



MAPPERLEY
GOLF CLUB

ISSUE 3

December 2011

Now that the Housing issue has receded, with the prospect of some long-term security too, the Mapperley BULLETIN will carry on bringing you important news about the Club.. In this issue, we discuss the current position with the Council and bring you all the news about membership and subscriptions

It's NOT us!

As everyone will be aware by now, Gedling Borough Council have announced that they are no longer considering Mapperley Golf Course for housing. Not only that, but they are looking to return the course to green belt status in order to give us a bit more long-term stability. The stated reason is cost; the access road will cost too much, and apparently the Council would have to find much of the funding for the road up front, money they don't have. Mick Mulhern and Dan Williams took phone calls early on Tuesday 23rd November giving them the news, then the Council issued a

statement the same afternoon. The Club sent a press release out on the same evening and the Nottingham Post and ITV Central News covered the story. The Post sent a photographer over on Friday to get some pics of the happy members, one of which will be framed and put up in the clubhouse. No doubt there will be more detail to come out over the next few months, and we'll let members know as we find out more. The Steering Group will meet with the Council early January to talk the situation through and look at prospects for the future.

The process of liaison with the Council has been an interesting one. We are, of course, aware that there are elements of the discussions within the parties on Gedling Borough Council that we have not been privy to, both between the politicians and between the council and the planning people, but in general we have felt that the Council have been very open with us about the way that they have been thinking. We can't pretend that it wasn't a surprise to hear that the idea had been shelved, though.

We have had the chance to discuss prospects for developments with European-standard course architects, one of whom brought Ryder Cup star and now TV regular Ken Brown with him to talk about how a new course might take shape. For the longer term benefits of the Club, we hope that some of the ideas that came

out of our discussions with the architects can now be developed into an improvement plan for the course on our current site. The Council were very positive about developing ways in which we can bring new people into the sport, and we look forward to further discussions about ways to make those ideas a reality.



Ken and Ken (in the clubhouse)

BULLETIN



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Membership and Subscriptions

The General Committee have now agreed the subscription rates for 2012. Please see the grid below that lists the categories for the year. You will see the various options for payment on the back page. Please read the categories in light of the information about promotion and retention categories opposite.

The decisions of the Committee are taken in light of an understanding of the club's overall financial position and are intended to be for the good of the whole membership. We are aware that the flyer that was issued a few weeks ago caused some confusion and, having re-read what we put on the board, we realise that it was ambiguous and

for that we apologise. Please, if there is anything in this document, or any other communication from the Committee, that you don't understand or would like more information about, please ask a member of the General Committee for clarification or write to or email the Secretary.

2012 subscription rates

6-day member	£580	Nippers (u-12)	nil
7-day member	£670	12 to 15	£50
Country member	£420	16 to 18	£140
75+ 7 day	£535	19 to 22	£300
75+ 6 day	£520	23 to 26	£350
New Lady members 7 day	£550	27 to 30	£500
New Lady members 6 day	£500		

NB: The age-related concessions are applied automatically and are regardless of length of membership, and the 'new lady' discounts are first year only.

'Member Get A Member' Promotion 2012

We are planning to run the very successful members promotion again in 2012. If you introduce a new full (6 or 7 day) member between the start of the year and the end of March, the club will add £25 to your bar card! No limit to numbers, see if you can pay for your entire year's beer in new members!

If only...

'The best we can offer you is associate membership of the waiting list'



Retention and Promotion Categories

Under the 2010 Equality Act, we have to treat male and female members the same for the purposes of subscriptions, hence the move last year to six and seven day rather than gender based membership. We anticipate that age-related 'discrimination' will also be outlawed in due course, but in any case it has been club policy (in consultation with the Senior Section) for several years to reduce and remove the concessions at pensionable age. A glance at the club's age profile will show you why that has been necessary. Mapperley is a members', not an owner's club, and the vast majority of our income comes from subscriptions. A 'pensioners' concession puts too great a burden on the rest of the members.

We do not have a 'concessions pot'; any reductions we offer are designed to increase or protect the club's income. What we need to make very clear is that the objective of the Retention and Promotion categories is NOT to take money from one group to give to another. Senior mem-

bers are NOT subsidising younger members, the intention is to increase the income of the Club.

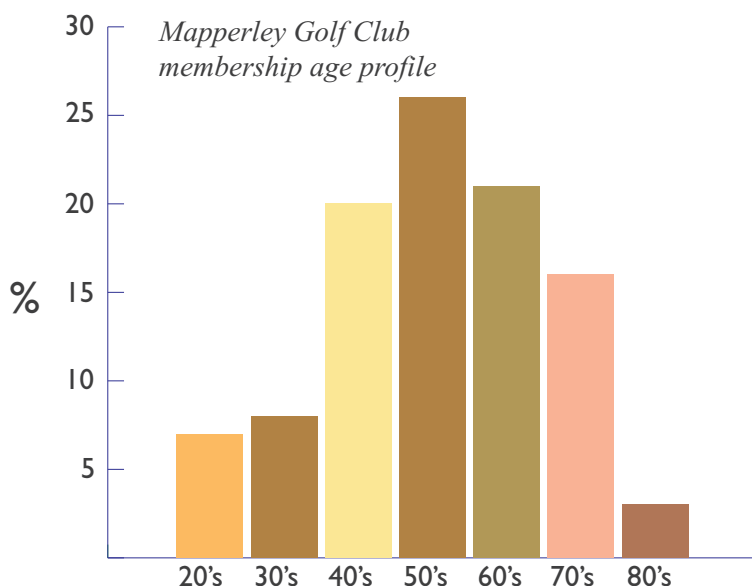
Retention categories are designed, as the name suggests, to help the club to retain groups of people who might otherwise be forced to leave the club through financial pressures. We know, of course, that there may be individuals within a retention category who are well off, and that there are people outside the retention category who aren't. We aren't in a position to 'means-test' club membership, we can only work on what we believe to be the case 'on average'.

We know that people often move away from golf in their late teens and early twenties, and we want to help young members as they move up from junior membership through the often financially tough times as they go through university or apprenticeships and set up home. Therefore we have retention categories on a sliding scale to help the under-30's. At the other end of the age range, we appreciate

that older members may find it more difficult to justify full membership, especially if they are not able to play as much golf, so we are introducing a retention category for the over-75's. Again, the Committee appreciates that health is an individual issue, but, as stated above, we can only deal in 'averages'.

Promotion categories seek to attract new members in groups where we are under-represented. We have too few lady members across all age groups and only one new lady member has joined in 2011, so we have decided to introduce a promotional category, offering a first year only concession for new lady members to try to boost numbers there.

Overall, we will continue to try to attract new members. In 2011, we ended up relatively neutral in terms of numbers, around 90 members leaving and the same number joining. The average age of new members was 41, reducing the average age across the club by three years (from 58 to 55).



Did you know...?

Golf holes are 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches across because that was the diameter of the drainpipe they used at Musselburgh Links in the 1820's when they made the first hole cutter! It's still the diameter of a standard drainpipe now!



Ways to Pay

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE FOR 12 MONTHS FROM JANUARY 1ST

Subscriptions can be paid in one of three ways:

- In full by cash, credit card, debit card, cheque or online by bank transfer
- Premium Credit - paid monthly, currently over 10 months but will be moving to 12. There is a credit charge to be paid of 6.7%
- NB: Premium Credit can only be offered up to the end of May. After this date new members will have to pay subs in full
- Direct debit, paid monthly a year in advance

Notes:

- Retainers are to be phased out because of changes to CONGU handicap rules. Members who would previously have used a retainer will now be made social members. Whenever in the year they rejoin they will be expected to pay their subs in full for that year, we don't have pro-rata rates for rejoining.
- Please note that no reimbursements are given for spending time abroad, not playing in the winter, missing golf due to bad weather etc. and we recommend that members take out insurance to cover illness, injury, hospitalisation or redundancy.
- We do not have 6-month subscriptions

We recommend that members make sure that they have suitable insurance to ensure they are covered for personal liability on the course.

And finally...

...congratulations to Mapperley member and Winter Olympian John Eley, now world number one at 500m short course speed skating

...don't forget to check out the posters in the clubhouse, for the Christmas Party on Saturday December 10th, The raffle to be drawn at the Children's party on December 11th, AND the New Year's Eve party

...finally, Nick Bramley, Social Chairman, has been proposed by 2012 Club Captain Norman Wells as his vice-captain. 2012 Lady Captain Sandra Williamson has named Susan Bunting as Lady Vice Captain. Congratulations and good luck to all.