



The Chesterfield Golf Club

e-Bulletin
17th February - 16th March 2018

Date:	Sat 17th	Sun 18th	Mon 19th	Tue 20th	Wed 21st	Thurs 22nd	Fri 23rd
Event:			Club AGM	Captain's First Fling 9.32 - 11.00			
Date:	Sat 24th	Sun 25th	Mon 26th	Tues 27th	Wed 28th	Thurs 1st	Fri 2nd
Event:		Captain's First Fling 11.00 - 12.28					
Date:	Sat 3rd	Sun 4th	Mon 5th	Tues 6th	Wed 7th	Thurs 8th	Fri 9th
Event:	Gents Texas Scramble (No Booking)			Ladies Comp 9.00 - 11.00			
Date:	Sat 10th	Sun 11th	Mon 12th	Tues 13th	Wed 14th	Thurs 15th	Fri 16th
Event:							

Out with the Old, in with the New!

We would like to express our thanks to both the outgoing Captains Chris and Liz for all their hard work and dedication to the Club during their year as Captain. May they enjoy their well earned rest!



Congratulations to our incoming Captains Martin and Tracey, we wish them a very happy and fun-filled year.



Retiring Chairman Terry Woodhouse

On behalf of the Board and the members of the Club I would like to thank Terry for all his time and dedication over the years.

There has hardly been a day when he has not been in the office dealing with some business or other supporting Trevor and the office staff wherever needed.

His knowledge of Chesterfield Golf Club is second to none which has been invaluable during the negotiations of the land sale and I am sure he will continue to be there to advise until it is finally completed one way or the other.

It is hoped that he and Pat will enjoy a well earned break without having to think about Chesterfield Golf Club.

Club AGM

Just a reminder that the Club AGM is on Monday 19th and we hope that as many of you as possible will attend. Remember, this is your Club.

However, If you are unable to attend it is hoped that you have put in your proxy vote on the resolution and for the election of officers to the Board.

Captain's Corner

This is it, the last missive from yours truly. When I started my little blog a year ago, I was a bit worried that it might come across as pompous which is not my style. However, several members have been kind enough to say how much they have

enjoyed reading it, gaining an insight into how being Captain impacts one's life so if it has brought a bit of light relief and amusement from time to time, it has all been worthwhile!

My Captain's year has somewhat fizzled out golf-wise with little opportunity to play any decent golf because of the weather. On the social side, the Vets dinner and the Committee dinners were both enjoyable as was the Captain's last dance which is reported elsewhere in this newsletter. Other than Board and some Committee meetings, preparing for the AGM and planning the recruitment process and interviews for the Secretary/Manager who will replace Trevor on his retirement, it has been a low-key last few weeks after a very busy year!

So, I now go back to being "Chris" again, having to find a different place to park! On reflection, my year has been a blast, a terrific experience and a great honour. I have enjoyed being your Captain, representing the Club and the members, immensely. My thanks to everyone who has supported me; the Golf Club officers and other employees, the Committee members who give of their time so willingly and most of all to the members who have been so welcoming and supportive throughout my year. It is an experience I will never forget.

A special mention to Ladies Captain Liz Cromwell. I don't think we have had a cross

word throughout the year and getting to know each other has made us firm friends. Thank you Liz! Also, my very best wishes to Martin and Tracey for 2018.

Thanks to you all and my best wishes for an enjoyable and successful 2018!

Captain (soon to be Past Captain) Chris.

Captains' Last Dance

On Saturday 12th February the Captains welcomed members to their last function of their year before they become 'the has beens'!



The evening was well attended and we even managed to have a table of the 'Young Ones'! This was so nice to see and they did appear to enjoy it. Please keep coming.

Both Captains expressed their thanks and gratitude to all those who had supported the socials throughout their year, it had made such a difference to their enjoyment of the year.

They also thanked members for supporting their joint Charity which had raised an incredible amount so far. (the full amount will be published when confirmed).

Neil and his staff put on a very good spread which was appreciated by all.



The Band played all the right music to get people up on their feet dancing.

Ladies AGM

The Ladies AGM took place on Monday, 12th February with approximately forty ladies attending.

The outgoing Lady Captain Liz gave her report and thanked everyone for all the support that members had given her throughout and she was retiring with some fantastic memories, in particular her Lady Captain's Day when Neil, Miles and James performed the 'Full Monty'!

After the reports were given the meeting moved on to the presentation of prizes for the Birdie Competitions and the Eclectic Competition.

Liz then went on to introduce the new Lady Captain and present her with her Club sweater and the Lady Captain's brooch.

Tracey responded by thanking everyone for giving her the honour to be their Captain and promised to do everything she could to keep all informed on what was happening.

Prior to the closing of the meeting, Marie Watson gave the vote of thanks to Liz and showed all a picture of the gift she had bought with the monies collected (the original was too big to get in the car!)

Marketing, Membership and Communications Committee.

The Marketing, Membership and Communications Committee is holding a membership drive Open Day on Saturday 31st March, 10 am - 4.00 pm.

This is being widely advertised in local magazines and the Derbyshire Times as well as Facebook and Twitter and it is hoped that we will get a good response.

However members are urged to bring along any friends who might like to become a member, to talk to the team on this day.

If you have grandchildren who show an interest, please bring them along as the Junior Organisers will be in attendance to give them a taste of what we have to offer.

Please do support this event and get as many of your friends and family to come along and see what our Club can offer.

Social Events

Dress Down Nights

Friday 23rd February - Chinese Feast Night

Friday 30th March - Fish Night (being Good Friday)

Friday 27th April - theme to be advised.

Captains' First Dance.

This will take place on Saturday, March 17th and it is very much hoped that as many of you as possible, particularly some of you younger and older ones who have never been to any of our Club Socials, will attend this function to welcome the new Captains. These evenings really are worth coming to and you will be made most welcome.

Further dates can be obtained from the flyers in the clubhouse lounge and Bar.

Course Report

It is becoming apparent that the moment the course starts to dry up it either snows or rains heavily for a few days! Since the snowfall at the beginning of December we have recorded 225.5mm of rain and over the whole site that equates to 109,508 cubic metres of water, no wonder the course is saturated.

The disease prevention programme that I introduced this winter has been a great success. The only drawback has been the fact the greens have been too wet to play on. I have a few ideas as to what has been causing these problems and I am looking at making some changes. Firstly, there are obvious drainage problems that will have to be addressed in the future. Companies are developing new ways to drain ground which are less disruptive to the playing surface and we shall be looking into these. Secondly, the wetting agent we have used for the past 2 summers may have locked too much moisture into the top profile causing it to waterlog during the wetter months. I am looking into other products that will send the moisture deeper into the soil and firm up the top profile.

Weather permitting, over the next couple of weeks we shall be doing our Spring maintenance on the greens. This will consist of verti-draining, hollow-tining, fertilising and top dressing. The plan is to spread the work out so that we cause less disruption to the course and to play.

I hope you all agree with me that the lads have done a great job on the 9th hole clearing the Blackthorn and with the help of Trevor Watson laying a fantastic looking hedge.

Nick Miles
Course Manager

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Golfers Local Columnist and Hazel Grove Head Greenkeeper explains about course closure.

THE New Year has so far been very disappointing weather wise with the continuation of high rainfall.

This has continued to leave many courses suffering extremely soggy ground conditions and causing much frustration to both the golfer and the greenkeepers.

Due to the extreme ground conditions this has left many clubs having to make the difficult decision of whether or not to close the course.

A recent gathering of course managers and head greenkeepers certainly highlighted the fact that this decision is both very difficult and often very unpopular.

It made me think about how this decision has changed over the years.

In the 1970s and 80s course closure, although unpopular, was received with less complaints than today. Also closure was a last resort as often the banning of trolleys came first with few querying the decision. The carrying of clubs also helped to spread the wear.

Also winter golf was less competitive and was generally used to hone the swing and enjoy a winter's walk rather than anything more serious. Additionally, there were no buggies so no consideration had to be given, and no discrimination laws to be taken into account.

And the weather was not quite as wet as it is nowadays - unless my memory is playing tricks! So course closure was far less fraught.

Closing the course nowadays always causes complaint and is never viewed universally as the correct decision.

If the course is left open in extreme wet conditions the comments 'the course should be closed' is often heard, and yet if conditions dictate the necessity to close, such phrases as 'I've seen it wetter and been open' or 'why is it closed today?' are heard.

At the gathering the question arose as to who is responsible for the decision to open or close the course?

This should be dictated by the policy of the golf club as all clubs are different in their approach.

Firstly, why should a course close?

The obvious reason is safety to the golfer and green staff, so

thunder and lightning, high winds and fog are top of the list.

Next it should be about course protection. This one is the unpopular one as many golfers don't appreciate this decision is made for their benefit and not to deliberately upset the golfer.

What is course protection?

Course protection is taken when conditions dictate that playing would cause long-term damage and impede future playing of the course and affect the quality of the playing surface. Areas adjacent to tees and greens where all golfers congregate become large, muddy areas, a bit like when cows all come to a gate.

Closure probably happens a bit earlier than in years gone by as trolley bans are now difficult to introduce and also the increase in ride-on buggies to help people get round a course. Carrying clubs definitely helps spread wear on the course and reduces damage.

One of the most difficult issues to sort out following course closure is when to open again.

This can be very hard especially in conditions as we are currently experiencing. On occasions it may appear that a course has been opened when it is wetter than when it was shut but this is probably an illusion.

It will just be that the rest that the course has had allows a little recovery and allows play. The spreading of wear is all important.

This is why some Clubs close a few holes and swap between 12 to 15 holes or two loops of nine. The reason for this is so that the course can remain open as much as possible.

The consideration for the course being open is often a business risk assessment issue.

For example if the course remains closed for a long time how will this affect the financial running of the business as it may be that, although damage may be caused, greater damage could be done to the financial side of the business - at times a bit of a Catch 22 position.

It should also be remembered that what is right for one course may not be right for another and no comparison should be made as like always it is horses for courses.

The most important side to course closure is, whoever is responsible for the decision, the full committee and all management should back the decision and support the person responsible.

All golfers should accept, no matter how much they disagree, with the decision and appreciate no malice or vindictive decision has been made and the decision has been taken for their long-term enjoyment of the course.

Let's hope for a great improvement in the weather this month.

Mike Davie

Head Greenkeeper - Hazel Grove GC

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Many thanks.