



1st Edition January 2008

NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our winter newsletter, we hope you find the content interesting and informative. The heavy rainfall and strong winds for much of January have meant only the hardier amongst you have ventured out onto the golf course since the Christmas period. For those of you that have we have been able to offer play on our normal greens and tees. If you don't play when the winter weather moves in, now is the time for some practice and maybe even some advice on improving your golf swing. The driving range is the ideal place to practice and has the added benefit of being protected from the elements.

We have introduced 3 new major brands into our golf shop for this season in Mizuno, Taylor Made and Adidas. Demonstration clubs are available and our PGA trained staff are on hand to offer advice.

Due to popular demand we are reintroducing our Sunday Carvery starting with Mothering Sunday on the 2nd March, we recommend booking early to avoid disappointment.

It's that time of year when we start to look at the oncoming fixture list and planning our golf for the season. It's great to see the variety set out for you this year by your golf committee. They work tirelessly to produce the programme of events and should be commended for it.

All the team match fixtures have been arranged now and we are looking for players to compete in these inter club leagues. Willow Valley Golf competes in the Halifax Huddersfield and District Leagues and has a very proud record in recent years. Team sheets are posted on our notice board during February and those interested should write their names down.

The club singles and doubles matchplay entries are also being taken with a closing date of 23rd March. Entries should be written on an envelope with the entrance money placed inside and then handed in at golf reception.

As always we would like to hear your comments on the newsletter and would love to know about any interesting topics we can include. Don't forget that as a member this is your newsletter and a chance to communicate with each other.

Keep enjoying your golf and the people it brings you into contact with. We are very excited about this coming season and hope you are too.

DON'T BE THE ONE TO FORGET MOTHER'S DAY THIS YEAR, IT'S EARLY!!

We are now taking bookings for **Mothers Day Lunch** on Sunday 2nd March.
Serving from 12.00pm – 2.30pm.

£12.95 per person for 2 courses and additional course £3.50. We require a £5.00 per person deposit. (Menu available in the Clubhouse).



Captain – Richard Skelly

Thank you to all the members and their friends who supported the Christmas Dinner Dance. The evening was well attended and everyone had a very enjoyable evening.

The Boxing Day novelty competition turned out to be great fun with excellent golf played by Jonathon Shaw, Lee Butcher and Jordan Clayton with a combined total of 10 under par giving them the half-way lead. A higher quiz score from Christopher Sweeney, Steve Wood and Harry Westworth, gave them the overall combined winning result.

A message to all our members, families and guests I hope you have had an enjoyable Christmas and I wish you all the best for the New Year.

Minutes of Committee Meeting – see attached sheet

Welcome to all our new members

Richard Irons
Nigel Sharp
Robert Bland
John Robinson
Chris Swaby

Ian Atkin
Clive Swain
Robert Lee
Anthony Maxwell
Colin Thornton

We would like to offer a warm welcome to all our new members who have joined since our last issue in November.

We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 20th February 2008 at 7.00pm for the new members welcome meeting.

Also a note to all the new members who have 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.

Competition Results

The 16th December saw the December Stableford take place; Martin Arnold took the Division 1 prize with Michael Cassidy taking the honours in Division 2.

The Midweek Stableford was played the following Tuesday Bill Brodzinski closed the gap on Malcolm Hirst in the race for Player of the Winter to just 3 points after beating Malcolm Hirst on a card play-off, both scoring 33 points.

The next midweek Stableford is to be played 19th Feb.

The 1st January Stableford was played on the 6th, Mark Butters and Dennis Clayton winning Divisions 1 & 2 respectively.



The following Saturday saw Michael Fisher winning the Division 1 prize and Steve Taylor the Division 2 prize in the Saturday Stableford.

The 2nd January Stableford was played in adverse weather conditions with some excellent scoring; Chris Nuttall was victorious in Div1 with 34 points whilst Ben Muncaster claimed the Div2 prize with 41 points.

The next weekend competition is the 1st February Stableford to be played on the 3rd of the month.

With only 1 round of matches left in the group stages of the Winter League all is still to play for, George Branch & Chris Shepherd have maintained an impressive 100% record after 6 matches and are looking like the team to beat at this stage.

The last round of matches is scheduled for January 27th.

You may have noticed the introduction of another Stableford competition during a month; this will replace the monthly Medal from Nov-Feb. Full details can be seen on the copy of the Committee's minutes on the members' notice board.

Derek Ibbotson

We would like to offer our sincere congratulations to member Derek Ibbotson who was awarded an MBE in the Queen's New Year Honours List. The award signifies his contribution made to Athletics over the years. His most famous achievement was setting a new world record in the mile in 1957. He was the junior champion in Britain in 1951, after service in the RAF, he returned to competition. In 1956 at Melbourne, he won a Bronze Medal in the 5,000 metres. He was also a member of the 4 by 1 mile relay team that set a world record in 1958.

We regularly see Derek about the club Tuesdays and Thursdays still been very competitive with his fellow senior members.

Staff Profile – Sydney Stafford

Syd is a member of our grounds team he first joined Willow Valley back in 1997, Having spent the majority of his career working for Timpson Shoes.

Syd is in charge of the general housekeeping of the course including taking care of tee markers, tee bins, devoting the tees, flags and maintaining the buggies. Syd a keen golfer himself once played off a 7 handicap at Cleckheaton Golf Club, he also enjoys travelling and reading and always has a story to tell.

Syd's favourite hole on the Willow Valley Course is the 8th (Vicars Way).

His favourite overseas course is Pinehurst No2 and his favourite course in Britain is the Old Course at St Andrews.





Panto's a real family affair for our Vice Captain

It's very rare these days to find a hobby which all members of a family can be involved in but the Taylor family seem to have found one.

Parents Lynn and Steve have been involved with theatrical activities in Brighthouse for many years and now Victoria, aged 10, is happily following in their footsteps.

Meanwhile her brother Alexander, 13, is content to be part of the audience and prefers his football and cricket to treading the boards. He plays football for Clifton Rangers.

It was in 1984 when Steve, managing director of a logistics company, was playing the part of Judas in Brighthouse Light Opera's production of 'Jesus Christ Superstar', that he first noticed the property mistress Lynn.



The Taylors – Dad Steve (left) as Sarah the Cook, son Alexander (right), Mum Lynn (above) and daughter Victoria

Romance flourished and they married three years later. Since then Steve has performed in 'West Side Story', 'Robin, Prince of Sherwood' and last year made his comic debut as an Ugly Sister for Brighthouse Theatre Productions' pantomime 'Cinderella'.

At the end of this month, he can be seen once again in women's clothes as he plays Sarah the Cook in 'Dick Whittington and His Cat' at Brighthouse Civic Hall.

When he's not at work or on stage, Steve is vice-captain of Willow Valley Golf, and will take on the captaincy later this year.

Tip of the month – Darren Rands

One piece takeaway

The one piece takeaway is highly effective to start the backswing and sets several good positions before the swing is even halfway.

The correct position at waist height on the backswing is that the left arm should be straight and the back of left hand and palm of right hand should be facing sideways making the toe end of the club point to the sky.

By getting this position correct it will set the start of the backswing and make the shoulders turn, creating the width in the backswing helping with more distance and consistency of strike. By setting this position to begin with there is less chance of the left arm breaking down during the swing creating inconsistent strikes and lack of distance.



Notes for your Diary 2008

03 February	February Stableford 1	Willow Valley Course	08.00 – 11.30
09 February	Saturday Stableford	Willow Valley Course	times as avail
10 February	Winter League	Willow Valley Course	08.54 – 10.22
13 February	Committee Meeting	Clubhouse	19.45
17 February	February Stableford 2	Willow Valley Course	08.00 - 11.30
19 February	M/week U 55's & over 55's	Willow Valley Course	08.00 - 09.30
20 February	New Members Meeting	Clubhouse	19.00
23 February	Saturday Stableford	Willow Valley Course	times as avail.
24 February	Winter League	Willow Valley Course	08.54 - 10.22.

Date Change: - Willow Valley Family Day (Newton Trophy)
Will now be on Sunday 15th June 2008

NEW 2008 STOCK AVAILABLE IN STORE NOW

In our shop for 2008 we will be offering the most up to date equipment from golf's top manufacturers.

Mizuno equipment has already arrived. The range includes MP-57 irons, the new MX-950 irons and the full range of woods and wedges.

The new Ping G10 range has been voted in most golf magazines as the best ping has ever produced.

Also, with Taylor Made, Adidas & Nike coming soon Willow Valley Golf can offer fantastic equipment at great prices.

We have demo clubs available for you to try and our trained staff will be more than willing to come to the driving range and give you some advice on the best equipment for your game.

On the new range of equipment we will attempt to match any price you can find elsewhere. As members we will offer the lowest prices we can, so for all your golfing needs try us first!!

Questionnaire Feedback

Please have a look at our ongoing member's questionnaire. Due to the poor response last year we will be continuing the questionnaire through spring, 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.

Our next issue will be 31st March 2008

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