

2023

December

The year ended on an extremely wet note, with the stableford competition again being cancelled, and the strokeplay event being won by Chris Weetman. A massive thank you must go out to the ground staff, who kept the course, and especially the greens, in a good playable condition, and keeping temporary greens down to a minimum. Finally, I would like to wish everybody a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and bogey free New Year.

November

Finally, we managed to get the Professional's Shield played, by splitting it over two weeks. Week one saw SGA host their nine holes, which saw them take a slender lead into the following week's leg at the Old Links. Unfortunately, we took a hiding at the Old Links, and SOL retained the trophy by a wide margin.

In what was an extremely wet month, the Winter Series saw the stableford event cancelled, before Chris Weetman won the strokeplay event. After six events, the Winter Series table was led by John Hughes, by just two points from Tony Hollister.

October

As course conditions change, Friday 6th October saw the postponement of the second leg of the Professional's Shield. With SGA looking to avenge their defeat in the first leg, torrential rain the night before saw both courses waterlogged, leaving no choice but to postpone the match, with the hope that it can be rearranged in the coming weeks. In the Winter Series, John Hughes won the stableford event and Tony Hollister won the strokeplay event.

September

September saw the start of the Winter Series, with Josh Chudley winning the stableford event and Tom Weston winning the strokeplay one. Saturday 16th September saw the end of season finale. This comprised both the Club Championship, which for the last 4 years has been won by Stuart Bond, and the Victor Ludorum, with qualification for both these competitions being attained during the course of the summer. Both competitions were won by Dave Monks, who shot a gross 56, nett 54. Dave won the Club Championship outright and the Victor Ludorum on countback from Chris Weetman.

We also now have the final Order of Merit table, which is as follows:

SGA Summer Order of Merit

Final result:

	NAME	TOTAL POINTS
1	Chris Weetman	82
2	Malcolm Russell	58
3	Tony Hollister	51
4	Russell Ellis	47
5	Tom Weston	46
6	Harry Jackson	36
7	Jack Geldart	34
8	David Monks	31
9=	Trevor Hale	30
9=	Olly Oulton	30
11	Stuart Smith	29
12	Jamie Weetman	27
13	Allan Millington	25
14	Alan Tugwell	24
15	Gerry O'Keeffe	22
16	Sue Fantom	20
17	Ged Lawrenson	19
18=	Stuart Bond	18
18=	Michael Hallsall	18
20	Peter Cottiss	16

In addition, week commencing Monday 18th September sees the start of the Winter Series, where, due to possible adverse weather conditions, members can play on any day of the week. As with the summer series, your best 10 scores from the 14 qualifying events, will count towards the Winter Order of Merit.

August

Following the penultimate competition of the summer calendar, the Order of Merit has again been won by Chris Weetman and the qualifiers for the Club Championship and Victor Ludorum, to be played on Saturday 16th September, are now almost decided. Currently there are 21 qualifiers for the Victor Ludorum, 9 of whom will also play for the Club Championship, this is subject to David Monks playing in the final summer competition.

July

Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th saw this year's SGA Open competition, the club's only two-day competition. Day one saw wet and windy conditions, and at the end of play, Stuart Smith held the overnight lead, with a nett score of six under par. Chris Weetman and Russell Ellis were two under and one under respectively. Day two saw much calmer conditions, but much trickier pin placings. Stuart shot a nett five over par to finish one under and Jamie Weetman came out of the pack with a second round of nett two under, to add to his first day nett one over par and join Stuart on nett one under. With countback taking the second round into account Jamie won the trophy, with dad Chris finishing in third place on nett one over par.

June

The season's 2nd major competition, the Seve, took place on Wednesday 14th June. With temperatures soaring, the sun beaming down, and the course firm, but in perfect condition, everybody enjoyed a superb day. In what was an extremely close and exciting finish, three players finished one under par on 55, with Sue Fantom just pipping Chris Weetman and Tony Hollister on countback.

May

Wednesday 17th May saw our first "major" of the season, the SGA Masters, and we got the dry and sunny morning that we were hoping for. Despite the conditions, and due to a fast drying out course, the scores were surprisingly high. The winner, in a very close fought competition, was Olly Oulton, who carded a nett 59 and won back the trophy he won in 2021. Only 2 shots covered the top NINE players, with Stuart Bond placed second on countback.

With 5 competitions now completed the Order of Merit table has more meaning, even if it's a familiar sight at the top. There are now 2 players

already qualified for the Club Championship with 1 other qualified subject to criteria being met. In the Victor Ludorum, 5 players are actually qualified, with a further 5, subject to meeting the criteria.

April

Saw the start of our summer competitions and after the first two the Order of Merit table looks a very familiar sight! After two wins it once again led by Chris Weetman, with son Jamie in second place. The course, and especially the greens, is looking in excellent condition as it dries out after a wet start to the month.

March

The last week in March saw both the finish to the Winter Series and the inaugural Professionals Challenge Shield match. The Winter Series was won in runaway fashion by Chris Weetman, with Ged Lawrenson second and Allan Millington third.

The Professionals Challenge Shield was played on Friday 24th March and was between a team from SGA and a team from Southport Old Links. The SGA team was captained by Olly Oulton and was made up of professionals James and Brad, as well as members Steve Cave, Allan Connon, Russ Ellis, Trevor Hale, Mike Halsall, Tony Hollister, Harry Jackson, Ged Lawrenson, David Monks, Tony Owen, Chris Weetman and Tom Weston. It was a cracking day, starting with the obligatory bacon barm and coffee, and then 9 holes of golf at SGA. This was followed by lunch and then 9 more holes of golf at Southport Old Links. Played as a fourball better ball stableford match, the honours eventually went to Southport Old Links, who won by 212 points to 197 points. Everyone agreed that it had been a huge success, and we all look forward to the rematch, provisionally booked for Thursday 28th September. Please watch out for further details.