

# LONDON STATIONERS GOLFING SOCIETY

[www.londonstationersgolf.org.uk](http://www.londonstationersgolf.org.uk)

## 2003 Report

The Spring Meeting was held for the third time in succession at **Knebworth** and was sponsored by Anglia Litho. At last, we managed to play there without getting soaked to the skin although there was the odd shower or two. **Alan Wood** maintained his winning form by easily winning the Jack Ryman Cup with 40 points.

Because we were only running three meetings there was then a big gap until the next one in July which was for the President's Trophy held at one of our old haunts, **West Byfleet**. The weather was warm, the fairways very fast and **Alistair Beverley** triumphed with 40 points. A number of guests boosted the attendance and brought into focus the main underlying trend of the latter years: we have, on paper, a largish membership but, in practice, many of these appear to be 'non-playing'. Without the support of guests our attendances would be poor.

A concerted effort has now been made to recruit more members with a fair degree of success so I am hoping that we will fare better in 2004. It is not that long ago when demand exceeded supply at some meetings and we actually had to restrict the numbers! As they say, those were the days.

However it was an enjoyable day and we are appreciative (once again) of Peter Mines's sponsorship - 18 continuous years by Jet. God bless you sir!

This left us with the Captain's Outing in late September. Despite a low turn-out, 23 including guests, this was a wonderful weekend. The two designs that make up **Woodhall Spa** are the new course (the Bracken) with its massive undulating greens but not overly taxing, and the original (Hotchin course) which must be one of the finest British courses you could hope (or, if you're off your game - NOT) to tackle. Definitely not for the faint-hearted: long carries over heather, well bunkered and with speedy greens - a connoisseur's delight. Which made the result all the more interesting. It was a severe test for the gentlemen and, as far as I could see, no less so for the ladies yet it was one of our lady members who triumphed. **Judith Smith** made history by being the first female winner of the Captain's Salver with 32 points. Not much of a score you may feel (and she did have three 'blobs', all on the back nine) but, take it from me, this was equal to 10 points more at Knebworth or West Byfleet and a truly wonderful effort off a 18 handicap. We now have a lady's name on two of our trophies (and now on two of our aggregate trophies, see below).

On the previous day the John Bond Cup, played on the Bracken course, was won by a debutant, **Andrew Stacey** with 40 points. The facilities at Woodhall Spa are second to none be it as a golfer or as a diner, and those who were unable to come may have saved themselves a lot of golf balls but missed out on a memorable experience. Our thanks to **Peter Heath** for arranging it and for captaining our year.

The Captain for 2004 is David Littlechild and he has arranged an interesting programme. A return to two of our favourite venues, Camberley Heath and Gerrards Cross. A match in deepest Norfolk in August, the Spring meeting at Chelmsford and what I may be forgiven for calling his 'piece de le resistance' - a three day trip to Chantilly - our fourth visit to France. Full details are already with you and please decide soon if you are coming by sending David your deposit. Already we have plenty of non-playing guests so this is that opportunity for partners to 'come to the golf' for a change and, perhaps, do a spot of shopping in Paris, 30 minutes drive away. But for now, please find enclosed the entry form for Chelmsford where the following Annual Trophies will be presented:

**Watkins Trophy: JUDITH SMITH (130 pts) / Liberty Trophy: PETER HEATH (50 pts) / Guildford Trophy: DAVID LITTLECHILD (106 pts) / Reg. Conlon Trophy: JUDITH SMITH (62 pts) / Spicer Trophy: ANDREW STACEY.**

Will the 2002 winners ensure these are returned on or before 6th May, please.

Finally, our thanks as always to David Morgan for his sterling efforts, Geoff Fowler for maintaining the web site, and to all the others who make their contribution in helping me be your Secretary.

Richard Johns  
7th April, 2004