

THE CLUB SOCIAL SCENE

The social side of Stockport Golf Club has developed significantly since 1919 when a Special Committee was formed to arrange a club dance. Today the House Committee has responsibility (*with appropriate co-opted members*) for arranging a range of events which are well supported by members and guests. All these events are held in the clubhouse, supplemented if necessary by a marquee in the car park. The steward and his wife arrange catering and bars and up to 380 guests can be accommodated, enjoying these in-house events.

DANCES & BALLS Dinner dances are held in the winter, autumn, on Ladies' Day and at Christmas, while balls are held in mid-summer and on New Year's Eve. Four wine-and-dine evenings are held during the year at which professional entertainment is provided as members enjoy a special menu, prepared by Mrs Tina Hill.

DINNERS The Gentlemen's Annual Dinner in January has been a regular club fixture for a hundred years. Whereas these were grand events in the past with Mayors, Members of Parliament and even nobility in attendance as guests, today's dinners are very much more focussed on members. Always well supported to the clubhouse limit of around 200, today's Annual Dinners involve a closed circuit television relay of the speakers throughout the ground floor of the clubhouse. Today speeches provide the evening entertainment, whereas in the early years stage acts were featured, with professional singers, magicians and so on hired for the evening. A number of notable after-dinner speakers have visited the club, not least the Broadcaster and Writer, Henry Longhurst. The ladies enjoyed a dinner during Centenary Year and there are calls for it to become an annual fixture.

ENTERTAINMENT For fifteen years the club Christmas Party has been a sell-out. The format usually involves listening to and singing with a local brass band, with supper and a staged revue. In it the club, its captain and lady captain, are at the centre of an amusing evening of song, sketches and dance, written and produced expertly by Keith Hanks and his wife, Hazel. Each year the club discovers much hidden talent among its members, both as script writers and performers.

FAMILY EVENTS Boxing Day has for many years attracted some 200 members and children for lunch and the visit of Father Christmas, who gives presents to the 50 or so youngsters under the age of 10. The steward and his wife have introduced Mother's Day and Easter lunches at which some 150 attend regularly.

BRIDGE and other card games have always been a feature of the club and are as popular today as ever. While the club no longer has a designated card room, Thursday evenings see several groups of players ranging from beginners to the expert. The ladies play bridge on a Wednesday afternoon in the winter, a practice which began in 1926.

PRIZE PRESENTATIONS Unlike many golf clubs, Stockport has maintained the traditional Prize Presentation after all competitions in the Mens, Ladies and Juniors sections. These continue to be well supported and, in addition to the winners receiving their prize in front of fellow competitors, the cameo speeches provide marvellous entertainment – be it a simple 'thank you' to all involved or a more extended commentary on the round. Humour is a regular ingredient of speeches at Stockport which are regularly of the highest quality.



ENTERTAINMENT AT A LADIES CHRISTMAS LUNCH



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