



THE LEICESTERSHIRE GOLF CLUB

NEWSLETTER

Dec 23 / Jan 24

CAPTAINS DRIVE-IN

A large crowd of members, relatives and friends gathered together on Sunday, 14th January 2024, to witness the Captains drive-in on the 1st Tee. Recent January drive-ins have been blessed with lovely sunny weather and this was no exception. The cold did not affect the great swings on display as first Junior Captain, and one of our future stars, Karan Johal hit her drive beautifully and long, down the middle.



Next to follow was Lady Captain Liz Everson, who overcame her nerves of hitting from the back tee and hit a good solid drive. Liz was followed by the Seniors Captain, Tim Green with another long and straight drive.



The pressure was now on Club Captain Andrew Rickett, as many of those present had paid to enter the sweep, on how far Andy would hit his drive, <155 – 220yards? Steady Andy hit his drive true and straight to 199 yards, winning our Bar Assistant, Mel Dexter a tidy sum of money and a similar sum to the Captains Charity (see below). And that was the official start to their year in office. We wish all the Captains every success in 2024.



Just prior to the drive-in, the large crowd assembled around the 9th green to witness the 2023 Captains putt out. Andy placed the balls on the green at different points of the compass! To cheering, some ooohs and aaahs, outgoing Junior Captain Emily Wolverson was first to go, followed by Lady Captain Rose Fowler, Seniors Captain Saj Khan and Club Captain Peter Fowler. All rose to the challenge with 9 puts between them! We thank and congratulate all of them for a very enjoyable year.



Cross Country

Prior to the drive-in and putt-out, a full field of members played a very interesting and different course, over 9 holes. The shotgun start saw Club Captain Andrew Rickett, Vice-Captain Andrew Lowne and Professionals Pete Livie and Jevann Parmar tee off from the 1st tee to the 7th green! Other interesting holes, were 5th tee to 11th green, 12th tee to 15th green, 16th fairway to 5th green and 10th tee to 18th green, a true cross country test! Everyone who played thoroughly enjoyed the cross-country course.





The Big Lunch

Club Captain Andy Rickett reports "101 guests attended the subsequent Big Lunch and the launch of our Captains Charity, Rainbows Hospice. During a sumptuous 3 course meal, Hilary Pollard won the Heads or Tails (Odds or Even). There were successful bids in the Charity Auction from Jennie Blyth (4 ball voucher at Radcliffe on Trent), Pete Evans (Leicester Tigers hospitality), Claudia Hamilton and Kathy Hunt (each a week's stay in France, generously donated by Liz and Noel Everson). In all £4130 was raised for the Captains Charity from these activities" An amazing start!

Rainbows Hospice for Children and Young People

This year the Club, Ladies and Junior Captains have combined and chosen **Rainbows Hospice as the 2024 Charity of The Leicestershire Golf Club.**

"Sadly, some children just don't live long enough."

As the East Midlands only hospice for children and young people, Rainbows is a place where life-limited children and their families can find care and support. Their incredible team of people help relieve symptoms, improve quality of life, support parents and siblings through their bereavements and care for children until the end. Please take a look at their website www.rainbows.co.uk to see more about how your support helps families through the toughest times and you will be helping make precious memories.

Rainbows is a place where children can laugh, play and make every precious moment count, while families already bereaved are supported through the toughest times. Because of you and other supporters like you, a family will be able to make special memories they will cherish forever and bring a smile to their child's face as they laugh and play. Please help the team brighten short lives - thank you

How you can help now!

Club Captain, Andy Rickett will be participating in a Fire Walk at Mickleover Golf Club on Saturday, 16th March 2024, after the Captain/Pro challenge earlier in the day. Please use the QRS code on posters in the Clubhouse to make a donation. Every penny counts.

You may have noticed that there is a strange receptacle in the downstairs bar. Please use this to donate your old used golf balls. The Rainbows team will collect and refurbish them to sell them on for charitable funds. Money for your old rubbish.



Results and future competition

The January Fourball Better Ball was won by Andrew Gange and Rafaela Aguiar-Hill with 44 points.

The Cross-Country Event was won by Yousuf Mulla and Adam Khan on countback with 21 points.

At the end of January Simon Nickson and Simon Bridgwater, Marcus Moore and Dan Watkins and Andrew Gange and Paul Player lead the Winter league all with win rate of 100%. There remains an opportunity to catch them! The Winter League continues with four further Saturday matches assigned in February and March.

As an alternative, the first week of February offers another chance to take part in a Drawn Four Ball Better Ball. It's time to dust off those clubs if you haven't been competing this winter.

Notable Golf events for 2024.

Invitation Day - Saturday 25th May - Your chance to compete with your guest in a 4 ball better ball competition.

Captain and Professional's Away Day - Sunday 23rd & Monday 24th June at Royal Cromer and Royal Norwich Golf Clubs. Additional numbers can still be added to those already attending. Please contact the office if interested.

Captain's Exchange Day - Friday 26th July. Robin Hood Golf Club, Solihull will be bringing in excess of 50 golfers to TLGC, and in exchange we have the opportunity to play at their course. Details to come nearer the season but make room in your diary if you fancy a different challenge.

The Leicestershire Open - Saturday 31st July. Bookings are now open to members and non-members. This is now open for you to choose and book your time and playing partners.



Ladies Section

The ladies section has been disproportionately affected by the weather as Liz Everson, Lady Captain, reports “*Not much has happened due to the terrible weather! The course has been closed on several Tuesdays so there have not been the usual chats and lunches going on that we all love. A big thank you to everyone who came in to take down the Christmas decorations on the 4th January. With two ladies on each tree we soon dismantled them and labelled them up ready for next Christmas.*”

The ladies winter league has been cancelled on 3 consecutive Tuesdays due to course closure. This has resulted in a reduction of matches needing to be played to 7, as things stand at the moment.

We held a successful coffee morning to kick start the ladies fixture list which also raised £125 for the ladies section through raffle ticket sales. It was lovely to see everyone after what seemed to have been an age and a special delight to see one or two non-playing ladies and those that are currently out of action due to injuries.

We are looking forward to the first golfing event for the year which is the Ladies privilege day on the 29th February. Yes 2024 is a leap year! The list is filling up nicely. Let's hope for good weather so that it can go ahead.”

The Ladies Open is on Thursday 13th June. Entry forms in Club V1 and the club website.

Seniors Section

A quiet time in the Seniors calendar, and fortunately a limited impact to the scheduled games as a consequence of the inclement weather.

The Seniors Winter Six: Seniors Vice Captain Phil Sell reports “*Four matches played and two to go. 27 players signed up for the four ball aggregate on the 12th February already. You need to have played in at least two of the six to be eligible for the Lewis trophy.*”

Seniors Winter League: Frequent changes in position, with Andy Rickett and Graham Warwick leading the field for now. Detailed results are available on the Seniors notice board.

The Seniors inter-club matches

These start in April with two home games, 3rd April Glen Gorse, 10th April Wollaton Park. There are 22 fixtures through to September.

‘Senior Team’ white shirts with LGC logo's are available from the Pro shop, again there is a sign-up sheet for this special offer on the notice board.

A date has been set for the Seniors Captain away day, 21st August, Stanton-on -the-Wolds GC.

Seniors are reminded to keep their eyes on the regularly updated notice board inside the men's locker room.

Course Report

If it's not fallen leaves that have to be picked up, then it's very high winds resulting in the ground being covered in broken branches and hundreds of twigs! So how are our greens staff coping, during this wettest and windiest of winters. *Here is Course Manager, Mike Laheen's report:*

Today marks the last day of our 2-month hire of a wood chipper. We've managed to get a lot done in those two months considering we hadn't dared take it very far across the golf course throughout most of December!

Key target areas this winter were:

- 1. The 6th and 9th holes, clearing the view down the holes and making it possible to mow further into the treelines which should speed up play with less balls being lost to the right of either hole*
- 2. The scrubby (and scruffy!) copse between 5 & 11. This went even better than I'd hoped as we've been able to get in with the 'new' Toro 360 and take out all the bramble and self-set hawthorn, blackthorn and ash trees. An area has been left as habitat for any displaced birds and small mammals.*
- 3. Clearing out a lot of standing dead or diseased trees (more than 30!)*



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In addition to this, we've managed to clear out another overgrown area between 15 & 16; continue on the quest to raise lower limbs around the course; remove a few more 'problem trees' as identified in the Tree Management plan agreed in 2022 and even more beyond that.

I've had a few enquiries about the availability of logs for firewood recently (can't think why!) but the vast majority have already gone as part of an agreement with our regular tree surgeon. Some do remain and we will make them available in the main car park for members to take home and season for their own use.

All told, the course has held up well through the winter so far. There will certainly be some work to do on the greens as we move into spring. Some mossy areas have established, particularly where disease and drought stress from the summer reduced grass coverage going into the wet months.

Please be assured that this will be dealt with as part of our spring maintenance programme. It is also worth noting that this moss ingress is not from the Silvery Thread Moss that was widespread a few years ago!

Here's looking forward to some drier, sunnier days. I'm done with Winter now!

We are too Mike! Special thanks to you and your team for all the work during the winter, which is appreciated by members and visitors alike.

Chair of Greens Roger Corp has set up the Voluntary Corps (excuse the pun) to assist Mike and his team. Some members of the group met up with Mike where they learnt about bunker maintenance, clearance of tree debris, weeding and the retrieval of buried balls on the range, when over 1000 balls were recovered! At 50p a ball, that is one big saving! Many thanks to those who took part. If you wish to join the VC, please inform the office or contact Roger and you will be added to the WhatsApp group. Remember this is your golf course.



Social Events

The membership committee have been busy arranging many social events for the members, Attached are photos from the **Carols night** and **Children's Christmas party** last December! In spite of the rain and a mishap with his golf buggy, Santa did arrive on time to the delight of all the children who attended.



Burns Night



Over 30 members and guests enjoyed traditional Scottish food and entertainment with Rabbie Burns recitals from David Sparrow and Graham Warwick. Maybe the highlight of the evening was the Glasgow Patter Quiz, where the Club Captain Andrew Rickett was assisted by his wife Aileen, who gave incomprehensible (to the English) context to the chosen Scottish words! Thanks to everyone involved. Andy is pictured with Graham (insert photo) who is holding his raffle prize, a bottle of IRN BRU! Bernard Crump generously donated a bottle of excellent Malt whisky, which is now available as Malt of the Month, in the bar upstairs.



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Committee Dinner

The annual committee dinner was held on Friday, 12th January. President Paul Donaghy was joined by the general committee, chairs and members of sub-committees and senior staff.



Coming Up.....

- Friday 9th February – Mexican Night, sign-up sheet in the foyer.
- Friday 1st March – the very popular Quiz night, hosted by Barry Davies. Sign-up sheet in the foyer.
- Monday 11th March – Charity Bridge Tea for ladies and gentlemen. £50 a table.
- Friday 15th March – Italian night.
- Friday 5th April – French night.
- Saturday 8th June – Club Day.

And in Other News

- ⇒ World Handicap System (WHS) Rules of Handicapping & Course rating were updated on 1st January 2024 and will take effect on 1st April 2024! 3 Members of the Competition & Handicap committee, Marion Keene, Graham Warwick and Francis Lobo are attending an EG presentation at Greetham Valley GC on 2nd February, hoping for clarification on the changes, terms of competition, WHS portal reports etc. members will be sent a report asap.
- ⇒ Slow Play : the C&H committee will be monitoring Pace of Play in the coming weeks and months. It is your responsibility to ensure you are at the 1st tee 10 minutes before your tee time, to tee off on time (not early), to keep up with the group in front, to allow others to play though if you are falling behind and to complete your round in 4 hours maximum. That way we can all enjoy our golf!
- ⇒ Golf For Beginners: a new small group session (max 10) for adult beginners will be starting at TLGC on Wednesday 10th April. If you have family or friends who would like to join the group, please inform Pete Livie, our Head Professional. Once a week, over 12 weeks, with 6 weeks of professional training and 6 weeks of socialising. £10 per golf session. All golf equipment will be provided.
- ⇒ Email addresses: for course comments, please use course@theleicestershiregolfclub.co.uk and for other matters relating to your membership experience, please send these to members@theleicestershiregolfclub.co.uk
- ⇒ Club professional Peter Livie has been nominated at Club59UK for “Shop Retailer of the Year”. Good Luck Peter!
- ⇒ Congratulations to Jevann Parmar on winning the recent County Golf Alliance professional award at Woolfox Golf Club (formerly Rutland County). Jevann, with his father Vinny, also finished second in the Pro/AM.