

LONDON STATIONERS GOLFING SOCIETY

www.londonstationersgolf.org.uk

Report 2004

This was a busy year presided over by a dedicated captain who managed to squeeze in 5 meetings climaxing with a 3 day trip to Chantilly for our fourth overseas Captain's Outing. Encouragingly, both attendances and the weather improved on previous years.

Total Paper Management kindly sponsored the Spring Meeting held at Chelmsford in May. Due to rebuilding works which had over-run we changed in a Portkabin causing much hilarity and a strong letter of complaint from your Secretary. He obviously had no complaints about the course as the short, undulating layout with fast greens eminently suited his game and he won the Jack Ryman Cup with 41 of the best and brightest. The attendance was 33 and it did not rain, just for a change.

The following month we revisited one of our favourites, Camberley Heath, and our sponsors were **Oyez Straker**. Again it stayed dry and Danny Ayriss won the John Bond Cup with 40 points.

The hectic pace continued in July when **Jet UK** sponsored our 'grand return' to Gerrards Cross where a bumper turn-out of 48 once again enjoyed the pleasures of this lovely course. Andrew Stacey resumed where he left off the previous year and took the President's Trophy with 41 points.

The special meeting in August at Sprowston Manor was supposed to be a match against the legal profession of East Anglia. We fielded a team of 20 but as there were only 2 opponents a singles Stableford was played instead. The weather was somewhat indifferent but there was a close contest with Brian Tolley winning on count-back with 34 points. As it turned out this was a very poignant occasion. The winner advised us at the presentation that this was his first singles victory after over 30 years of membership. Sadly, just four months later Brian became very ill while on a holiday cruise and died in hospital on his return to the UK. He was a 'character' and will be missed.

Our retiring captain has asked if he can donate a trophy dedicated to Brian's memory to be played for annually. I am sure we can all agree this is an excellent (and typically generous) gesture. All that remains is to devise a suitable and worthy achievement to commemorate this long serving and affectionately remembered member.

And so, five continuous months of golf culminated in our visit to the leafy, picturesque surroundings of Chantilly. As usual we were joined by many guests with a strong contingent of the opposite sex. We enjoyed warm, mainly sunny weather in gorgeous surroundings with the changing hues of the trees a treat to the eye. We stayed at the impressive Chateau de Montvillargenne and the three courses were uniformly excellent - the only quite difficult feat was to actually find them as they all entailed fairly long safaris into the unknown! Golf still appears to be a 'rich man's game' in France judging by the opulent clubhouses - one even had a lift to the changing rooms - and the condition of the courses was above reproach. There were prizes too numerous to itemise (I calculate over 100 were presented throughout the year) but the main event, the Captain's Salver, was won for the second year running by our 'star' lady member, Judith Smith, with another remarkable round, this time 37 points at the scenic, very hilly, forested, De L'Isle Adam, and, what's more, Rosemary Heath was only pipped by Chris Phillips for second place on a count-back on 35 points. All the results are on our website, managed as usual with great skill by Geoff Fowler to whom many thanks.

To our retiring captain, David Littlechild, I will just say that he and Sarah put in a tremendous amount of detail into the year's entertainment both on and off the links and they were justly rewarded with an outstandingly successful season. Thanks are also as always due to our Treasurer, David Morgan, and I offer my personal gratitude to all the others who help out on the day with various little chores.

Geoff now has a program that instantly works out and sorts the scores on his laptop and, no matter how hard I tried to trick it into an error I did not succeed, au contraire (I learned a bit of the language while we were away) it managed to discover errors in my own mathematics which leads me to suspect a Hon. Sec's redundancy is a distinct possibility I am therefore completely confident that the winners of our Aggregate trophies for 2004 are as follows:

Liberty Trophy: **Chris Phillips 46 pts** Guildford Trophy: **Judith Smith 103 pts** Watkins Trophy: **Charles Anderson 133 pts** Spicer Trophy: **Richard Johns 41 pts** Conlon Trophy: **Judith Smith 69 pts** - these will be presented at the Spring Meeting on 13 April so if unable to attend would the previous winners please return them to me. Our new captain, Alister Beverley, takes over at this meeting and we wish him every success, good fortune and great weather in 2005. Och Aye, the noo....

Richard Johns
10 March 2005