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Captain:

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LONDON STATIONERS GOLFING SOCIETY

1988 REPORT

During the eleven years I have had the privilege to be Secretary of this society there have been substantial changes, generally much for the better, and the past season saw, if not exactly the 'dawn of a new era', two significant landmarks in our evolution.

The first was the addition of Bett Goldsmith to the membership thereby making a little bit of history in becoming the London Stationers' first lady member, and, who knows, only the forerunner of more keen ladies to come!

The other historic occasion was Richard Broderick's Autumn Meeting in France. It would be understandable if, despite all the build-up, preparation and hard work put in by Richard and his team, the actual event had not lived up to expectations. However, far from it, the tournament well exceeded all our fondest hopes! It would require far more space than I have here to chronicle the highlights of the trip what with the amusing (and desperate) incidents en-route to the ferry (forgotten passports, motorway breakdowns, etc) the delights of the hotel, the bistros, food, the fine weather and the two excellent courses and the like. Perhaps the highlight for me was the Dinner after the first round. It is amazing (and instructive) to observe how people 'unwind' when rid of the normal social constraints caused by the need to drive home. Suffice to say the proceedings did not quite dissolve into a riot but it was a very merry evening much enjoyed by all, presided over by friendly and extremely tolerant hotel staff and marked by some witty speeches and yet another gem from our longest serving and most famous guest, Graham Sweet, whose off-the-cuff repartee never fails to delight.

Each of the 56 who made the trip will have their own favourite moments to recall and perhaps the only regret was that the 2 days were over too quickly. Many thanks must go to Richard Broderick and all the sponsors for making the event possible.

The full results are given on a separate sheet (congratulations to the 6 winning teams!) and photographs of the occasion, including all 14 team photos, will be on display at the Spring Meeting when orders will be taken for prints.

As you will see from the enclosed summary our other 3 meetings didn't go too badly either and the overall average attendance for the season was over 47 for each meeting - a marvellous record of support.

In addition, we successfully defended our National Society Team Championship at Maxstoke Park in June against 4 other regions and also had the best individual score (by Norman Emery) The fact that the scorers got into a terrible mess and announced the 3rd placed team (Yorkshire) as the winners with London nowhere could not dampen the day and when it was eventually sorted out we were the rightful winners by 2 points from Lancashire. Well done the team and please collect your trophies which will be ready at the Spring Meeting.

I often get asked as to the procedure and qualifications for joining the society and I will take this opportunity to summarise how it works. Membership is open to anyone employed in the Stationery and allied trades at the time of acceptance (this means if you later leave the trade you still retain your membership) There are no membership forms and the only one we ask you to complete is a Standing Order for your Annual Subscription (£7.50) Current membership is 70 of which about 30 or so will appear at any one meeting thus enabling the invitation of guests who play a large part in the success we enjoy.

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It follows from this that we are still in a position to welcome new members because at most meetings (except Gerrards Cross where there is a 40 limit) we can easily accommodate all the members who want to come plus a fair number of guests. In theory, the society is managed by a Committee comprising the Captain, Vice-Captain, immediate past Captain, Treasurer and Secretary. In practice it is the Captain who takes control during his term and most queries or problems are resolved by telephone without the need to convene a committee meeting. As for the Annual General Meeting, if it takes longer than 20 minutes to complete then either the Secretary has lost his grip or the members aren't trying!

And so we look forward to the coming season. I am afraid that the remorseless march of 'Golf Fee Inflation' continues as the following figures show:

The Berkshire	..	1988 = £42,	1989 = £50	(19% increase)
Gerrards Cross	..	1988 = £32	1989 = £40	(25% increase)
Camberley Heath	..	1988 = £39.50	1989 = £45	(14% increase)

In addition 2 of these clubs now require deposits (of £50 and £100) at least 6 months in advance. Still, it could be worse. I am told it is now over £100 to play at Wentworth

Our incoming Captain, Peter Mines, welcomes you to our fixtures for 1989:

29 March .. Spring Meeting The Berkshire (entry form enclosed)
8 June ... Captain's Day Gerrards Cross
13 July ... President's Trophy . Camberley Heath
2/3 Oct ... Autumn Meeting Gleneagles Hotel (2 nights, 3 rounds)

Further details of our trip to Gleneagles will be advised in due course after Peter has been up there to finalise the details in a few weeks time.

In conclusion, I know you will wish to join me in thanking our Captain, Richard Broderick, for an outstanding season under his management and offer our best wishes to Peter Mines for the new one.

Also, David Morgan and myself wish to express our thanks to you all for your support and hope 1989 will be another enjoyable golfing year for us all.



Richard Johns
Hon. Secretary

17 February 1989.