

LONDON STATIONERS GOLFING SOCIETY

Report for 1998

This was our 65th year and despite a membership in excess of 90 the attendances at the 4 meetings were the lowest since the 70's (when anything in excess of 30 was remarkable). We averaged 32 which I suppose is not too bad but that shows a marked decline on only a few years ago when 40 was the norm. This despite putting into effect several of the suggestions that emerged from our questionnaire at the end of 1997. The committee felt that cost was the main cause of the decline and you will see in 1999 that all 3 of the 'ordinary' meetings are now less than £60.00 whilst still offering excellent golf and good value.

Peter Heath won the Jack Ryman Cup at the Spring Meeting at Denham with 40 pts, your Secretary was successful at Gerrards Cross for the President's Trophy. Gordon Lamb won the Captain's Salver at Parkstone with a commendable 38 pts and the John Bond Cup was a triumph for our Captain, Chas. Anderson, at Hever Castle with 30 pts on a very long, half-waterlogged course played in incessant drizzle. The 17th (618 yards off our tee, into the wind) seemed to (and almost did) go on for ever

Recipients of the aggregate awards were Norman Emery (Liberty Trophy), Chris Phillips (Guildford Trophy) David Littlechild (Reg.Conlon Trophy), and your Secretary (Watkins & Spicer Trophies).

Many thanks to our sponsors who remained loyal throughout: **Shawcross & Dickinson, Jet Stationery, Oyez Straker and King Office Supplies** – without their support our meetings would cost at least £5.00 per head more than they do.

The society owes a hearty vote of thanks to the retiring Captain, Charles Anderson, for a job well done and for arranging a really interesting visit to Bournemouth, blessed with fine weather, which we all enjoyed – even if many of us struggled to make an impression on Parkstone – what tee-shots, what climbs, what cracking views and what a lot of heather

We look forward with anticipation to the new season under the stewardship of the genial (and loyal supporter of the London Stationers) – Mike Leech. Enclosed with this is a reminder of his outing to Celtic Manor (now made famous as the venue of Prince Charles' enjoyment of beef-on-the bone (unfortunately, the executive Chef has since left but the golf courses are not thus affected). By the way, this is the ideal meeting to which to bring along the wife/partner, a trend that is increasing each year so that now there are enough ladies to play for their own prizes.

Here is the full list of venues for 1999:

Friday 23rd April – **Aspley Guise & Woburn Sands** (sponsor: Shawcross & Dickinson)
Friday 21st May – **Fulwell** (The Jet Stationery Co. Ltd)
Thursday/Friday 15/16th July – **Celtic Manor** (Osborne Office Stationers)
Tuesday 14th September – **Warley Park** (Fleet Paper Ltd.)

On the reverse is the Summary of Accounts from David Morgan. As usual, my thanks to him for all the assistance he provides in organising things. Also my appreciation to all of you who help out with chores like checking cards, particularly Norman Emery and Geoff Fowler.

I would like to remind you that we now have a new Society tie, a design chosen by the majority in navy blue with discreet royal and white diagonal stripes plus the society logo at the bottom (where it can't be seen!). In the past many have cringed with embarrassment but now there is really no excuse at all not to wear it. Just to encourage you to fork out £6.00 at the next meeting we can state categorically that failure to wear it at our functions from the Captain's Outing onwards will result in a £10 penalty donation to charity. All new members will automatically be charged £13.50 which includes the tie and the £7.50 annual subscription.

Staying with the financial theme, and on a serious note. The committee is appealing for a donation of £5.00 per member to fund the replacement of the President's Trophy. This handsome, valuable cup was donated in 1947 by Capt. E. Downer and was of solid silver. It's mysterious disappearance in 1989 was a great loss and it is now time we looked to the future and invested in a replacement. We have had an estimate to replace it exactly for a cost of £2800.00 or for something similar for £2500.00. This would require a levy in the region of £29.00 per member and that is probably unrealistic to expect a full subscription to. Therefore, we intend to purchase a silver-plated cup which will cost, including engraving the names of all the previous winners, around £500.00. Please add £5.00 to the cost of the next meeting you attend and hopefully we will have accumulated enough to be able to get a replacement in time for next year. I will keep you all informed about the progress of this fund during the year in the regular newsletters.

With regard to the question of insurance for our trophies we have decided to discontinue our annual cover as we feel this is money (£144.87 last year) wasted. The winner's Household Insurance should cover theft or damage, but if any winner is unhappy about taking on the responsibility of adding it to their home policy they need not accept custody and David or I will hold it for them.

And so we look forward to the Spring Meeting (Entry Form enclosed) which will be held for the first time at my home club, an interesting course with some holes in Buckinghamshire, the rest in Bedfordshire and very easy to find from the M1 (but much more difficult to locate the greens, as you will discover) Here's wishing you well and a happy year's golf.

Richard Johns
16 March 1999