



March 2008

# NEWSLETTER

The clocks have gone forward and we enter April when the 1<sup>st</sup> professional major championship of the year takes place in Augusta, Georgia starting on Thursday the 10th April. The US Masters has always kick started the golf season as it inspires us all to come out of hibernation and try to emulate the skills of Mr Woods and co. Once again the greens at the Augusta National will be lightning fast and the course will have been extended to test the best players in the world. We will be showing all the action on our big screen in the clubhouse during that week.

For our members, this season offers a variety of competitions and social events organised for you by your Golf & Handicap committee. For this season there have been significant changes to the handicap system managed by CONGU, which aim to ensure a more level playing field when playing in mixed competitions and match play events. For most players, golf's main attraction is its accessibility. It allows players of all standards to play against anyone else and still have a competitive game. The handicap system is in place to make this possible and your Handicap committee make every effort to ensure players have handicaps that reflect their own individual skill level. This year sees Richard Asher taking over as your Handicap Chairman and he brings with him a wealth of Handicapping experience. If you have any questions on the subject we are sure he will be more than willing to answer them.

At the end of April we hold our annual Captains Drive In which promises to be a super afternoon and evening of entertainment. Your new Captain for 2008, Steve Taylor is keen to move the social side of the club forward and will only be successful with your support. Don't forget to have a go at spot the ball where you have to predict the finishing position of the new Captains tee shot as he drives in from the 1<sup>st</sup> tee of Willow Valley. As yet no Captain has driven the green on their drive-in but we are told on good authority that this year records may be broken.....be there to witness it, 2.00pm Saturday the 26<sup>th</sup> April - 1<sup>st</sup> tee Willow Valley Course and give him your support.

## **Captain – Richard Skelly**

A very rocky start, but with the members support and my committee at hand I have enjoyed my year as your Captain at Willow Valley Golf. My thanks and gratitude must go to my committee for all their hard work in the past year and to my wife and family for all their support. My thanks also to John & Sheila Newton and all their staff. Captains charity fund raising suffered this season due to the committee funds being low. I stopped collecting for my charity in July and focused my attention on bolstering the committee funds, but still made £620.00 for the Shwachman Diamond Syndrome. I also helped with Macmillan cancer support, which raised £1432.50 by playing four rounds on the Pine Valley course in one day with the help of Steve Robinson, Audra & Stuart Barlow.



The inter club teams all had successful years and the trophy cabinet was quickly filled, congratulations to everybody who represented the club and all the co-ordinators for their hard work, which is often overlooked. Changes were made to the Invitation Day and it proved to be successful with our biggest turn out yet. John and Sheila gave the members an excellent Newton Trophy day once again (winner – R Skelly).

With the large intake of new members this year, the club has the potential to have an excellent social calendar, but will only succeed with the support of the membership. I would like to wish Steve Taylor all the best in his year as Captain and I'm sure that the members will support him throughout.

## **Golf Shop**

### **NEW IN THIS MONTH.....**

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.

Before displaying all our new equipment we check prices on the internet to ensure you are offered the best possible price. In fact we are confident in stating that we offer internet prices to take home today.

## **Captains Drive In - Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2008**

Celebrate your incoming Captains Drive-In at Willow Valley Golf. If you have a golf handicap you qualify to play in the main competition. Members without a golf handicap are welcome to attend the accompanying social evening. All attending members are encouraged to bring a guest.

### ***How the day unfolds:***

Shot Gun Start - Quad Am

8.15am registration for 9.00am tee off on the Willow Valley course.

There will be trophies and prizes galore. However, if you cannot collect in person during the evening function, you will **NOT** receive them at a later date.

### ***If this is a problem, please do not enter the competition***

After your round at 2.00pm it's down to the 1<sup>st</sup> tee Willow Valley to watch your new Captain "Drive In". (Spot the finishing position of his tee shot competition £1 per guess, all money raised goes to the Captains Charity – The Forget Me Not Children's Hospice)

Your evening's entertainment in the clubhouse at 7.30pm hosted by your incoming Captain Steve Taylor. Entertainment will be in the form of a Disco, with limited Karaoke entertainers for some 'light relief'.



There will be other interesting 'interludes' with great opportunities to win various prizes.

All to be revealed on the night.

Food is provided in the form of a fork buffet prepared by our new Catering Manager Gavin and his team. This is the first Golf Club event under the new regime and he is out to impress.

<b>Ticket Price</b>	<b>Competitor</b>	<b>£10</b> (includes evening function)
	<b>Non Competitor &amp; Evening Guest</b>	<b>£8</b>

If you are new to the club these events are an ideal opportunity for you to meet your fellow members and sample what the social life in the club can offer you.

*Tickets are available now from Golf Reception, numbers are limited to 100.*

**Minutes of Committee Meeting** – see notice board

## Welcome to all our new members

Roy Firth	Andrew Field	Tony Pratt	Alan Doig	Timothy Spencer
Tony Hubbert	Andrew Squire	Tom Balmer	James Atkins	Alan Sumner
Mark Budby	Robert Lee	Chris Richold	Mark Fulwood	
Nigel Field	Andrew Fearnside	Jason Dixon	Paul Proctor	

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

We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 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 1<sup>st</sup> **February Stableford** was played on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of the month; Division1 was won with 37 points by Shaun Helliwell with Darren Bentley a point behind on 36. Division2 saw Ben Muncaster take 1<sup>st</sup> place with a brilliant 42 points, Toni Witeszczak taking 2<sup>nd</sup> place with 40.

The following Saturday saw Neil Greenwood shoot 39points to claim the Division1 **Saturday Stableford** prize, Richard Asher's 38 points was enough to give him 2<sup>nd</sup> spot. Will Squire's 42 points give him victory in Division2, Ben Muncaster with 39 points finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place.



The **2<sup>nd</sup> February Stableford** was played on the 17<sup>th</sup> of February, 38 points gave Paul Hobson 1<sup>st</sup> place in the 1<sup>st</sup> Division with Jon Shaw finishing as runner-up with 35 points, Ben Muncaster continued his run of good form with 40 points to take the honours in Division2, Michael Cassidy the nearest challenger finishing on 35 points.

Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup> February saw a closely contested **Saturday Stableford**, Geoffrey Haithwaite beating Darren Bentley into 2<sup>nd</sup> place by a point with 35 & 34 points respectively in Division1, whilst in Division2 Dave Sharpe with 38 points finished a point clear of Shaun Helliwell in 2<sup>nd</sup> place.

The following day saw a **Sunday Stableford** take place, Jonathon Shaw winning Division1 on a card play-off after his score of 40 points was matched by John Reddy, Rachael Smith took the prize in Division2 with a total of 36points followed by Shaun Helliwell in 2<sup>nd</sup> place with 34points.

The **Midweek Stableford** on the 19<sup>th</sup> of February was called off due to inclement weather; it was played the following week in testing conditions. Malcolm Hirst's 29points was enough to give him 1<sup>st</sup> place ahead of Anthony Hepworth.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Medal of the year was the **March Medal** on the 02.03.08. John Reddy was victorious in Division with a score of 76-5-71, runner-up was Paul Hobson with 87-15-72, Division2 wasn't as closely contested with Shaun Helliwell scoring 86-18-68 to win and finish 10 shots ahead of John Burton (96-18-78) in second place.

A **Saturday Stableford** was played on the 8<sup>th</sup> March, 33 points gave Ahsan Khan the Division1 victory by a point from Mark Hunter in 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Roger Sales was the Division 2 winner, his 39 points enough to finish a point clear of runner-up Richard Garthwaite.

The following Saturday saw another **Saturday Stableford**, Division1 was won by Neil Greenwood with 40points, John Reddy finishing as runner-up with 39points. The second Division saw Ben Muncaster back on form as his 42 points gave him the victory by two points from Anthony Surman.

A high scoring **Midweek Stableford** was played on Pine Valley on the 18<sup>th</sup> March, Andrew Lawford amassed a total of 50points with Wayne Lawford totalling 44points in the under 55's section, the over 55's had a 3way tie with Anthony Hepworth, Keith Burrows & Malcom Hirst all finishing with 42points, Anthony Hepworth coming out on top in the card play-off.

## Staff Profile – Gavin MacGregor



We would like to take this opportunity to introduce Gavin to all our members. Gavin has recently joined us as Catering Manager; he is responsible for both the kitchen and bar. Previously he has worked at the Hobbit Inn, and the Blue Ball Inn, Halifax where he achieved two AA rosettes. He then moved on as executive chef for the Chef & Brewer chain, most recently he has been self-employed as a freelance chef working for a variety of clients ranging from small restaurants locally to running national corporate banqueting events in places such as the O2 Arena (Millennium Dome), Twickenham and the Queens Hotel, Leeds. Gavin lives locally



in Queensbury, married to Annabelle; his hobbies are his Land Rover Defender, motorbikes, wine and of course fine cuisine!

With Gavin in place we intend to introduce extended catering times, functions, private dining, formal dinners and additional social events. We have already re-introduced the Sunday Carvery which is proving very successful (booking is recommended).

If you are interested in holding your own private function in the restaurant and bar whatever your group size, contact Gavin, he will be happy to go through various menu options to suit.

## **Tip of the month – Darren Rands**

### **Improve your strike with the correct ball position**

By having the correct ball position you can greatly improve your strike, as where the ball is in your stance has a big impact on the angle of attack into the ball.

The ball position for an 8 iron and down to your sand iron should be from the centre of your stance maybe slightly left of centre as this is the lowest point of the arc of the swing which will help in creating a downward strike into the ball, this will aid in making a solid contact creating height and backspin. As you move up your irons the ball position should move slightly towards your left heel to create a shallower angle of attack into the ball creating a stronger more direct ball flight.

The furthest you should move your ball position is just inside your left heel for your driver make sure that the ball is teed up high enough so that you can sweep the ball off the tee creating a strong direct ball flight with not a lot of spin which helps to reduce harmful side spin.

Key-points are that you never move back of centre unless you are chipping, pitching or hitting a punch shot as this will make the angle of attack too steep and also never move the ball position out of your feet otherwise you will start to lose your balance.

### **Attention All Junior Golfers**

Pre season get together will take place in the clubhouse on Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup> April starting at 6pm, parents are welcome. We will be discussing the advantages of being a junior member, competitions, team matches, handicaps, rules and etiquette and how to progress further within the game. If you want to be more involved in the junior section at the club your attendance is paramount.



## **Obituary**

We are sad to announce that Robert Helme passed away suddenly whilst on holiday; our thoughts are with his family at this difficult time. Robert joined the club in January last year and soon became a very active and popular member; he will be missed by us all. The funeral will take place at Parkwood Crematorium Elland on Friday the 4<sup>th</sup> April at 2pm.

## **Notes for your Diary 2008**

Date Change: - Willow Valley Family Day (Newton Trophy)  
will now be on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2008

**Our next issue will be out on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2008**

Contact – Mrs Helen Newton – Tel no 01274 878624  
or e-mail: [sales@wvgc.co.uk](mailto:sales@wvgc.co.uk)  
website: [www.wvgc.co.uk](http://www.wvgc.co.uk)