

2025

July

July began with dry but breezy conditions for the strokeplay competition. Yet again there was a really strong turnout, and the competition was again won by Irene Dean with a nett score of 50, or 5 under par! Chris Weetman finished 2nd with a score of 51, two shots ahead of Geoff Everett, who beat Sue Owen on countback, for third place.

Week two of July saw the inaugural Memorial Trophy, a pairs fourball stableford competition, to honour those members who are no longer with us. This was won by Irene Dean and Geoff Everett, with a sensational score of 46 points, followed, on 43 points, by Chris Weetman and Tony Hollister. Dave and Gabriella Monks secured 3rd place, on countback, with 41 points.

Wednesday 16th July saw the first round of the two day SGA Open. On what was a lovely sunny morning Gerry O'Keeffe produced the round of the day, a nett 49, to take a four shot lead into Thursday's day two. Geoff Everett finished in second place, followed by Jack Geldart on one under. There was also an ugly rumour, spread by Olly Oulton, that Irene Dean actually missed a fairway!

Day two of the Open saw Gerry hand on nicely to his lead, despite a sterling effort by Jack to peg him back. Gerry's final score was 103, three shots ahead of Jack, with Russ Ellis having a fine 53, two under, for his second round.

June

Our first competition in June was the second "major", the Seve Trophy, and despite some ugly looking clouds, and a really strong gusty wind, it thankfully remained dry. With the greens still a bit patchy the competition was won by Steve Cave, with a sensational

nett score of 50, five under par, who apparently “putted like a demon”. Runner up was Tony Hollister with a nett score of 53, one shot ahead of John Daniels in third. Once again, there was a maximum turnout, meaning we may have to consider increasing the numbers permitted in future major events.

The second week in June saw our foursomes stableford competition, this time played in glorious sunshine, although the wind did pick up as the morning progressed. With the greens improving by the week, this competition was played in significantly better conditions than last week. It was won by Chris Weetman and Tony Hollister, with a very respectable 43 points, from Irene Dean and Geoff Everett on 40 points, with Allan Cannon and Dave Monks finishing third on 38 points. Once again there was a good turnout, with ten pairs teeing off, well done everybody.

The penultimate week in June was the monthly stableford competition, played on improving greens and in glorious sunshine. The winner, with 38 points, was Josh Chudley, beating Eamonn Mizele on 36 points, on countback from Olly Oulton. Competition numbers were down on previous months, due, mainly, to the holiday season.

May

The beginning of May saw our first major competition of the year, the SGA Masters. Sadly, the extremely wet February and March, followed by an extremely dry April, meant that the greens were not in the best of conditions. However, the spoils went to Sue Fantom, with an exceptional score of 52, four shots ahead of Harry Jackson and John Daniels, both with 56. Once again the turnout was extremely high, with an almost maximum field of 30 taking part. This bodes well for what promises to be a really competitive summer of golf at the SGA.

The second week of May saw the May Stableford comp, which was won, with 39 points, by Alan Tugwell. In second was Harry Jackson, with 37 points, which takes him to the top of the Order of Merit table, with Eamonn Mizele in third, on countback. Once again we had a very good turnout, with 28 members taking part. This means that we have had a total of 39 different members having played in the first three competitions this summer. As a result of this, we have one of our most competitive summers ever, with 24 members already having scored points in the Order of Merit table.

April

Given the really tough weather conditions, it was decided to give the green staff a few weeks to try and get the course prepared for the summer comps. As a result, the first summer competition wasn't played until the final week of April, when we had the April stableford competition. It was won with an impressive 42 points by Irene Dean, from Mark McNorton on 40 points, with Geoff Everett third on 37 points. Once again, we had a record number of entries, with 30 members taking part, so well done to everybody who played.

March

For the first competition in March we finally saw some warm sunny weather. With the course finally drying out, there was far more run on the ball, and faster greens, although their lack of grass gave members a different putting problem. The strokeplay competition was won by Chris Weetman, with an absolutely outstanding gross score of 25, two under par, for a nett score of just 19. This put him 5 shots clear of the rest of the field, led by Irene Dean, whose nett 24 saw her clinch the Winter Series. In third place was Geoff Everett, with a nett 24. Once again we saw a

record number of entrants taking part, with 25 members turning out.

The March stableford was won by Sue Owen, with an excellent score of 24 points. Steve Austin was second with 22 points and Tom Weston was third, with 20 points, on countback. The Winter Series was won by Irene Dean on 46 points, Sue Owen was second, with 43 points and Steve Austin third, with 35 points. A total of 32 members took part in the competition, compared to 26 last winter, so well done to everybody who supported the club by taking part. The winter season ended with the Pairs Texas Scramble on Wednesday 26th March. Once again we had a great turnout, and the competition was won by Alan Tugwell and Michael Humphries, with a score of 24 for the 9 holes. Just one stroke behind, Alan Davies and Graham Harbon beat Russ Ellis and Steve Austin on the final hole.

In order to give the ground staff plenty of time to prepare the course, and especially the greens, after a busy and wet winter, the Summer calendar will not begin until the end of April.

February

February started with a 9 hole pairs foursomes stableford competition, which was played in really pleasant conditions, compared to what we've experienced previously this winter. The scores reflected the improved conditions, with Gerry O'Keeffe and Tony Hollister taking the honours with an impressive 23 points. They were closely followed by Bob Kirk and Steve Cave on 22 points, in second, and Terry Patrick and Malcolm Russell on 21 points in third. Again, the competition was well supported for a winter comp, with 12 pairs taking part.

The February stableford competition saw the highest number of entrants, for a winter competition, in the last 4 years, with 24 players taking part. The competition was won by Irene Dean,

beating Terry Patrick on countback, both having scored 22 points. Simon Shrouder finished a point behind in third place.

Congratulations to the first three home, and in fact to everybody who took part, as the club moves from strength to strength. With just two competitions left in the Winter Series, Irene Dean heads the league by a considerable 11 points, from 4 players sharing second place.

January

The club and the committee would like to wish everybody a very happy, healthy and enjoyable New Year.

Unfortunately, 2025 has got off to the worst possible start, weatherwise. With heavy rain at the end of December, followed by snow over the New Year period, and then more rain, the course has now had an extended period of flooding. As a result, the committee has decided to abandon the January strokeplay competition.

In the fourth week of January, we finally managed to get out and play a competition, the January Stableford. Considering the appalling weather conditions that had preceded, the course was in excellent condition, and that was reflected in the scores. The competition was won by Russ “Lucky” Ellis, his words, not mine, on count back from Sue Owen, with both players achieving 20 points. Just one point behind, Harry Jackson pipped Steve Austin, again on count back.

One really warming thought for this winter is as follows. Up to this point last year, we had an average of 11 members playing in each winter competition, this year the average is over 20, nearly double. In addition, last year only one top 3 finisher scored better than par, this year only one top 3 finisher has scored worse than par. Well done everybody!