  |
| Lissaman Cup - 3 clubs + putter                | Chris Jones                     | Nigel Gaymond                    |
| Barton Bowl - Play-off – top 8 against captain | Not played                      |                                  |
| Charity Cup                                    | Danny Deprez                    | Nigel Ward                       |
| Spring Stableford Trophy                       | Charles Ajani                   | Ahmad Al-Bader                   |
| Winter Competition                             | Paul Patching                   |                                  |

Best round of the year? Ahmad Al-Bader took this accolade in 2012 and he followed this with another cracking round with just two days to go in 2013. On 29<sup>th</sup> December Ahmad was playing off 24. In a 'joint event' (with the ladies) he scored 47 Stableford points on the Duke's course against a CSS of 34 points – in short, he was 11 under and played to a handicap of 13 !!

## Membership

Here's where we stand at 31 December 2013.

|                     | 2013       | 2012       | 2011       | 2010       | 2009       | 2008       | 2007       | 2006       | 2005       | 2004       | 2003       |
|---------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| <b>Men:</b>         |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| Regular             | 88         | 98         | 100        | 97         | 89         | 78         | 62         | 69         | 69         | 73         | 78         |
| Senior              | 5          | 4          | 4          | 4          | 7          | 7          | 7          | 8          | 6          | 7          | 7          |
| Junior              | 1          | 1          | 1          | 1          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 1          |
| Hon (playing)       | 1          | 4          | 4          | 5          | 1          | 1          | 1          | 1          | 3          | 1          | 1          |
| <b>Total Men</b>    | <u>95</u>  | <u>107</u> | <u>109</u> | <u>107</u> | <u>97</u>  | <u>86</u>  | <u>70</u>  | <u>78</u>  | <u>78</u>  | <u>81</u>  | <u>87</u>  |
| <b>Ladies:</b>      |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| Regular             | 28         | 29         | 31         | 40         | 36         | 38         | 36         | 34         | 33         | 32         | 29         |
| Senior              | 9          | 8          | 9          | 6          | 7          | 5          | 5          | 5          | 2          | 4          | 3          |
| Hon (playing)       | 1          | 1          | 1          | 1          | 1          | 1          | 1          | 1          | 1          | 0          | 0          |
| <b>Total Ladies</b> | <u>38</u>  | <u>38</u>  | <u>41</u>  | <u>47</u>  | <u>44</u>  | <u>44</u>  | <u>42</u>  | <u>40</u>  | <u>36</u>  | <u>36</u>  | <u>32</u>  |
| <b>Total</b>        | <u>133</u> | <u>145</u> | <u>150</u> | <u>154</u> | <u>141</u> | <u>130</u> | <u>112</u> | <u>118</u> | <u>114</u> | <u>117</u> | <u>119</u> |
| <b>Joiners:</b>     |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| New men             | 22         | 25         | 23         | 24         | 26         | 27         | 7          | 15         | 13         | 19         | 22         |
| New ladies          | 2          | 2          | 1          | 9          | 5          | 6          | 4          | 5          | 4          | 4          | 1          |
| Junior              | 0          | 0          | 0          | 1          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          |
| Rejoiners – men     | 1          | 1          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 1          | 1          | 4          | 2          | 0          | 1          |
| Rejoiners – ladies  | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 1          | 0          | 1          | 0          |
| <b>Total</b>        | <u>25</u>  | <u>28</u>  | <u>24</u>  | <u>34</u>  | <u>31</u>  | <u>34</u>  | <u>12</u>  | <u>25</u>  | <u>19</u>  | <u>24</u>  | <u>24</u>  |
| <b>Leavers:</b>     |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
|                     | <u>37</u>  | <u>33</u>  | <u>28</u>  | <u>21</u>  | <u>20</u>  | <u>16</u>  | <u>18</u>  | <u>21</u>  | <u>22</u>  | <u>26</u>  | <u>13</u>  |
|                     | 26%        | 22%        | 18%        | 15%        | 15%        | 14%        | 15%        | 18%        | 19%        | 22%        | 12%        |

In the early days of the 2013 season it was clear that the Club's membership renewals would be down on traditional levels. From the analysis above we can see that the leaving ratio was 26% and that overall year on year the Club's total membership dropped by 12 members - 8% - but, a keen eye will spot that 3 of our departures were honorary men who no longer play with the Club so the 'real' deficit in playing members is 9.

From our previous experiences we know that whenever there is some degree of upheaval at the Park there is a detrimental impact on the Club's membership numbers. For last year it was foreshadowed that we would suffer from the consequences of Glendale's landfill project which reduced the Prince's course to 9 holes. We also expected that the move across to Chohole Gate would not be to the Club's immediate advantage and this has proved to be the case. It is fair therefore to say that our membership result for 2013 has not been helped by the 'Glendale effect'.

Over the years it has become apparent that the membership profile of the Club has changed and we now have a number of members whose work life is more transient with a higher probability of moving on after a relatively short period of time. In 2013 we noticed many members moving to pastures new, however by the very nature of this coming and going it does mean that the Club is under greater pressure to ensure that replenishment occurs.

Following from the previous point, for many years the handicapping rules have required club players to have a home club for handicapping purposes and all other memberships are classified as away. It has been noticeable that there has been a steady increase in the number of our club members having the control of their handicaps held 'away' at other clubs. At the end of the year this proportion had moved forward to 18% and we do envisage that some of this group will drop away in 2014.

For 2014 it is fair to say that there are two 'green shoots' that should be beneficial for the Club's membership numbers. Firstly, we are aware that Glendale's marketing strategy for 2014 places a high emphasis on the sale of annual season tickets coupled with the plan that season ticket holders will be encouraged to participate in club golf. If Glendale can make a success of this strategy there is a chance that the Club will receive some membership referrals. Secondly, a further plus point for the Club is that activity at the Park and the local interest in RPGC should pick up when the driving range is open and the facility reverts to 36 holes of golf. Both these green shoots will take a while to blossom but we should start to see some benefits for the Club by early summer.

## **Inter-Club Matches**

Here's what happened in 2013:

Men vs Rickmansworth:

On home soil we entertained Ricky to the new Duke's course. The good news about playing on our home territory first is that stand a chance of taking a first leg lead. This part of the plan worked and we finished the day with a 3 ½ - 2 ½ advantage. Sadly, we came unstuck again at Ricky and not for the first time they won on their home course with a 6 – 0 walloping. The overall was of course 3 ½ - 8 ½ but under the law of averages we will succeed if we continue to persevere.

Ladies vs Mitcham:

Playing on home soil first our ladies had a convincing 3 – 0 lead over at Mitcham in June. This meant that the best that Micham could muster would be a draw and the trophy would remain with Richmond no matter the second round score. Over at Mitcham it transpired that the Richmond ladies repeated the 3 – 0 defeat of Mitcham and ended the event with a full 6 – 0 victory.

Mixed match vs. Amida:

The event was cancelled for 2013.

Ladies vs. Wimbledon Common:

This event was dropped for 2013.

## **N.A.P.G.C. Competitions**

Clapham Common Shield (men) [Greensomes Stableford]

The first round was a tight match against the 9 holers of Perivale Park. Our team was successful on this occasion but then came unstuck against Ruislip. The Ruislip team have a history of performing well in the Clapham Common and for the second year running they collected the runner-up prize at the national final.

### Hawtree Trophy (singles stableford)

In the first round of the Hawtree our team was drawn against Easthampstead and achieved a convincing 5-0 win. The second round was against that old adversary Hoebridge but there was no repeat of our 2012 victory and this match saw the end of our 2013 challenge.

### White Webbs (ladies singles matchplay)

The ladies were successful in their first round match against Huntswood, but were not so fortunate in the second round against Little Hay.

## **Internal Matches and Competitions**

### The Bontor

There was a repeat win in 2013 for the men, but with this time with a 7 – 2 victory.

### Ladies' Invitation

Played in May with our usual American Greensomes format the winners on the day were Alison Chadwick and Nick Rogers. Sheena Harrington and Steve Cross captured the second spot.

### Men's Invitation

Played in July and again with our usual American Greensomes format the winners on the day were our two Captains, Veronica Mitchell and Jon Cooper. Sheena Harrington was runner up again but this time with some help from Ireland in the form of Tony McCullagh.

### The Lockie Trophy

For the Ladies' Spring Weekend Away in 2013 the Club enjoyed a very comfortable weekend at Goodwood. For the second year running the winner of the ladies' weekend Lockie Trophy was Gina Jillett and Doreen Dolby was the runner-up.

### The Gill Hibbs Trophy

For the Autumn Weekend Away the Club ventured to Botley Park near Southampton. Playing over two days for the Gill Hibbs Trophy the winner was Susan Smith and Sheena Harrington was the runner-up.

## **Individual Achievements**

- It is often the case that the Putney Park players capture our Open trophy but it was our time to return the compliment. Andy Furniss was the winner with a net 62 on the Duke's course and Doreen Dolby was the runner-up with a net 64.
- John Fordham scored a hole in one on the 16<sup>th</sup> hole of the new Prince's course on 26<sup>th</sup> May in our Sunday bogey event. It remains to be seen if this will be a unique score for the Club before the temporary course is replaced by the new 18 hole course.

- In the NAPGC men's singles championship Jon Cooper successfully manoeuvred his way to the national final at the home of English Golf at Woodhall Spa in Lincolnshire. The scoring shows that Jon didn't manage to bring the trophy back with him.
- In the NAPGC men's Stableford championship Anthony Tama was successful in the regional final and qualified for a place in the final which is played over one of the courses at St Andrews. Anthony did not return with a trophy but his score placed him in his buffer zone which is quite some achievement.
- In the SCGU Kelso Hamilton event the pairing of John Morris and Richard Owen were successful in their first round by having their opponents disqualified. Unfortunately, the same tactic could not be applied in the second and final round of their 2013 campaign.
- Birdies were not so prevalent in 2013 but our top players didn't seem to have too much difficulty finding them. Top of the birdie tree was Ed Henery with 32 and in second place was Jon Cooper with 26 birdies. [Sorry – can't find the same info for the ladies.]
- One of the most remarkable personal achievements was witnessed through the course of 2013. At the beginning of the year Ahmad Al-Bader had a 'junior' handicap of 37.5 (playing of 38). During the year his handicap reduced to 28 whereupon his handicap moved in accordance with the men's normal handicapping rules. Undaunted by the continuing drop in his handicap Ahmad's playing standard continued to improve and at 31<sup>st</sup> December he was playing off 18 with an actual handicap of 17.6 – a reduction of 19.9 in just 12 months. It is highly unlikely that this will ever be repeated again at RPGC!

## **Extra Curricular Activities**

The spring and autumn weekends away provide a very welcome contrast to the normal Sunday game at the Park.

In March 2013 the Club ventured south to 'glorious' Goodwood and for a very exquisite weekend. The course provided us with a healthy test of golf and the 'inglorious' weather was an added challenge. For the second year running the winner of the Lockie Trophy was Gina Gillett. Our thanks go to both Julie Smith and Sheena Harrington for arranging a very successful weekend.

In September 2013 the Club ventured south again to the Macdonald Hotel at Botley on the outskirts of Southampton. The course was very pleasant and with some tough rough everyone was encouraged to stick to the fairways. The winner of the main event, the Gill Hibbs Trophy was Susan Smith. Our thanks go to the newly married Cheryl Woodhouse for arranging an excellent weekend away.

## **www.RichmondParkGolfClub.Org.Uk - The RPGC Website**

Tim quietly conveys the message that he is the Editor of the website but we all know that in addition to loading the snippets of news and information that passes his way he is also heavily involved with the maintenance of the website which is no quick matter given all the internal links in play.

In addition to the information on the events in progress and the recent results data the website provides us with a permanent archive of our important annual events and a historical record of what many clubs would display on honours boards.



We are all continually grateful for Tim finding the time to work on the website, especially so during 2013 since some of us know that he has had additional work-related calls on his time.

With the change in our bookings procedure there has been less of a need to access the website on a weekly basis, however, there has been no let-up in annual the hit rate which is still running at about 750,000 per annum. Fortunately, not everyone visiting the website asks a question!

## **The Committee and helpers**

We always knew that the transitional period leading up to the move to Chohole Gate would lead to a few headaches and we expected there to be some recurring headaches after operations moved across to Glendale's new building. Our concerns were well founded and behind the scenes various members of the Committee became involved in some extra curricular activity in order that we could keep the show on the road. As mentioned before, the arrangements and layout of the new building are not conducive for easy conversation and mustering and the failings proved to be something of a hindrance. However, despite the difficulties our two Captains for 2013 – Jon and Veronica – pulled out the stops to ensure that our events progressed very well and that our matches were played

At the AGM of the ladies' section held in December the Lady Captain's chair was handed over to Jayne Maxwell who previously served one year as Lady Captain in 2009. We are all very grateful to Veronica for all her work during a difficult 2013 and for ensuring a smooth handover as we commence 2014.

Under Captain Jon's stewardship for the last two years the club has seen some dramatic changes and he was hoping to hand over the reins to a successor. As mentioned below, events have conspired to interrupt Jon's planned handover and Jon has kindly agreed to continue to stay as the Club's Captain's for a short while during which time he will be applying some various forms of persuasive coercion for a replacement to step forward.

In addition to our two captains there were others who helped keep the machinery oiled and in good running order:-

- At an early stage of 2013 Osman moved into the Vice Captain's seat with every intention of stepping into Jon's shoes in 2014. During 2013 Osman found that with family commitments he had to spend an ever increasing amount of time in Pakistan and eventually it became apparent that living permanently in Pakistan would be the answer. Who remembers the old booking sheet system? Well, in May 2013 it was Osman who was instrumental in rolling out the on-line booking system which we all now use without a moment's thought. Throughout the year Osman has been diligently looking after both our 'old' and 'new' bookings systems. Unbeknown to most members he has been away for large periods of the year and he has been controlling our games from a distance of about 3,900 miles (by the crow flies). Osman has also been maintaining our member's records which seem to require fairly constant tweaking.

We are fortunate that Osman will be with us for the first few months of 2014 and he will be sorely missed when he eventually takes off for his new home. He's retaining some links with the UK so he may return when some of us have a few more grey hairs.

- Carrying on for another year our Treasurer Nick continued to look after the Club's coffers and report monthly to the Committee to let us know how much belt tightening needed to be applied.

- At the beginning of life at Chohole Gate the three clubs were requested by Glendale's management to have liaison representative for the exchange information and to deal with operational matters. Richard came forward and for the first seven months in his new position he felt that all his commentaries and requests had very simply disappeared into Glendale's black hole. In December all this changed when Glendale broadcast its plans for 2014. Since the news broke from Glendale Richard has had to contend with large numbers of lengthy emails with the main objective of trying to achieve a common agreement between the clubs and Glendale on a variety of operational issues. Without Richard's extensive work on counteracting the very worst aspects of Glendale's misguided plans it is very clear that all three clubs would be facing a very bleak future at the Park.
- Finally, we have to remember that our Handicap Secretaries - Paul Grand and Sheena Harrington - perform a critical weekly role to ensure that our results are published and that all our handicaps are as up to date as possible. Some may think that the role is a simple matter of tapping numbers into a machine but the process is more involved than this and with our variety of playing formats there are often some non-standard technical issues to resolve. At the beginning of 2013 both Paul and Sheena were instrumental in the process for setting the stroke indices for the new courses and it looks as though Glendale will be calling on similar assistance in 2014.

### **The Final Word**

As before - I hope that you all have a most enjoyable golfing year in 2014 and some success along the way!!

Peter Harrington  
Secretary  
2<sup>nd</sup> February 2014