

# **RICHMOND PARK GOLF CLUB**



## **ANNUAL REPORT - 2018**

No sooner had 2018 started than the storms blew in. Through Jan and Feb the weather was extremely messy with a mix of very good days and miserably bad days, and it was a simple case of pot luck as to what would be thrown at us on our Sundays and Wednesdays. As we moved from Feb to March Mother Nature turned the heating down and the beast from the east decided to dump some snow on the Park just ahead of a Wednesday fixture. However, by the following Sunday we were back in business. Anyone who blinked could be forgiven for missing Spring because over a period of about four weeks we moved from Winter to Summer conditions in April. May turned out to be the warmest on record and the courses were starting to dry out. Mother Nature turned the heating up for another record in June. The temperature peaked in July but by this time the courses had changed to a lighter shade of beige. In September it was reported that we had experienced a summer on a par with 1976.

Not surprisingly, with the weather extremes the playing characteristics of the courses change quite dramatically and we all find that a wedge in the summer can travel the same distance as a full four iron in the winter. Indeed, Martin Heinrich's fairly gentle putt off the Prince's 16<sup>th</sup> tee travelled about 120 yards before it disappeared over the back of the green. Needless to say, when we do experience either winter or summer weather extremes the challenge to return a good score is a real test of everyone's talent coupled with a degree of luck. Through 2018 we have witnessed some very low scores recorded and it is good to see some of the handicaps tumble.

At the beginning of 2018 there was a degree of trepidation because Congu invoked two key changes to the handicapping rules. Firstly, as a precursor to the move to slope we found that the handicap limits for men, ladies, and juniors had all been increased to 54. This move was defended on the pretext that the higher limit provides a greater opportunity and more encouragement for social golfers to get involved in club golf. It is no secret that there was a degree of apprehension that in a short time RPGC could find itself with a group of members with handicaps in the 50s, but this has not happened. What the change has done is to allow the handicaps of members to drift up above the previous limits of 28 for men and 36 for ladies. In order to avoid the possibility of a succession of trophy wins by incoming very high handicapped members a decision was taken early in the year by the Committee to place a fixed competition handicap limit of 30 for the men and 36 for the ladies. This action has been shown to be successful and we see from the prize list that there is the usual good mix of awards between the high and low handicappers. The second change to the handicapping rules applied to the method of adjustment for starting handicaps for new members. It was fairly common knowledge that prior to 2018 all scores for holes on handicap qualifying cards would be reduced to a maximum of a double bogey. For 2018 the maximum on any hole was increased to a double par. Unsurprisingly, we found that for some members who joined us in 2018 their handicaps would have been markedly different under the former 2017 rules. It is for this reason that we undertake a careful review of all starting handicaps to ensure the newly awarded numbers are fair for the joiners as well as being fair to those in competitions.

playing with seasoned handicaps. A review of the 2018 prize list indicates that we managed to get this bit right.

In the membership section below we see the good news that the Club's membership number has crept up again in 2018, with an overall increase of 10%. This is a very healthy result but we also recognise that there is a need to retain our playing activity level. We do not have full detailed stats on the activity level but here are a few snippets of information.

Handicapmaster is showing that we recorded 132 club events in 2018, comprising a mix of joint events, men's events, ladies' events and the five Saturday events. This number does not include the Club's knockouts. The number of events tabled as separate handicap qualifying rounds was 121. The total number of scores recorded for all events was 4,200 and this amounts to an average of 32 players per event.

One notable change that occurred in 2018 was the discontinuance of the "Richmond Park Golf Club Open". Back in 2010 there were four clubs at the Park playing on Sunday mornings and each club ran an Open where all the four clubs participated. As we know, aside from ourselves the remaining group at the Park is Putney Park and there was very clearly no appetite to retain the old inter-club Open arrangements. In place of the RPGC Open we proposed to Glendale that it should promote a full Open that would encourage participation by club members and social golf players. At the outset, there was a natural degree of concern that such an event would attract the desired variety of golfers in good numbers, however, I am pleased to report that after a considerable effort by a number of volunteers the tee allocation of 120 slots became fully subscribed and Glendale notched up its most successful Open day.

It is no secret that our Friday roll-ups were quiet during 2018. We have a small core of Friday attendees who are clearly very comfortable with the existing arrangements. From time to time our Friday players have assisted with card marking for our potential new members and we are grateful for this. There is no immediate plan to make any changes to the present roll-up arrangement but we are aware of a possible opportunity to step up the level of Friday activity in the second half of 2019.

2018 sees the end of the two tours of duty for our two Captains, Nick Rogers and Alison Chadwick. They hand over the stewardship of the Club for 2019 to Nigel Gaymond and Deborah Potter. It is customary for the Club's Captains to hold office for two years and we all recognise that the Club has been in safe hands with Nick and Alison at the helm. We are grateful for their time and the contributions made to help the Club progress over the last two years and for ensuring that the Club is in a good ship-shape order.

## **Annual Prize-giving**

For the 2018 prize-giving evening we are returning to the Malden Golf Club in New Malden on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2019.

The arrangements for the evening are being hosted by our 2019 Lady Captain Deborah Potter and our 2018 Captain Nick Rogers. It is good to see that we have all the correct ingredients for another successful evening's celebration.

Our list of over 60 prizes below shows that we have a very busy fixture programme with activity occurring all through the year for a variety of men's events, ladies' events, joint events, and mixed events. It is also worth mentioning that in addition to list below we also have keepsake glasses for 32 separate monthly medal competitions.

Our 36-hole “Club Championship” scratch events are recognised as the Club’s premier events. In previous reports it is customary to give a summary of how our Champions won through but this year’s commentary is a lot slimmer:

The men’s Champion in 2018 was Jay Barker with a scores of 71 and 78 for a total of 149. Aidan Hurley was the runner-up with a total of 152. Jay’s win means that he holds the trophy for the third year in succession.

Habe Crocker retained the Ladies’ Club Championship cup with scores of 74 and 80 for a total of 154. Veronica Mitchell was the runner-up with a total of 164.

The men’s junior Champion (for handicaps of 17 and above) was me with scores of 81 and 86 for a total of 167. Tony Kopczak was the runner-up with a total of 172. Yours truly now notches up four junior wins, the last being in 1997.

Although the Midweek Club Championships provide an opportunity for our midweek only players to challenge for their own scratch trophies, in the final reckoning some of the winners’ names have a familiar ring to them.

The men’s Midweek Champion was Ollie Maskell with scores of 72 and 73 for a total of 145. The runner-up was Jay Barker, just two shots behind with a score of 147.

The ladies’ Midweek Champion was Habe Crocker with scores of 82 and 85 for a total of 167. The runner-up was Sheena Harrington, just two shots behind with a score of 169.

Here follows the full prize list for 2018: -

### **RPGC 2018 PRIZE LIST**

#### **WEEKEND 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

#### **WINNER**

Jay Barker

Habe Crocker

Peter Harrington

Peter Harrington

Veronica Mitchell

Alison Chadwick

Aidan Hurley

John Ahad

Sheena Harrington

Liam Bridger &  
Mike Shabani

Joan Mulcahy &  
Deborah Potter

Gina Jillett &  
Nick Rogers

Veronica Mitchell

Jon Cooper

#### **RUNNER-UP**

Aidan Hurley

Veronica Mitchell

Tony Kopczak

[Brian McMahon]

Habe Crocker

Joan Mulcahy

Ollie Maskell

Scott Sparks

Angela Flynn

Michael Choo &  
Jeremy Ryan

Sheena Harrington &  
Julie Smith

Elaine Elborn &  
John Curry

Sheena Harrington

[Jay Barker]

Silver Jubilee Trophy	Alison Chadwick	Jay Barker
Golden Jubilee Trophy	Michael Choo	Deborah Potter
Diamond Jubilee Trophy	Roger Rojas	Jay Barker
Platinum Jubilee Trophy	Ray Esin	Kim Chaffart
Anniversary Cup	Jay Barker	[Keith Cassidy]
President's Putter	Kamil Naidoo	Susan Smith
Captain's Prize	Tony Bergqvist	Nigel Gaymond
Lady Captain's Prize	Joan Mulcahy	Sheena Harrington
Richmond Park Golf Club Open	Disbanded	Disbanded
J Q Robertson Trophy	Fiona Coombe	Doreen Dolby
Coronation Cup	Toby Hunt	Tony Bergqvist
Shaw Cup	Richard Owen	Scott Sparks
Summer Cup	Lee Marshall	Jon Cooper
Spring Mixed American Greensomes	Ann Gardner & Tamas Ladacs	Lia Donath & Nick Rogers
Autumn Mixed - Handicap	Alison Chadwick & Nigel Ward	Doreen Dolby & Ray Esin
Autumn Mixed - Scratch	Habe Crocker & Jay Barker	[Lia Donath & Peter Osgood]
Burgess Cup - Greensomes	Martin Heinrich & Brian McMahon	Damian Hackett & Lee Marshall
Top Dog Trophy	Tony Bergqvist	[Toby Hunt]
Ladies' Dowling Cup	Alison Chadwick	
Lissaman Cup - 3 clubs + putter	Jennifer Wood	Brian McMahon
Barton Bowl - Play-off – top 8 against captain	Habe Crocker	
Charity Cup	Nigel Gaymond	Nick Rogers
Spring Stableford Trophy	Jay Barker	Brian McMahon
Winter Competition	Paul House	Michele Prencipe

### **MIDWEEK EVENTS**

Senior Men's Club Championship	Ollie Maskell	Jay Barker
Ladies' Club Championship	Habe Crocker	Sheena Harrington
Junior Men's Club Championship	Stephen Mason	Chris Jones
Club Championship Handicap Trophy	Ollie Maskell	[Sheena Harrington]
Inaugural Trophy	Henry Lindesay-Bethune	John Curry
Grand Medal Trophy	Jay Barker	[Ted Holt]
Anniversary Accumulator	Jay Barker	[Jon Ramphul]
Founder's Cup – E. Bailey	Chris Jones	Habe Crocker
Founder's Cup – Mrs Millidge	Dylan Merchant	Chris Jones
Founder's Cup – J. Hume	Steve Tyrrell	Martin Smith
Founders' Cup	Dylan Merchant	[Chris Jones]
President's Prize	Tamas Ladacs	Jon Cooper
Captain's Day	John Curry	Paul Grand

Priory Cup	Jonathan Rivers	Elaine Elborn
Masters Bowl	Ollie Maskell	Cosmo Liefing-Moore
Claret Jug	Brun Clerckx	Jack Evans
Midsummer Trophy	Paul Cook	Jeremy Ryan
Fred Hawtree Trophy	Jessy Diasilua	John Ahad
The Edward Cup	Stephen Haworth	Jeremy Ryan
Autumn Pairs	Veronica Mitchell & Damian Hackett	Gina Jillett & Jon Cooper
Harrington Trophy - 3 clubs + putter	Tamas Ladacs	Alan King
Charity Trophy	Alan King	Charlie Renton
Winter Competition	Eelco Snijders	Peter Harrington

All the names mentioned will be receiving prize awards apart from the names shown in brackets [ xx ].

## Membership

Here's our 11 year table and we can see where we stand at 31 December 2018.

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<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>
<b>Men:</b>											
Regular	192	171	149	123	86	93	102	104	101	96	85
Junior	3	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	0	0
Hon (playing)	0	2	0	1	1	1	4	4	5	1	1
<b>Total Men</b>	<u>195</u>	<u>175</u>	<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>
<b>Ladies:</b>											
Regular	46	44	41	41	36	37	37	40	46	43	43
Hon (playing)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
<b>Total Ladies</b>	<u>47</u>	<u>45</u>	<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>
<b>Total</b>	<u>242</u>	<u>220</u>	<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>
	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+
	10%	15%	15%	33%	5%	8%	10%	3%	9%	8%	16%
<b>Joiners:</b>											
New men	50	42	53	49	14	22	25	23	24	26	27
New ladies	7	7	3	9	2	2	2	1	9	5	6
Junior	1	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Rejoiners – men	1	2	1	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	1
Rejoiners – ladies	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<u>59</u>	<u>54</u>	<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>
<b>Leavers:</b>	<u>37</u>	<u>26</u>	<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>
	17%	14%	19%	16%	18%	26%	22%	18%	15%	15%	14%

Those who have seen this table in previous years may have noticed a subtle change and for this we can point the finger at England Golf and Surrey Golf. There are many clubs that charge members separately for the county and national affiliation fees but we do not. Over the years the affiliation fees have increased progressively to the point where the average fee per member plus the Club's insurance charge exceeds £20 per member. With this rate of fixed cost it was agreed at the January 2018 AGM to dispense with the reduced membership fee for seniors and all adults are now playing the full subscription rate. It follows that in the table we no longer show our seniors as a separate category.

It is good to see that the Club has again increased the membership numbers year on year and we can count 2018 as another successful year. For most of 2018 it looked doubtful that our total would finish above 2017 but in December 2018 we had a late surge and we managed to sign up 13 new members. The majority of membership enquiries derive from the leaflets at the Park or via golfers locating the Club's website, and we do of course follow up the referrals that come to the Club from Glendale. Many of our potential new members approach us without handicaps and they are required to complete three cards for a new starting handicap. By mid-December we had recorded 210 handicap qualification cards and for 2018 this means that we were marking an average of 4 cards per week; some achievement for those involved.

In previous periods it has been noticeable that the proportion of the men to the ladies has been on the increase and we see this again for 2018 where the ladies have fallen below 20% of the total membership for the first time in a very long while. It would be good to see the ratio move in the opposite direction in 2019.

Barring extraordinary events, it is normal to lose between 15% and 20% of the membership each year and this is a feature that is common to many golf clubs. The reasons for a membership cancellation are varied and we find that the two most common comments are relocation and 'giving up'. The Club's statistic has been running a little high because there have been instances of golfers with an initial over enthusiasm to purchase an annual Glendale Loyaltee card and at the same time become Club member, but who then realise that the time commitment for golf is not available. As we head to 2019 it is possible to identify 9 members who have relocated and a further larger number who are unlikely to remain with us so the challenge to hold the 2018 total membership number is already on.

As mentioned in the introduction it is not just the size of the membership that is important but it is also the activity level for the events that we promote. If we head back 35 years the Club's summer Sunday activity was in the region of 70 to 80 players and the overall combined Sunday club activity was in the region of 110 to 120 players. Our present Sunday summer activity is running close to 50 players therefore the indication is that to reach 80 players we need a membership in the region of 400 which equates to an uplift 160 additional members. The Club is heading in this direction but there is clearly a long way to go before we reach the activity levels that the Club used to enjoy.

## **Midweek Golf**

Midweek golf has been operating successfully for over three years and slowly but surely the Wednesday golf programme has been increasing in popularity. Weekly attendances are now averaging around the 40 mark and there are many Club members who just play the Wednesday competitions. Where possible we have managed to keep the games as 3-balls and the evidence demonstrates that this format does make a big improvement in the speed of play.

At present the ratio of Sunday golf to Wednesday golf is 56% to 44%. If the activity trend continues for the Midweek golf in 2019, and we have no reason to doubt this, there will come a time when the attendance numbers will be on a par with the Sunday golf.

Oversight for the Wednesday Midweek programme is performed by the Midweek sub-committee which comprises Kim Chaffart, Henry Lindesay-Bethune, Paul Grand, Jeremy Prescott, and Cheryl Woodhouse. We are grateful for their input during 2018.

I must give a special mention for Kim Chaffart who, aside from providing us with the Sunday results, has been the Captain of the Midweek activity, and has looked after the administration of the bookings sheets, and the collection of the weekly entries, and the distribution of the sweep monies. Kim's two year tour of duty as Captain comes to an end in March 2019 and taking up the Captain's reins for the next two years will be John Ahad.

## **Inter-Club Matches**

Here's what happened in 2018:

Men vs. Rickmansworth:

It is a few years since we were able to display the trophy on our Annual Dinner table and there was optimism that we might have a successful result in 2018 when we started with a home lead of 4½ to 1½. There is, however, a history of a fateful destiny on our visits to the Ricky course and 2018 turned out to be no exception where we lost the away leg 6:0. Ricky continues to retain the cup.

Ladies vs. Mitcham:

The first leg of the friendly was played at Mitcham and the RPGC ladies returned home with a lead of 2:1. On home soil it was the Mitcham ladies who held the upper hand and the RPGC ladies lost on this occasion by 2:1. The overall result was a draw at 3:3, however the Club retains the trophy by virtue of being the holder in 2017.

Mixed match vs. Amida:

In 2018 it was the turn of Club to venture over to Twickenham. For the match both sides fielded 6 mixed pairs. On a hot summer's day when the ground had the consistency of concrete the Amida team scored a very convincing win. In 2019 the match returns to the Park.

## **External Competitions**

One key advantage of an enlarged and more flexible Club membership is the ability to provide an increased opportunity for members to represent the Club in external competitions. A scan of the competitions below shows that the Club has indeed become more involved in external events and we can see this list growing if indeed the membership continues to develop as it has done over the last few years.

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

For 2018 the Club entered two teams.

Team 1 was Captained by Pete Harrison and in the first round the team was unsuccessful on the hills of Surrey National.

Team 2 was Captained by Richard Owen and his team became unseated at the first hurdle with a loss to Dulwich.

### Men's UKPCC – [Stableford]

In 2018 it was fortuitous that the regional qualifier for the UKPCC final was held on our home turf at Richmond Park. Three members qualified for the visit to St Andrews for the final on the Eden Course; namely Pete Harrison, Cuneyt Sazer and Richard Smith (whose home club is White Lodge).

Our three members did not return home with any prizes but I gather that the experience was all very enjoyable.

### NAPGC Men's Championship – Medal

Richmond Park had seven entrants for the regional qualifier held at Hoebridge. Jay Barker was the only member with a successful round and he booked a place in the final at Woodhall Spa. Jay did not feature in the list of the final's prize-winners.

### NAPGC Clapham Common Shield – Men's Greensomes Aggregate Stableford

In the first round the Club's team was successful against Farnham Park. Unfortunately, in the second round the team lost to Perivale Park.

### NAPGC Bourne-Vanneck – Men's Aggregate Medal

The 2018 regional qualifier was held at Bird Hills. Our 2018 team of three comprised Pete Harrison, Jay Barker and Ollie Maskell. Our team finish 5<sup>th</sup> in the gross ranking with a score of 251 and missed out on a place in the final by just 5 shots.

### NAPGC Senior Men's Championship - Stableford

The seniors' event is for those aged 55 and over. In a demonstration that there is no shortage of seniors at RPGC we had thirteen entrants for the championship held at West Mid. Although none of the RPGC contingent won a trophy it was left to our President, Tim Meyer, for the second year running to record the Club's best score with 38 points for a 4<sup>th</sup> place.

### NAPGC Men's Siemens Bowl – Four-ball Better Ball

This event is geared towards the higher handicappers and the team comprises four pairs. There was no round 1. In round 2 the opponents withdrew and our team was granted a walkover. In round 3 the team was drawn to play Tilgate Forest and against the odds the result was a draw with 143 points each. On a superior countback our team progressed to the regional final against Easthampstead. The team lost at this stage with the score 163 to 176, and Easthampstead went on to be the runner-up in the final.



### NAPGC Men's Better Ball Team Match Play Trophy

This event comprises three pairs in a match play knockout. In the first round the Club's team was successful against The Oaks, winning by 2½ to ½. Unfortunately, for the next round the team came up against another team from Easthampstead and lost 2:1.

### NAPGC Men's Weekday Toprock Salver Better Ball Match Play Knockout

This is a straightforward pairs better ball knockout. The Club entered three pairs in 2018. In the first round we scored three successes against White Lodge, Addington Court, and Leaside. In the second round two pairs came unstuck against Huntswood and High Elms. The third pairing of Kim Chaffart and Tamas Ladacs made good progress in the second round, by virtue of a walkover. In the next round this pair had the distinct benefit of a so-called 'home' advantage but they did manage a win against another pair from White Lodge. Unfortunately, the Kim and Tamas did not survive the 4<sup>th</sup> round and lost to High Elms who had previously knocked out the Club's B pairing.

### NAPGC Gordon Forster Bowl – Team Stableford Knockout

This is a private entry winter team competition and the Captain for the "Hit the Buffer" team was Paul House. In January 2018 the team had success against Haste Hill B and a month later a further success against EHGC Bravo. Round 3 is where the team hit the buffer, and this was against the Ruislip Kings who went on to win the GF Bowl.

### Ladies' UKPCC – [Stableford]

Veronica Mitchell and Tenesi Karakaneva played in the regional qualifiers but did not progress further to reach the final.

### NAPGC Ladies Championship – Medal

For the ladies' championship there is no regional qualifier and we had four entrants for the national championship held at Staverton. All four ladies finished outside of the top placings.

### NAPGC White Webbs – Ladies' Team Match Play

The Club's team was successful in the first round against the Easthampstead D team. The team was again successful winning by the small margin of 81 to 78 against Wycombe Heights. This success took the team to the regional final where the team lost to the Easthampstead C team

### NAPGC Senior Ladies' Championship - Stableford

The ladies' seniors' event is for those aged 50 and over. There were two entries from the Club; Sheena Harrington who finished 3<sup>rd</sup> with 36 points and Val Riziotis who finished 5<sup>th</sup> with 35 points. The combined 71 points of Val and Sheena gave them a 3 point win over Hainault Forest for the Reg Pugh Pairs Shield.

### NAPGC Ladies Match Play Trophy – Pairs Better Match Play

This was not entered in 2018.

### NAPGC Ladies Toproc Bowl - Greensomes Pairs Match Play

This was not entered in 2018.

### NAPGC Mary Forster Bowl – Team Stableford

In tandem with the men, this is a private entry winter team competition. In the winter of 2017/18 there were two teams in play.

The 'Midriffers' were drawn to play against EHLGC 1 and Moore Place A, and it was the Easthampstead team that won through.

The 'Drop Outs' were drawn to play against EHLGC 3 and Moore Place B. It was the Drop Outs who won through with a margin of just 5 Stableford points (251 vs. 246) to play at the national final. The ladies didn't have success in the final and finished in eighth place. The team comprised Doreen Dolby, Lia Donath, and Jayne Maxwell.

### NAPGC Hawtree Trophy – Mixed Greensomes Aggregate Stableford

It is important to recall that as we entered 2018 the Club was the defending national champion.

The Club's A team fell at the first hurdle against Portsmouth. The B team, however had a win against Portsmouth's near neighbours at Queens Park. In the second round the B team were away at Easthampstead but scored a 7 point win to take on Hoebridge in the next round. The team was successful with a win by 5 points and this took them to the regional final against the Portsmouth team that had previously defeated the Club's A team. The regional final was a very low scoring match but the Club's team succeeded by winning 117 points to 111 points.

The result against Portsmouth took us to the national final for the third year running and the team came third, behind the winners from Rose Hill and Basildon in second place.

## **Internal Matches and Competitions**

### The Bontor – Match Play

After a period of four years in the possession of the ladies the men decided to draw a halt to the ladies' winning streak and put in a concerted effort with matching red shirts for a good win. With 18 single match play results being contested the final result was a win for the men with the score 11 – 7.

### Ladies' Invitation – American Greensomes

The Invitation was played in May when the course was showing signs of drying out. In 2017 Roger Rojas was a good pick and he won with Cheryl Woodhouse. In 2018 Jayne Maxwell

put her bid in first and with Roger she won with 41 points. In second place on 38 points we see Anne Holding-Parsons partnered with Paul Grand.

### Men's Invitation – American Greensomes

The Men's Invitation was played on a blisteringly hot day in August when the country was experiencing the excitement (or maybe not) of the World Cup. The winners were the partnership of Jon Cooper and Susan Smith who amassed 42 points. With 40 points the runners-up were the pairing of Pete Harrison and Veronica Mitchell.

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

For the spring weekend a smaller group than usual headed to the Hilton at the Ageas Bowl on the outskirts of Southampton. Prior to the visit the country had suffered from an untypically excessive wet spell and on Friday's round it was apparent that the course had something of a drainage issue. It then rained but we persevered. The winner of the ladies' weekend Lockie Trophy was Veronica Mitchell with a 36 hole score of 70 points. Joan Mulcahy was the runner-up. Just three men attended the weekend and it transpired that yours truly collected the winning prize

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

For the autumn excursion we returned on the August bank holiday weekend to the familiar territory of Meon Valley, also close to Southampton. The Saturday golf was fine but for the start of the 36 hole event rain was forecast. The rain on the Sunday turned out to be a full deluge and one by one the course emptied with only two remaining to complete all 18 holes. Using just the Monday score for the Gill Hibbs Trophy event, the winner on a countback with 31 points was Fiona Coombe and Lesley Mason was the runner-up.

Unfortunately, I am unable to find the results to advise who won the men's prize.

### **Extra-Curricular Activities: Away days.**

Although we had two attempts to hold away days in 2018 there was insufficient demand on both occasions to progress with these.

Despite the lack of desire in 2018 it is likely that for 2019 an away day will be planned for late Spring.

### **Individual Achievements**

- On 19<sup>th</sup> August the new 'Richmond Park Open' was played on the Duke's course. Members from the Putney Park and White Lodge clubs participated together with a few further players from non-Park clubs. In the men's results our best division 1 position was 6<sup>th</sup>, achieved by Bruno Clerckx with a net 70. In division 2, Tony Kopczak recorded our best score, a net 71 for third place.

For the RP Open the ladies' winner was Angela Flynn with a net 73. Sheena Harrington was the runner-up, missing out to Angela on a countback.

- Birdies galore! On top of his 137 birdie count for 2017, Jay Barker recorded 113 birdies in 2018, and he also collected 4 eagles. Jay leads both the Sunday listing with 66 and the Wednesday listing with 47. On the Sunday listing those following Jay were Roger Rojas – 46, Chris Lordan – 44, and Kerry Sargeant 42. On the Wednesday listing those following Jay were Hassan Mouilah – 34, Henry Lindesay-Bethune – 33, and Brett Colley 29.

Jay completed 2018 without birdies on just three holes (2017: 1 hole) but he kept up a good eclectic record with a gross 49 for the Prince's course and a gross 54 for the Duke's course.

- The ladies 2018 birdie tree was again overwhelmed by Habe Crocker with 42 birdies. Veronica was second on the list with 16 birdies, Elaine Elborn was third with 12 birdies, just ahead of Alison Chadwick with 11 birdies.
- It could be said that there is something of a trend for the three 'holes in one' recorded in 2018:-

Ted Holt – Prince's 2<sup>nd</sup> hole, Midweek Winter Comp, round 8, 14<sup>th</sup> March

Ray Esin – Prince's 2<sup>nd</sup> hole, the May Bank Holiday Sweep, 6<sup>th</sup> May

Bruno Clerckx – Prince's 2<sup>nd</sup> hole, Midweek Stableford Sweep, 20<sup>th</sup> June

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

After 17 years and more than 3,000 pages of recorded Club data the website has been a resounding success story.

It is important for all of us to remember that since he established the website in 2002 Tim Meyer has devoted hours and hours of his free time to maintain the website, and introduce the new content in the edited format as it becomes available at a rate averaging more than three articles per week. The process is a touch more involved than most imagine because there is an intricate pattern of linkages on the website that enables us to connect to areas such as the results pages and the honours boards.

In order to take some of the weight off Tim the Committee has been exploring the adoption of a new website where the intention is to continue to see the results data and the corresponding archive records. It is not clear that a transition to a new website will be ready in 2019 but for the moment we can say that the project is 'in progress'. In the meanwhile, Tim has rolled the website forward to 2019 and this year's data is accumulating at a steady pace.

We are all exceedingly grateful to Tim for his continued support for the website which he manages to squeeze in amongst his exceedingly demanding business activities.

### **Absent Friends**

In January 2018 we said farewell to Rema Delaney. Rema played with the Club in the 1980s through to the early 2000 period. Rema was the Club's Lady Captain for 1994 and 1995. She was always dressed very elegantly, both on and off the golf course, and more often than not she would be holding a cigarette. We know that Rema's final years were in sheltered accommodation however she had friends from White Lodge that kept in touch.

## **The Committee and helpers**

As mentioned in the introduction, at the close of the 2018 season our Captains Nick Rogers and Alison Chadwick retire from their positions and take a well earned rest. We all recognise that the captains play a major part in the stewardship of the Club and the fact that the Club is in fine fettle is in part the result of the contributions to the Club's operations that have been made by Nick and Alison. As they retire from the main committee they can both now play their golf with added ease, and we are grateful for Nick and Alison for their of two years of conscientious input which has proved to be a valuable benefit for all the members.

For 2018 the Club's main committee was 15 strong. In various measures everyone contributes in some way towards the smooth running of the Club and one clear advantage of a large committee is that for all the main duties and responsibilities we have deputies that can step in during holiday absences or periods of illness. The committee tries to meet on a monthly basis and this helps everyone to share opinions and keep on top of various topics. Although nobody has come rushing forward to join the committee for 2019 it is the intention to co-opt a few new members in order to add some fresh thoughts and ideas. On the committee we do have a few members with particular responsibilities that deserve a special mention because they are at the forefront of ensuring that week by week the Club is good order:

- I have yet again put Richard Owen at the top of this list because Richard is more involved on Club matters than anybody else. Richard's role as the Association's Liaison Officer means that he is the communication link between RPGC and Glendale and also the link between Glendale and Putney Park. Richard's communications to Glendale involve the weekly request for the Sunday and Wednesday game bookings, but of course, before this Richard has to use the booking sheet data to ascertain the number of games required. Richard also makes the bookings for the Saturday events, the various team events including the friendly fixtures and on top of this Richard transmits the orders for our catering requirements. From Glendale, Richard is the point of contact for those who have expressed an interest in club golf and this invariably involves messages with the referral candidates and possibly Putney Park. Another critical item that has fallen into Richard's lap by virtue of the liaison roll is the preparation and submission of the monthly invoices to recover the annual Loyalty card refunds. The volume of email traffic is extensive and no-doubt very time consuming to deal with. We recognise that Richard is very diligent with these tasks and it is through his endeavours that the Club has a very good working relationship with Glendale. We are grateful to Richard for his continued involvement.
- Many would be forgiven for assuming that the role of Treasurer looking after the accounts is a simple straightforward routine but this is far from reality. Through the year we have an average of 70 transactions per month and with a keen devotion to the task his fellow committee members recognise that Peter Jagger has his work cut out to maintain the Club's books and produce the monthly reports.
- As members, we are fortunate that we have the services of three Competition/Handicap Secretaries; Paul Grand, Kim Chaffart, and Sheena Harrington. A pre-requisite of the task is a thorough knowledge of the HandicapMaster system which translates through to the membership data that we see on MasterScoreboard. We have two competitions each week that require scorecard entry and reporting and this needs to be done in a timely manner to ensure that all the handicaps are up to date and available for the next competition. Behind the scenes there is a good deal of general weekly maintenance in progress involving the cards for new members, updating the handicap list for non-competition changes, and generally responding to members on items such as password resets. As mentioned, we are fortunate that we have a good team looking after us.

- Our bookings officers, Pete Harrison and Kim Chaffart, are involved in a tricky operation. Trying to ensure that the start sheets are in good order before they are published is no easy task. We know that there is a steady flow of email traffic for those adding to or coming off the bookings sheets and this all adds to the time needed to massage the sheets into a presentable order of play. It is clear that without the actions of Pete and Kim we would be struggling to see our games tee off efficiently on Sundays and Wednesdays. As it happens, we also have a third bookings officer and I am referring to Paul Brown who sets up the Fridays and keeps an eye on the Friday activity.
- If you have not yet had an envelope bearing cash from Toby Hunt or Kim Chaffart perhaps your time will come. They look after the collection and distribution of the sweep monies and with thanks to these two we can say that we have another aspect of Club life that works efficiently.
- Veronica was again in charge of organising the spring and autumn ladies' away weekends. As mentioned, for the spring weekend a comparatively small group headed to the Hilton at the Ageas Bowl, and in the autumn we ventured back to Meon Valley. We are grateful to Veronica for dealing with the bookings and for making the arrangements run smoothly whilst trying to keep the participants in order which is easier said than done. For 2019 Veronica has handed the baton over to Cheryl.

To all those mentioned here we are grateful for their involvement and service to the Club which helps to ensure that all the components come together for a successful operation.

### **...and the final word**

For 2019 we are well positioned for the Club to progress onwards and upwards with the possibility of some further enhancements to our regular activities. I hope that you all have a most enjoyable golfing year and, possibly, a mention on the 2019 prize list.

Peter Harrington  
Secretary  
22<sup>nd</sup> January 2019