

2025

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.

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!