

General Managers report 2018

Membership remains strong with 700 members, a slight overall increase on last year with 100 new members joining us in the last 12 months.

We've had just over 37000 rounds this year which is comfortable, previous years we have had over 44000, 40,000 would, I say, be my ideal maximum.

Member rounds stay consistent representing 83% and Society rounds just slightly down at just under 7%.

We have had a few key staff move on in the last year with **Kevin Tigg** (Course Manager) **Simon Smith** (F&B Manager) and recently **Mike Fox** (Head Chef) has decided to go on to pastures new. I thank all 3 for their years of great service and commitment to our fine Club, I wish them all well.

However we have had some great additions to our Team. **Steven Morant** has already made a big difference as our first ever Handy Man concentrating on the presentation of the Clubhouse and surrounds. He works with a real smile even when my "To Do" list grows ever bigger than his "Done List! **Lewis Wooding** is now running the Golf & Retail Department ably assisted by **Sam, Josh and Richard**. **Joanne Burt** has stepped up to be the Front of House Manager with a strong team led by our Egyptian superstar **Mo Mo** with new additions of **Ellie, Holly, James, Flo and Rory**. **Joanne Tomey** has been an excellent addition as our Events Manager. **Peter Varlow** is our new Course Manager and comes with great experience of his trade and of this Course, his Dad even helped here in the very early days. **Adam** has been a "Dependable Rock" in the "Engine Room" of the Kitchen this year. And lastly but by no means least, I am very pleased to announce **Alex Naylor** (Executive Head Chef of Norton Park Hotel and The Grand Harbour Hotel) has just accepted the position here as Head Chef and will be starting at the end of December.

Unfortunately the Chafer Grub and Bird damage has knocked the gloss off the Course in what was the most challenging of years in terms of weather. The heavy rains in April and scorching hot dry summer didn't allow us to apply as much cultural practices to the greens and tees as planned and so next year we will have to do a bit more to catch up. Having said that, we all know we have a great winter Course, I don't think there were any fairways that coped better than ours in this summers' heat! As I often find myself saying and as I understand it, dealing with the Chafer Grub is

ultimately the answer to the recent damage. A New pesticide is being considered by the law makers and if proven successful will be applied next May/June when it will be at its most effective. We will be carrying on with the re-turfing of sensitive areas affected by the bird damage this winter as well as improving the bunker banks on the 1st, 13th & 14th holes. Areas off the fairway that has been affected will be tidied up and re-seeded but not cleared away as we do not want to lose the top soil for new growth. We are also looking at creating a turf nursery behind the 12th green which could prove a real benefit not only to repair the damaged areas with our natural grasses but also to improve sensitive areas around some of our greens and tees making them more drought tolerant in the future.

I think we only had one question in for tonight's meeting from our good old friend John Daniel and I must say he is correct to bring the topic up of slow play. Speed of play is critical! I *would* like more Marshalls to have a presence on the Course and on the 1st tee but really it is up to each individual to marshal themselves when they play. Taking less shots to play a round is a skill but it is **not the only skill**. Thinking ahead, planning and playing without delay is too a skill we all must develop and get better at it for the good of the game. LET'S PLAY READY GOLF!

We have some new rules coming in the New Year and a big thank you must go to **Malcolm Berryman** for leading the way in their implementation. It is good I feel that the governing body wants the game played in less time, the rules simplified and the sport to appear a little less complicated for us golfers and others considering having a go. Enjoyment is the key word for me. When I was new at skiing I did not enjoy the Black Runs! I did enjoy the Blue runs and the occasional Red Run. We need to apply this logic to our sport too and is something we are looking in to.

Finally, I would like to say a huge thank you to our Captains Steve, Jane, Roger and Michael. They have done a great great job and immensely supportive of me in my first year in this role. I guess my honeymoon period is over now but I look forward to working closely with Peter, Lindsay, Bob, Josh and all of you in the coming year.

Please remember, my office door is always open.

My best wishes and thank you.

Richard Adams
General Manager