



**Key Dates
for your
2016 Diary**

Members' Forum

**on Tuesday 6th
September
at 7.00 pm**

ABBA Tribute Night

**on Saturday 10th
September
at 7.30 pm**

The Robin Hood Mixed Open

**on Sunday 18th
September
from 8.00 am**

First Quiz Night

**on Saturday 15th
October
at 7.30 pm**

Annual General Meeting

**on Thursday 27th
October
at 7.00 pm**



Club Newsletter Summer 2016

Foreword by the Chair of Committee

I am extremely pleased to finally be able to report to you all that the 50-year lease with Nottingham City Council is now about to be "signed and sealed" which gives our Club continuity of tenure through to 31st March 2066! It's been a very long and difficult process to finalise going back over 4 years and I must thank everyone involved on behalf of the Club, especially the old "Lease Sub-committee". We actually signed a lease back in February on previously agreed terms but were then surprisingly told by the City that they were not prepared to complete without a further amendment. This amendment was very significant in that the lease, and therefore the lower rent level, will now commence from April 2016 and not November 2014, which "cruelly robbed" us of a back-dated "rent bonus" of nearly £39,000. This money had been previously "earmarked" against paying the stamp duty on the lease and creating the disabled toilet and access facilities, which was always an original condition of the lease. The later start date does however mean that the new annual rent level of £72,500, instead of £100,000, is fixed until the first review date of April 2025 so, although we lose out initially, we do gain some back over the latter part of the first 9 years of the lease.



You will recall that as a consequence of gaining the 50-year lease it was decided that the Club should turn itself into a company limited by guarantee. All the due processes relating to this have now been completed which has meant a staggering amount of additional paperwork and administration for Avril and Michelle. My thanks go to them for all their hard work. The "company" is now fully operational, having taken over all the previous activities of the Club and hopefully gives us a sounder financial base for the future.

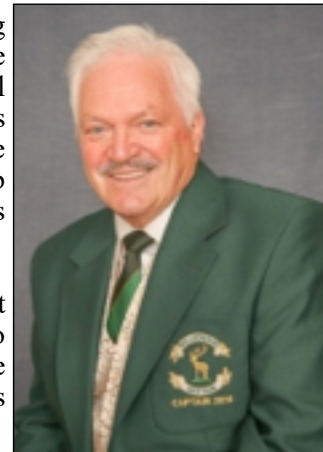
The five Directors, being the new General Committee, continue to work exceptionally well together. From a personal point of view its fantastic to hear so many positive comments about the general state of the course and our Club generally from members but that's not to say there's not more "constant fine-tuning" to be done. I regularly hear of certain nearby clubs apparently "losing touch with their members" by their drive for over-commercialisation. That will not happen at Wollaton Park Golf Club as we will always remain a "true members' club" and strive hard to keep fully "in touch" with the membership with the main aim being for you to enjoy your golf on our great course.

Tim Bowler (committee@wollatonparkgolfclub.com)

The Directors are very concerned about hearing from several members of reports of golfers who play the course without paying a green fee, particularly when the pro's shop has closed for the evening. If it was decided to introduce random "spot-checks" from time to time it would obviously be essential that all members had their correct membership bag tags on show, so please make sure that this is the case. Please also ensure that all guests have their temporary bag tag on clear view when playing the course with a member who has necessarily signed them in at the pro's shop before playing.

Update from the Gentlemen's Captain - Michael Rush

The year up to now has gone with a real "rush". I am happy about most aspects of being Captain of the finest parkland golf course in Nottingham. I did have one major headache when the golf trip to Lahinch had to be re-arranged, but it all worked out to the "tee". I will leave it to the other fifteen members to give their account of "The Captain's Rush Tour" as Paddy called it. My connection with Lahinch Golf Club (ranked 35th best course in the world) really paid off when they send me a voucher for a 4-ball plus a voucher for 4 for b/b at the Atlantic Hotel (value 1,000 euros). A silent auction has been arranged and monies raised will go to my charity The Lymphoma Association.



Up to now I have played about six club matches, two in the Tasker team, one I won against a six handicapper, off level, it turned the clock back for me. We won three and lost one to Coxmoor in the other four matches. My favourite match to date was the men against the ladies which was played in a very sporting manner and the men just sneaked it this time!!

Finally I would like to congratulate Martin Scothern, our head green keeper, for getting the course and greens "Augusta-like", three weeks earlier than the third week in May. Well done lads, keep up the good work.

My neighbour made me smile when he saw me in my Irish green golf trousers. He did not know I was a golfer and he said "I didn't know you worked at the hospital, So I replied "of course I do, I'm a paddy-medic".

The Club desperately needs a new drinking fountain by the 15th tee along the lines of the one by the 10th tee. The present one is old, it leaks and is actually too near to the 15th tee. If any member, family of a member or a group of members would like to organise a donation to the Club to see that any new drinking fountain built is in the memory of a past member then please get in touch with me. It could also be that an individual member might simply like to make a donation in recognition of the years he or she has enjoyed being a member of the Club. Again get in touch. Chances like this to leave a lasting mark on the course come along very infrequently. Contact Tim Bowler (committee@wollatonparkgolfclub.com)

A Message from the Ladies Captain - Val Semmens



The Ladies have had a lot of rain on Wednesdays for the start of the summer season and for most of their matches!! However, we made it to the 3rd round of the Taskers, being knocked out by Kibworth GC who won last year. The Bronze League Team are doing well, and we are in the 3rd round of the Mixed Interclub competition to be played on the 18th July at Beeston.

The sun finally shone for my Captain's Day. Some 52 ladies played, including some new members and a few more came for lunch, which was excellent. A really enjoyable day. Invitation day was also fine, and a good time was had by all. The day's competition was won by Sasha Condon and her guest, Hilary Horton.



We have an exchange visit organised with Breadsall Priory, an Open Am-Am in August, and a charity fashion show at the end of September, and plenty of club competitions to keep us busy. I wish you all a good summer playing golf.

Dangerous Deer, A Tale of a Kindly Player - Playing in a seniors match v Rufford Park Golf Club my opponent sliced his drive on the 15th hole way down the hill into the rough. He played a provisional but that was also in trouble. On approaching his first ball I realised there was a mother deer nearby with young ones and she stood up, definitely looked menacing so I advised him to be cautious and to drop a ball at the nearest point of safety. He did so, he then whacked his second shot left by the old bunker about 150 yards out near to another mother deer. So another free drop, he then hit the green and sank the putt for a birdie. So two bad shots that could have been lost, two anxious mums and a birdie. Might think twice next time." Editor

The Curse of Slow Play - Together We Can Beat It!

As the new season has progressed the golfing chat has soon got round to the topic of slow play. It seems that it is a constant problem at most golf clubs and Wollaton Park is no exception. No one sets out to be deliberately slow. Usually it's down to lack of thought or awareness which most of us have been guilty of at some time or other.

Listed below are some suggestions that will help everyone keep up with the pace of play. If we all try to follow them then we might just be able to minimise the frustration of slow play.

On the tee -

- Tee off as soon as the group ahead is out of range.
- The player with the honour should be ready to play. If he/she is not, then someone else should tee off.
- Pull on your glove on the walk from the previous green.
- If you have a card to mark do so while other players are teeing off so that you are ready when it is your turn.
- Keep your pre-shot routine to the minimum necessary. The first player in the group has 50 seconds, the remaining players have 40 seconds but this is a maximum so try to take less. This also applies to fairway shots.

On the fairway -

- Walk quickly between shots.
- Don't all cluster at one ball. Providing you are not directly in front of another player it should be safe for you to go straight to your own ball.
- Calculate your yardage or use a measuring device and select a club while others are taking their shots.
- Take your practice swing or swings if it does not disturb the player who is hitting.
- Always play a provisional ball if there is a possibility that your first ball may be lost or out of bounds.
- If one of the group is searching for a ball play your shot first before going to help them.
- If your group is losing ground try to "gee up" your playing partners.

On the green -

- Don't leave your bag or trolley at the front of the green - take it to the side of the green nearest the next tee.
- If you are not first to putt, repair pitch marks and line up your putt while others are putting.
- Hole out short putts. Don't mark your ball unless you will be standing on someone's line or if it's a really tricky putt.
- Pick your ball up if you can't score.
- Leave the green promptly. Do not mark the card on the green, mark it when you get to the next tee.

Remember: It is your responsibility to keep up with the group in front, not just ahead of the group behind!

Longest Recorded Drive - English-American pro golfer and kinesiology expert Michael Hoke Austin is credited with making the longest drive ever in a professional tournament. While playing in the U.S. National Seniors Tournament in 1974, Hoke drove the ball a mind-boggling 515 yards.

Seniors Section



Members of the seniors group gathered together for their pre-season get together on Monday 21st March 2016. All members over the age of 55 are very welcome to put their names on the team sheets for Seniors Matches against other clubs on the corridor into the locker room and for the autumn end of season get together in October. We are a happy band led by our very capable organiser Derek Allwright. The photo was taken by Iain Robertson.

House & Social

Our jazz night in June proved to be an enjoyable and relaxed evening with members listening to the excellent “BoHops” musicians. The next jazz night promises to be a lively affair with the more traditional and robust “Baby Jules & the Jazzaholics” coming to the Club on Friday 11th October – check them out on YouTube.

On Saturday 10th September we have an Abba Tribute Evening which promises to be great fun – watch out for the list which will go on the Socials Notice Board in August. Another big 60/70s evening is planned for November so, again, watch out for news on that. Will Elvis be back in the building in January 2017? Suspicious minds might think so!

Our two fun 9-hole golf evenings for all comers were really great, a big thank you goes to Rosemary Bow for organising these. The next fun-comp for golfers and would-be golfers of all abilities will be on 28th July - everybody is welcome to join in.

Maintenance works in or around the Clubhouse are ongoing. Our biggest task is to replace the boiler and associated work. This is proving to be a fairly complicated task but we expect the work specifications to be completed and tender documents issued in July, with the works done by September. Other main works include replacement flooring and new cisterns/bowls in the gents toilets scheduled for July. Our kitchen passed the annual safety and hygiene check with a top rating but we still have some projects to be completed in the next few months to bring it up to a good standard. These works include an energy efficient walk-in freezer to replace some 8/9 individual freezers currently operating, new H&S compliant shelving, new extractor fans and new flooring in the kitchen and serving areas. A second phase of kitchen refurbishment will be considered next year.

As always, the H&S sub-committee are happy to receive suggestions from members so please get in touch if you can help with ideas.

Ken Johnston (house@wollatonparkgolfclub.com)

The Directors have formulated a Business Plan for the Club which will be presented to the AGM. Part of the plan revolves around “succession planning” in trying to make sure we have members who want to come forward and serve the Club by being a director. If you would like to know more about being a director of the Club then please get in touch with me for a chat. Tim Bowler (committee@wollatonparkgolfclub.com)

Finance Matters

The most important “investment” made in the Club in the last few months is the employment of an additional member of the greens staff. Jim Tudor’s appointment brings us up to a complement of seven, which is about the maximum number the Club can comfortably afford within its overall financial constraints. The Directors intention is that the course is consistently improved and maintained to the highest possible standard to retain existing members and to attract new members and golfers in a competitive market and to be “first choice” of those new to the game or new to the area.

The Directors really do regard the condition of the course as the primary factor in maintaining the important income levels from members and visiting societies and green fee paying golfers, having developed a marketing strategy, the main focus of which, is that the reputation of the course, spread by word-of-mouth, is our strongest promotional tool to maintain these vital income streams to ensure the long-term financial viability of the Club.

The annual accounts for the year ended 31st March 2016 show a surplus of around £22k which gives the Club total reserves of £155k going forward into 2016/17. For the first 3 months of the new financial year the Club is “trading well” and is showing a surplus for that period of £18k but there are some heavy items of expenditure coming at us being the provision of the disabled toilet/access facilities, the renovation of the heating system, stamp duty on the new lease, provision of a “walk-in” freezer room in the kitchens and, of course, the provision of an additional greenkeeper from 1st June. The Directors made the decision for a “one-off freeze” to subscriptions which was offset by the rent reduction to be received but it is very likely that we will have to “dip into” the reserves this year to complete the projects we currently have in mind.

As mentioned above, income levels from subscriptions and visitors are the “lifeblood” of the Club and these are holding up very well, being ahead of last year, as the reputation of the course continues to attract new members.

Tim Bowler (committee@wollatonparkgolfclub.com)

Course Report

Many members and visitors have expressed compliments about the condition of the golf course. The Head Green keeper and his staff have produced a course to be proud of this summer. The Club also welcomes Jim Tudor to the green keeping staff and wishes him well at WPGC.

There is real progress on bunkers in terms of raking and preparation now we have a full complement of staffing. Paths alongside tees are undergoing repair and the path in front of the Clubhouse has been improved. The Course Sub-committee will be discussing at their next meeting the renovation of a number of bunkers as part of the 'winter work' programme. The proposal will include a trial of artificial turf as a base under the sand in one of the small practice bunkers. In addition, another construction method will also be discussed and if approved, will be employed on the greenside, front bunker on the 3rd hole. There will also be some use made of artificial turf in areas that seem to wear particularly badly during extreme wet weather conditions.

Over the past few months the Club has commissioned two major reports on the golf course, namely the Course Report and the Agronomist's Report. The General Committee viewed a successful presentation by a member of staff from the survey company. It was suggested at the meeting that members should be invited at a later date to see the presentation. It was also agreed that additional data on the existing position of all water pipes is added to the Survey.

The visit of the agronomist from STRI was very illuminating and he had many positive comments to make. There will be a hard copy of the Agronomist's Report in the Clubhouse. In addition, the report will be available on the members website.

The General Committee has also approved the services of a golf architect with a brief of helping to meet the Club's aspirations to be a premier golf course. As mentioned previously, future changes to the course will be made by using professional help and also engaging with the membership for them to express opinions.

Work on providing a compound for the practice nets is being scheduled. There may be some temporary disruption to the area around the trolley sheds. One of our members John Parry has drawn up plans for the area and closer to the start date these will be displayed in the clubhouse.

Jim Glazzard (course@wollatonparkgolfclub.com)

Breaking Down Barriers – Long before Annika Sorenstam competed in the 2003 Bank of America Colonial, nearly six decades earlier, Babe Zaharias had been the first and only female golfer to make the cut after two rounds at a men's PGA Tour event, shooting 76 and 81 in the 1945 Los Angeles Open in California. This feat makes her the first (and currently only) woman in history to make the cut in a regular men's PGA Tour event. She won 41 times on the LPGA tour and a total of 82 golf tournaments altogether, some golfer. In the World Golf Hall of Fame, Babe Zaharias is the highest ranked woman, at number 10.

More New Equipment for the Course



The Club has decided to purchase a Triplex Greensbrush which is designed to mount directly to the front of most ride-on greens mowers to utilise the power and function of the mower to operate it. Regular brushing promotes a vertical sward, which in turn, improves the quality of cut and therefore ball roll. Regular brushing can also reduce the frequency of verti-cutting and will therefore reduce maintenance costs. The full width Triplex Greensbrush mounts in front of the cutting cylinders and can be locked up to allow normal use of the mower.

The Club is currently awaiting delivery of the Campey Air 2G2 self-propelled, hydrostatic drive, three-probe air injection machine which injects compressed air to either 7" or 12" deep which was covered in the last newsletter.

Mixed Section Visit to Stratford-upon-Avon



Thirty-two members of the Mixed Section plus two non-playing wives visited The Welcombe Hotel in Stratford-upon-Avon for a one-night stopover and two rounds of golf in early June. The trip was organised by Tim & Bern Bowler and included a superb Sunday night dinner in a private dining room at the hotel, which proved to be the highlight of the weekend. The hotel looked after the party exceptionally well and was of a very high standard all round. Over the two rounds of golf played on Sunday afternoon and Monday morning, Dave and Chris Parnham proved to be unstoppable, winning both days so easily having the best aggregate score. The weather over the two days was fantastic hence all the sunglasses in the photo!

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The Club's "Gents' Club Championship" was played on Sunday 12th June 2016. Many congratulations go to Simon Cowan, our new Club Champion, who came in with a combined gross score over the two rounds of 138 (68 + 70). In second place was Henry Brewin with 140 (67 + 73) and in third place was Perry Evans with a 148 (73 + 75). In the net competition Phil Slaney came in first with a combined net score of 137 (72 + 65), Danny Wheeler came second with a 138 (67 + 71) and Kevin Slade came third with a 141 (66 + 75).

White Van to Lahinch

I have never been a fan of white vans until 12th May when sixteen sets of clubs, trolleys and luggage were loaded into Paddy Jennings white van. Paddy and Rich set off for the ferry and fourteen of us then flew to Ireland the next day with no baggage; a great way to travel. On arrival at our hotel Paddy and Rich were there with our bags.

As you will know from Michael's report in this issue Lahinch is his hometown and golf club on the west coast of Ireland. He is a famous personality, even more so since he recorded "The Immigrant Song". The weather in the days before our trip was wet and windy and the thought of playing a links course adjacent to the Atlantic Ocean was not appealing. However we underestimated Michael's powers of influence because we had brilliant weather throughout our stay. We played the Castle Course on Saturday along with 16 local members. The Old Course on the Monday morning was stunning, as was the hospitality of the club and members, and also the beer. On Sunday some of us took a boat trip out to see the towering Cliffs of Mohir with hardly a ripple to be seen on the sea. Others went off to play golf at nearby courses. The Atlantic Hotel was excellent as were local bars with lots of music, good beer and great company. I could write more but "what goes on tour stays on tour". Big thanks to Geraldine and Seamus (Michael's sister and brother) for their warm welcome and looking after us during our visit, the members of Lahinch and Michael for arranging. Finally Paddy, assisted by Rich, Peter and Mark, delivered all the bags back to our club on time – thank you. Maybe white vans can be useful.



Mighty Condor – As unlikely as a hole-in-one is on a par-three, imagine making one on a par-five. This highly unusual shot, informally known as a "condor", has only been verified four times! The chances of making two holes-in-one in a round of golf are one in 67 million.

Membership & Marketing

We now have 561 adult playing members, up by 10 from this time last year, and continue to receive new applications. There are 411 7-day players and 150 6-day players plus 20 9-hole players aged over 75. There has been a steady decrease in the number of junior and cadet members, currently 24. We welcome new applications for membership and we really do process them quickly as we don't have a waiting list but this may well change in the not-too-distant future.

In September we host the Robin Hood Mixed Open and are working with Experience Nottinghamshire to gain support and publicity. We have been asked to host the Taskers Finals on 2nd October for the fourth time. This is a two-edged invitation as the organisers have been very pleased with their previous visits and none of our teams have got close to being in the finals.

The Directors are very concerned that the Club is not adequately providing support and encouragement for our junior members which is important for our future. In the past we have been very fortunate to have had members who have devoted time and talents to organising events and teams for our junior golfers but unfortunately that's just not the case at present. If you feel you could assist the Club in anyway to help our junior golfers please get in touch with me.

John Todd (membership@wollatonparkgolfclub.com)

John Lower has served the Club as its Professional for 25 years this year. He was chosen from a total of thirty-five applicants and took up his position on 14th October 1991. His career as a golf professional and his time at WPGC will be covered more fully in the next edition of the newsletter. In the meantime look out for announcements about how we intend to mark this achievement.

What do you do if a deer goes for you? Four incidents in the Royal Parks of Richmond and Bushy last year have seen two visitors hospitalised, during the rut, when male deer set about bagging themselves a harem of hinds. Stags and younger bucks "OD" on testosterone, forget to eat, grow mean antlers and, half-starved, hormone-crazed and highly irritable, spend their days picking fights with one another. So what's the best tactic if a stag sets his sights on you? Dorothy Ireland, Trustee Director of the British Deer Society, thinks that the problem in parks is that the deer are no longer frightened of the people and the people are way too inquisitive about the deer. "If you are attacked, climbing a tree is your best bet," she says. "Because if he's decided to go for you, he'll go for you. Run and he'll chase; curl up and he'll attack you on the ground. I'm afraid the only real answer is not to be there. Deer are wild animals, and stags can become very aggressive at this time of year." On the positive side, the rut only lasts a couple of weeks. Let us know if you would like to learn how to climb a tree!

Welcome Ladies!

Wollaton Park Golf Club welcomes new lady golfers, both those thinking of taking up the sport and experienced players. We offer an excellent golf course, in beautiful Wollaton Park with all the facilities for lessons, practice and playing seven days a week, 52 weeks a year.

For beginners or the less experienced golfer we can tailor lessons for individuals or for small groups. You do not have to join the club but if you choose to do so then there is no joining fee and we can offer starter packages.

For experienced lady golfers there are weekly competitions and plenty of opportunities to join one of our teams with matches against other clubs. There is no joining fee and a warm welcome awaits you.

We also have a very active mixed golf programme with competitions, matches and occasional weekend golf breaks.

If you would like to know more about the club and what we can offer please contact:

John Todd (membership@wollatonparkgolfclub.com)

John Hudson, a 25-year old professional, achieved a near miracle when he holed two consecutive holes-in-one at the 11th and 12th holes (195 yards and 311 yards respectively) in the 1971 Martini Tournament at Norwich, England



USEFUL CONTACTS

Tim Bowler

Chair of Committee & Finance
committee@wollatonparkgolfclub.com

Jim Glazzard

Chair of Course
course@wollatonparkgolfclub.com

Dave Parnham

Chair of Competitions
comps@wollatonparkgolfclub.com

Ken Johnston

Chair of House & Social
house@wollatonparkgolfclub.com

John Todd

Chair of Membership & Marketing
membership@wollatonparkgolfclub.com

Avril Jamieson

Club Secretary/Manager
secretary@wollatonparkgolfclub.com

General Enquiries 0115 9787574
Professional's Shop 0115 9784834
Steward 0115 9787585
Catering 0115 9787341

Website:

www.wollatonparkgolfclub.com

Wollaton Park Golf Club Ltd.
Lime Tree Avenue, Wollaton Park
Nottingham NG8 1BN

Newsletter Editor: John Todd
Layout: Tim Bowler

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Snippets

PGA Super 60's Tournament

This tournament is coming to WPGC next year commencing with a practice day on Tuesday 25th July 2017 followed by the competition proper on the Wednesday and Thursday. This year's tournament is at the Queen's Course, Gleneagles when John Lower will be playing with Stuart Belcher. The PGA Super 60's was first staged in 1994 in response to the increasing popularity of seniors' golf both at professional and amateur level. Played on a betterball basis over 36 holes, the PGA Super 60's is open to teams of a professional and an amateur aged 60 years or over. While the competitive spirit still burns brightly among the PGA's older members, the event is also an opportunity for members to catch up with old friends and rivals from down the years.

John Timpson

Back in March, John Timpson, who owned the high street chain of shops for shoe repairs, keys cutting etc. was a guest on Desert Island Discs. He has played golf since he was a youngster and he told Kirsty Young that when studying at Nottingham University he played his golf at the "lovely Wollaton Park Golf Club".

New Flag Pole

You may have noticed the new shorter flagpole. In the good old days the firemen used to bring their turntable ladder along to help lower the pole for painting or repair but that is no longer possible and as the pole had developed a bend we decided to replace it with a slightly shorter version.

Members' Forum

The next Members' Forum will be held on Tuesday 6th September starting at 7.00 pm. The General Committee will talk about how this year is progressing and plans for the future. All members are invited to attend or submit questions by email.

Martin Scothern

Our Head Greenkeeper isn't a bad golfer either. Martin won Coxmoor Golf Club's Club Championship for the sixth time on Sunday 17th July after a play-off that needed to go down the 39th hole.

Martin is seen here being presented with the trophy by Alec Shepperson, the President of Coxmoor G.C.



Car Park Re-Lining

The car park is about to be re-lined with the direction arrows renewed. Recently a member stopped a motorist going round the car park the wrong way and asked of him "Didn't you see the arrows?" His reply was "Arrows? I didn't even see the Indians". Watch out for announcements.

Jane & Brian Brewer

The Club has been pleased to recently grant Jane and Brian Honorary Social Membership for their past services to our Club and golf in general in the county. Jane was the NCLGA County Champion seven times in the 60's and 70's.

Past Captains

You may have noticed the old putter with dog tags on it that hangs above the bar. This is the trophy that is played for on an annual basis by the Gents Past Captains. It was won this year, for the first time, by John Smith on Wednesday 1st June

With the outbreak of summer upon us and the move to shorts its easy to forget our dress code which states "tailored shorts with long plain or short white sports socks". This means the shorts cannot be covered in patch pockets and the socks must be clearly visible around the ankles! In the Clubhouse "smart casual dress" may be worn at all times but golf shoes are not acceptable except in the designated "blue carpet area" in the lounge.