

## **AMPLEFORTH COLLEGE GOLF CLUB ([www.ampleforthgolf.co.uk](http://www.ampleforthgolf.co.uk))**

### **NEWSLETTER – 18 Apr 2012**

#### **From the Chairman – Richard York**

It was good to see so many members taking part in the April medal, despite the somewhat wintry conditions, and our friendly match against St Martin's was a most enjoyable occasion. The course is in first class condition, and to mark the new season we have a new score card, new competitions, new paths and new course furniture. Very soon we shall also have a new Ladies' tee on the 2nd/11th. There is a spirit of optimism in the Clubhouse, greatly fostered by the Saturday morning bacon butties, and by our lively and topical website. Best wishes to everyone for a good year's golf; I look forward to a well attended Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 8th May.

#### **From the Captain – Mike Wilson**

I begin my Captaincy knowing that the Club is in good shape thanks to the sterling efforts of others over previous years.

The Captaincy is an honour and I look forward to carrying out my main responsibilities of supporting the membership in its day-to-day golfing activities and representing the club where necessary. In addition to these, I have two more personal objectives. First, to ensure a friendly and open atmosphere in which all members feel they are part of a family, and where visitors feel welcome and enjoy playing our course. Second, to tackle slow play. The layout of our course means it is all too easy - sometimes inevitable - to get delayed. But I feel we can do more to speed up our own games. Such things as not putting out if it is not necessary. And leaving the green smartly and getting to the next tee-off without hanging about. It really is not necessary to take as long as we sometimes do to complete 18 holes, and I intend to work with the Committee to raise awareness of the problem and agree how best to address it.

#### **From the Lady Captain – Pat Thompson**

Hi everyone, Welcome to a new season, the course is looking stunning with the new signs and paths etc. I am looking forward to using the shorter hole on the 2nd and I think the 18th will look very good when it is finished. I have just played in the first shot gun start and realised what a friendly club we belong too, with people of all different abilities playing in the same team and you were not made to feel uncomfortable. (thank you team). It was also noticeable how people were enjoying the facilities we now have with our new clubhouse. I am looking forward to a new season and hope the weather is kind to us.

#### **From the Handicap Secretary – Adrian Smith**

The re-measured course is now in play, with Men's SSS now 67 and Ladies 71, so Ladies will benefit from 4 extra shots in mixed competitions. It will be interesting to see how the new layout affects scoring, with some shorter holes and a new par-5 for the Ladies at the 5th. The 2s Club for last season was settled after the March Stableford, and Paul Butcher leads the table with 9 2s over the year. This year, Ian Rudd got off to a very good start, as

there were no 2s in the April Medal, so the fund rolled over into the Evening Stableford when he scooped the pool with the only 2!

The entry sheets for the Singles, Pairs and Mixed Pairs are filling up nicely, and will be drawn early in May. Note that you do need an Active handicap to enter the first two, but anyone can sign up for the mixed pairs. If you didn't play in enough Comps last year (so you have that annoying 'i' next to your handicap on the list) you can easily re-activate yourself with 3 signed cards in the box before the draw is made. If you cannot get to the clubhouse to sign up, please drop an email to me, and I will be happy to add your name to the list.

### **From the Greenkeeper Miles Skehan**

Welcome to the new season. We are very pleased with the early growth that we have had, allowing the golf course to start recovering from the winter damage earlier than normal. Greens have maintained a high standard in the winter and have very little disease or damage on them. The spring greens renovation will start very shortly which will hopefully cause minimal disruption to the playing surface. This work is essential to the greens so we can produce good, robust greens for the season ahead.

I wish everyone an enjoyable, successful golfing season.

### **Finally, from the Manager – Ian Henley**

#### **The Course**

The course is in splendid condition, albeit rather damp at present – what drought? The new tee signs, most with sponsor boards, were installed by the start of the season together with “mow over” SI markers following the official re-measure of the course. The first and tenth tees have been swapped over, which makes getting to the first a less heart racing effort. The relocated ladies second tee is almost ready and improvements are being made to the third (winter) tee. Improvements (should I say) beautification is being conducted by the 18<sup>th</sup> tee. We will also this year be effecting improvements to general signage on and around the course.

#### **The Clubhouse**

We are extending the patio in front of the veranda and adding a storage shed behind the clubhouse. The Clubhouse hot drinks machine does a good trade and we now have fresh milk in the fridge. Snacks and cold drinks are on sale and on Saturday mornings fresh bacon butties are available. They will also be generally available when members meet for shotgun starts.

#### **Annual General Meeting**

The AGM takes place on 8<sup>th</sup> May at 8 pm at the Clubhouse. If members who are not on the committee plan to attend, and I encourage you to do so, please let me know in order that I may change the venue if the numbers are too great for the Clubhouse to accommodate.

## **Open Pairs Competition**

We are holding a 9 hole Open Pairs Competition with any combination of men, ladies or juniors on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September. Please see the website for further details.

## **Kath Morris Trophy**

On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> June, a new charity competition, the Kath Morris Memorial Trophy will take place. The trophy has been donated by John Morris in memory of his wife, Kath, who sadly lost her battle against cancer last year. There is an entry fee of £15 with all proceeds going to Yorkshire Cancer Research. Generous prizes and lunch at the White Swan, Ampleforth are included, all generously funded by John. The field is limited to 36 entries so book early to avoid disappointment. Details given in pdf emailed with this newsletter.

## **Clubroom**

The Clubroom now has a hot drinks dispenser (coffee (including latte and cappuccino), tea and hot chocolate). It also has a fridge stocking cola, orange juice and still and sparkling spring water. Also on sale are crisps and Mars bars. If there are other items that you would like us to stock, please let me know.

## **Fixtures Card**

Please note that Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May should read Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May

## **Renewals**

So far, 60 members have yet to renew their subscriptions. I would be grateful for early settlement.

## **Finally**

Bacon Butties will be available from 8.00 am this Sunday for the 4 Ball better Ball competition.

Happy golfing

Ian