



# THE LEICESTERSHIRE GOLF CLUB

## NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2019

# OUR UNSUNG HEROES



Pictured left to right : Nick Root (Deputy Course Manager), Martin Anderson, Ben Lewis, James Robinson, Chris Lewis (Course Manager), Wayne Bown

Its 6am on a very cold winter morning and most of us are still tucked up safely under the duvet. Not so for our wonderful greens staff who are arriving at the golf club ready to get the course prepared for the members. Whether it be Storm Callum or Storm Erik blowing a gale, they arrive ready for work. The faces above will be familiar to many of us. Chris Lewis, our Course Manager and the man responsible for the excellent reputation our course has in the County and beyond, is celebrating 25 years at the club this month! Many congratulations Chris and thank you for your dedication to our club.

Over all these years he has been strongly supported by Nick Root, who this October will have been at the club for 50 years! Yes, 50 years! This is the only job Nick has ever had and he still loves it! Nick (middle) is seen here shovelling loads of top soil with the help of Wayne Bown and Martin Anderson. We look forward to celebrating with Nick later this year.

Last summer was one of the driest the club had experienced for many years. This was preceded by one of the coldest and wettest springs, so Chris and his team have battled throughout this winter to ensure our course is restored to

its best this year. A simple task like collecting balls from the driving range has been made extremely cumbersome, as all the balls have to be hand washed to remove excess mud, before they can be put into the washing/dispensing machine!



The club have recently purchased a pedestrian aerator which unlike much of our existing machinery, can be used 12 months of the year! Throughout the winter and in the coming spring, the greens staff will spend time aerating, fertilising and over seeding. All fairways will be scarified and fertilised to improve grass cover and special attention will be paid to the 10<sup>th</sup> fairway. The heavy clay soil in this part of Leicestershire and the fact, archaeologists confirm a hill fort once existed on our 10<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> fairways, means Chris and his team have their work cut out! Pictured left is James Robinson using the new aerator under the watchful eye of our professional, Pete Livie!



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The threat of global warming and specifically whether this will continue to reduce rainfall and increase temperatures year on year has resulted in a significant assessment of our current irrigation system. Last year, Chris was continually juggling with how best and where to apply the very scarce water at his disposal. The club has an abstraction licence to allow us to draw water from the brook of up to 1 million gallons - we came very close last summer to exceeding our allowance! A three year plan has been formulated to improve areas that suffered in 2018. The focus will be on lifting 48 existing sprinklers, fixing 10 sprinkler stubs, replacing 7 greens sprinklers and adding a new hydrant box on 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> tees.

Prior to all this work, the greens staff have been busy implementing the second phase of the woodland management plan. In 2018, over 200 trees were removed and so far



this winter a further 180 trees have been taken out, all stumps ground out and the areas re-turfed. Richard Boettcher, a tree surgeon from Roelcliffe tree surgery, seen here on the left with Chris, has been assisting in the tree removal with the club receiving an income from the wood taken away. Come the summer, as in 2018, we will not notice the many trees removed.

Throughout the winter, several other



maintenance tasks continue, such as defining the edge of bunkers, tidying tree brush and crown lifting of low hanging tree branches. Wayne Bown is seen here clearing the hedges around the clubhouse while James Robinson jet-washes the benches before they are re-sprayed. Ben Lewis too, has been extremely busy, servicing (oil changes/greasing of bearings etc.) all the machines used on the course.



The cutting units will all be removed, ready for a mobile regrinding company to come in shortly.

The dedication and hard work of Chris and his staff, alongside the overview by the Greens committee, ably chaired by Mark Simons, will see our course go from strength to strength. Many of the greens staff are golfers too, but unfortunately have very little time to play. The exception being Martin Anderson, who is the current County captain! Martin is moving on to be Head Greenkeeper at Kibworth GC and goes with all good wishes from TLGC.

We thank them all for ensuring our course is one of the very few in the county where golf is played 364 days of the year. They really are our unsung heroes.



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### WINTER SERIES

The 5<sup>th</sup> Winter series was held at TLGC on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019 with Storm Erik affecting the turnout on the day. Club Captain, Mike Bucktin stated conditions were not too bad (water off a duck's back!). Congratulations to all who played in the extremely windy and wet conditions. Guests were very complimentary on the state of the course and greens, in spite of the very wet weather and time of year. A compliment many clubs in our area would love to receive. The winner by a clear 2 points was Ken Burke from Hinckley GC, pictured receiving his prize of £500 from our professional, Pete Livie.



Results:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Ken Burke (Hinckley GC) 37 Points
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Kevin Turner (Wellingborough GC) 35 Points (c/back back 9)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> David Dryden (The Leicestershire GC) 35 Point
- 4<sup>th</sup> Ben Hall – Professional (Rushcliffe GC) 34 Points (c/back back 3)

### MEN'S SECTION

Club Captain Mike Bucktin is looking forward to as many members as possible taking the opportunity to represent the club in this year's Club matches. The team sheets are posted 8 weeks before each match so please sign up or contact Mike directly to discuss availability.

With the Winter League reaching its conclusion in early March, thoughts now turn to the start of the 2019 competition season. The curtain raiser is the Captain/Pro Challenge (Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March) when Mike Bucktin & Pete Livie will be joined by Graham Warwick and Kym Larratt in a Texas Scramble. Any pairing beating their score wins their entry fee back courtesy of Mike. Entries through the BRS system as usual.

### Seniors Section

Seniors Captain Paul Donaghy is now gearing up for the coming season and is looking forward to welcoming eligible members to play in the many matches and competitions in the coming season. The list is too large to include here – however, a comprehensive list has been put up on the seniors noticeboard.

The fifth instalment of the Seniors Winter Series took place on 18<sup>th</sup> February with Prakesh Magdani, Bruce Allen, Graham Smith and Noel Everson getting 86 points on countback, narrowly beating Nigel Dryden, Brian Marlow, Tony Mendes and Peter Nuttall who came second. The current Mike Lewis standings are Tony Mendes in first with 7 points, Francis Lobo second with 6 points and Brian Barlow and Eddie Hargrave joint third with 4.75 points. The final Seniors Winter Series is taking place on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March; the sign up sheet is on the Seniors noticeboard, we look forward to seeing you there.

The draw for the Ted Stanger will take place on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. If you've not done so already, please sign up on the Seniors noticeboard in the men's locker room, entries cost £6 per pair.



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### Ladies Section

The finalists for the Ladies Winter League this year, decided after a very close finish in one group, are Gee Jackson and Helen Hope versus Kathy Hunt and Lucy Patterson. The final will be played by the end of March.

The sign up sheet for the Ladies Away Day at Maxstoke Park Golf Club will be going up in March for you to book your places. Teams of 4 to play an AM/AM. There will be bacon rolls on arrival, tee times from 11.30 and a one course meal to follow. The cost will be £40 per head and cheques need to be paid to the office payable to The Leicestershire Golf Club.

### Juniors Section

On Friday 1st February, two of our Juniors, Thomas Dzuiba and Finn Dobson attended the first ever L&R County Junior Presentation evening. Both boys were re-presented with trophies which they won earlier in the year. Thomas Dzuiba was presented with the County Order of Merit and Finn Dobson with the County Boys Aged Group Championship (won the previous year by Thomas).

Both boys were also presented with their county ties, in recognition for representing the County at Under 14s level. They are regularly seen on the practice ground throughout the winter and we look forward to their continued success in the coming season.

The Junior Presentation Evening took place on Sunday 24th March. Pictured are the prize winners who enjoyed a great evening to celebrate their achievements.





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### County Dinner



The L&RGU (now known as the Leicestershire & Rutland Golf Limited) held their annual dinner on 15<sup>th</sup> February at Hinckley Golf Club. Scratch Team Captain Tom Sherwin is pictured left with the Second Division shield.

TLGC member Robin Fraser CBE was honoured with a special presentation in recognition of his outstanding contribution to golf in the county, specifically the LRGU Spring Tournament known as the Fraser. Very well deserved and many congratulations.



### Coming Up...

- ⇒ Vines, Wines & Corks (Sparkling Edition) Friday 15th March
- ⇒ Last night of the Masters – Sunday 14th April
- ⇒ Sunday 9th June – Under 35's team championships, qualifying 36 hole medal, played in 3's – full details on club's website
- ⇒ TLGC Summer BBQ – Sunday 23rd June (no dress code!)
- ⇒ Thursday 4th July to Sunday 7th July – English Men's Open Mid-Amateur Strokeplay (Logan Trophy)
- ⇒ 43rd Women's British Open at Woburn GC – the club has organised a coach for Friday 2nd August, cost £18 per head. Your chance to see the top women golfers including reigning champion, England's Georgia Hall. Sign-up sheet on the Mixed Noticeboard
- ⇒ Under 35's Away Day – Friday 23rd August 2019

### ... & IN OTHER NEWS

A trip down memory lane. The Leicestershire Ladies when they won the Scratch League in 1998. From left to right Pauline Fox, Lou Bruning, Eileen Nisbet, Wendy Greenlees, Maggie Parker, Josie Lovatt (Ladies Captain), Jennie Pugh, Lynn Sleath and Fay Brook.



Newsletter editor Francis Lobo is out in the West Indies taking in the warm weather (well he could have stayed in the UK for that!) and cricket. He was at the first ODI, spending most of his time ducking from the barrage of sixes hit by Chris Gayle. He also found time for golf, here he is pictured at the Barbados Golf Club.

Francis even found time to fire Joe Root and Jonny Bairstow advice – “Get on the front foot Joe!”

