2026

November

The first week in November saw fine dry conditions for our strokeplay competition. It was won by Phil Bradshaw, founder member of the Tequila Bandits, with an excellent nett score of 24, three under par. Second place went to Tony Hollister on one under with Alan Tugwell finished in third place on one over par. Once again we saw an excellent turn out with 24 members taking part.

October

October saw the start of the Winter Series, played over 9 holes on the Academy course. With the weather changing Wednesday's players had showers, while Saturday's players had gale force winds and showers to contend with. It was really encouraging to see 25 members take part in the opening strokeplay competition which was won by Diane Leech, on countback from Malcolm Russell, with both players signing for a nett score of 27, two under par. Third place was taken by Mike Hallsall on level par.

Mid-October also saw the annual Professional's Shield match with Southport Old Links. Following analysis and discussions, regarding handicap discrepancies between those playing a full length course and those playing a par 3 course, SOL, having won the match comfortably for the last four years, sportingly offered the Academy team a 2 shot handicap boost at their course. This resulted a much closer competition which SOL still managed to win, but by just 3 points, 272 -269. Given the weather forecast, we were extremely lucky, with just light misty rain on the last hole at SGA, with gusty winds, and slightly heavier rain at SOL in the afternoon, again on the last couple of holes. Everybody who took part thoroughly enjoyed the day, so a massive thank you to Olly for organising our end and SOL for their hospitality at the Old Links.

Finally the weather broke and the stableford competition at the end of the month was played in considerably worse conditions than previous ones. Wet and windy conditions prevailed and it is a credit to the 24 players who braved the elements and competed. The event was won by Edward Lilley, with an exceptional score of 22 points for the 9 holes. Runner-up was Igor Gardner, with 21 points, followed by Olly Oulton taking third spot on 20 points.

September

As usual, the first Saturday in September saw our end of season competitions, the Club Championship and the Victor Ludorum. Unlike other competitions these are only open to players who have qualified during the course of the summer. Although the weather was quite breezy the rain stayed away and it was very pleasant conditions.

The Club Championship, awarded to the player with the lowest gross score on the day, was contested by six members and won, for the fourth year running, by Dave Monks, with a gross score of 62. Barry Hand finished second, seven shots back.

The Victor Ludorum, awarded to the player with the lowest nett score on the day, was contested by thirteen members, as two players were unavailable, and was won by Val Peel. Val won on countback from Barry Hand, with both players finishing on a nett score of 56, one ahead of David Marshall in third.

Well done everybody, especially Dave and Val, and now it's on to the Winter Series which begins in October.

August

August saw the heatwaves continue, with the fairways everywhere brown and dry, however, our fairways were greener than most thanks to the higher water table at Leisure Lakes. In sweltering temperatures the penultimate Order of Merit event, the August strokeplay, was won by Eamonn Mizele with a scorching nett score of five under par 50.

Five players finished on 53, with Phil Bradshaw and Geoff Everett finishing second and third on countback.

The following week, in slightly more moderate weather conditions, we had the final stableford competition, the final Summer Order of Merit competition. It was won, with 41 points by Phil Bradshaw, from Malcolm Russell on 40 points on countback from Igor Gardner.

This means that the summer Order of Merit was won by Eamonn Mizele, with Malcolm Russell second and Sean Hartley finishing third.

This month also saw the business end of the inaugural Summer Matchplay event. Semi-final one was won by Peter Cottiss, with a 3&2 victory over Olly Oulton, while semi-final two went to Pat Keaveney who had a 3&2 victory over Steve Cave.

The Final saw a battle royal, with Pat Keaveney beating Peter Cottiss on the first extra hole after being all square after 18 holes.

July

The first week of July saw our July Strokeplay competition played in mild but windy conditions, especially on the Saturday. The competition was won by Barry Hand with an exceptional 4 under par nett score of 51. Just one shot behind was Igor Gardner, beating Irene Dean on countback. Week two saw our two-day SGA Open. With glorious sunshine, and soaring temperatures, the course was in immaculate condition, and this was reflected in some outstanding scoring, especially on day 2. Day 1 saw club stalwart Trevor Hale lead the pack, with a two under nett 53. One shot behind was Alan Davies, with Russ Ellis and Harry Jackson a further shot behind that. Day 2 saw Trevor pull away from the field with a remarkable nett six under par 49, putting him an incredible 8 under par. With Alan, Russ and Harry all dropping away, the runner up slot went to Kevin Gornell who finished one under par, following a nett 51 on day 2. Third place went to Malcolm Russell with a sensational day 2 score of seven under par.

It was really encouraging to see a record number of entries, 29, in the final event in July, the July Stableford competition. It was won by Sean Hartley, with 40 points, just one point more than Malcolm Russell who beat Val Peel into third on countback. Considering the hot weather, and complete lack of rain, the greens are still in exceptional condition, although some rain would now be appreciated.

The inaugural SGA Summer Matchplay competition is now reaching the end of the round robin stage. Three of the groups have been determined, with group A being won by Steve Cave, group B being won by Olly Oulton and group D by Peter Cottiss. Group C will be determined in the next few days.

June

The first week of June saw the second major of the year, the SGA Seve. With a real mixture of weather conditions, ranging from strong blustery winds, heavy rain and sunny conditions, the competition was won, on countback, by Eamonn Mizele. Eamonn, David Marshall who was runner-up and Steve Cave, last year's winner, all finished on one under par. Congratulations to all 25 members who took part in difficult conditions.

The second week of June saw the SGA Foursomes, and, despite a very nasty weather forecast, we managed to escape with just one small shower. The competition was won by Peter Cottiss and John Daniels, with an excellent score of 39 points. Three points behind were Trevor Hale and Harry Jackson, with John Hughes and Tony Hollister finishing 3rd with 34 points. Well done to everyone who saw the competition out, especially Alan Tugwell, who stayed on to mark his opponent's card.

Week three of a very busy June saw glorious weather for the June Stableford competition, and, as a result we had another bumper turnout. The competition was won by Igor Gardner with 39 points, or three under par. A single point behind was Sean Hartley and a further

point behind was Sue Owen, so the first three home all finished under par.

June ended with the Memorial Trophy, a pairs fourball competition in memory of all those members and friends who are no longer with us. The day saw the beginnings of a heatwave, with soaring temperatures and glorious sunshine. With the course in immaculate condition, especially the greens, the scoring was unusually high. The winners, with 45 points, were Chris Weetman and Tony Hollister, followed just one point behind by David Marshall and Kevin Gornell. Third on 42 points were John Hughes and Jack Geldart. The day was a fitting tribute to our missing colleagues.

May

May begun with a very windswept stableford competition which was won with an exceptional 43 points, or seven under par, by new member Kevin Gornell. Runner-up was Trevor Hale on 36 points, with Alan Tugwell in third on 35 points, beating Val Peel on countback.

The second competition in May was the "Unleash Your Drive" stableford competition, in aid of the Golf Foundation. This was not an Order of Merit competition and £5 from every entry fee went to the Golf Foundation. The event was won by Simon Shrouder, with another handicap busting score of 43 points. Runner-up was Bill Dobson, with Steve Cave in third place, both 36 points. Well done to everyone who supported this competition for the foundation.

April

April saw the start of the Summer Order of Merit, with the added incentive of qualification to the Club Championship and Victor Ludorum competitions at the end of the season. The opening stableford competition was won on countback by Barry Hand, from Miles Lilley, with both players accumulating a staggering 41 points. Third place, just one point behind was Peter Cottiss. Once again we saw an impressive turnout of 26 players to start the summer.

The following week we managed to squeeze in the Three Club Challenge, previously abandoned in March. The event was won by Kevin Gornell with an impressive 2 under par 53, with Pat Keaveney and Russ Ellis filling the minor places both having scores of 56. A special mention to Dave Monks who returned a gross score of 57, just two over par.

April also saw the start of the inaugural Summer Matchplay competition, and saw some big wins, notably by Peter Cottiss over Terry Patrick, 6 and 5, including a hole in one.

April ended with the SGA Masters, the first "Major" of the year and it was played in glorious sunshine, albeit with a strengthening wind! The competition was won by Pat Keaveney, with a very impressive nett score of 51, four under par, runner-up, with a score of 53, was Tom Weston, who also had the lowest gross score, with Bob Kirk finishing third on 54. Congratulations to all 28 members who took part.

March

The first week of March saw the penultimate Winter League competition, the March strokeplay. It was won with a sensational five under par score of 22 by Igor Gardner, four shots clear of Sue Owen, with John Hughes a further shot back in third.

This means that going into the final competition, any one of four players could win the League, with Chris Weetman six points clear of Tony Hollister, with Phil Bradshaw three points further back, a point ahead of Malcolm Russell.

The final Winter League competition, the March stableford, was won by John Hughes, with a score of 22 points. Mike Hallsall pipped Sue Owen on countback, for second place, both scoring 18 points.

This means that the Winter League was won by Chris Weetman, with 46 points, followed by 3 players all on 38 points. With each player having one win it went down to second places, resulting in Tony Hollister finishing second. Igor Gardner finished third with Malcolm

Russell finishing fourth. The committee would like to thank all 32 members who took part, making it one of the most successful winter comps we have held.

Sadly, the inaugural 3 Club Challenge at the end of March was postponed, due to a dire overnight weather forecast. Hopefully we will be able to insert it into the summer calendar.

February

February began with a Fourball Pairs competition, and it was played in crisp but lovely conditions. As a result the scores were high and the winners, with a magnificent 23 points, were Ged Lawrenson and Steve Cave. One point behind was John Daniels and Barry Hand, followed in third by Sue Owen and Bob Kirk, on countback, from Chris Weetman and John Hughes, with 20 points. With 12 pairs taking part it was a really enjoyable morning.

The penultimate week in February saw the stableford competition, again with 22 players taking part. As has been the story this winter, scores were again high. The competition was won by Chris Weetman with 21 points, a single point ahead of Tony Hollister, with Barry Hand a further shot back in third.

January

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

Fortunately, unlike last year, the course was playable in the first week of January, despite the freezing conditions. As a result, the January strokeplay competition went ahead, although the scores reflected the tough conditions. The competition was won by Tony Hollister, with a nett score of level par, from Chris Weetman on one over par. Third place was taken by Geoff Everett, on 3 over par, on countback from Malcolm Russell.

The January stableford competition was won by Phil Bradshaw, with an excellent score of 22 pts. Igor Gardner finished three shots behind,

followed by Olly Oulton who pipped Tony Owen, on countback, for third place.