



On the Tee!

THE NEWSLETTER OF OTLEY GOLF CLUB

ISSUE 8 – MAY 2010

Captain's Drive-In

At the AGM Bob Calvert was elected as Captain with Rob Hannan accepting the nomination for Vice-Captain and Graham Sunderland agreeing to a second year as President. On the Sunday following the AGM, Bob hit some exquisite drives during his Drive-In with these being interspersed by toasts on the tee for his family and friends. We all wish Bob a most successful and enjoyable year in office.



CLUB COMPS in MAY

Gentlemen

- Sat 01 Waite Cup Qualifier
- Sat 08 Victory Cup Qualifier
- Wed 12 Mid-week Medal
- Sat 15 *May Stableford
- Sun 16 RABBITS OPEN DAY
- Wed 19 FIRST SENIORS OPEN DAY
- Sat 22 Otley Foursomes Qualifier
- Sun 23 Wakefield Exchange
- Sat 29 *June Medal and Final Medal
- Sun 30 Bank Holiday Mixed

* order of merit

Ladies

- Sun 02 *EWGA Medal (3)
- Tues 04 *EWGA Medal (4)
*May Medal and *Rosebowl
- Tues 11 Butler Cups Qualifying and PING 4BBB Comp.
- Tues 18 *Club Stableford
- Tues 25 *EWGA Medal (5) and Extra May Club Medal
- Sun 30 Bank Holiday Mixed Event

* qualifying competitions

Juniors

- Sun 2 Stableford Event
- Sun 16 Nine Holes 5 Clubs and a Putter
- Sun 23 Stableford Event

Captain's Message for 2010/11

It is a great feeling now that my year as Captain of Otley Golf Club has started.

The Club has been given a strong lead by Mike, my predecessor, that golf is a game to enjoy and Otley is a club to be proud of.

All of us would agree that what we want is to enjoy our golf, play on a course in good condition and relax after a game in comfortable surroundings in the locker room and Clubhouse.

Unfortunately there have been times this year when lack of thought by some have spoilt the golfing experience for others. Slow play is the curse of the game, we all know how to speed up our own play but there is not universal acceptance to put such measures into practice. We are all members and it is up to each of us to do our bit to ensure that other members have a good golfing experience. Let us achieve this by working together.

We are very fortunate that the Club has an excellent management team and is responsible for the sound position we are in today. There is no room for complacency, you have only to look at the position of golf clubs around the area to realise that this is a difficult time for clubs. Our response to the challenge of falling revenue will determine the future of our Club.

We need to adopt an imaginative approach to increasing income if we are to keep our Club at the forefront of clubs in Yorkshire. Ideas from members as to how we can improve the revenue from use of the Clubhouse, enlist more members or stimulate interest from visiting parties would be very welcome.

Looking forward to the 2010 season, my diary is full with lots of golf on good courses and I will be playing with many different people. This makes it, for me, a year to look forward to. I hope that it will be a year when we all "Enjoy our Golf".



Otle Golf Club

Off West Busk Lane,
Otley, West Yorkshire
LS21 3NG

Tel: 01943 465329

Facsimile: 01943 850387

E-mail: office@otley-golfclub.co.uk

Web: www.otleygolfclub.co.uk

AGM

The 62 members that attended the AGM just fulfilled the constitutional requirement of 60 people needed to form a quorum. The weather conditions on the evening undoubtedly contributed to the low attendance but the fact that there was nothing perceived as contentious on the agenda did not

encourage people to vacate the warmth of their firesides. There was no need for a vote for election to the committee and the 2% proposed increase in subscriptions was obviously deemed as fair. Thanks to all who did attend.

Holes in One



Stuart Thornley achieved the fifth ace of his golfing career, when his drive received a fortuitous bounce on the second hole during the April Medal. Never mind – it doesn't matter how it happened, they all count and a 'one' was duly marked on his card by a reluctant Harry Walsh! Stuart celebrated his success in the usual manner.

You can't keep a good man down and despite his views on Stuart's success, Harry then achieved his own hole-in-one when playing with the Bandits on Monday 12th April. This also happened at the second on a day that enjoyed glorious spring-like weather. The high number of bandits and a visiting party all conspired to make play rather slow with Harry being just about at the end of the field. This probably saved him some expense in the bar afterwards although people did their best to delay their departure in an effort to avail themselves of Harry's generosity.

New Handicap Rules

As you are all by now probably aware, there has been a change in general handicapping whereby the English Golf Union, in collaboration with The Council of National Golf Unions (CONGU) have introduced a new classification of handicaps. All handicaps will now be rated as either an Active Handicap or an Inactive Handicap.

Inactive Handicaps are denoted by the letter *i* appearing next to an Inactive Handicap in the Handicap List displayed in the Changing Room.

Full details of the changes can be found on the Changing Room Notice Board but a very brief précis of this means that members must have an active handicap in order to win any of the Club competitions.

If you have any queries please contact the Captain or a member of the Handicap Committee.

Union Golfing News

After its usual mid-winter break, the Harrogate Union Winter Alliances continued with some inevitable postponements along the way but the elongated season has finally drawn to a close. Apart from a few near-misses the results have not generally been overly impressive but Barry Stead and Andrew Stewart finished in the prizes at Pannal whilst Paul Kelley and Dave Allister finished as runners-up at Ripon. The Alliance at Otley scheduled for Wednesday 31st March was cancelled due to the previous day's heavy rain. A consequence of this was that the 'Knaresborough Trophy' due to be played as part of the Otley Alliance, became part of the Ilkley Alliance. Disappointing as home advantage might have given us a better chance of defending the trophy that we won last year. As it was our nominated three pairs put up a valiant performance and finished equal third, four shots behind the winners.

Club Golfing News

Paul Howarth and Stuart Thornley were declared the winners of the Bandits' Christmas meeting – this despite the course being closed! The winners were selected by virtue of 'the system' complicated if you don't understand it but easy enough if you are in the know. Shame about the lack of golf but this did not detract from a very good meal and an excellent occasion. On another note the Bandits collections

from the £1 donation made by everyone who plays in the Bandits has, towards the end of March, reached £9,554. The original purpose of the collection was to pay for the 'Bandits' Way Bridge' and this target has now nearly been reached. The Bandits intend to continue contributing the £1 every time they play although a target for the ongoing collection has not, as yet, been determined.

Mixed Golf – 2010

Message from Geoffrey Blackburn – Organiser of Mixed Golf Competitions

I am sure that we are all looking forward to the coming golf season, and I hope that we continue to be blessed with the reasonable golfing weather that we have enjoyed in the past for the mixed events.

Yet again there will be no increase in the entry fee which includes the prizes, the two's club, the meal afterwards and the gratuities; the current price has been held for the past four years! The dates for all the competitions are in the Club Diary, but I am afraid that it is necessary to alter the date of the Charity competition in October. My sincere apologies for this but my youngest daughter is to be married in London on the first weekend of October and I have, therefore, after consulting with The Captain and The Secretary, delayed that particular competition for a week and it will now be held on the **10th October**.

The support for the Charities event has waned over the past few years, although we have been able to raise £750 each year for 2007, 2008 and 2009 which Barclays Bank has matched pound for pound, and the support has gone to The Yorkshire Air Ambulance; I am most grateful for your generosity! After further discussion with the Captain, and in the hope of encouraging more participants, the format for 2010 will be changed slightly, and whereas in the past all the competition entry fee has gone to the Charity, with no prizes being presented, this year as a trial run there will be prizes to play for and a slightly lesser amount will go to the Charity as a result. I am again seeking the pound for pound support from Barclays Bank and I hope that I can look forward to your support for the event.

Geoffrey Blackburn

Results from the Easter Mixed:

64 players competed with a further five joining them for the meal. As mentioned in Geoffrey's piece (see above), the first six pairings won vouchers for the Professional's Shop and an additional three people winning bottles of wine in the newly introduced lottery draw. A thoroughly enjoyable day was had by all – thanks to Geoffrey for his organisation and to all involved in helping with the success of the day.

Practice Paddock



Progress with the redevelopment of the short-game practice paddock has been viewed with interest. The construction work is close to completion although once the work has been completed, the area will not be available for use until the new turf has taken root. Although the new green is the most obvious visible part of the project, the work will include the building of new bunkers and pitching greens of variable length along with the planting of some trees. All together the work will comprise another feature that will serve to enhance the overall facilities that the Club has to offer.

Clubhouse News: New Roof

Despite some unavoidable delays when the roofers, through no fault of their own, had to 'write-off' their first week's work and start again, the new changing room roof not only provides a leak-proof cover but looks far more appealing to the eye. Just the other roofs to consider now – all of which are in a poor state of repair! Thanks to Phil Sedgwick, who has been wearing the dual hat of House Chairman along with the one for his Clerk of Works duties, for overseeing the project and attending and advising throughout the work taking place.



Yorkshire Boys Coaching

Those young golfers throughout the county who are considered to be of a talent worth encouragement, are selected for various Yorkshire Boys squads and assigned coaches at selected venues and on agreed dates. Otley is fortunate to have a number of juniors who are involved with these schemes and they include Philip Tomkinson and Adam Wade in the 'B' squad, George Muscroft in the Under 14's with these boys being joined by Jack Kelley for the Regional Coaching squad. Well done, lads – enjoy and learn!

Captain's Bottle

£285.93 was raised through donations into Mike Bailey's Captain's Bottle. This total was increased by a few guesses at how much was in the bottle and the grand total was split between Otley Care for the Elderly and the Yorkshire Air Ambulance. Alan Ridyard won a bottle of wine for having the closest guess. Please support the Captain's Bottle again this year when Bob's chosen charities are Otley Care for the Elderly and Water Aid.

Fairway Mats – comments and observations from the Greens Chairman

Thank you to everyone who has joined in the experiment of using fairway mats. They appear to have been fairly well received and their usage has certainly contributed to the general well-being of fairways particularly noticeable in the more vulnerable areas. The Head Greenkeeper comments that the majority of people, despite some initial reluctance, appear to have used the mats in all areas and he considers that the experiment has been very successful. Steve says that there have certainly been far fewer divots in all areas than in past years and this has been particularly noticeable on the 4th, 6th and 8th. Steve is of the opinion that the experiment was very worthwhile and he would certainly like to see it continued in future years

After saying all the above, there has been a marked increase in the number of divots and pitchmarks since the arrival of the better weather. People have obviously associated this with summer golf and abandoned the mats. Please remember that preferred lies will remain in operation until the end of April and the continued use of the mats will be appreciated. Let us not undo all the good work of the past few months. On the subject of fairway mats – where are they all? 200 were purchased and all but a handful appear to have disappeared. It would be appreciated if people will return the mats to the Pro's Shop after the preferred lies come off.

It would be appreciated if everyone will observe the following on-going course maintenance etiquette:

BUNKERS – rake or smooth over all holes and footprints you have made in the bunker before leaving it.

GREENS – repair your ball pitch mark and any damage by shoe spikes before leaving the green. Do not lean on a club whilst on the green and be careful not to damage the hole when attending or removing/replacing the flag.

THROUGH THE GREEN – replace/repair any divot holes you may make.

John Blears

Hygiene Award

Following a visit from the Environmental Health Office to inspect both the bars and the beer cellar, we are delighted to announce that the Club has been awarded the highest possible rating of five stars (classed by the Environmental Health Office as 'excellent'). This award recognises the working practices employed and the cleanliness of the facilities

and follows a similar visit by the same Office who inspected the kitchen earlier in the year. Congratulations to all the staff who have made this possible – keep up the good work!

Why join the Rabbits Section?

A good question. But why not!

Approximately 66% of all golfers have a handicap of 16 or over. Nothing to be ashamed of, but the fact is that the vast majority of golfers **are not Tigers!**

Does this stop the majority from playing golf?

NO!

Would golf clubs collapse if there were no 16+ golfers?

YES!

The fact is that golf clubs, (*and golf in general*) would not exist but for the vast majority of golfers in the 16+ handicap range.

So why not recognise that the vast majority of golfers need to play proper competitive golf with those of similar abilities?

Yorkshire is unique in acknowledging this, with its simple solution, **Rabbits Golf.**

The Yorkshire Rabbits Golf Association (YRGA), formed in 1920, is the overarching organisation which encourages competitive golf between over 100 affiliated clubs, one of which is Otley GC.

Where else, for a £3 subscription could you have the opportunity of playing some of the finest courses in Yorkshire. This year we are scheduled to play home and away:

Garforth, Sand Moor, Wetherby, Bradford, Horsforth, Knaresborough, Moor Allerton, Malton & Norton

As well as summer league matches at:

Romanby, Thirsk & Northallerton, Pike Hills and Rudding Park.

The only qualification for membership of the Rabbits Section is to have a handicap of 16 or over. If you're not already a member of the Rabbits Section make sure you join. £3 in the Rabbits box in the 19th secures membership, and all fixtures and competitions are displayed on the Rabbits Notice Board in the locker room.

If you're already a member, tell your friends, let them into the secret, and get them to join Otley GC Rabbits. If you are new to OGC, join the Rabbits and enter the Opening Meeting on 30th April (*start sheet in the Locker Room*). You're guaranteed to make friends and meet a bunch of like minded guys.

David McKidd

Our very popular Assistant Professional, David McKidd has moved onto pastures new. David arrived in July 2005 and comments on how much he has enjoyed his time at Otley and thanks the members for all the help and support he received. He has recently been appointed Head Professional at Lightcliffe Golf Club and David leaves with our best wishes for the future.

Both the ladies and gentlemen's sections organised collections for David and he received a couple of handsome cheques along with a number of private donations and an inscribed glass tankard.

In Memoriam

It is with regret that we report on the passing away on 12th January 2010 of Mr Alan Bradley who was Captain of the Club in 1971. Our deepest sympathies are extended to all his family and friends.

It is with much sadness that we also report the recent passing away of former member Mr Vernon Taylor. Vernon was a member of the Club for a long time, although he has not been seen very frequently in more recent times.

Vernon died peacefully in his sleep only a year or so from his centenary.

Open Days – Assistance

The various Open Days, Captain's Weekend and other events have, in recent years, been run under the watchful eye of Eric Frankland. All good things come to an end and Eric has eventually decided that it is time for someone else to have a go. In the absence of another 'Eric' it has been decided that such days will be run by a small pool of volunteers gathered from the Competition Organisers (see the Gentlemen's

Competition list). The Professional's Shop will be responsible for taking the money and handing out the cards and the volunteers will take over the organisation of things after the golf. If anyone is prepared to offer their services in any way – please see the Captain.

Social News

The winter's Quiz Evenings have once again proved to be very popular. Many members, including a number of new people, have enjoyed the evenings with a good number of attendees partaking of a meal beforehand. The evenings have now finished until autumn and the final quiz took place on 24th March when, fittingly, 104 people attended another extremely enjoyable event. Thanks to Sheila Sunderland for all her work in compiling the questions and organising events on the evenings. Sheila's efforts



were recognised by the presentation of a bouquet by Madame Captain. The evenings actually raised £813 towards Club funds and, in addition, a further £209 was collected at the January quiz and donated to the Haiti earthquake disaster. A note for your diary – the first Quiz Evening of the autumn will be on Wednesday 13th October.

Snooker Final

Phil Wade exacted revenge for last year when he defeated brother Rick in straight frames to win the Christmas Snooker Knockout Competition. Phil was presented with his prize by the Captain and a good night was enjoyed by all who attended. Well done to Will for his organisation and for the buffet he provided.



Ladies' Section News

The year started with the Annual Ladies' Dinner in January. A very successful evening with good food and very enjoyable entertainment provided by the Lady Captain, Janet Ellison, Anthea Smithies, Sue Ridyard and Jenny Shaw with music arranged by Pat Harrison.

The next event, the Coffee Morning on the 2nd February was a profitable and enjoyable occasion. Thanks to all the ladies and their support was enhanced by the sale of raffle tickets to gentlemen.

The Annual Bridge Drive was held on the 11th March with 22 tables and was ably run by Jenny Shaw. The tea was prepared and served by the Committee. A donation of £200 was given to Yorkshire Air Ambulance. Thanks to those ladies who made cakes for this event and for loaning tables and tea cloths.

Margaret Newton was installed as President of The Harrogate and District Society of Lady Golf Captains on the 22nd February. Good wishes to her for an enjoyable year.

The golf has been very intermittent over the past 3 months but we finished 4th overall in the Harrogate and District Winter Foursomes.

The ladies have played two matches in the Mail on Sunday, winning against Pannal at home and against Horsforth also at home. Congratulations to the ladies playing in these, Anthea Smithies, Janet Dent, Sue Ridyard, Pat Harrison, Anne Lord, Winifred Varley and Lisa Russell Steele and thanks to Sue for organising them.

Carole Davies and Lisa qualified throughout the winter to represent Otley in the Daily Mail Foursomes, but unfortunately in their first match lost to Headingley at the 18th hole

Club Tie

Quite a number of members have already obtained their new Club tie but for those of you have yet to make a purchase, they are available from behind the bar, the Professional's Shop or the office. You will be

wishing to wear your Club colours at different venues or when partaking in team matches during the coming season or just to make a statement that you are proud to belong to your Club.

Social Programme

A copy of the following three months social programme is as follows:

May

- Fri 7th Winter League Dinner
Sun 30th Bank Holiday Mixed – Golf and Meal

June

- Sat 5th Invitation Am-Am
Sat 19th Captain's Dinner
Sun 20th Captain's Prize Presentation
Sat 26th Rabbits' Chairman's Day & Prize Presentation
Tues 29th Ladies' Captain's Day and Dinner

July

- Fri 9th President's Dinner
Sat 10th President's Day and Prize Presentation
Sun 18th Mixed Greensomes Shotgun Start - Golf and Champagne Breakfast
Mon 19th Charity Day – Golf and Dinner
Tues 20th Ladies' President's Day and Dinner
Sun 25th Mixed Invitation Day – Golf and Meal
Sat 31st Hog Roast Evening with 'The Lazie Dazie Band' (jeans and trainers welcome)

Bridge Tables

A lot of bridge is played at the Club either by members or the several visiting bridge clubs. To accommodate the increasing numbers, we could do with a few additional bridge tables. If anyone has a table that they no longer use and are willing to donate to the Club, they will be gratefully received. Please contact the office.

Heather Craven

After 32 years of valued service in a variety of roles, all performed with the same courtesy, professionalism and easy manner, Heather has decided it is now time to bring an end to her illustrious career at Otley Golf Club.

Heather is a busy woman with many interests and has decided that she has now reached the time in her life when she would like to be able to spend more time pursuing her hobbies. As such, she has decided to retire at the end of June.

Heather will leave with our thanks and best wishes for a long and happy retirement.

Membership News

In accordance with the Club's Constitution, a list of the names of those members whose subscriptions remained outstanding at the end of March was posted on the notice board in the hall. Last year and despite taking the entire list of 6-Day members into Full Playing followed by a very successful recruitment programme, the number of members with full playing rights has risen, although not massively so. What has changed, however, appears to be that the majority of the new members do want to play on Saturdays. The more successful initiatives from last year along with a number of new ones for this year will continue to operate although due to the number of members who are actively playing competitive golf, new members will initially be offered 6-Day membership. More information regarding these initiatives will be available at the appropriate time and will be displayed on the notice boards, be circulated via email and will also appear via this medium. It could be said that we are fortunate to be one of the few Clubs in the country to boast a full membership (not full for ladies though). Please try and continue to be proactive with prospective new members as they are obviously the lifeblood of the Club.



Santa's Visit

The build-up to the most eagerly awaited event in the Social Calendar (well, certainly by the children who attend and a good number of their parents!) proved not to have been an exaggeration and fortunately, the day passed without hitch. A shortened sleigh run due to the snow did not dampen expectations and Frank Turner excelled in his portrayal of Santa. Thanks to Frank who, after three years and due to the growing awareness of his grandchildren, has retired from the role. Several volunteers responded to the request for a successor – thanks to all who did and, all things being equal, it will be David Payne who will take over next year.



The Club's Driveway

Please remember that a long established and definitively recognised public footpath runs down the centre of the Club's driveway. This increases the need for great care and attention to be applied at all times when using a car on the

drive. Any accident involving a car and a member of the public will undoubtedly have severe ramifications on the Club. Please observe the speed restrictions on the drive and show courtesy at all times to members of the public.








www.wheeldenprint.co.uk

We are pleased to sponsor the production and print of the Otley Golf Club Newsletter.

For all your print requirements –

call or email for more information or a quotation

email: peter@wheeldenprint.co.uk or christian@wheeldenprint.co.uk

-  full colour print
-  single + two colour
-  design + repro
-  finishing
-  digital print

wheelden print ltd.

433 wakefield road bradford BD4 7LX
tel: 01274 393956 fax: 01274 301061