

RICHMOND PARK GOLF CLUB



ANNUAL REPORT - 2016

If we go back 15 years to 2001 the Club's committee was involved with the prospect of a change of the management arrangements at the Park. With the Club involved an exercise was in hand to submit a consortium tender to take over the management of the golf facility at the Park. The tender was not successful but this did not stop the Club being involved with the Department of Heritage for the new arrangements for the Park where the plans included the build of a new clubhouse building and the reconfiguration of the courses. It took us until 2014 to see this original project reach the completion stage and the Club was involved in a number of actions through this period. More significantly for the Club, there were all sorts of operational difficulties with changes in course configurations that presented their own headaches over the years. When we started 2015 we all thought that we would return to a life of 'normality' but then we encountered the largest impact on the Club in 70 years when, in partnership with Glendale, we commenced the midweek operations at the beginning of March 2015. I have to say that for the first time in a period stretching over 20 years the 2016 season was indeed a year of 'relative normality' without any major development upheaval or project work to contend with. One positive consequence of this return to golf, without any need for a consideration of external influences, is that this annual report is much shorter.

When Glendale placed a greater emphasis on promoting Club membership through the Loyaltee card scheme in 2015 we recognised immediately that this would be beneficial to the Club both in terms of membership numbers and also our activity level with the introduction of midweek events. In the analysis below we see that our membership has increased by 52% over a two year period. More importantly the indications are that at the very least the higher level of membership will be sustainable for the foreseeable future. The present membership enquiry rate is strong and there is more than a 50:50 chance that membership will increase again in 2017. The introduction of the midweek fixture programme in 2015 had the effect of doubling the fixture programme and we now have 23 main midweek prize events on our list below. The net result of this expansion is that we can say that in an overall sense the Club is now both bigger and arguably much better and stronger than in April 2013 when we first ventured into Glendale's new building.

We started 2016 after one of the warmest festive periods in history, however this turned out to be a false sense of security and the rains came in a seriously big way. Without a respite the snow then came and some events were scrubbed. Eventually the weather settled down and although some would argue that it was not a particularly good summer the conditions for golf were typically very good with just a few disruptions. In short, on the weather front we can again say that it was a year of 'relative normality'.

There were however two new developments that the Club took on board during 2016. The actions taken have been akin to planting a couple of acorns with the prospect that in time we could find that something of significance develops; let's hope so. Here are the developments:

- The first of the actions was to participate once a month in one of the events promoted by the Saturday Overseas Club. The Overseas Club was formed in the 1980's as a facility

for overseas workers and visitors to play amongst themselves on Saturdays. Over the years there have been many members of RPGC who have held a membership of the OC and we are happy that the option of Saturday Club play is another facility available to the RPGC membership.

- In round terms approximately 20% of the Club's membership comprises 'midweek only' players. As we know, the Club's midweek competition day is Wednesday however there was the comment that some of the midweek players like to play more than once a week and the question was raised whether the Club could assist. After a consultation with Glendale it was agreed in mid November 2016 to commence a 10am Friday friendly 'roll up' for those who would like the additional midweek round. It is not surprising that the take up of the Friday roll up in November and December has been exceedingly slow, however this could all change in 2017 and/or 2018. There was a time when the Friday competitions at the Park were as just as popular as the Sunday competitions and if the conditions are appropriate the Friday events can be changed to qualifying events.

My closing remarks for 2015 suggested that 2016 could be a year of steady growth. It is fair to say that this prognosis was spot on. The omens for 2017 are also looking positive. The Club's main committee is in good shape, the set up is looking good, and with a fair wind we should be looking to another year of steady growth.

Annual Prize-giving

The 2016 prizes will be presented at the Club's dinner celebration on Saturday 11th February 2017. Following the success of our evening in February 2016 we are returning to Coombe Wood Golf Club which is located just of Kingston Hill.

Captain Paul Brown and newly appointed Lady Captain Alison Chadwick have been looking after the arrangements for the evening and we are grateful for their involvement. The format of the evening will see a variation from our previous dinners and this in part a consequence of the Club's own success because there are now more items on the presentation table.

In the listing below we see that the Club has a very extensive range of trophy events spanning the annual calendar and there are few clubs that can match this standard.

As with the majority of golf clubs our 'Club Championship' is recognised as the premier event of the year. It had been the intention to hold an additional midweek Club Championship in 2015 and we were able to add this to the programme in 2016. Here's a summary to the main features of the 2017 Championship results, starting with our Sunday events:

- In the men's senior CC (with handicaps up to 16) the first round leader was Jay Barker with a gross (i.e. scratch) of 77 on the Prince's course. Greg Saunders and Pete Harrison were lying just a shade behind with 79. In the second round on the Duke's course Jay again scored the best gross with another 77 giving a championship winning aggregate score of 154. Greg did not score well for his second round but Pete did and he finished as the runner up with a score of 161.
- The junior CC is for men with handicaps of 17 and above. The first round leader was Phil Flanagan with a score of 89. Stephen Mason was lying second with 90 and Ray Esin was in third place with 92. In the second round Stephen was off the pace. Ray managed to claw back his first round deficit of 3 strokes on Phil and this left both players with scores of 187 for the two rounds. In the event of a tie the Club's rules state that there must be an 18 hole play off and for this round Phil was the victor by seven strokes.
- In the ladies' CC the two first round leaders with scores of 89 were Jayne Maxwell and Val Riziotis, and with a score of 94 Gina Jillett was lying third. For the second round

Jayne Maxwell returned the best score of 91 and this gave her a championship winning aggregate of 180. In the second round Gina Jillett pulled back Val's first round lead and they both finished with an aggregate of 190. In the case of a tie for second place the normal countback rules are applied and this gave Gina the runner up position.

- In conjunction with the CC the men play for the Handicap Trophy which is awarded to the player with the best net scores. At the end of the first round the leader was Peter Osgood with a net 66. Greg Saunders and Pete Harrison were both one shot behind with a pair of 67s. The winner of the second round was Jay Barker with a net 70 but Pete Harrison's second place net 71 was sufficient to improve on his 2015 runner up place and he clinched the trophy in 2016. Pete's aggregate net was 138. Peter Osgood was not so fortunate with his second round however his net 73 was sufficient for him to finish in second place.
- The ladies' equivalent of the men's Handicap Trophy is the Handicap Cup. Val Riziotis was the first round leader with a 70. Val was four strokes lower than Jane Maxwell who was lying second with a net 74. In the second round the winning order was reversed and Jayne finished with a net 76 for a total of 150. Val had a second round net 83 for a total of 153 and although it was not sufficient to win the Cup Val did manage to finish as the runner up.
- The midweek championship was played later in the year, in August. Maybe the course conditions were trickier but the scoring was a touch higher. Jay Barker was successful again in the seniors section and became the first Midweek Club Champion with two winning rounds of 76 and 78 for an aggregate score of 154. Pete Harrison was lying second after the first round but he could not hold on to this place and the Championship runner up was Seong Lim with a total of 163.
- The Club's first junior Midweek Club Champion was John Ahad with two winning rounds of 90 and 91 for a total 181. Parkash Arora was second to John in both rounds. He was therefore the junior Championship runner up and his aggregate was 189.
- For the Midweek Ladies' Club Championship it was Gina Jillett who took first place in both rounds to be the Club's first Midweek Champion with a total score of 176. For both rounds Veronica was second to Gina and with a total of 185 Veronica finished as the runner up.
- The Midweek Handicap Trophy for the best net score is a mixed event. The winner, by just one shot was Gina Jillett with an aggregate net 137 and Gina retains the trophy after her 139 win in 2015.

Here follows the full prize list for 2016:-

RPGC 2016 PRIZE LIST

SUNDAY EVENTS

Senior Men's Club Championship

Ladies' Club Championship

Junior Men's Club Championship

Men's Club Championship Handicap Trophy

Ladies' Handicap Cup - handicaps 0-24

Ladies' Pembroke Cup - handicaps 25-36

J H Taylor – matchplay 0-16

Two Courses Cup – matchplay 17+

Ladies' Challenge Cup

Men's Fourball – matchplay

Ladies Double C Cup

Mixed Foursomes – matchplay

Ladies' Committee Cup

Grand Medal Trophy

Silver Jubilee Trophy

Golden Jubilee Trophy

Diamond Jubilee Trophy

Platinum Jubilee Trophy

Anniversary Cup

President's Putter

Captain's Prize

Lady Captain's Prize

Richmond Park Golf Club Open

J Q Robertson Trophy

Coronation Cup

Shaw Cup

Summer Cup

Spring Mixed Better-Ball

Autumn Mixed - Handicap

Autumn Mixed - Scratch

Burgess Cup - Greensomes

Top Dog Trophy

Ladies' Dowling Cup

Lissaman Cup - 3 clubs + putter

WINNER

Jay Barker

Jayne Maxwell

Phil Flanagan

Pete Harrison

Jayne Maxwell

Not warded in 2016

Mike Cullinane

Paul Green

Habe Crocker

Jon Cooper &
Nigel Gaymond

Gina Jillett &
Val Riziotis

Deborah Potter &
Peter Osgood

Veronica Mitchell

Dave Faure

Danny Deprez

Henry Lindesay-Bethune

Lia Donath

Habe Crocker

Veronica Mitchell

Roger Rojas

Peter Osgood

Joan Mulcahy

Donna Wilson

Keith Cassidy

Pete Davis

Charlie Whiteman

Martin Heinrich

Jane Fraser &
Peter Osgood

Lia Donath &
Peter Osgood

Lia Donath &
Peter Osgood

Danny Deprez &
Jim Fogarty

Pete Davis

Veronica Mitchell

Tenesi Karakaneva

RUNNER-UP

Pete Harrison

Gina Jillett

Ray Esin

-

Val Riziotis

Roger Rojas

Paul Concannon

Doreen Dolby

Martin Heinrich &
Roger Rojas

Sheena Harrington &
Julie Smith

Cheryl Woodhouse &
Nigel Ward

Susan Smith

-

Richard Owen

Habib Amir

Veronica Mitchell

Jayne Maxwell

-

Pete Harrison

Pete Davis

Tenesi Karakaneva

Tony Bergqvist

Kyojung Lee

Roger Rojas

Peter Osgood

Nigel Ward

Jayne Maxwell &
Martin Heinrich

Alison Chadwick &
Jon Cooper

-

Shane McGillycuddy &
James Shine

-

-

Steve Cross

Barton Bowl - Play-off – top 8 against captain	Habe Crocker	-
Charity Cup	Jane Fraser	Alison Chadwick
Spring Stableford Trophy	Toby Hunt	Paul Brown
Winter Competition	Roger Rojas	Stephen Mason

MIDWEEK EVENTS

Senior Men's Club Championship
Ladies' Club Championship
Junior Men's Club Championship
Club Championship Handicap Trophy
Inaugural Trophy
Grand Medal Trophy
Anniversary Accumulator
Founder – E.Bailey
Founder – Mrs Millidge
Founder – J. Hume
Founders Cup
President's Prize
Captain's Day
Priory Cup
Masters Bowl
Claret Jug
Midsummer Trophy
Fred Hawtree Cup
The Edward Cup
Autumn Pairs
Harrington Trophy - 3 clubs + putter
Charity Trophy
Winter Competition

WINNER

Jay Barker
Gina Jillett
John Ahad
Gina Jillett
Richard Owen
Stephen Mason
Paul Grand
Stephen Mason
Jay Barker
Mike Shabani
Stephen Mason
Paul Concannon
Derek Gibbs
Ray Esin
Peter Osgood
Caroline Dewar
Joan Mulcahy
Derek Gibbs
Lesley Mason
Chris Jones &
Richard Owen
Anis Driaa
Caroline Dewar
Peter Osgood

RUNNER-UP

Seong Lim
Veronica Mitchell
Parkash Arora
-
Paul Concannon
-
-
Paul Green
Paul Green
Stephen Mason
Paul Green
Tore Burman
Mark Rosamond
Alexander Krasnenkov
Stephen Mason
Paul Appleton
Kim Chaffart
Stephen Mason
Brett Colley
Tore Burman &
Alexander Krasnenkov
Cheryl Woodhouse
Tim Vaughan-Spencer
Tamas Ladacs

Membership

Here's our 11 year table, and we can see where we stand at 31 December 2016.

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Men:											
Regular	136	109	80	88	98	100	97	89	78	62	69
Senior	13	14	6	5	4	4	4	7	7	7	8
Junior	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Hon (playing)	0	1	1	1	4	4	5	1	1	1	1
Total Men	<u>150</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>107</u>	<u>109</u>	<u>107</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>78</u>
Ladies:											
Regular	27	27	26	28	29	31	40	36	38	36	34
Senior	14	14	10	9	8	9	6	7	5	5	5
Hon (playing)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total Ladies	<u>42</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>40</u>
Total	<u>192</u>	<u>167</u>	<u>126</u>	<u>133</u>	<u>145</u>	<u>150</u>	<u>154</u>	<u>141</u>	<u>130</u>	<u>112</u>	<u>118</u>
Joiners:											
New men	53	49	14	22	25	23	24	26	27	7	15
New ladies	3	9	2	2	2	1	9	5	6	4	5
Junior	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Rejoiners – men	1	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	4
Rejoiners – ladies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	<u>57</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>25</u>
Leavers:	<u>32</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>21</u>
	19%	16%	18%	26%	22%	18%	15%	15%	14%	15%	18%

As I have said in previous reports, the membership of the Club can be affected very seriously by events and influences beyond the Club's control. For example, although many moons ago now the golf at the Park was disrupted to a large extent by the national foot and mouth crisis of 2001, and in this year the Club lost 20% of the membership and just 5 new members joined. In 2016, for the first time since 2011, we were fortunate that for two years running the events on the international, national and local stages did not conspire against us and this stability has helped the Club to progress with an important increase in membership numbers. The good news is that so far as we can judge, 2017 will also be an 'event free' year and we can look forward to another year of growth.

I have mentioned earlier that when Glendale first requested the Club to assist with the marketing plan for the Loyaltee card scheme in 2014 we recognised that this could be beneficial to the Club. When the scheme was extended in 2015 we cooperated with Glendale to create the Midweek section and this has helped to open up a new group of members that has become a significant component of our current membership tally. It is interesting that 57% of our membership holds a Glendale (annual) Loyaltee Club card and this comprises 36 midweek 5-day cards and 74 full 7-day cards.

The analysis above speaks for itself. In 2015 I reported that we had a bumper year in terms of new joiners. In part this was attributable to some who had been Glendale Loyaltee card holders for some time and they were encouraged to progress to Club golf with us. For 2016 we predicted a drop in new membership interest however we have been very pleasantly

surprised and we can see that we have welcomed 58 new joiners to the Club, only one less than in 2015.

Every year we lose members for all sorts of personal reasons. Over the years our experience has shown us that the propensity to lose members increases proportionately as the Club membership increases. Between 2015 and 2016 we lost 32 members and this is directly in line with our expectations.

To say that the future is looking rosy may be tempting fate but the level of interest in Club membership continues to be positive and we already have a few new recruits for 2017. It would be unrealistic to assume that the rate of growth for 2015 and 2016 will automatically carry forward to 2017 but we can be confident that the Club is heading in the correct direction

Midweek Golf

At short notice and with some pretty hasty planning our midweek golf activity commenced on 4th March 2015. Our very first event was the Inaugural Trophy.

2015 was a successful year and we saw player numbers increasing. 2016 has been another successful year and our average Wednesday attendances for the year have moved up towards 30 players. We have also noticed a trend towards more golfers who are midweek only players rather than members who also play regularly on Sundays. To accommodate those with other Wednesday commitments we have been able to maintain the early tee off times together with the regular 10:00 am start.

When we prepared the fixture list for 2016 it was decided to increase the midweek interest by adding a few additional trophy events to the programme. Accordingly we find that we now have the men's and ladies' Club Championship scratch events and for the men we have the same senior and junior divisions as we have for our Sunday championship. In recognition of the early days of the Club we have The Edward Cup and the Fred Hawtree Cup. We also introduced the Founder's Cup as a two from three accumulator prize. It follows that the midweek fixture list is now quite a busy schedule and we look forward to seeing the activity level increase further in 2017.

At the commencement of our midweek activity we recognise the need for the golf programme to be administered via a standing sub-committee of Wednesday players. For 2015 and 2016 Richard Owen was in the chair as the Captain of the midweek sub-committee. Having completed his two year tour of duty Richard is stepping aside and handing over the reins to Kim Chaffart for 2017. Those of us who have watched from the sidelines the progress of the midweek programme since March 2015 know that Richard has indeed put heart and soul into the activity and we owe him a huge vote of thanks for his contribution over the last two years.

Inter-Club Matches

Here's what happened in 2016:

Men vs Rickmansworth:

We normally encounter a strong opposition from the Rickmansworth club. The first leg was played at home and we were quietly confident with a 5-1 lead heading to Rickmansworth for the second leg. We needed one win to retain the cup, however Rickmansworth had other ideas and on home soil they won 6-0 giving them a 7-5 overall win.

Ladies vs Mitcham:

In 2015 Mitcham retained the trophy with an overall win. In 2016 the first leg was held at the Park and our home team secured a 3-0 lead over the visitors. At the second leg played at Mitcham our team was again victorious with a 2-1 win, giving the Club an overall 5-1 win and the cup came back into our hands.

Mixed match vs. Amida:

For 2016 the match was held over at the 9 hole David Lloyd course at Hampton. The match comprised 6 mixed pairs and the end result was a 3-3 draw. For 2017 the match venue will return to the Park.

External Competitions

Surrey Golf – Kelso Hamilton – Men's Four-ball Matchplay

In the first round the partnership of Richard Owen and Nigel Gaymond had to make another very long tricky journey, as far as Wimbledon Common. Richard and Nigel won this round but then lost in the second round to Moore Park GC.

Surrey Golf – The Surrey 5's – Men's Individual Matchplay

The Club's team encountered a tricky first round draw against Reigate and were unsuccessful, losing 4 to 1 on the day.

NAPGC Men's Championship

The regional qualifier was held at The Oaks. In total there were 80 players competing across four divisions and in Division 2 Pete Davis finished in second place with a net 73. The final was played over two rounds at Woodhall Spa. Pete finished part way down the result sheet but his net 161 was only 4 shots short of the division winner.

NAPGC Clapham Common Shield – Men's Greensomes Aggregate Stableford

The Club were successful in the first round against Haste Hill with a win of 213 vs. 208. In the second round the Club was up against Harefield Place and we were successful with a win of 214 vs. 203. In the third round the Club was not successful against Ruislip who won with the close margin of 211 vs. 209. Ruislip went on to take second place in the competition final.

NAPGC Bourne-Vanneck – Men's Aggregate Medal

In 2016 the regional qualifier was held at Haste Hill with 37 teams competing. Our team of three were fifth in the gross with 236 and also fifth in the net with 211. The net result was good enough for the team to make to the trip to the final. Our team of Jay Barker, Steve Legg and Pete Davis competed against 15 other teams at the final held at Bird Hills. The team finished 10th in the gross with 245 and 4th in the net with 221, just three shots behind the winner.

NAPGC Siemens Bowl

This event was new to the Club in 2016. It is a Stableford team event for eight men with above average handicaps. In the first round the team was successful against Downshire with a win of 154 vs. 142. In the second round the team lost against Thorney Park with the scores 148 vs. 144.

NAPGC Senior Men's Team Competition

This event was new to the Club in 2016. Richard Owen and Nigel Gaymond represented the Club at the NAPGC event held at West Middlesex Golf Club. Twenty-one teams competed, and Richard and Nigel finished fifteenth overall.

NAPGC Hawtree Trophy – Mixed Greensomes Aggregate Stableford

For 2016 the Club entered two teams for the Hawtree. The first team was pitched against Portsmouth and lost 142 to 131 points.

The second Hawtree team started its venture against Hoebridge B and this was a win with 141 to 127 points. The next round was against Easthampstead where both teams finished with 120 points. Fortunately, the Club progressed on a countback. This was sufficient to take the team to the area final against Queens Park and the match was played on a neutral course. This result was a 156 vs. 145 win for the Club's team and a well earned trip to the final.

The Hawtree final was played at Frilford Heath. Four clubs with fours pairs competed in the final. Representing the Club were the pairings of Susan Smith and Nick Rogers, Veronica Mitchell and Jay Barker, Habe Crocker and Peter Osgood and Cheryl Woodhouse with Nigel Gaymond. The Club's team finished in the runner up position with 130 points, just one point behind the winners from Basildon.

NAPGC White Webbs – Ladies' Team Matchplay

For the second year running, in the first round the Club was drawn against the very competitive Hoebridge B team. In 2015 the Club secured a win but in 2016 the Club lost in the new matchplay format by 1 ½ to ½.

UKPCC: Men's Championship at St Andrews

Cuneyt Sazar qualified from the Club to enter the regional qualifier at Wyke Green. He came fourth with 31 points in the Division 3 category and this was sufficient for him to be eligible for the final at St Andrews. In the final Cuneyt was unplaced, finishing with 29 points.

UKPCC: Ladies' Championship at St Andrews

Jane Fraser qualified from the Club to enter the regional qualifier at Addington Court. With 36 points Jane had the best score of her Division 2 category, and in fact the best score of all 26 ladies who played on the day. In the final at St Andrews Jane was unplaced with her score of 30 points.

Internal Matches and Competitions

The Bontor

The ladies won the Bontor in 2014. In 2015 the overall result was a draw and this was enough for the ladies to retain the trophy through to the 2016 challenge.

Well – the men set off in the 2016 challenge with great expectations but they were thwarted with a further draw and the scores finished 18 a piece. The ladies retain the Bontor Trophy through to the next challenge in the summer of 2017.

Ladies' Invitation

It was a windy day in May that we held the Ladies' Invitation but the conditions didn't seem to matter to Veronica Mitchell and Pete Harrison who won the American Greensomes event with a very impressive 40 points. Just two points behind in the runner up position were the pairing of Caroline Dewar and Paul Grand.

Men's Invitation

As a result of fixture congestion the men's invitation day bobbed around and was eventually played on a good autumnal day with mixed weather in early October.

The match report states that the top five scores occupied a margin of just one point, however on the countback it was Captain Paul Brown partnering Captain Lia Donath in first place, closely followed by Jon Cooper and Susan Smith in the runner up position.

The Ladies' Spring Weekend Away: main event - The Lockie Trophy

For the spring weekend in April the Club took a southerly direction to Dale Hill Hotel and Golf Club near Wadhurst where two 18 hole courses are available. Fortunately, the weekend coincided with a break in the wet weather.

The main event for the ladies is the 36 hole challenge for the Lockie Trophy. The popular winner by a fine margin was Deborah Potter with 65 points and runner up was Gina Jillett with 58 points.

The men have their own separate 36 hole 'test' and the winner was Stephen Mason with 58 points and just one point adrift was Martin Heinrich with 57 points who was also the runner up in 2015.

The Ladies' Autumn Weekend Away: main event - The Gill Hibbs Trophy

For the autumn weekend in September the Club headed west and drifted across the border to the St Pierre Hotel and Country Club in Wales. As you would expect for Wales, it rained, but not too much and the playing conditions were fine

The main event for the ladies is the 36 hole challenge for the Gill Hibbs Trophy. The winner with day scores of 31 and 41 was Fiona Coombe. With her remarkable 41 points on day 2 Fiona won on a countback from Veronica Mitchell who was the runner up.

In the men's 36 hole challenge it was Jon Cooper who was the weekend winner and Richard Owen took second place.

Individual Achievements

- In July 2016 the Club participated in the Putney Park Open. It is normally the case that a Putney Park player captures the trophy but in 2016 the honours went to Steve Cross with a net 70. The runner up was Kim Chaffart who lost out on the countback to Steve.
- For the RPGC Open played in August 2016 we invited the members of Putney Park to join us for the event. In 2015 we had the first recorded win of the Club's Open by a lady member and then for 2016 we had a second win in succession by a lady member and on this occasion it was Donna Wilson with a net 70. Tony Bergqvist was the runner up with a net 71.
- There were no 'holes in one' scored in 2016.

Extra Curricular Activities

We own a big thank you to Pete Harrison. Pete took us all off to Ritchings Park on Thursday 12th May for an excellent away day. The weather had been rubbish beforehand but rather like his golf, Peter's timing was spot on and we had a good day with sunny spells. Those who participated will remember that after 9 holes Pete had arranged a special lunchtime challenge; to demolish a huge steak and ale pie. Whilst some of us struggled with the extra ballast in the afternoon Pete took first prize on the day and the runner up was Peter Osgood.

www.RichmondParkGolfClub.Org.Uk - The RPGC Website

Little did we know that at the beginning of 2002 we would be commencing a website journey that would flourish for 15 years, and there is still opportunity to roll forward and to flourish for many more years.

Tim established the core design of the website and in his 'editorial' capacity he has maintained the site from the launch day. In non-technical language the website 'sits' on Tim's own business equipment and the Club has benefited hugely in a financial sense from his hosting service.

A few months ago Tim mentioned in passing that the website content now exceeds the equivalent of 3,000 pages of historical Club data. This equates to 4 pages per week for the entire 15 year period, and there are some of us who are aware that Tim's dedication to the website has been monumental.

Once again we are exceedingly grateful to Tim for servicing and maintaining the website for everyone's use and I still don't know how he manages to fit in his editorial role around his other demanding business activities.

Absent Friends

At the time of this report we have two golfers receiving attention in hospital. On 15th October Paul Grand was caught in a massive gas explosion at his flat. The gas leak was traced to a faulty gas main. Unfortunately, Paul suffered a stroke whilst in intensive care. The good news is that Paul has recovered almost to the point that he can leave hospital for the next stage of his recovery and this will be for a period of three months or so at a rehabilitation centre in Roehampton.

Our second casualty is John Fordham who suffered a stroke on Wednesday 14th December. After a period in intensive care John was moved to a main ward where he is showing good signs of recovery and he is waiting to be moved to a stroke cum rehabilitation facility at Northwick Park hospital.

We wish them both well and with a fair wind there is a chance that we will see them at the Park before the end of 2017.

On 17th January 2017 we received the sad news that Lorna White had passed away in the early hours. Lorna was a member of Richmond Park for over 20 years. She was a keen golfer and a very keen participant in Club events. Our older members will retain fond memories of Lorna who had an expert knowledge of Spain and the Spanish culture. It is

comforting to know that Lorna had a lot of pleasure not just from the golf but also from her Sundays socials with her fellow members at the Park.

The Committee and helpers

When we started 2016 it was a case of 'Round 2' for our two Captains Paul Brown and Lia Donath. It was also the beginning of the Club's first full year of the Sunday and the Midweek activities.

Although it is not very apparent there is in fact a very substantial volume of email traffic that changes hands during the week and if the Captains are not directly involved there is always an information flow to take note of. Keeping track of the comings and goings is time consuming in the extreme and I know that in Paul's case his pc and phone have had a very heavy hammering in 2016. Both Captains can now look forward to their retirement from the main stream of activity although in Paul's case it is more of a respite because he is staying with the committee as a Vice President for 2017. We are very grateful for their dedication and stewardship over the last two years.

As I have mentioned before in previous messages, everyone who sits on the Committee contributes to the wellbeing of the Club in some way. There are those with fixed responsibilities who understandably have more 'work' to do, and the Club is also fortunate to have additional helpers who lend a hand to keep everything an even keel. I will mention briefly a few very notable contributors;

- I have again placed Richard Owen on the top of our list for a mention and for good reason. Richard has been the Midweek Captain for 2016 and he has been actively involved with weekly administration of the midweek activities. Richard has also had the role of Club Liaison Officer with regard to the interaction with Glendale and as an example of what is required Richard has a twice weekly exchange to ensure that the correct number of Club games are booked for our two event days. In the liaison role Richard is the first point of call for new member enquiries coming across from Glendale and for those holding the annual Loyaltee cards Richard looks after the invoicing for the membership fee recoveries. I am not sure that in retirement Richard is any less busy than when he was working full time.
- At the beginning of 2016 it was the intension that David Sandifer should take over the role of the Club's Treasurer. David spent hours of endless fun with HSBC to have the Club's bank mandate changed and the weeks drifted into months and summer passed. This painful process was recognised by HSBC who made a compensation payment to the Club. During this period it was fortunate that Nick Rogers was able to continue to wear the Treasurer's hat and the books were suitably maintained. During the latter part of 2016 David found that he would not be able to take over the Treasurer's position and Nick persevered. At this time Peter Jagger volunteered to assist and a handover process has been in progress for a few months.
- Next in line for mention are the Club's Handicap Secretaries; Sheena Harrington, Paul Grand and latterly Kim Chaffart. When everyone has made it home from golf and slumped in front of the tv the handicap secretaries are hard at work trying to decipher unreadable score cards to check the handicapmaster input data prior to the formal process of 'publishing' our event results. This activity has to be performed twice weekly to keep everyone's handicap record up to date, so there is no let up. In addition to this routine there are a number of additional records to be maintained such as the accumulator trophy scores and the administration of the potential new members as they progress towards full membership. When Paul's activity came to a sudden halt, Kim just

happened to be standing in the wrong place at the wrong time and he found that he was the prime candidate to look after the midweek cards, and since this small beginning Kim has been actively engaged in the weekend handicap reporting.

- We need to remember that our bookings officers, Peter Jagger and Chris Jones both have a weekly routine to follow to ensure that our games are correctly 'ordered' and that the order of play listing is correctly issued to those who are playing. As it happens, setting up the bookings sheets for our mix of events on Mastersscoreboard and following the process through to the point where we receive our weekly educational bulletins is a lot easier said than done.
- Of academic interest to the members who regularly frequent the bottom of the leaderboards we have had Toby Hunt and Igor Stark handing out the weekly sweep winnings to those at the top end of the leaderboards. This task entails the allocation of the weekly entry monies and, importantly, ensuring that the Club is credited with the correct entry fees.
- Earlier in this report I have mentioned the results of the spring and autumn ladies weekends away. For a number of years Veronica Mitchell has been the organiser for the weekends and for 2016 those that could participate were again able to enjoy two excellent weekend venues. Needless to say, organising the weekends and the added burden of organising the participants is a major challenge at which Veronica excels.

The Final Word

For 2017 we are again optimistic that it will be a case of onwards and upwards. I hope that you all have a most enjoyable golfing year and an perhaps entry on the 2017 prize list.

Peter Harrington
Secretary
27th January 2017