



Oakmere Park Golf Club

Newsletter Commanders Club

July 2010

Peter Rogers Seniors Captain

We cannot complain about the weather this month, as the majority of our golf has been played in glorious wall to wall sunshine. I suppose there is always a down-side, it has brought into view a lot of legs that have not seen daylight for some time!

Before I continue with my report I would like to know who squashed my photo in last months with Mick Hitchen? The result makes me look shorter than G.P. except I've got more hair!

It doesn't happen very often, but this month we were able to help Gordon Taylor celebrate his HOLE IN ONE. Well done

Our Seniors team is continuing its successful run with wins over Bulwell Forest away 3.5-2.5 and at home 5-1. Springwater away 3.5-2.5 A great team effort by everybody

The Ladies Challenge was such a great, enjoyable day, that any mention of final score would be of no consequence. The most important result of the day is that it has been verbally agreed to make it an annual event

A special thanks to all who made my Charity day a resounding success. The Lincs & Notts Air Ambulance will be the benefit from your efforts

Kathy Hill Lady Club Captain

Following on from last month's Newsletter when I mentioned that there were a few things outstanding and still to look forward to, I can now confirm that Angie Harrison and Lena Sowter won through to the next round of the Ladies Ping Competition with 34 points. Marie Campbell and I were close on their heels with 31 points but once again, 'must try harder'. (Sounds like my school report.) I mustn't forget to mention the fabulous day I had on my Captain's Day. I'm not printing the photo because unlike other years when we have had it taken at the start of the celebrations we opted for the unkempt look that follows a competition, BBQ and pitching/putting competition. Needless to say we had a really good time and thanks ladies for Howard Hare, a bronzed replica of Oakmere's wildlife. Twelve ladies played in the mixed comp with the Commander Seniors on Friday 25th but unfortunately it was a total white wash, the men won all six games but having said that we did put up quite a fight, so much so that the gauntlet has been thrown down for an annual event. I must add that we thoroughly enjoyed the 'thrashing'. Thanks Peter for inviting us to play.

Our Bronze League team were more successful, they beat Radcliffe on Trent 5 -2 at home on Wednesday 30th so hopefully we will retain our position in the League having achieved three wins, a loss and two games to play.

So now for the Tee in the Blitz update, what do I say, it surpassed our wildest dreams. The feedback so far from teams who entered is that they wish to return next year and

they congratulated our ladies on not only putting in so much hard work but having so much enthusiasm. What a result.

(Joan Parker with Sam the bear)



I'm absolutely thrilled to be able to say that around £2079 gross has been raised so far for Help for Heroes from this one event. Many thanks go to the Alan Johnson Singers, The Festival Swing Dancers, Jim Taylor, Gordon Taylor and our very own Mr Biggles, Ian Buchan, who all contributed in achieving this amount. The fly past provided by Ian, piloting a Piper Warrior (assisted by our very own Monica Hunt as co pilot) certainly added to the flavour of the day

(Eileen Brown in her 'make do and mend pinni')

Finally, none of this could have been achieved without the generosity and many talents of the Oakmere Commander Ladies, thanks to each and everyone.



Richard Hardy Commanders Club Captain

We've now been enjoying some summer weather for a few weeks, and really feels like the season has begun. Club competitions are in full swing with Singles and Pairs Knock-out competitions second rounds due to be completed shortly. The Shield competition draws are now up and also due for completion of first rounds very soon. To ensure this continues to run smoothly could the first named competitor(s) please ensure they have arranged your fixture as soon as possible, otherwise the full force of Gordon Taylor will be unleashed to chase you up !.

Our fundraising for the Captain's Charity, Dove Cottage Day Hospice, now stands at a total of £832 following a fantastic support from you all on the day of the Charity on Sunday 13th June. Again my thanks to the 'girls', Sarah Sue and Pam for their magnificent efforts in putting together another successful event. July will bring two more opportunities for you to support the Captains Charity fundraising activities, with the Captains Cup on

11th July and Vice-Captains Cup on 25th. I'm sure as usual you'll give us your support. In the meantime there is a collection jar for Dove Cottage on the spike bar (its the BLUE one), and I'd be very grateful for any spare change to be deposited after an enjoyable round on the Commanders Course.

Also, some diary notes to make you aware of. Firstly it's time get your team sorted out to enter the Commanders Charity Scramble on Sept 5th. Forms available from Jim Taylor – teams of 4 for £60 per team. Secondly, my Captains Evening will take place on FRIDAY 22nd OCTOBER, and will be in the form of a RACE NIGHT. Notices will be up in early August so keep your eyes peeled, and I look forward to seeing you all buy tickets for yourself your friends and family for what will be a great evenings entertainment, with the proceeds going to the Captains Charity of course!

On a personal note, I had a hectic calendar of golf in June with a few highlights to report. At the GCMA Invitational at Kedleston Park on 7th June Jim Taylor and myself walked away with 1st prize in the better ball competition scoring 48 points. With the Admirals pair coming 3rd with 46 points Oakmere Park was really on the map! On my first visit to Hollinwell for the Notts Captains Cup on 10th June I scored a disappointing 27 points finishing in the middle of the field, but again Bob Ward our Admirals Captain finished 3rd ! However, on June 30th for the Notts Captains Society event I scored a much more respectable 35 points, sitting in 5th place when I left with around 8 matches left to come in, though sadly out of the prizes. **Latest Competition Results**

7th June GCMA Invitational – Better Ball J Taylor / R Hardy 1st 48 pts at Kedleston Park, Derby

13th June Charity Cup

Div 1 Tony Medley 40 pts

Div 2 Tony Gallagher 41 pts and overall winner

20th June Monthly Medal

Div 1 Graham Atkinson net 68 and overall winner

Div 2 Jim Hanbury net 69

27th June Leslie Trophy

Div 1 Mark Hanbury 1 up and overall winner

Div 2 Mick Riley Al Sq.

3rd July Friendly vs Mansfield Woodhouse

Pairs Matchplay Commanders won 5 – 1

(D Davis / R Beadling being the only pair to lose !)

Staythorpe Ashes after June events, Brian Arrowsmith still leads the way with net 32, but I nearly matched it with a net 33 on 13th June missing a 4 footer on the 9th for par !

Finally well done to Dean Marriott and Martin Brown, who finished 1 over par in the PGA Pro-Am competition at Little Aston on 11th June, though did not qualify for the final. Maybe next year !

Jim Taylor Commanders Club Secretary

Ever since the changes to the Commanders course got under way, members have been wondering how scores would be affected by the changes. There were many who bemoaned the changes as they did not want the course to lose its reputation as the most difficult 9 holes to be found anywhere. The Director of Golf put things into perspective, pointing out that the changes were intended to make the course *fairer* rather than *easier*. I agree with that but there is still some way to go. Some more changes are on the way, including:

- Cutting back the gorse in front of tee2 to allow sight of the green
- Increasing the size of hole 3/12 green by reducing the size of the bunker
- Increasing the height of first cut to the left of fairway 4/13 by the gorse bushes
- Cutting back hedges in front of holes 17 and 18 tees

I have carried out a preliminary analysis of scores, comparing last year with this year. The next newsletter will look at the result of this analysis and at which holes prove to be most difficult.

Richard Bond Course Manager

This newsletter is the beginning in a series of articles that will hopefully explain the reasons why I have been developing the Course maintenance and practices to ensure the future sustainability of Oakmere Park Golf Club.

Environmental concerns have come to the fore with regards golf course management. *Sustainability* is essentially being able to continue without medium or long term problems. The R&A have defined sustainable golf course management as;

“Optimising the playing quality of the golf course in harmony with the conservation of its natural environment under economically sound and socially responsible management”

Significant changes with regards climate, water usage, and EU legislation are all going to play an important role in changing methodology of golf course management. It is essential that changes of this nature are done gradually, ensuring minimal stress imposed on the grasses.

The R&A refer to benchmarking this helps the golf course manager establish how far along the sustainability ladder he has travelled. For some courses the route to become “sustainable” is particularly long and arduous (eg in land Parkland courses with clay sub soils), were as a seaside links course will have been run on a sustainable methodology throughout its whole existence. This highlights the fact that all courses are different and require unique management techniques. Some Course managers even refute the issues to be addressed and refuse to prepare for changes.

In my opinion preparation and planning are the key to the future success of a Oakmere I am permanently working for at least 6 months in advance. With the sustainable work programme the fruits will be witnessed in 5-10 years time.

The next issue will establish how far along the sustainability ladder we have come.

Martyn Brown Pro-Shop Manager

With the British Open just about to start please keep checking the professional shop for latest offers which are changing on a daily basis. A massive sale on all Galvin Green items and summer collection shirts coming soon.

Steve has experienced great success with his summer lesson promotion and he has decided to continue the offer of 3 half hour golf lessons for £20 until the end of July. Contact Steve at the pro-shop for further information.

Craig Bar & Catering

I am continually working to improve the bar and catering facilities at Oakmere Park. The Captains Day buffet was a success and well received by all who attended.

Orders for the Sunday Carvery are being taken throughout the week, please speak to one of the bar staff if you wish to book.

Congratulations to the Commanders Ladies on a wonderful ‘Tee in the Blitz’ day. What a great success!