



Links Golf Club
West Runton, Norfolk

CAPTAIN'S LOG



Summer 2023



CAPTAIN'S VIEW

Welcome to the summer edition of our Captain's Log. It is now six months since being appointed club captain and the time has just flown by. Overall, my time so far has been most enjoyable in the role. That's not to say there have been some challenging moments along the way. However, it has been an extremely rewarding experience to date.

The support I have received from the membership is testimony that the club is progressing in the right direction. Our lines of communication, partly driven by the Captain's Log, has improved. Membership participation in the variety of competitions is on the increase. Along with the Thursday evening swindle competition remaining as popular as ever, it has been a real pleasure to see more and more members joining in across the broad spectrum of events.

I am introducing a **new** trophy this year – The Jimmy Clinton Cup! This is in memory of Jimmy who was a former captain of the club, sadly missed by many of us. The competition on 10th September will be an 18-hole Stableford format– so a date for your diary! Past members who played during Jimmy's time at the club will be invited to join us on the day. Please note this cup replaces the Nabero trophy.



My other change this year is to replace the annual presentation evening. I have decided to alter the format and renamed the title to An Evening Celebrating A Year Of Golf. More details will follow in due course. The event will take place on 25 November. We truly hope we can make it a success and a more inclusive evening for all.

The course is looking exceptional right now, so once again many thanks to our ground staff. Improvements continue to be made to the golf course, which is ongoing throughout the year. Again, we remind members that Rome was not built in a day. We ask for your patience as the team have a work schedule to adhere to and will complete all tasks in due course. I am pleased to say that we have had numerous competitions against a variety of different clubs, all of whom have commented favourably, on how well the course plays and how much they enjoyed the experience.

Looking forward, we have the 'Captain's Weekend Away' approaching which is being held at Pidley in Cambridgeshire. Fingers crossed for a special time away, good weather for golf, along with good humour, banter and friendship.

Finally, I finish my report with a huge thank you to all those who supported the recent Captain's Charity Day. We had an excellent turn-out of both players and supporters and the wonderful weather added to the overall success

The generosity of all of you who contributed prizes and auction gifts was astonishing. A special thanks to those of you who worked behind the scenes to make the day such a success. However, the big winner on the day thanks to your generosity was our chosen charity RNIB with a magnificent sum of £621 raised for them on the day.

I am pleased with what we have achieved so far this year. However, there is still so much more that we can do as a club and look forward to the challenge for the remainder of my tenure as captain.



CLUB COMPETITIONS

A selection of competitions which are open to **all** club members up to end of October 2023 are listed below. Please come and join in!

You can sign up for events either electronically using **HowDidiDo** or on the club noticeboard.

September 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th

9-hole Weekly Stableford Roll Up – first tee 5.00pm. Open to all, entry fee £1.00

September 10th

New tournament – The Jimmy Clinton Cup, 18-hole Stableford

September 17th

40's Weekend Trophy – 3 clubs & a putter

October 15th

Vice Captain's Trophy – 18-hole Stableford

October 22nd

Couples Cup – Pairs competition, 4BBB

October 29th

Captain's Charity Trophy – 18-hole Stableford



Special Mention

Best wishes to Mike Spicer representing the Links who has qualified for the final of England's Golf Race to Woodhall Spa being held on 17th August at the Lincolnshire course.



SENIOR'S OUTLOOK



Golf can be such a frustrating game at times, but there are some wonderful sights to distract us from a bad putt or a miscued tee shot. Mother Nature turns on her magic at this time of the year with a blaze of colour and all the wildlife. The trees and shrubs offer us so much variety of shades of green, yellow and bronze. Members talk of sightings of muntjac and fallow deer, foxes, rabbits and moles. Many different sightings of birds including buzzards, oyster catchers, jays, woodpeckers, wagtails and swifts.

We have managed to play our usual Wednesday games with an average of 15 players. Four Senior friendly matches have taken place already, with another six to follow. The knockouts are progressing, and the Seniors Eclectic is halfway through.

Don't forget the Bill Prince Trophy on August 30th.

A selection of forthcoming Senior events heading towards the Autumn season.

September

6th – Stableford

12th – Seniors v Wensum Valley Friendly – 18 holes (home match)

13th – Seniors American Pairs Stableford

20th – Stableford in aid of the Club Charity

29th – Seniors v Sheringham – 18 holes (home match)

October

5th – Searles v Seniors (away match)

11th – Rainbow Stableford

18th – Seniors Greensomes

20th – Norfolk Senior 9's at the Links



George playing on the new 'Low Frustration' golf course, specifically designed for elderly golfers.

LADIES' VOICE

The Ladies Section continues to thrive with a variety of both golf and social events.

Our friendly matches are aimed at a wide range of handicaps, and this is encouraging more ladies to join in and 'give it a go'.



Jane Gomm has reached the final of the Ladies County Stableford. Date and venue yet to be declared – well done Jane!

Our very own Emma Richardson will be representing the Links in the England Golf Ladies Race to Woodhall Spa Final on 18th August. A huge achievement for Emma to qualify and we send her our best wishes for the big day.



Other events of note to be held in the coming weeks.

During August

28th – Ladies Peggy Francis Trophy, 3 clubs and a putter

During September

4th – Ladies v Wensum Valley at home

11th – Ladies Queen Elizabeth II Cup

24th – Ladies Amron Trophy

During October

7th – 30+ Handicap 9 holes

17th – NVLGS @ Heacham Manor, greensomes

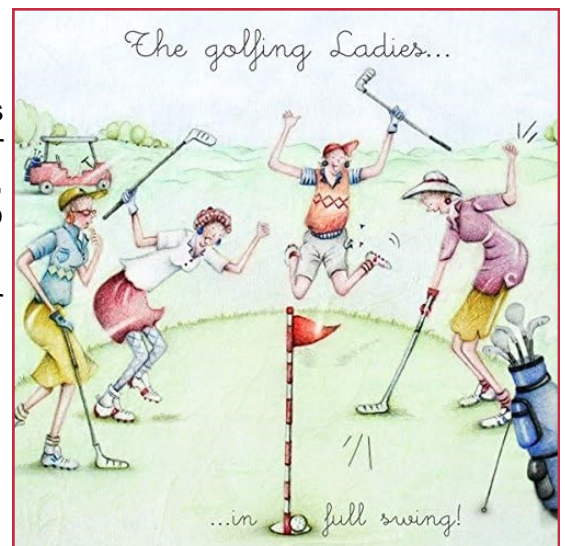
30th – Ladies AM-AM

All forthcoming events are available to view on the members section of website and **HowDidiDo**.

Social Events

A variety of social events are in the offing for the months ahead. On Wednesday August 25th we have planned for a coffee & crepes afternoon at East Beach, Sheringham, with possible game of rounders on the beach (subject to tide).

A Curry Night is being planned for September and later in the year a trip to Ely Christmas market.



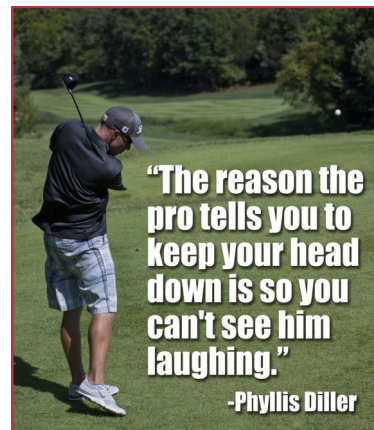
PRO REPORT

The summer season is in full swing and we have seen a great variety of winners in the member competitions. Well played and thank you to all members taking part in club competitions.

Overall the course is in good condition and the green fairways are in contrast to the straw colour from last summer.

We have been watering the greens and surrounds as necessary, but July has been very wet. The grass growth had slowed during the hot and dry June. However, this has picked up again now. There has been an increasing amount of worm casts and we suffered earlier in the year from bird damage on some greens.

I have been busy with lessons. Many are either getting into golf or returning to the game and some have already joined the club. Welcome and we hope you thoroughly enjoy you golf at the Links.



Book your tee time online

For some time now, it has been possible for members to book into competitions online, rather than having to come into the club to sign up on the noticeboard. Now, booking standard tee times will be much more convenient too. If you are playing with a member guest, payment for your guests will be collected when you check in on the day as usual.

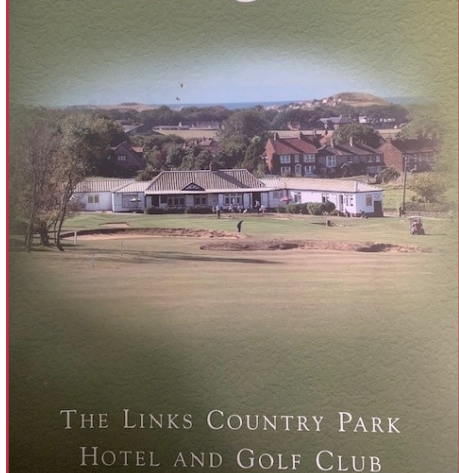
[My Scores](#)
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Saturday, 8th April 2023

10:10	P3 Reservation - Ladies Golf	P4 Reservation - Ladies Golf	
	Reservation - Ladies Golf		
10:20	P1 Gordon Neile	P2 David Robinson	▼
	P3 Barry Cowell	P4 Dave Wright	
10:30	P1 David Lidster	P2 Guest Player	PARTIAL BOOKING DISABLED
	P3 Unavailable	P4 Unavailable	
10:40	P1 Alan Bennett	P2 Colin Currie	PARTIAL BOOKING DISABLED
	P3 Unavailable	P4 Unavailable	
10:50	P1 Casual Available	P2 Casual Available	Book
	P3 Casual Available	P4 Casual Available	
11:00	P1 Casual Available	P2 Casual Available	Book
	P3 Casual Available	P4 Casual Available	
11:10	P1 Casual Available	P2 Casual Available	Book
	P3 Casual Available	P4 Casual Available	

Dominic

A Century of Golf at West Runton



A CENTURY OF GOLF AT WEST RUNTON

We have kindly received a copy of this fascinating publication and over the course of the newsletters we will publish extracts about the history of the Links course.

1939 - 1950

The outbreak of the Second World War in 1939 meant that the West Runton course was to pay an extremely high price. Within a year it had been taken over by the army as a battle course before troops were sent overseas.

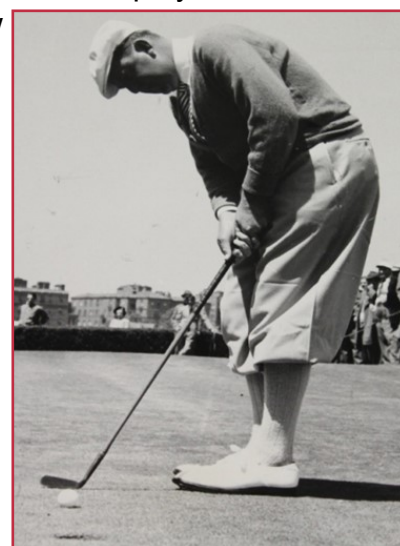
Nancy Jupp the former British Girls champion writing in *Golf Illustrated* observed 'East Anglia was one of the most vulnerable spots on our shores and the entire course was requisitioned by the army. Without a qualm concrete roads and blocks were built across fairways, greens went to rack and ruin and the ruts left by tank tracks resembled the approach to a main railway station'.

In 1949 Graham Abbs, grandson of the hotel's founder resumed his role as club secretary and set about the formidable task of reclamation work and restoration in conjunction with the army. Greens were re-defined and re-seeded and bunkers shaped by experts specially engaged to restore West Runton to its former glory.

Hole	Yards	Par
1	170	3
2	480	5
3	546	5
4	430	4
5	180	3
6	500	5
7	380	4
8	300	4
9	200	3
	3186	36
10	310	4
11	280	4
12	233	4
13	130	3
14	480	5
15	490	5
16	270	4
17	480	5
18	208	3
	2881	37
Total	6067	73

The revised 1950 scorecard reduced the course to a par 73 from par 78 prior to the war.

The course was officially put back on the golfing map in 1950 when the reigning Open champion Bobby Locke played in a charity challenge match. A crowd of 1500 enthusiasts came to Runton to watch him in action. Due to the success of the event Locke returned a year later to play another contest and delighted his public by setting a new course record of 66.





CAPTAIN'S QUIZ

The 2023 Open Championship is over and moves forward to Royal Troon in 2024.

Test your Open knowledge below and email your answers to Mike Spicer, mhsl@hotmail.co.uk.

Please list your answer A, B or C to each of the



questions. If you think the answer to question 1 is B the list 1B and follow on for each question.

Question 1: Of the nine links courses on the current rotation, which is the course that Jack Nicklaus only played once?

- A. Turnberry
- B. Carnoustie
- C. Royal Liverpool

Question 2: On what course was the first 12 championships played?

- A. Prestwick
- B. St. Andrews
- C. Musselburgh

Question 3: What stood out from Tiger Woods winning the Open at Royal Liverpool?

- A. He hit the driver only once over 72 holes
- B. He didn't have a three-putt over the entire championship
- C. He stayed with Paul McCartney

Question 4: Who shot the lowest closing round to win the British Open?

- A. Cameron Smith
- B. Greg Norman
- C. Henrik Stenson

Question 5: Which links course in England has hosted the Open the most times?

- A. Royal Liverpool
- B. Royal St. George's
- C. Royal Birkdale

All entries must be received by 28th August 2023. The prize for the winner will be a bottle of finest malt whiskey.



Previous quiz winners Craig Brown and Dan Bumphrey receiving their prizes from the captain.