

LONDON STATIONERS GOLFING SOCIETY

www.londonstationersgolf.org.uk

Report for 2006

For the first meeting we returned to Sand Martins near Wokingham where 26 enjoyed an overcast day with **Richard Broderick** winning the Jack Ryman Cup with 38 points. Again **Total Paper Management** were our welcome sponsors. At the Annual General Meeting, Alan Wood took over as Captain and history was made when his proposal that Judith Smith be his vice-captain was endorsed with acclamation.

Next we headed south to a veritable gem in the Kent countryside, Knole Park, unsurpassed for scenery and a delightful golfing test. **Peter Stewart** generously sponsored and 26 players enjoyed a glorious early summer's day. The contest for the John Bond Cup was close with **Chris Phillips** winning on a countback with 35 points.

And so back to our perennial favourite, Gerrards Cross in July for the President's Meeting, sponsored for the first time by Chris Lee and **Office Zone**. Our President was there himself but this time purely as a player after devoting so many years in support and sponsorship for what has always been a much loved event. A bumper turn out of 43 did the new sponsor proud. Playing on his home course **Geoffrey Betts** triumphed in the President's Trophy with 41 points. Again the weather was warm and the course in its usual immaculate condition.

Our captain, a Man of Kent, welcomed 34 members and guests to Sandwich for the annual outing. Day one was a singles event at St. Augustine's, and David Littlechild was successful with 40 points. The second day was the 'main event' at the historic Prince's links. In normal windy conditions this exposed course consisting of 27 holes is virtually unplayable for the handicap golfer but on this day the Captain obviously had appeased the weather gods because it was short sleeves, shorts and sun cream all day. After a 9 hole Greensome warm-up, the Captain's Salver was closely contested on the Dunes & Himalayas loops with **Bill Pasfield** taking the Captain's Salver with 35 points. Only 4 other gents managed 30 points or better which gave a clue as to what might have been if the wind had been more than just a sea breeze. However, Julie Hall shamed us all by amassing 36 points to take the guest prize. As a result we have insisted that she now becomes a member! An enjoyable dinner followed at the Bell Inn, Sandwich. As is traditional teams of 4 were drawn for the final day's Scramble event. Some help with Sat-Navs was needed to locate the final venue, Broome Park, near Canterbury. Alan had done marvellously with the weather for the first two days but his luck ran out after about an hour or two and the heavens opened. Never mind, after a nice luncheon and presentation the day finished well. The winning team was David Littlechild, John Sear, Nigel Tollit and Linda de Koning with an excellent score of 59.7. Thanks to Alan who left no stone unturned in his preparation for the event and with many gifts and prizes everyone went home with something (some more than others!)

As usual, and it is very many years since I first started doing so, I offer my gratitude to David Morgan for his tireless work not only in his official position as Treasurer but for all the background running around he does at the meetings. Also Geoff Fowler is to be congratulated for his work on the scores database which now guarantees that the correct people win the prizes, not that in the past this has happened you, understand, but the computer, as we all know, is infallible which I am not! His stewardship of the website means that most data is posted soon after the event and his innovation of an 'on-line entry form' for the meetings has proved extremely popular and convenient.

Congratulations are in order to the following winners of the annual trophies: Watkins Trophy: **David Littlechild**, Liberty & Guildford Trophies: **Chris Phillips**, Reg Conlon Trophy: **David Morgan**, Brian Tolley & Spicer Trophy: **Geoffrey Betts**.

We now look forward to a new season under the guidance of our first Lady Captain and Judith has arranged an attractive fixture list for us. The Entry Form for the Spring Meeting on 24 April at Knole Park is enclosed. This is followed on 7 June with a visit to Boyce Hill, then Gerrards Cross on 12 July, culminating with the 3 day outing based at Thorpeness on 19/21 September - full information and the entry form for this is also enclosed.

Some members have expressed an opinion that the meeting format could do with a change. Accordingly, all members who have lodged their e-mail address with me have recently been asked to vote on the following propositions: 1. the existing 36 hole format should be retained 2. The format should be changed to 27 holes. 3. Not concerned either way, will go along with the majority. At the time of writing 21 had replied and 3 favour Option 1, 13 are for Option 2 with 5 going with Option 3. It therefore appears that there is a good majority in favour of a 9 + 18 hole format and we will thus make this the norm for the new season. The hope is that this might attract a few more members and visitors because, as has been obvious these past ten years, numbers are declining in line with business trends in our trade and any ideas we can come up with to recruit more members must be encouraged. If you have any other thoughts on how best to accomplish this please let the Captain know.

Finally, as Alan Wood concludes his term of office I would like to thank him for his efforts and his long standing and loyal support for this society. We wish Judith an enjoyable and very successful tenure of office. I have a feeling that things may be slightly different than we have been accustomed to but I am also sure this might add a spark to the proceedings .. we shall see. Over to you madam Captain.

Richard Johns
Hon. Secretary

5 March 2007