

2025

December

The December strokeplay competition again produced a good turnout of 20 members. It was won by Miles Lilley, on countback from Phil Bradshaw, both players returning a score of 24, three under par. This made it a good start to the Winter Series for the Lilleys, with three wins out of five events, well done boys.

The second week of December saw the annual Christmas event, a pairs stableford Foursomes competition. Following quite a few days of heavy rain we were blessed with a lovely sunny day, and matching course conditions. Despite the greenkeeper apparently having got out of the wrong side of the bed, if his pin positions were anything to go by, the competition was won by Alan Tugwell and Mike Humphries, with a score of 21 points. They were followed by Sue Fantom and Malcolm Russell on 17 points, just pipping Russ Ellis and Josh Chudley on countback. Here's wishing everybody a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year and we'll see you all back in January 2026!

November

The month started with our November strokeplay competition being played amid massive course changes being undertaken. These changes will make the course a more interesting, and hopefully challenging, course next spring, when the work should all be completed. Some bunkers will be removed, some will be altered, and some will be added. In addition, some of the more problematic trees will also be removed.

Despite the upheaval, scores were again excellent. A massive turnout, for a winter competition, saw 27 members compete. The competition was won by Malcolm Russell with a score of 25, two under par, followed by no less than 6 players on 26, one under par. Head of that bunch, in second place, was Sue Fantom, with Alan Tugwell in third.

The November stableford competition, played towards the end of the month, in variable weather conditions. Again, we had a really good turnout of 21 players, and it was won by Chris Weetman with 21 points, 3 clear of Olly Oulton and Malcolm Russell.

October

The first day of October saw the beginning of our Winter calendar, with a pairs strokeplay Texas Scramble. A good turnout saw Peter Cottiss and Simon Shrouder take the honours with a combined nett score of 20, 7 under par. Steve Cave and Steve Austin filled the runner-up spot, with a score of 23.

The first competition of the Winter Series went to Edward Lilley, who beat Tony Hollister and Gerry O'Keeffe on countback, all three players finishing with a nett score of 23, or four under par for the 9 holes.

Thursday 23rd saw the third annual match between Southport Golf Academy and Southport Old Links, for the Professional's Shield. Despite a good showing in the morning, and trailing by just two points, we struggled yet again at the Old Links. The final score of 243-221 was not really a true reflection of how well our team performed.

The second of the Winter Series competitions, like the first, went to Edward Lilley, who again finished four under par, with 22 points. Three shots behind, in second place was Trevor Hale, with Dave Monks finishing in third. We had a fine turnout with 23 members taking part.

September

The first Saturday in the month saw the completion of our summer calendar, as well as the presentation of all the year's trophies. The Club Championship, which is a gross score qualifying event, and the Victor Ludorum, which is the nett score qualifying event, were played in really good conditions, with just a mediocre gusting wind to test the players. Six members qualified for the Club Championship which was

won, for a third year running, by Dave Monks who finished two over par. The Victor Ludorum, for which 16 qualifying members turned out, went to Eamonn Mizele, who finished two under par, with John Hughes in second place, on one over par, and John Daniels in third on four over par.

August

August's strokeplay competition saw numbers down slightly, presumably due to holidays and despite the beautiful sunny conditions. The competition was won by Eamonn Mizele, with a nett score of 52, winning on countback from John Daniels and Steve Cave, with the top ten players all having nett scores of par or better.

The end of the month saw the August stableford competition, the last competition of the Summer Order of Merit, and the last opportunity to qualify for the Victor Ludorum. It was won by Ged Lawrenson, with stunning score of 42 points, followed by Mike Hallsall and Val Peel who both qualified for the Victor Ludorum. Once again there was a really good turnout, with 25 members taking part, meaning a total of 42 members played in at least one of our Order of Merit events.

The Order of Merit was won by Eamonn Mizelle, securing 39 points, with Malcolm Russell in second, John Daniels in third and Harry Jackson just pipping Sue Owen for fourth place, by virtue of two second places.

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.

The end of July saw the July Stableford competition. With yet another really good turnout the competition was won by Chris Weetman, with an excellent score of 42 points. Runner-up, on countback, with 38 points, was Sue Fantom, with Malcolm Russell finishing third.

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!