

STOVER GOLF CLUB

Newsletter
November 2011

Captain's Corner

Unfortunately our Captain Dave is off at the moment having had a long awaited operation on his foot, so as Vice Captain I had to stand in for him at the annual dinner/dance - with all that eating and drinking it was indeed an onerous task. Unfortunately I too had just had an operation (on my left hand) and I did overhear a wisecrack to the effect that wasn't it typical that both the Captain & Vice Captain were plastered at the same time. Anyway our thoughts are with Dave and we look forward to seeing him back at the Club shortly.

The dinner/dance was fully subscribed and was a great success. Thanks to all the helpers and staff who put in a huge effort to make the event the success it was.

Hele Park Golf Club

We are extremely pleased to be welcoming many new members from Hele Park. The count has now reached 80 and still rising. The ladies held a very successful welcoming social/golf event on 7th Nov for the new lady members and a men's event is in the diary for 14th December.

New Membership Categories

Please note that the Committee have decided that the vote at the AGM on introducing new membership categories will incorporate the facility for postal votes. The voting slips will be included with your AGM papers along with full instructions. They may returned by post, placed in the box provided, or if you are attending the AGM in person used to vote at the meeting. If attending the AGM remember to bring your voting slip with you otherwise you will not be able to vote. Votes are secret, the numbers are just one of the security measures and are not attributable to individuals.

From the Green Committee

Welcome:

I would like to add my own welcome to all those new members who have joined Stover in recent weeks. I very much hope you enjoy the course. We are doing everything we can to maintain and improve it and in particular, we are making good progress on a five-year plan to improve our greens, with significant help and guidance from the Sports Turf Research Institute. New ideas and positive suggestions are always welcome.

Winter Programme:

The Winter programme of work for our green staff is now under way, with some important bridge work as top priority.

You may have noticed already major reconstruction occurring on the 14th hole. This work will restore this bridge's ability to safely support the weight of not just club members, but heavy machinery, too!

The new bridge onto the 13th green allows us to undertake this work without too much disruption to play: please take note of the temporary arrangements in force there.

However, the longer-term purpose of new 13th bridge is to enable a safer flow of golfers from 13th

tee, to green, to 14th tee, without walking directly into the face of golfers teeing off. For your own safety, please make full use of it in the future.

Our second bridge project is on the 1st hole, where the present structure is now too low when the brook is in spate. We will build a higher level bridge closer to the road and at the same time, make changes to the tee to improve playability and safety aspects. Other high priority work will include the piping and filling of a number of the unpopular open ditches on the course. We now have the technology to keep underground piping free from blockage. Members may also be glad to know that we are able to retain a fifth member of the green staff through the winter, particularly important when we are undertaking time-consuming projects such as the bridges and equipment maintenance. (Thanks to the skills of Anthony we can maintain most equipment in-house, with substantial financial saving). It should help us to give proper attention to detail on the course (e.g. path edging, bunker maintenance) and in the vicinity of the clubhouse, too.

Volunteer work on the Course:

I have already expressed general thanks to this year's volunteer workers on the course, the hole custodians and Hampton's Heroes. However, Bob Charlesworth has done a great job with painting club buildings and has asked me to thank his helpers:- Barry Chubb, John Crump, Barry Ravenscroft, Rob Hudson, Andy Cowell, Richard Hart, Ken Wheatley and Nigel Roberts. I hope some of our newer members will be interested in giving some of their time to volunteer help on the course. We still have 4 holes without custodians, and once the Spring comes, we will doubtless find more ways to support our professional green staff. Anyone interested in volunteering could contact me directly or perhaps chat to Will Hendry about it.

Graham Green,
Chairman, Greens Committee

PS Keep your eyes open for a forthcoming trial of hedgehog trolley wheels on the winter course - more on this later.

House News

WANTED - Keen gardeners!

In a repeat of the last newsletter on this subject, Pam Giles is still looking for keen gardeners to help establish and maintain a number of planters that will be appearing shortly around the clubhouse. Costs will be covered and a watering system installed.

Diary Date

On Saturday 28th January we are planning a Burns Supper. If you have never tried haggis before, now is your chance - it definitely is the "*great chieftan o' the puddin' race*" - the gravy is pretty special too !!!

From the Competition Committee

Look out for the new Bowmaker competition in January. It will be a four person team event, 2 scores to count. 1st 6 holes Betterball, 7-12 Greensomes, 13-18 Foursomes. The winter league, popular as ever, is running smoothly, with Hampton and Beasley setting the early pace.

This will be Andy Beasley's last year at Stover, as he's retiring and moving back down to Cornwall where he originated from. Andy has been a stalwart of the club for many years, with great success as Captain of the SDL team and his committee work.

We wish him and Jill all the best in their retirement. Lucky!

And now the lecture - Men behaving badly!

It's been brought to the committee's attention that people are entering the Winter leagues, and then in the last week before the actual competition, crossing their names off the list. We accept that in these days of busy lives, people find that they've double booked, or the wife says, don't you remember we're doing something else that day. This in its self is not a problem to us.

But what is unacceptable and very bad golf etiquette, is that you are not contacting the people you are partnering on the day. A simple phone call, to apologise to them, is the least you can do. All phone numbers are in the diaries provided at the beginning of each year.

To combat this problem the list will be examined the night before the winter league competition day to ascertain if there are any pairs left without partners. Players that have scratched off will be noted, and penalised if they have not given due notice to their playing partners of the day.

Club knockouts

When playing a knock out competition, players should start from the 1st tee at the appropriate starting time either for a 2 or 4 ball. You may ask to 'go through' people in front of you, only if there is no one immediately in front of them.

Because you are playing a competition it does not give you the right to play slowly and hold people up that are behind you. However if you are playing for a 'row of house' and playing slowly that it 'might put the opposition off' please do let the people behind through. Courtesy costs nothing.

And to finish on a positive note

Congratulations Jason - Jason Hampton our Head Greenkeeper, and lowest handicap in the club, has just been named Vice Captain of the Devon County 1st team.

Richard Pascoe
Competition Chairman

B Team Statistics

Much is heard of the more prestigious teams that represent the club, so I thought I'd just divulge a few statistics from this year's B team.

Remember the B team is open to all (male) members and teams are picked by the Vice Captain not on ability but on the basis of trying to give everyone who is interested a chance to represent the Club in friendly competition against other local clubs.

This year we played 15 matches throughout the summer winning 6, drawing 4 and losing 5. 59 different players took part and as far as possible no player played with the same partner twice.

Our best victory was 6-0 against Torquay at home and our worst defeat 5-0 against Wrangaton away. Our best individual score was by Ian Lambie and Ronnie Helps who won 8 & 6 against Dawlish at home and our worst defeat was 8 & 7 against Dainton at home (discretion means I can't

reveal the identity of the culprits, but they know who they are).

Apart from yours truly the most prolific player was Ian Lambie who played in 10 matches. .

£154 was raised in fines and donated to the Captain's charity.

Colin Greenwell
Vice Captain



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