

2024

December

December began with the club's AGM, where Trevor Hale stood down from the executive committee after several years of admirable and productive service. He has been replaced by Tony Hollister. It was also decided that the club membership fee, which has been static for the last 3 years, would increase from £25pa to £30pa. This was brought about by the increase in both County fees and an increase in the handicapping software. It was also decided that one of our summer pairs competitions would be played for a Memorial Trophy. This trophy would be to commemorate all our deceased past members.

The December strokeplay competition was surprisingly well supported, given that the course was closed due to waterlogging for several days. However, most players managed to get out during the days it was open, and the comp was won by Peter Cottiss, on countback, from Olly Oulton and Tony Hollister. All three scoring nett one under par, in very wet conditions.

The final competition for 2024 was the Christmas Pairs Foursomes Competition, where 10 pairs braved the difficult windy conditions on a very wet course after the overnight rain. All things considered, the fact that 3 pairs all finished with 18 points was highly commendable. The winners were Tony and Sue Owen, on countback, from Olly Oulton and Tom Weston, with Dave Monks and Steve Austin back in third place. The competition was followed by an admirable turkey barm and mince pies in the café, so congratulations to Simon, for probably the best turkey barm I've had!

November

It was decided by the committee that, due to the risk of the 1st tee being closed due to ground conditions, until further notice all winter competitions will be played on the back nine course. This means that we will be using the front tee on the 1st hole and the back tees on the remaining 8 holes. This rule is in addition to the other local winter rules now in place, and should make for a more enjoyable winter programme.

The November strokeplay, played in surprisingly good conditions for the time of year, was won on countback by Sue Owen, from Trevor Hale, both shooting nett level par for the 9 holes. Third, again on countback, was Allan Connon.

The November stableford was played both in freezing conditions, and on partly frozen greens. So it was with great credit to Olly Oulton that he managed to win with a score of 21 points from Alan Tugwell on 20 points. Five players were then tied on 18 points, with third place going to Steve Austin, on countback.

October

October began with a Pairs Fourball Stableford competition over 9 holes, which was open to club members, as well as all contract holders, on Wednesday 2nd. It was won by Chris Weetman and John Hughes, with 22 pts, from Olly Oulton and Tom Weston in second, and Trevor Hale and Harry Jackson in third.

The second week in October saw the first of the Winter League competitions, the October strokeplay comp. This was won by Mike Hallsall, with a very respectable 4 under par for the 9 holes. Runner-up was Tony Hollister, with a score of level par, and beating Steve Cave on count back.

The end of the month saw the October stableford. This was won by Steve Austin with 19 points for the 9 holes, followed by Irene Dean and Tony Hollister, both on 18 points. It was really great to see so many club members turn out and support these competitions. When you consider that last year, 26 different members took part in all the winter competitions, after just THREE competitions, already 27 different players have taken part, well done everyone!

September

September began with a bang, with the annual Professional's Shield against Southport Old Links on Thursday 4th. The fourball better ball stableford competition began in the morning at SGA and following the first 9 holes, SOL led SGA 136-133. Following a lovely lunch at SOL, the afternoon session was, probably as expected, a bit of a whitewash, with SOL winning 138-111. This gave overall totals of SOL 274 against SGA's 244. This means that SOL retain the shield for this year.

Saturday 7th saw the season end major competitions, the Club Championship and Victor Ludorum. Dave Monks managed to retain the Club Championship that he won last year, with a gross 62, while Trevor Hale won the Victor Ludorum by a massive 5 shots. He finished nett 5 under par, with Malcolm Russell beating Josh Chudley and Eamonn Mizele on countback, for second place, with a level par 56.

August

Finally, we have some better weather and playing conditions. The August strokeplay competition, played on the 14th and 17th of the month, was played in very pleasant, warm, sunny weather and saw a record entry of 25 players taking part. With 5 players recording scores of level par or better, the spoils went to Peter Cottiss, on 5 under, followed by Tom Weston on 4 under, with Steve Austin a further shot behind.

Saturday 24th saw Southport Golf Academy's charity One Million Yard Drive, for Alder Hey Children's Hospital. With a raffle, auction plus the charity drive a great day was had by all, and, at this point, a massive total of £19,500 has been raised for the charity!

The end of the month featured the August stableford, which was the final competition of the 2024 Order of Merit. The competition was won by Mike Hallsall, with 40 points, from Malcolm Russell, 39 points, and Tom Weston, 37 points. Unfortunately for Tom, his 3rd place finish was not quite enough to see him win the Order of Merit, in what was the tightest possible finish. Both he and Ged Lawrenson finished on 45 points, but Ged took the honours, by virtue of having won a competition, whereas Tom had only had places.

Summer 2024 Order of Merit

Final Result

| | NAME | POINTS | |
|-----|-----------------|--------|-----------|
| 1 | Ged Lawrenson | 45 | Most wins |
| 2 | Tom Weston | 45 | |
| 3 | Chris Weetman | 35 | |
| 4 | Mike Hallsall | 32 | |
| 5 | Malcolm Russell | 30 | |
| 6= | Steve Cave | 29 | |
| 6= | Olly Oulton | 29 | |
| 8 | Trevor Hale | 28 | |
| 9 | Sue Fantom | 26 | |
| 10 | Eamonn Mizele | 24 | |
| 11 | David Monks | 23 | |
| 12= | Russell Ellis | 19 | |
| 12= | Tony Hollister | 19 | |
| 14 | Peter Cottiss | 17 | |
| 15 | Harry Jackson | 16 | |

July

Unsettled weather was the feature at the beginning of July, although fortunately the first day of the 36 hole SGA Open saw relatively fine weather, and good playing conditions. This was reflected in the first day scores, which saw TEN players finish with nett scores of par or better! Chris Weetman led the way with a nett 51, followed by Olly Oulton and Tony Hollister, both with nett 52s. Day 2 again saw some incredible scoring, with both Chris and Tony battling it out, and both shooting nett 52s. This saw Chris Weetman winning by one shot, with a total of nett 9 under par, whilst Bob Kirk sneaked into third, also with a 52 on day 2, backing up his 53 from day 1.

The July Stableford was finally played in glorious sunshine, at least on the Wednesday, and the result was some unbelievable scores. No less than 10 players, half the field, shot level par or better. The winner, with a colossal score of 45 points, was Eamonn Mizele, followed home by Sean Hartley with 41 points and Val Peel, with 40 points, who beat Olly Oulton on countback for third place.

July closed with a magnificent fourball competition, which saw 14 pairs compete in glorious sunshine and sweltering heat. The competition was won by David Monks and his daughter, Lucianna, who beat Chris and Jamie Weetman on countback, with both teams scoring 44 points. Two points behind, in third place, were Trevor Hale and Harry Jackson. Congratulations to everyone who took part and made it such a great day.

June

June began with the second major competition of the year, the SGA Seve Trophy, and the players had a strong, blustery wind to contend with.

Fortunately, despite the mixture of dark clouds and sun, the rain stayed away. The winner was Trevor Hale, with a nett par score of 56, followed in second by “steady” Ged Lawrenson with a score of 57, with Mike Hallsall pipping Olly Oulton for third place on count back.

It is with much sadness that we heard of the passing away of avid club member and supporter, Allan Millington. Allan rarely missed a competition and was a fierce competitor, who thoroughly enjoyed his golf, and he will be sadly missed by all at the club.

Wednesday 12th June saw the inaugural competition of the SGA Foursomes Competition. Chris Weetman started the competition with a short address to members, commemorating Allan, before all those present observed a minute’s silence.

The assembled 10 pairs then played the alternate short format competition in a mixture of sunshine, and showers as temperatures struggled to meet mid-June expectations.

The result was surprisingly high scoring, with the following top three results:

1st Place Steve Cave and Bob Kirk 39 pts

2nd Place Ged Lawrenson and Steve Austin 38pts

3rd Place Alan Tugwell and Josh Chudley 35pts

Well done to everyone who entered and a big thank you to Susan Fanton and Val Peel who left after competing to attend Allan's funeral on behalf of the club.

June ended with the stableford competition, which was played in glorious sunshine on the Wednesday, but duller, wetter conditions on the Saturday. It also saw Sue Fantom follow up her May success with another, this time with 39 points. She was followed home by Olly Oulton, with 38 points and new member, Terry Patrick, with 37 points, on countback from Peter Cottiss.

May

Finally!! May has started in a slightly drier vein. The course is gradually improving, and the ground staff are finally able to start getting the course into shape for the summer season. The May Strokeplay competition was won by Ged Lawrenson with a nett 55, followed by Steve Cave on 56 and Russ Ellis on 57. Following these first two competitions, Chris Weetman has qualified for the end of season Club Championship and Chris, Allan Connon, Ged Lawrenson and Steve Cave have all qualified for the Victor Ludorum. The SGA Masters saw a good turn out in dry and mild conditions. The winner was Chris Weetman, who beat last weeks winner, Ged Lawrenson, with Dave Monks finishing in third place in his first competition of the year, and qualifying for the Club Championship.

The following week's greensome competition was won by Chris Weetman and John Hughes, from Ged Lawrenson and Mike Humphries, with Olly Oulton and Tom Weston finishing in 3rd place.

The month was rounded off with the May stableford competition, which saw the best turn out so far this year. The event was won by Sue Fantom, with a superb 41 points, from Trevor Hale on 39, with the consistent Ged Lawrenson finishing 3rd with 37 points. Both Sue and Trevor qualified for the end of season Victor Ludorum. As the weather improves, and the course gets better, we move on to June, and the Seve Trophy.

April

Surprise, surprise, April started just as wet as the previous three months had been. Considering the appalling weather conditions, the ground staff have performed miracles in keeping the course open as much as they have. As a result, the April Texas Scramble opener was able to take place as scheduled, and what a cracking competition it was, with just 0.82 separating the top 3 teams. The winners, scoring 24.98 were Chris and Jamie Weetman, followed home by Josh Chudley and Ged Lawrenson with 25.18 and the John Hughes and Tony Hollister on 25.8. The competition was such a success that another one is already in the pipeline, for a little later in the summer, so watch this space. Finally, a couple of weeks into April, we have had some dryish weather, and the course has started to dry out. Not only has this allowed the struggling ground staff to finally start working on the greens and fairways, but has also given the members some decent playing conditions. The April stableford competition was won by Chris Weetman, with 36 points, followed by Allan Cannon and Malcolm Russell, both with 32 points. Hopefully, the course will continue to dry out, and we will have cracking conditions for the first major competition in May.

March

Finally, March started with slightly drier conditions. Although the course was still very soft, it was drying out, but we really need a longer dry spell so that the ground staff can get to work on the greens. The stableford competition was won by Steve Cave, with 38 points, from Phil Bradshaw in second place, with 35 points. Unfortunately, the drier weather didn't last long, and the strokeplay competition saw reduced entries, due to course having to close on the Wednesday, due, once again to flooding. This, however, did not stop Jamie Weetman recording a very impressive nett level par 56, to clinch victory by 4 shots. Second on countback was Peter Cottiss, from Steve Cave.

This competition saw the conclusion of the Winter Series, the result of which is as follows:

Following March Stableford competition:

| | NAME | TOTAL POINTS |
|----------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | Tony Hollister | 65 |
| 2 | Chris Weetman | 59 |
| 3 | John Hughes | 51 |
| 4 | Allan Millington | 50 |

| | | |
|------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| 5 | Josh Chudley | 45 |
| 6 | Trevor Hale | 40 |
| 7 | Alan Tugwell | 36 |
| 8 | Gerry O’Keeffe | 30 |
| 9 | Malcolm Russell | 29 |
| 10= | Steve Cave | 27 |
| 10= | Tom Weston | 27 |
| 12 | Russell Ellis | 25 |
| 13 | Michael Hallsall | 24 |
| 14 | Stuart Smith | 15 |
| 15 | Allan Connon | 14 |

We now look forward the start of the summer season, which starts on 4th April with an open Texas Scramble event. Surely we must have some dry weather soon!

February

Well, February didn’t start any drier than January ended, with sodden fairways and soggy greens. However, much to the ground staff’s credit, they managed to keep the course open. This of course delighted Chris Weetman, who won the February stableford with a magnificent gross 28 for 23 points. Steve Cave and Stuart Smith occupied the minor positions with 18 points each. However, once again we saw the strokeplay competition cancelled, due to waterlogging and too few players being able to enter their scores. Once again, we hope that the March weather is kinder.

January

The year started just as 2023 had ended, with plenty of rain! The first week of January saw the course closed because of waterlogging, and this was followed by a freezing weekend, meaning the first stableford competition was played on wet fairways and frozen greens. Despite this, the competition was won by Allan Millington, with an impressive 19 points, with Josh Chudley and Chris Weetman just 1 point behind, on 18 points. The weather then changed back again, to damp fairways, but this time with gale force winds. This, however, did not deter Allan Millington, who picked up his second successive victory in the January strokeplay competition, with a nett score of level par 28. Second, on countback, was Michael Hallsall, with Trevor Hale a shot back on 29. Let’s hope February is kinder with its weather!