

LONDON STATIONERS GOLFING SOCIETY

REPORT 1997

This was an interesting season which opened with the Shawcross & Dickinson sponsored Spring meeting at Denham. 42 players joined our sponsors, Gerry & Paul Shawcross and enjoyed a dry, breezy day with Ian MacDougall taking the Jack Ryman Cup. Then followed the President's Trophy Meeting at Gerrards Cross - usually one of our best attended meetings but this year the date didn't seem to fit. Instead of 44 plus, only 34 applied to play and, due to a serious of mishaps the actual turn-out reduced to 28 on the day. Never mind, those who did make it had a lovely warm day with Kevin Warner a deserving winner of the President's Trophy. Thanks once again to Peter Mines and Jet for another fine meeting.

Next was the 3M Championship at Maxstoke Park where our magnificent team of six easily retained the National Team Trophy with 215 points.

And so in July to St.Pierre, over the border in Wales for Norman Emery's outing. The weather was kind and warm, the surroundings appealing and the courses attractive. Accommodation was superb and the arrangements (at which all captain's slave over for many months prior to the occasion) perfectly executed. 32 members and guests had a happy two days, none more so than Nigel de Koning taking the Captain's Salver with a scarcely believable 37 points over the Championship Course, which I can assure you is a lot longer, hillier, and much, much more difficult than it ever appeared on T.V. ! Congratulations to Norman for an enjoyable two days.

Our Autumn Meeting at Camberley has been a tradition going back many years to when Richard Broderick became our first ever sponsor. Our intended sponsor for this year left us in the lurch at short notice but in stepped Nigel and Alan of King Office Supplies and we had a great meeting with Charles Anderson winning the John Bond Cup with 41 points. 32 attended and the aggregate winners were Norman Emery (*Liberty Trophy*) : Charles Anderson (*Spicer Trophy*) : Alan Wood (*Watkins Trophy*) : Kevin Warner (*Guildford Trophy*) : Nigel de Koning (*Reg Conlon Trophy*) Thanks to our new sponsors for helping out, I am pleased to say they have agreed to continue in 1998, although at a new venue.

In last year's report I mentioned how nice it was that the clubs we were visiting had seen fit to hold their charges for another year - and they did. But I spoke too soon for in 1998 we are faced with substantial hikes at both Denham and Gerrards Cross and this may mean we will have to move on next year. Which brings me to the questionnaire

The Committee was puzzled by the erratic attendances last year and it was decided it was time to give members a chance to have their say. 95 forms were sent out complete with an s.a.e. and 56 were duly returned. This only confirmed one of my theories - a lot of our members are that in name only. They have kept their Standing Order going but have moved on without cancelling their membership.

Even so the answers were interesting: a small minority said meetings didn't represent good value for money and 20% thought they were too expensive. Most said that the dates were generally convenient and that 4 was the right number of meetings to have in a year. A substantial 34% said that 27 holes would be better at least at some of the meetings. Hospitality Golf Days were deterring 21% from attending our meetings, while

46%

would prefer more frequent changes of venue. The question of whether the Captain's Outing should be in the summer or autumn or over 1 or 2 days was completely split down the middle

on both counts. Thursday and Friday were the preferred days of the week for meetings but where only one day was mentioned, Friday was the most popular.

The Committee and our sponsors will now ponder the results and I think we can expect some major changes in 1999.

In conclusion I must, as always, thank, on your behalf, those members who work hard to bring you a successful society. In particular, David Morgan - his official title is Treasurer but he works in many other guises and makes my job a lot easier than it could be. Also my thanks to Geoff Fowler, Chas Anderson and Norman Emery for putting much thought as well as effort into the organisation. Lastly, and vitally for our continued existence, a big thank you

to our sponsors: Shawcross & Dickinson, Jet Stationery and King Office Supplies for their support in 1997. Best wishes to Charles Anderson for the new season when he takes over from Norman Emery next month. Thanks Norm for another smashing year.

Just to remind you of our fixtures and sponsors: April 23 (Denham) (Entry Form enclosed) June 12 (Gerrards Cross) (*Jet Stationery*) July 9/10 (Bournemouth) (*Oyez Straker Group*) September 25 (*venue to be advised, probably in Kent*) (*King Office Supplies*)

Richard Johns
16 March 1998