

L.S.G.S. Secretary's Report 1978

The meetings were well attended and we were generally fortunate with the weather. One or two dark clouds in the form of increased charges and slow play did however intrude.

The problem of slow play came to a head at Captain's Day but we have now taken steps which I hope will improve matters. Following a ballot amongst members, the main event will in future be played as a Stableford instead of Medal. All matches will now be singles and a starting list will be compiled and sent to those participating a day or so before the meeting. I hope this will now ensure a reasonably brisk and enjoyable round for everyone.

The remorseless rise in the cost of staging meetings continues and if we are to maintain our tradition of playing the better of the London courses I am afraid we must all be prepared to pay more. I hope you won't be too shocked to learn that the charge for Captain's Day at Walton Heath is likely to be £15.00 per head with other meetings averaging £12.00 or so.

SPRING MEETING 3.5.78 (Denham)

On a foggy morning 31 members and guests managed to find their way to the course despite huge traffic jams. The fog lifted in mid-morning and we then enjoyed a glorious sunny day. Lionel Scott's resounding gross 71 was the highlight of a pleasant meeting.

JACK RYMAN CUP: L. SCOTT (71-2: 69) GUESTS 1. J. BAYLISS 75
Runner-up R. JOHNS (85-12:73) 2. D. WESTCOTT 76

AFTERNOON GREENSOMES: R.OSBORNE/G.SWEET 37 G.A.YOUNG/A.EUSTACE 36 pts.

The Annual General Meeting followed and Geoffrey Young succeeded Doug Rouse as Captain. Alan Eustace was elected Vice-captain and Lionel Scott became our new President. To mark his retirement after 8 years as Secretary Dick Stotesbury was presented with a cut-glass decanter and unanimously awarded an Honorary Life Membership. Having 'stepped into his shoes' my admiration for Dick's fortitude in lasting so long has been much increased - it certainly doesn't do anything for one's golf and I am sure Dick will now enjoy his freedom.

LONDON v. MIDLAND STATIONERS 15.6.78 (Verulam)

Twelve London members plus your (non-playing) Secretary arrived at Ernest Ellington's home course to play this inaugural match. The weather on this occasion was, to say the least, not kind. In the morning we played a nine hole Stableford and during this the rain intensified to a relentless downpour by lunch. We seem to be fair weather golfers as we were well and truly sunk without trace in the main match by 4½ matches to 1½. However, this was an enjoyable event with excellent food and new friendships struck up. It was agreed to make this an annual event with an alternating venue which, in 1979, would be in the Midlands.

CAPTAIN'S DAY 13.7.78 (Banstead Downs)

Some 35 members with guests (including the indefatigable Tony Phillips and guest who motored up from Birmingham) turned out to tackle Geoffrey Young's course. Although mainly overcast it was dry and very warm. A mix-up over starting times caused long delays for some members. The high humidity, tenacious Banstead rough, hazy visibility and the presence of not a few high handicap guests all combined to make it a long day. None of this had the slightest effect on that redoubtable golfing family - father and son Imray who made a virtual 'clean sweep' of the day.

Jimmy's winning card was returned to his home club who speedily exacted retribution on our behalf by reducing his handicap (who said scores returned at Society meetings don't count for handicap alterations?)

PRESIDENT'S TROPHY: J. IMRAY (84-19: 65) GUESTS 1. P. IMRAY 69
 Runner-up D. MORGAN (89-20: 69) 2. C. PALMER 69

AFTERNOON GREENSOMES: J & P. IMRAY 39 pts C. PALMER/D. MATHIAS 38 pts.

MATCH v. PUBLISHERS 27.7.78 (Royal Mid-Surrey)

This was a scorching day, the two courses shimmered in the heat. The morning four balls on the outer course were halved 2 each but in the afternoon foursomes played on the attractive inner course we were successful and so the Stationers triumphed 4½ to 3½.

AUTUMN MEETING 13.9.78 (West Byfleet)

Our final 1978 meeting was held in agreeable autumn sunshine and 32 members and guests attended. Once again we welcomed the 'globe-trotting' Tony Phillips and guest who were joined by long distance travellers Mark & Nigel Tollit from Norfolk. Our first attempt at a proper starting system seemed to work well with everyone starting out in good order. One of the nice things about West Byfleet is the way the Secretary (who actually seems pleased to see Societies using his course, which is unusual) does all he can to make our visit enjoyable. The Annual Dinner rounded off another pleasant meeting.

JOHN BOND CUP: R. OSBORNE (92-19: 73) GUESTS 1. J. GRAY (76-6: 70)
 Runner-up E. HAGGER (85-11: 74) 2. N. TOLLIT (89-18: 71)

GUILDFORD TROPHY: J. IMRAY (217 - aggregate nett score for 3 meetings)
 SPICER TROPHY: J. IMRAY (65 (Banstead) best nett score at any meeting)
 LIBERTY TROPHY: D. WATKINS (170 - Spring & Autumn combined gross score)

AS a footnote to the above, in 1979 our competitions will be Stableford and so the first 2 trophies will be based on the net Stableford score and the Liberty Trophy will be awarded to the best scores achieved without the addition of the 7/8 Stableford stroke allowance.

In conclusion I would like to thank the following who, in one way or another, have assisted me personally and the Society in general: Geoffrey Young was a dedicated and understanding Captain, quick to extricate me from several sticky moments. Derek Watkins was a marvel at sorting out the many muddles I made with the money. Dick Stotesbury was usually on hand to guide me on the right path. George Walder was responsible for the new letterheads. To Alan Whitehead and David Morgan the Society owes its thanks for subsidising our Stationery and Postage requirements not to mention their employee's time. Last, but by no means least, my heartfelt thanks to Miss Pat Stone of I.B.M. for the beautifully typed meeting notices, works of art in themselves. I'm sorry that this report does not approach those standards but her skill and equipment were not available on this occasion.....

May I wish you happy golfing in 1979!



Richard Johns