

LONDON STATIONERS GOLFING SOCIETY

www.londonstationersgolf.org.uk

Report for 2008

The Spring Meeting was held at the vice-captain's home club, Wrotham Heath on 25 April. The weather was overcast but dry and the 24 players enjoyed an excellent, varied course with some interesting and precipitous holes.

Alan Wood won the Jack Ryman Cup with a creditable 40 points. The Annual General Meeting saw David Cox elected as our new captain and he, in turn, nominated Chris Lee as his vice-captain. Both the Treasurer and Secretary were re-elected.

Next followed a return in June to Old Fold Manor after a period of many years. This meeting was sponsored by Gordon Christiansen and Red Box. Again, the weather was overcast and dry but a stiff breeze, coupled with fiendish pin positions (in place for their Club Championship the next day) on the undulating greens made scoring difficult. Nevertheless this did not deter **Alan Wood** who triumphed again, despite a handicap reduction, with 37 points to take The John Bond Cup. The sponsor was very generous with his prizes and 33 players had a good day.

The month of July is synonymous with President's Day at Gerrards Cross - a venue we have played 22 times since our inception and only one less than its neighbouring club, Denham. Once again our vice-captain sponsored the event on behalf of Office Zone and there was the usual good turn-out of 38. We inherited a breeze from the previous meeting but there were occasional sunny periods. **Chris Lee** emerged the winner of the President's Trophy with 34 points - a feat which gave him great pleasure as it was his first at any Society meeting. The course, as ever, was immaculate and the food well up to the usual very high standard.

The end of September is now traditionally Captain's Outing time. Trips abroad always seem popular. We've been to France four times but on this occasion Belgium was the Captain's choice and a cracking one it was, too. Two special highlights were the choice of hotel and the marvellous sunny weather. The Chateau du Lac was a top class establishment set in beautiful surroundings. And the courses, particularly L'Empereur and Golf de Bercuit, were outstanding. Long, undulating, in superb condition and with lovely scenery. This and the unbroken sunshine was an abiding memory. Mind you, a top class Sat-Nav was needed to locate the courses and to get back to the hotel. The 37 players and guests had a wonderful 3 days. **Chris Phillips** was the winner of the Captain's Salver with 36 points but only on a count back from the unlucky David Stride. Many thanks to David and Marion for a superb organisational tour-de-force. If Eurotunnel had a 'blip' on the return home resulting in quite a few having a longer than scheduled 'stay' at the terminal it did little to mar the overall enjoyment of the event.

Normally the Captain's Outing concludes the season's events - but not this year. David Cox had a hunch that a very late autumn meeting might prove popular, and he was proved correct. For on 27 November 29 members and guests attended at Tandridge Golf Club. There was only time for 18 holes and the winner was a guest, Kevin Bustard, with 34 points. It was mainly dry, the course interesting and the '5-star' luncheon that followed much enjoyed.

The six aggregate trophies for the year have, unusually, been won by only two members. A tribute to both **Alan Wood** and **David Stride** for their sheer consistency. Alan took the Liberty, Guildford, Tolley and Spicer Trophies while David won the Watkins and Conlon Trophies. Congratulations to them both.

In summary, a varied programme of meetings much enjoyed by those fortunate enough to attend and our thanks go to David Cox for his excellent choice and great organisation, fully maintaining the high standards that our captains always seem to live up to.

I should also offer my thanks to our Treasurer, David Morgan, who does a lot more than just 'keep the books' - as all regular members well know. Geoff Fowler was unable, for one reason and another, to make the meetings but nevertheless did a great job maintaining and updating our website. Various other members have been very helpful to me in analysing and checking score cards and I very grateful to them.

We now look forward to 2009 and welcome our incoming captain, Chris Lee. We have another varied selection of meetings including first time visits to Bramley, Royal Ashdown Forest, Thurlstone, Dartmoor and Bigbury. We wish Chris well and hope he is blessed with decent weather. You should have by now received comprehensive details of his outing in September. Don't forget the full fixture list is on our website.

Our first meeting is on 30 April at Bramley and I am delighted to say that Geoffrey Betts of Stewart Europe will be sponsoring the event. Entry forms will be e-mailed to you later this month. I hope we will see you this year at as many meetings as you are able to attend

Very best wishes

Richard Johns
Hon. Secretary
5 March 2009