



Newsletter

January 2024

Club Captain – Jon Lewis

This will be my final newsletter as Club Captain and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all those that have given me help, support and advice during my tenure, and those that have given their time to volunteer in helping to maintain the high standards of Ryston Park.

I'd like to remind you all that our club is a "not for profit" organisation that relies heavily on the voluntary work of many individuals, undertaking tasks as varied as maintaining the wonderful hanging baskets through to the financial decision making. Without this voluntary support we would not have such a fantastic club that we can all enjoy, so thank you very much for your dedication.

With the large volume of rainfall we have received over the last few months, it has become apparent that our current course drainage is not capable of keeping areas fit for play, particularly if in the future we see such heavy rain. To combat this issue, in the next few weeks you will see drainage pipework being installed over a length of approximately 120 meters, running parallel with the 6th fairway and joining to the ditch on the 3rd. Obviously this work will cause disruption, but I hope you can appreciate that it is vital in allowing water to freely drain from the course and prevent prolonged course closures.

The new 9th tee is ready to be introduced into play, once the course has been assessed and rated it will be opened for us to challenge ourselves on the first major course alterations for many years. This new tee box and improvements of drainage on the 6th fairway and 9th green demonstrate that the club is continually developing to help maintain membership numbers that in turn will safeguard the club's future.

At the forthcoming AGM, I will be formally handing over the club's captaincy to Gary Rider. Gary will be a fantastic captain and I hope you can support him as you have supported myself over the past year. We will also welcome the club's new President, Tam Payne. Tam brings a wealth of experience to the role following many years overseeing the club's finances, being chair of the greens and also as a previous Club Captain. I'd also like to thank Paul Allen, Mike Brown and Janet Coles for their hard work as President, Seniors and Ladies Captains.

It has been an honour to have been the captain of Ryston Park and I will look back on my time fondly. Finally I'd like to thank you all in helping raise over £1700 for the Swan Youth Project. The current figure is £1680 but I have still yet to count the contents of the "captains charity bunker" collection box and I know I've placed over £20 in it!

Downham Rotary celebrated Burns Night in the clubhouse recently. Remember, as a member you can also hire out the clubhouse for a function.

Enquire through the Office.





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Ladies Captain – Janet Coles

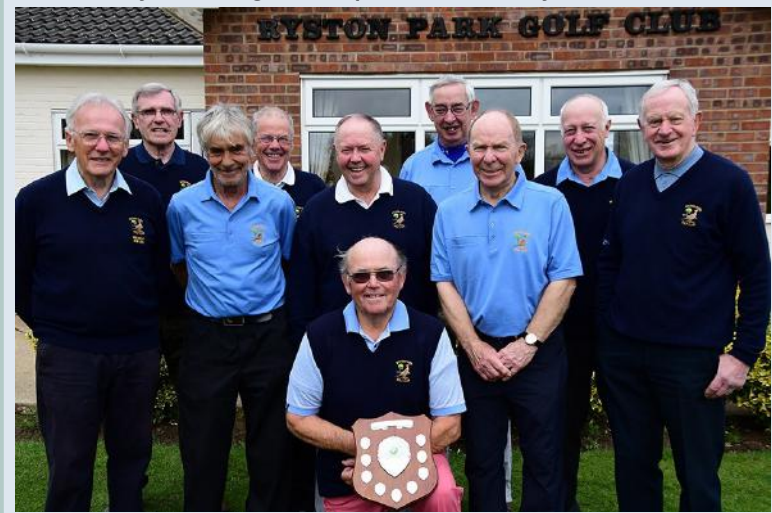


Well, here we are almost at the end of my year! Not a lot of golf over the last month but we have managed a few social mornings on Wednesdays - relaxed golf with lots of coffee drinking and camaraderie. We have several ladies on the injured list and I wish them all a very speedy recovery - please get fit before the better weather arrives. On a personal note I would like to thank all the ladies for the support they have given me during what can only be described as an Annus Horribilis! I haven't been able to give my job as Captain all the attention that I would have liked but the support I have received has been outstanding - many, many thanks to all the ladies. It will soon be time for both the Ladies' AGM and the Club AGM. Very best of luck to our new Ladies' Captain Ann and also to our new Club Captain Gary - I am sure that you will both fulfil your positions in an admirable manner. Finally, can I offer my profound thanks to our Green Staff who do such an excellent job - also thanks to all the volunteers who help out throughout the year. The Club would not be such a success without your input and I would like you to know that it is thoroughly appreciated.

Seniors Captain – Michael Brown



As our section now has our AGM in February this will be my final report. Firstly it was a great shock to hear one of our most respected and always helpful member Graham Kingham had sadly passed away. Graham played in many matches over the years and was always willing to help out on many occasions he will be greatly missed by us all.



The roll ups this month have been affected by the weather and some days the course has been closed. The usual hard core few have turned up braving the elements. We play our last winter alliance match at Searles on the 1st February against Feltwell. If we win all our matches we will be level with Searles and would go into a play off with Searles at Ryston in March. So I hope everyone plays well and good luck to Ryston on the day. With the nights pulling out and hopefully better weather on the way I wish you all good golfing during the coming season.

Photo above featuring Graham Kingham (centre) as part of the winning Seniors 9 hole Alliance Winter League team 2019.

Finally I would just like to thank all the members for their support and help during the year and I hope the seniors section continues to thrive throughout the year and you all support this years incoming captains.





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The Secretary – Andy Ware

**DON'T FORGET
AGM 2024
THURSDAY 22ND FEBRUARY 7PM**

New WHS Rules

This month we will look at:
Acceptable Scoring for Four Ball formats

What it is?

Currently only scores from certain singles formats of play are returned to WHS for handicap index calculation within GB&I. As of 1 April 2024, scores from four ball (such as Strokeplay, Stableford and Par/Bogey) will be acceptable for handicap purposes in GB&I. These additional and popular formats of play will allow more scores to be returned for handicap purposes based on some specified criteria. Note: this is for competition play only.

How it works?

Once the acceptable pairs/team score is returned to WHS™, WHS will look for specific criteria, which is as followed:

✓ One player of the pair must have scored on a minimum of 9 holes.

✓ The total pair score must be at least 42 points or 6 under Par.

If these triggers are hit, then the golfer who has scored on the minimum 9 holes will have an upscaling value added for their un-played holes based upon their playing partners score and if the score equates to 36+ points/level par or better it will calculate a Score Differential™ and the score will be added to record for handicap purposes.

This score may or may not be one of their best 8 score differentials used to update/recalculate their handicap index. For scores not hitting the specified trigger points, the score will still be added to records but not used in calculations, as it will be indicated so in the records.

Benefits

✓ A vast majority of Clubs and Counties have indicated their desire for 4BBB scoring to be acceptable for handicapping purposes. (Based upon opinions from Club/county handicap committees within 2022/23 WHS™ winter workshops)

✓ Make the game more inclusive as more scores are available for handicapping purposes from various formats of play.

✓ Handicaps will be more reflective of a player's demonstrated ability.

Golf Lessons Available

Peter Lunt has been a fully qualified PGA Professional for over 35 years.

Lesson fees are:

£15 for half an hour.

£25 for 5 hole playing lesson.

All other lesson options negotiable.

Contact Peter on 07568318390

Plunt79@gmail.com to book.



Greenstaff

January has been a mixed bag regards to the weather. The start of the year followed on from December with 56mm in a week and saw the course the wettest we think we have ever seen it! We then saw a week of hard frosts with day time temperatures struggling to get above freezing and now this week we have seen 14 degrees!! Will there ever be a 'normal' winter again! But we will take frosts over rain any day! Ground frost is natural aeration, as when the ground thaws, it cracks open the soil creating the air pockets that's needed for root establishment and drainage.

There is a huge number of unrepaired pitchmarks this year and if correctly repaired a pitchmark will recover in 24 hours. But an unrepaired pitchmark left unattended for two hours will take up to two months to recover! So needless to say, if you want a truer playing surface, everyone needs to help look after the golf course!

The bunkers are being weeded and the sand shifting. The sand tends to get dragged towards the back of the bunker after raking, so please make sure you push the sand rather than pull it back towards you. More sand will be added to the bunkers that need it.



The pot holes near the entrance have just been filled in thanks to Ryston's own highway operatives, Roger and Eric.



The two new practice netts are finally in use (and survived one storm) and we please ask that you don't walk on the new turf until it has had time to root.