

December 2007

NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our December “festive season” newsletter, may we take this opportunity to wish all our members a Happy Christmas and Healthy New Year.

We have attached our 2008 fixture list which is full and varied and provides all members with a golf handicap the chance to play in organised competitions. Please make a note in your diaries of the “Big Events” such as Newton Trophy Day, Captains Day and Invitation Day, these days need your support to build on their previous popularity.

At a time when most local golf courses are moving onto winter greens and tees, we make every effort to stay on summer greens and tees all year round. We feel this offers our members the best possible value for money 12 months a year. This of course is made possible by the programme of maintenance work undertaken by our dedicated green keeping team. Please be patient with the green keepers when playing the course as their work is important and time is limited with the reducing daylight hours.

In this months newsletter you will also find information on our Christmas period opening times and a write up on Clive who retires in December after many years working at Willow Valley Golf. For those of you who have had time to get to know Clive, will, I am sure, echo our best wishes to him for his retirement.

Over the past 2 months we have made several changes to the driving range. This month has seen 3 large chipping nets, 9 distance targets, new baskets, improved lighting and a toilet facility added. We hope this adds to your practice experience and inspires you to practice more over the winter months. This is of course the ideal time to work on any swing changes. Our new teaching studio allows us to give expert video swing analysis and should be considered a wise option when making swing changes. Lesson vouchers are a popular Christmas present, as well as a gift from our fully stocked golf shop.

As previously mentioned we would like to hear about any of your golf achievements and interesting stories or any suggestions you have on the topics we should be covering, please get in touch.

Questionnaire Feedback

We have had a disappointing level of response to our ongoing member’s questionnaire. Due to the poor response we will be continuing this questionnaire through December, it can be found on our website www.wvgc.co.uk and completed electronically, or paper copies are available from our information desk in the clubhouse.

Please place any hand written ones in the questionnaire box provided. If you have an opinion we would like to hear it.

Attention!!

As from the 1st January 2008 there are a number of drivers that will become illegal to use in club competitions. Anyone wondering whether their driver is legal should consult the list on the member’s board.

Competition Results

The November Medal took place on Sunday 4th November with 59 competitors taking part. Martin Arnold emerged victorious from Div 1 with Rachael Smith claiming the Div 2 prize.

The following Sunday saw the 3rd round of **Winter League** matches, Neil Emery and Mark Hunter won to keep their 100% start to the season intact in the Treasurer League. In the committee league the pairings of Chris Shepherd/ George Branch & Will Squire/ Bianca Skelly also won to maintain their 100% winning start. The next round of matches takes place on Sun 9th Dec.

Saturday 17th November saw L. Burnley with 41 points and Anthony Surman with 40 points claim the honours in Divisions 1 & 2 respectively in the **Saturday Stableford**.

The following day saw the **November Stableford** played, 52 members competed with Shaun Helliwell taking 1st spot in Div 1 and Christopher Sweeney likewise in Div 2 with 38 & 41 points respectively.

The **Midweek Stableford** was played on Tuesday 20th November; Malcolm Hirst's good run of form continued as he followed up his 2nd place finish in the first of the midweek winter stablefords with victory, amassing 35 points. Kevin Swallow's 3rd place finish moved him up to second place in the "Over 55's winter player of the year" standings, 3 points adrift of Malcolm Hirst.

The next midweek competition is scheduled for Tuesday 18th December.

Staff Profile – Clive Swain



The time has come to wish Clive a "Happy Retirement". Yes it is now official Clive will be leaving Willow Valley Golf on the 22nd December and retiring after many years working in retail including here at the club. Clive has worked here as Shop Manager for over 13 years since the early days in 1994, when we had no bar in the clubhouse, only the 9 hole Fountain Course and only 11 uncovered bays on the driving range. As you can see he has seen many changes and been an important part of the clubs growth. All members old and new have always befriended Clive, with daily discussions including, golf, the weather and of course the ever suffering Huddersfield Town. We wish Clive all the best for the future and look forward to seeing him here at Willow Valley Golf with a 7 iron in hand!

Welcome to all our new members

Stephen Tattersfield

Martin Wood

Adam Wilkinson

James Taylor

Tony Park

Jimmy Lee

Nigel Hopkinson

Christine Wilcock

Joshua Ryan

Robert Frazer

We would like to offer a warm welcome to all our new members who joined in November 2007.

We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 12th December at 7.00pm for the new members welcome meeting.

Also a note to all the new members who joined since April, there are still a number of you who have not attended the welcome meeting. We would ask you to try and attend a meeting as soon as possible.

Fixtures for 2008

The fixtures for 2008 are attached and further copies are available to print off from the member's area on our website www.wvgc.co.uk and can also be collected from golf reception.

Minutes of Committee Meeting – see attached sheet.

Our next issue will be 30 January 2008

Contact – Mrs Helen Newton – Tel no 01274 878624 or e-mail hnewton@wvgc.co.uk

Tip of the month – Darren Rands

Good Posture = Good Balance

Having a good posture will vastly improve your balance and will also help to set your swing plane to the correct angle.

To get the correct posture stand upright with your arms straight out at waist height then bend from your waist until the club has the toe end slightly off the ground (this is due to the way that the club shaft bends through the swing and assuming your clubs are correctly fitted to your height). Bend your knees slightly and let your weight move onto the balls of your feet not heels or toes. Then finally lift your chin slightly so that it is away from your chest.

The feelings you should have are: - Weight on the balls of your feet, slight pull in the bottom of your back, that you have enough freedom to swing through the ball and more or less a 90 degree angle between the club shaft and your spine angle. A correct posture should feel as though you are able to strike the ball with maximum club head speed whilst at the same time being able to maintain your balance.

CHRISTMAS LUNCHES - DATES ARE STILL AVAILABLE

Why not treat you & your family!!

As in previous years we will begin serving our traditional Christmas lunch, daily from Tuesday 4th December. A full menu is available in the clubhouse and bookings are now been taken. A £5 deposit per person is required on booking.

2 courses @ £9.95 or 3 courses @ £12.95.

(Half price for children 10 and under)

Why not top up your levy card and receive that extra 10% discount!

Christmas Opening Hours

Christmas Eve - All courses open – 8.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m. - Kitchen closed.

Christmas Day - All Closed

Boxing Day - All courses open – 8.00 a.m. – 5 p.m. - Kitchen closed.

Due to refurbishment the kitchen will be closed week commencing Monday 7th January to Monday 14th January inclusive.

Notes for your Diary

02/11/07	December Medal	8.00 am – 11.02 am
08/12/07	Dinner Dance Christmas Party	7.00 pm
09/12/07	Winter League wk5	8.22 am - 10.14 am
12/12/07	New Members Meeting	7.00 pm
16/12/07	December Stableford	8.00 am - 11.30 am
18/12/07	Midweek over 55s	8.00 am - 9.00 am
26/12/07	Novelty Competition	8.30 am - 11.00 am