

Captain's Newsletter 1st April 2022



Fellow members,

Welcome to the latest newsletter for the Castle and I hope you have all been enjoying this great spell of weather we have been having. It has been refreshing to see good numbers of players taking to the course and I am sure you will be delighted with the fantastic playing surfaces our Head Greenkeeper Craig has been able to produce throughout the winter.

Competitions

March has seen a couple of competitions with our successful gents' winter league concluding. This was extended due to the poor weather in February and the results were as follows, the best 3 scores were taken from all the winter league weekends and tallied up by Match and Handicap and verified and double checked by Don Bremner:

1. Gary Donnelly 38.7
2. Phil Peacock 38.5
3. JP Mowberry 37.3
4. Alan Gordon 36.7

I am sure you will agree this was a highly successful event with some good competitive golf throughout the winter months concluding in the last weekend in March. Well done to Gary Donnelly with an impressive 38.7 Stableford average closely followed by Phil Peacock who only missed out by 0.2. Well done to all those players who took part.

The march Texas Scramble was another very successful event played on Saturday 26th March in glorious sunshine. 29 teams took part with the top three teams as follows:

1. P. Swinnerton, S. Swinnerton, D. Bird and M. Bird 50.8
2. K. Scott, J. Park, A. Templeton and E. Templeton 51.5
3. S. Hirst, H Reith, N. MacEwen and J. MacKenzie 52.9

Again, well done to everyone who took part. Next up is the April Medal on 2nd April and, again, the weather looks to be favourable.

Remember that we head into summer golf rules as of 1st April with mats no longer required and bunkers back in play. A decision will be made regarding the preferred lies within bunkers in due course and this will be communicated to the members via the SG App news section.



Course

As has been the case in the last week our course has seen a positive upturn in overall condition and smoother surfaces on the greens. The good weather has given Craig the opportunity to start his spring/summer programme. The work around the 13th tee boxes is now starting to knit and I am sure you will agree has made a huge difference. Once the turf starts to see some growth, I am sure this area will look fantastic aligned with the new steps to the white tee box.

Craig and his team have also laid new astro turf to the path at number 8 and this is also taking shape. You will also see the path leading to the 7th tee boxes has now been completed and taking shape.

Our Greens Convener is working closely with Craig to identify areas that can be improved and is in the process of creating a 3-year working strategy to improve every aspect of the course moving forward. Examples are to remove bunkers no longer in use, new yardage signage on the fairways and develop a more user-friendly practice area with yardage markers to help with distances.



Catering/Hospitality

A reminder that Leanna and her team will be serving up a Fish Friday on the 8th of April which sees the mouth-watering, beer battered haddock, hand cut chips, mushy peas and home-made tartare sauce. Please see Leanna to book as this is proving quite a popular evening.

The new menu has gone live on the 30th of March with some new dishes and old favourites on there and hopefully our staff will be Covid free as we move into the summer golfing season.

Catering and bar opening times will be displayed on the ground floor notice board.

Social Events

The social calendar is still a work in progress; however, Captain's Night will be on Saturday the 11th of June at 7.30pm and will be a 2-course dinner with wine on the table and we will be entertained by Platinum Duo who cover Abba favourites, 70s and some modern classics. Tickets will be £25 per person, and these can be booked with Leanna behind the bar at any time.

Look out for our first Pub Quiz as we look to identify a date in May, and this will be communicated out to members once it is confirmed.

If any members out there have ideas that we can bring to the social scene here at the Castle, then please get in touch.

Some events that have been mentioned are, race night, casino/Vegas night, Q&A with a guest speaker, Sportsman's Dinner. You get the idea. Any member wishing to get involved in arranging a social event then please get in touch.

Suggestion Box

This has been very successful thus far with some good and interesting suggestions but, as ever, a few rants which I have taken the time to reply to. Please, when submitting your suggestion, can you leave a contactable email address and I will reply as soon as possible.

I hope this newsletter gives you a taste of what we are trying to develop at RCGC as well as improve upon. It remains for me to say, enjoy your golf amidst the good weather.

Kind regards

Stevie Scott

Captain