

The Leicestershire Golf Club

NEWSLETTER

March 2025



WELCOME to the March Edition.

As we step into the new season, we are thrilled to bring you the latest news, events, and updates from the Leicestershire Golf Club. Whether you're a seasoned member or new to our community, there's something for everyone to look forward to this year.

Recent Events

» Cross Country – Our first event of the season was held on Sunday, 16th February – a 10-hole foursomes any combination cross country Stableford. The winter weather was good, and the event was won by Matthew & Freddie Taunton.

» Captains' Putt Out and Drive In – After the cross country event, the past Captains, Andy Rickett, Liz Everson, Tim Green and Karan Johal formally putted out on the 9th green, marking the end of their tenure. Everyone moved on to the first tee to see the new captains, Andy Lowne, Lucy Patterson, Phil Sell and Amelie Tutt welcome their season with drives down the first fairway.



» The Big Lunch – The first event with our new caterers Idol Group received very positive feedback from the 101 members and guests who attended. The captains announced their chosen charity for 2025 is LOROS, a charity that provides free, high-quality, compassionate care and support to terminally ill adult patients, their family and carers across Leicestershire & Rutland. There was a raffle and auction, and we are pleased to announce we got off to a great start raising just short of £4000,00.

» The club made presentations to Catherine Northover who is leaving the club after nearly 5 years working at our club. They also presented a gift to Steve, our chef, who worked long hours and continuous days, often on his own, to ensure all our events and catering was open for our members and visitors.

» New Bar and Members Area Launch – The new bar, Bar Santé, opened on Tuesday 4th March with Idol Group hosting a launch event the preceding evening. It was great to see all of the investment and work coming to conclusion, whilst sampling some of the new cuisine.

» The Winter League concluded on Saturday 1st March and we had two teams tie on 87.5%. Congratulations go to team 30, Mark Simpson & Tony Jarvis and team 23. Mehmud Adam & Ahmed Alimohamed.

Captains Away Trip

The captains have organised golf trip to The Kendleshire Golf Club near Bristol on Sunday 29th and Monday 30th June. The cost for the trip is £280 and includes all green fees, breakfast before golf on Sunday, and one nights accommodation for a twin room (single room supplement is £30) including an evening meal. Monday is breakfast at the hotel followed by golf, a two course meal and prize giving. We are limited to 52 places, and we have 8 spaces available, so should you wish to come along then please sign up in the manager's office.

Upcoming Events...

- » **Tigers Golf Day** – Wednesday 19th March – Leicester Tigers have their annual golf day at our club next week. It's always a hugely popular event and consists of a shotgun start at 10am followed by a meal with Tigers players.
- » **Bridge Supper** – Thursday 27th March – Sign up sheet is displayed in the locker rooms.

From the Pro Shop...

- » Joel Brown has now started full time as Mark's assistant. Welcome to the Club Joel.
- » The Final Winter Series event is Friday 14th March.
- » Spring/Summer clothing now arriving in store Mens and Ladies.
- » Golf for Beginners – A series of group lessons from Sunday 6th April.





Captains Briefing

As your newly appointed Club Captain for the 2025 season, I would like to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude to our outgoing captain, Andy Rickett, for his dedication, hard work, and for setting such a high standard in the previous year. It's an honour to follow in his footsteps.

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This year brings its fair share of challenges, many of which have already been well documented, but with the unwavering support of our members, I am confident that we will rise to meet them and continue to thrive as a club.

Having been a member of The Leicestershire Golf Club for over 35 years, I am incredibly excited to represent this wonderful club. I look forward to working closely with our other captains - Lucy Patterson, our Ladies Captain, Tom Flavelle, our scratch team captain, Josh Thompson, our under 40's captain, Amelie Tutt, our Junior Captain, and Phil Sell, our Seniors Captain. Together, we aim to continue moving the club forward, ensuring we have a successful and enjoyable year ahead.

The club's calendar for 2025 is already packed with competitions, matches, and social events, and I encourage all members to get involved. Participation in these events not only fosters camaraderie, but it also helps make the club experience all the more rewarding for everyone involved. Information and sign-up sheets will be displayed on the various noticeboards, so please make sure to take a look and sign up where possible.

Additionally, I am pleased to announce that the Lady Captain and I have chosen LOROS as our charity this year, a local hospice that does amazing work in our community. We will be working on various fundraising activities throughout the year to support this worthy cause, and your generosity and participation will be greatly appreciated.

I would like to thank you for your ongoing support, and here's to a fantastic 2025 season at The Leicestershire Golf Club!

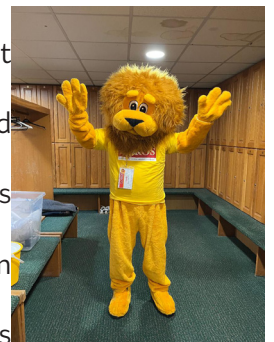
Lady Captain's Report

On December 4th Claudia Hamilton organised a Christmas Wreath afternoon. This was attended by 22 Ladies and some beautiful garlands were created - the Prosecco and nibbles adding to the enjoyment! The event raised £350 for The Warning Zone - a charity that teaches life skills on and off line to children and is the only life skills charity in the East Midlands.



On Tuesday 10th December we held a 9 hole stableford competition with a couple of fun holes. The front 9 competition winner was Kay Mobley and the back 9 winner Jane Bone. We then had an excellent Christmas lunch and entertainment in the form of a quiz and a pass the parcel complete with Christmas music.

The Christmas lunch held by the club included an appearance not only by Father Christmas but Lionel - making an appearance to launch the Clubs 2025 charity LOROS Ladies Upper Locker Room - Thanks to the Ladies who have assisted in refurbishing this area - and where would be without our Senior Men and their decorating skills. Thankyou!



Social matches now have 'RESERVED FOR BRIDGE' on the tables near Mens Locker Rooms for the days and times that people play.

The Ladies Privilege competition was held on February 28th - the winning team with 60 points was Lucy Pover, Mike Bucktin, Mary Jarvis and Simon Nickson.

We have drawn Norwood Golf Club in the Taskers Trophy competition, this competition supports junior golf development, the first round comprises a home and away match. We are hosting Norwood on March 27th.

Our golfing calendar gets underway with our first friendly match on 3rd April vs Lingdale. There are 13 friendly matches, 4 county handicap matches and 4 county scratch matches. The County Ladies Foursomes first round is on 28th April - TLGC has drawn Rutland Golf Club away.

On 17th March there is a start of season 9 holes followed by lunch - we are very much looking forward to playing the course now that the weather appears to be improving and enjoying the new cuisine.



On Sundays from 6th April this year's golf for beginners will be launched - Jevann will be running these sessions - all equipment is provided. For further details please contact the Pro Shop.

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Seniors Section

What's going to happen

The Seniors are well prepared for the opening of the match playing season in terms of organisation. In terms of enthusiasm, the dedication and commitment to the club is impressive. Many have even been seen practising and getting match fit very early in the year. Not all are on message, believing that dry white wine and dry gin constitutes a dry January.

We look forward to showcasing our course and our refreshed clubhouse to the many guests and visitors in the forthcoming season. We have 23 Interclub matches with 11 at home. There are two Seniors Opens, Spring and Autumn. No more than two of our club members per team of Four. Already we have over 80 players signed up for the 29th May. So, if you want to play in it with chums from outside the club you need to book in quick.

There are two exchange days for Seniors, with the great Coventry clubs of Finham and Hearsall. There is also a Seniors Invitational on Monday 21st July.

There is just one match left of the Seniors Winter Six. To be eligible for the Lewis Trophy you need to have played in at least two of the Seniors Winter Six. Arif Osman remains at the top of the leader board.

Finally, there will be three Monday morning Invitational 9-hole competitions for the seniors, with small prizes and a social informative presentation after the matches. 'More than 9 holes' is the strap line. This will be a forum for all of us to meet new senior members, invite mates for a social 9 holes, followed by brunch in our beautifully outfitted new downstairs area. It will facilitate the submission of cards for Handicap in a less demanding format. The first invitational will be Monday 21st April 2025 with a 10 am starting tee time.

What's already happened

As part of trying to evolve and improve communication, a 'Seniors TLGC Community' WhatsApp group has started. You can invite friends yourself if you are already a member.

As it is seniors involving technology and phones, there have been the expected fat finger problems, mainly by the admin. Most of the group now know how to mute notifications.

The Seniors winter league has twelve teams. On average each team has played eight matches, so it is all on schedule to complete at the end of March. Retired healthcare professionals dominate the top of the league, with 5 names in the top 8. However, the professional golfers, Geoff Wayman and Milan Dudic are in front, for now, with 13 points.

Seniors Winter Six: Three clubs and a putter was magnificently won by Tim Green, Jan Reading, Duncan Jones and John Palmer with 69 points. Closely scrutinized by 24 grumpy old men. The team of David Johnson, Francis Lobo and Phil Sell were surprised to win the recent 'Joker' competition helped by a wildcard who remains anonymous, to protect him from 23 grumpy old men.

CLUB NEWS

» Clubhouse Renovations: We are excited to announce that the renovation downstairs clubhouse bar and members area is now complete and opened on Tuesday 4th March. The opening times are.:

Sunday to Thursday 10.00am - 7.00pm (Kitchen - 10.00am - 5.00pm)

Friday & Saturday 10.00am - 9.00pm (Kitchen - 10.00am - 6.00pm)

» There are new heaters on the ground floor, along with new and secure doors to the locker rooms. The main gate is to be re-instated, and you will soon notice new CCTV to improve your security.

» Jevann Parmar - Jevann is now back and we are pleased to have his services for TLGC to both assist Mark with serving members needs for lessons but also support the ever-growing junior section.

» Notice Boards - to be relocated onto patio area soon.

» Club Knockout competitions - now open for all sections to enter via the Club V1 Members Hub App.

» Welcome New Members: We are delighted to welcome the newest members of the Leicestershire Golf Club. We look forward to seeing you on the course and at our events. Don't hesitate to reach out to the club office if you need any assistance.

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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Each newsletter, we celebrate a member who has made a significant impact on our club. This month, we shine the spotlight on **Francis Lobo**. Francis has been a member of TLGC since March 1995 and was Club Captain in 2017. Until recently he was Chair of Membership and he has now taken on a new role as Chair of Marketing. He has been an active participant in our events and matches, usually with camera in hand to record the event. He also wrote this newsletter from 2018 - 2024! Thanks, and Congratulations, Francis!

UPCOMING COMPETITIONS

Prepare for our exciting lineup of tournaments in the coming months:

- » Captain and Professional's Challenge – Saturday 15th March: See if you can better the score of the Captain and Professional's team in a Texas Scramble competition. The players that do receive their entry fee back matched by the same amount from the captain. 50% of the entry money from the teams beaten by goes to the Juniors section and the other 50% to the Professional.
- » Leicestershire Bogey – Beat the Course – Saturday 22nd March. Singles par bogey competition, with a point received each hole that you break net par.
- » 4 ball better ball Stableford – Saturday March 29th.
- » Greenlees Trophy – Saturday 5th April – This is a mixed greensomes competition. The Trophy will be incorporated into an "Any Combination" competition. However, in line with the traditional eligibility, the trophy can only be won by a mixed pair. The event is announced and booking opened 4 weeks before the competition on 7th March
- » April Stableford – Saturday 12th April – The first singles competition of the season.

STANDARDISATION OF PAR » Standardising par has been an option for golf clubs to implement

following the WHS update in April 2024. The Head of Handicapping of England Golf has recommended this for TLGC following a review of our scorecard. Par would be 70 for men off all tees and 72 for ladies off both green and yellow tees (currently 74 off yellow).

- » The main advantages of standardising par are summarised as follows:-
- » Standardising par will allow clubs to retain the same par across all tee sets rated for the same gender
- » Simplifies scorecards and avoid confusion around different pars and having a different play to handicap score for all tee sets where there is a difference between course rating and par
- » For multi tee competitions, those playing off forward tees will see their playing handicap reduced whereas at present those playing off back tees see an increase due to correction for the difference in par between men's green and white tees (3 shots are added to playing handicap of those playing off white tees). With standardisation of par, there will be no need for this correction which will be covered by the course rating – par adjustment.
- » This will make the scores in medals more reflective of the actual scoring – for example the first division in Saturday medal competitions in July-Aug 2024 were won with artificially low net scores of 63, 63 and 61 due to the additional strokes given to those playing off white tees
- » There will be no scoring advantage to either lower or higher handicappers by these changes due to the correction of course handicap by the course rating – par adjustment brought in last year.
- » The change makes sense at a practical level as those players choosing to play off forward tees often do so because of the effect of age or other factors on driving distance! Most male players who choose to play off the green or yellow tees on the 6th or 9th will be playing the holes as a 'three shotter'.
- » This has been discussed several times at the competitions and handicap committee over the last year and a decision deferred due to uncertainty about course alterations and new tee markers. However, it is now proposed to introduce this at the end of 2025.

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TV AUCTION

Your opportunity to take part in an auction of the club's redundant hardware. This is a great opportunity as compared to the usage of domestic T.V.s these are hardly used. Bids via email to petejolley@outlook.com. You can also contact me regarding the state of play of bidding amounts. Please get in touch also if you would like to view them.

Lot "A" Previously located in the Upstairs Bar. A "Digihome" Smart, 65 inch 4k resolution model. Height 85 cm, Diameter 146 cm and Weight 19.5 kg. Integral Amazon "Alexa". With Remote. Model code: 65B123UHDS. **Reserve Price £70.**

Lot "B" Previously in downstairs bar. A "Panasonic" 42 inch 720p, HD Plasma. Model no: TH-42PX70B. With remote. **Reserve £30.**

"Lot C" Heavy duty stand previously located in the Upstairs Bar. **Offers invited.**

Contact Pete Jolley (House Chair) : petejolley@outlook.com



LOT A



LOT B



LOT C



"A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE"

Many thanks to members who helped sort out the "Archive Room". We cleared an immense amount of archaic rubbish! Three filing cabinets now functional, coupled with buying 6 storage boxes will allow a more structured and professional approach to retaining our archives.

Memorabilia and club glassware have been transferred from the Upstairs Bar and Braid Room into the store.

81 past Presidents' photos taken down, cleaned and scanned. Honour boards photographed and information transferred to spread sheets. This will allow us at some stage to digitalise the data for the use of members. It will allow the boards to be updated on an annual basis. All of this information is to be passed onto the Museum Service and Record's Office in Wigston. 14 of the originals have been returned to Presidents or their family members ... a really worthwhile and heartwarming exercise.

The vast majority of members have been genuinely supportive of our efforts to retain aspects of the club's sporting heritage.

Barry Davies has kindly agreed to act as our archivist with the support of myself and other members. I aim to provide some interesting snippets of historical information on a regular basis within the newsletter ... so why not start now!

Via a request from a member, the great grandson of our 12th President (in 1910) has now received his photograph. A highly influential hosiery manufacturer and philanthropist...a certain Alfred Corah whose surname epitomises Leicester's key industry through the years. He led the company to become Europe's largest knitwear producer and a major influence upon the growth of "Marks & Spencers".

His brother, John, was key to the formation of our club with Presidencies in 1894, '95 and '96.

Anyway... back to Alfred (1851-1924) who owned and lived at Scraftoft Hall and was active in the community. He was a magistrate, donator of funds to the Infirmary, High Sheriff of Leicester and organised financial support for the families of the 38 Corah employees who died in "The Great War", including one of his sons, Lesley. Most institutions suffered losses and TLGC wasn't immune, as 13 members of the club lost their lives.

A talented organist, Alfred donated the 6,000 pipe organ to "The De Montford Hall" in Leicester. Its replacement value is now estimated to be £5 million.

On the golfing front he became the first President of "The Leicestershire & Rutland County Golf Union". He founded "The President's Cup" in 1910 to be played as an Easter Medal. He would have known James Braid very well, as his work and influence on the course was centred around the time of Alfred's presidency.

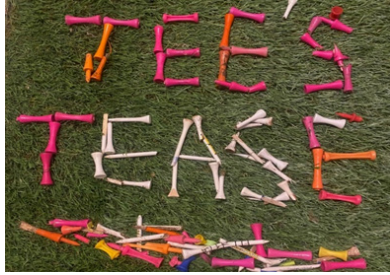
Lastly on a general note, if any members have any club related archive materials that they would like to donate or have scanned then please make contact. Once the smallest item becomes lost... then it sadly is lost forever.





Member Benefits

TLGC have a close relationship with Leicestershire County Cricket Club. The Men's and Ladies squads have associate membership with us. In return we have 10 season tickets, available to our members on a first come first served basis. This covers all matches apart from the World Championship of Legends Series. Make your interest known to the office if you want to go.



& Finally... Leave No Footprint

Hi, Andy Capp, here

I'd like to help you understand the quality of marketing information presented regarding your tee selection and your lovely golf course.

Most of us want to look after our planet, and our course.

The broken and discarded tees in the picture were collected on a Monday morning round, 13th Jan 2025 at your golf club.

Golf tees can take a long time to break down on the course. Biodegradable essentially means that an item can be broken down into increasingly smaller pieces by bacteria, fungi or microbes to be reabsorbed by the surrounding environment, ideally without causing any pollution

There is a lot of marketing and very little science in the readily available Golf media. Greenwashing can be unethical, most often it is unintentional.

Plastic tees take the longest time to break down, but wood and bamboo also take a long time. UV light, pH, temperature and moisture influence degradation. Many of the statements made by companies relate to core base materials of plastic wood or bamboo, they don't mention the varnish, logos, paint or release agents used in manufacture. Biodegradable plastics may produce microplastic particles. The wood used is usually cedar, the bamboo lobbyists often state that cutting down trees for wood is detrimental. Most manufacturers source from China, and don't have product detail regarding surface coatings and details of scientific testing.

Exciting research is ongoing. Tees made from coffee grounds seem more durable than wood or bamboo. There are tees being assessed that contain grass seeds and fertilizers!

When tees are left on the course, they can harm wildlife and the environment regardless of the materials used, most of which would not occur naturally in that location. The marketing message implying better ecological safety is misleading at best. The broken tee is just as harmful as an intact tee left on the course.

Most golfers are environmentally aware and connected to nature.

The current best solution for the golf course ecology and aesthetics is to remove the discarded tees from the environment where they can all cause harm.

CONTACT US

We value your feedback and are here to assist you with any questions or concerns. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with our club office at or email us at members@theleicestershiregolfclub.co.uk

Thank you for being a part of the Leicestershire Golf Club community. We look forward to seeing you on the course!

Stay tuned for May's newsletter, where we will bring you more exciting news and updates.

Warm regards

Andy Rickett
Chair of Membership