



Stockport Golf Club

March 2022 Newsletter

An Update from the Captain

Spring and daylight hours are here! And the course is looking great.

It has been an interesting month with the excellent Annual Dinner (those who missed it will be envious!) and this was followed by the Past Captains/Past Presidents Dinner. It was also the conclusion of the famous "Fat Club" which was won by Peter McCulloch (who also won the Club Lottery)

The Captain's Charity this year is ME Research <https://www.mereseach.org.uk/> thank you for the many donations (especially to Peter McCulloch) and look forward to boosting this in the next months.



Captains Matches – these will soon start, so be sure to put your name down for selection. There will also be a match against Royal Lytham and posters with details will soon be up.

We look forward to welcoming our new Professional Jamie and looking forward to the start of a new season, and of course Captains Day.

Alan Konarski
Captain

An Update from the Lady Captain

After several rainy Tuesdays, we have at last been blest by clement weather, and hope that's a sign of things to come. In February we could only play one competition, but fortunately there were social events to cheer us up.

The first was Lady Captain's Charity Coffee Morning. There was a great turn-out leading to over £650 being raised-terrific! The speaker was Christie Spurling MBE, founder of the charity N-Gage (<https://www.n-gage.org.uk/>) who spoke about how it was formed and the work it does, helping to turn around the lives of young people in Greater Manchester who have had a difficult up-bringing, often being excluded from school for behavioural problems.



We also had Lady Captain's Bridge Drive, and although this Lady Captain doesn't play bridge, she found it to be a highly entertaining afternoon. Equally entertaining was the quiz night with a fiercely competitive spirit amongst the six teams that took part. Quiz-master Daisy proved to be extremely competent and kept us all in order - just.

I'm writing this on the eve of my charity lunch, so more about that next time.

Finally, on behalf of all the ladies I want to thank Gary Norcott for all his cheerful service to the Club and wish him well in his new post.

Helen Kennedy
Lady Captain

An update from the Social Sub-Group

Greetings from your Social Group!

We have a busy social summer for you all! We hope to cater for all tastes and abilities as follows, if we have missed anything out let me know:

Plans for a Race Night on Friday 1st April are in full swing, come and have a flutter and a hot roast sandwich supper. There will be a prize for the most "entertaining" hat. Don't forget to bring cash for the betting!!

We will have a Hog Roast and Putting evening from 17.30 on Friday 6th May. Vegetarian option available. Prizes available!! The course is only 6 holes and you can have as many goes as you like for £2 a round!! Children welcome! (Free for under 11s).

The weekend of 20th May is a busy one, there will be a marquee at the Club and we are making good use of it!

Friday 20th May – a Rod Stewart Tribute Night with a dinner! This is a lively, popular tribute act so make your reservation early.

Saturday 21st May – Oktoberfest!! A lot of fun to be had (with a few beers of course!!!)

Sunday 22nd May – Afternoon Tea in the Marquee at SGC, why not bring the family?

Saturday 28th May is Ladies' Day. As usual the ladies will invite the gentlemen to play golf and there will be dinner and dancing to follow.

Thursday 2nd June there is to be a Jubilee Mixed in honour of our Queen's reign and a dinner in the evening. Look out your red, white and blue, ladies and gents!

Sunday 19th June is our Fun Day. A great event for all the family and friends. Details to follow.

Saturday 25th June a Summer Party with a casual and colourful theme, watch this space!

There is a lot happening - we are making up for lost time - so come and join in and reclaim your social life! Make your reservations for all the above on sgctablebookings@gmail.com

Serena Botterman MBE

Chair - Social Sub-Group

P.S. Have you seen the snooker room lately – there is room to play!! Feel free to play!

Also we are considering holding Sports Evenings on Wednesdays - snooker, indoor bowls, darts etc. Let me know what you think!

Girls Golf Rocks

We are delighted to have been recently selected by England Golf to be a Host Venue for the 2022 Girls Golf Rocks program.

Aimed at beginner girls aged between 5 and 18, the program will run across two sessions in May and September, on Saturdays.

More details will be available soon as we receive the marketing information from England Golf and we encourage daughters/granddaughters/nieces and the like to get involved!



An Update from the Course Sub-Group

Bunkers have been coming along well and we have to date completed the majority of the work on the course. We have implemented the smooth rake system to stop the heavy migration of sand from one side of the bunkers to the other. We ask that you make every effort to leave the bunker in the same condition as you would expect to find it.

Work outstanding:

- 4 bunkers of the 10th
- 2 bunkers on the 9th
- 1 bunker on the 6th
- 7 bunkers in total left to complete

We will be working as hard as possible to have these returned to play. The task has been a huge effort by the team and despite some challenging weather have managed to improve the useability of the bunkers significantly, hopefully something all will appreciate.

The sand is new so will take time to settle but please be assured that the sand falls within acceptable range of bunker sands and was independently tested and verified. During those early dryer periods bunkers may appear soft but this will improve over time.

Machinery Focus: Pro-Core 648

Each Newsletter we plan to showcase a piece of our fleet of machinery and explain its function. This newsletter we focus on the Pro-Core 648

The Pro-Core is an innovative and essential piece of ground maintenance equipment fit for use across many areas of the course including greens ,tees and surrounds. Its primary function is to aerate the turf.

This is done in one of two ways;

1. By coring the surface where we physically remove material and clear this off the surface followed by sand dressings. This process helps to reduce and control thatch build up at the greens surface.
2. Alternatively, we aerate with solid tines whereby we use pencil sized tines to puncture the surface. This allows us to release any toxic gasses that are built up in the soil that could be having a detrimental impact on turf health. Constant pressure from equipment and golfers seals the surface and toxic gases and stagnation can start to build. So, the use of the Pro-Core allows us to open the surface and allow it to breath and recycle ♻️ those unhealthy build ups. This process is essential to the health of the greens and should be a regular occurrence. Again some dressings of sand may be added to return a smooth surface.



An Roundup of Gentlemen's Competition News

The winter programme is all but done, as the Golf Course has not been set up for Qualifying Competitions. We hope you have enjoyed the array of team games we have played over the season.

The last round of the Winter Series takes place this Saturday and all being well will be the first Qualifying Competition of 2022, just as the first round was the last Qualifier of 2021... Can anyone catch the Leader from day one Tim Heald?

The Winter Foursomes Knockout is now at the final stage and should be concluded in the next fortnight rather than July as is the norm! Kevin Seaton and Nick Ford are through and await the winners of the other semi-final being played as we write.

The Gentlemen's summer knockout competitions will be drawn on the 1st April, please try and play your matches promptly, don't leave it until the last minute as most people are in more than one, some in all five!

We also have two Inter-Club knockout matches coming up shortly..... the Dunham Forest Trophy where we enjoy home advantage against Stamford GC and the City Glass Trophy where we again have a home draw against Leigh GC.

A big thank you to all those that played in the Captain v Vice Captain matches, with the Captain edging victory by 48 matches to 43. On the final day 85 stayed to wine and dine which was great to see as we get nearer to normality.

The lighter nights are here which means we are close to commencing the midweek competitions, which this year will hopefully include two new events, The Chairman's Cup and Captains Day for 5 and 6 Day Members, these are in the planning stage at present, more information will be distributed when the finer details have been worked out.

That is about it for now, enjoy your golf, the summer season is about to get underway, all to look forward to.

Ross Gregory, Al Gee

Golf Sub-Group

Thanks to Gary Norcott



After 13 years of great service to the Club, we bid a fond farewell to Head Professional Gary Norcott.

Gary, pictured left with the Captain, was this week presented with a card and the proceeds of the Member collection, which raised a healthy sum! Gary is truly grateful for the support!

Gary was also presented with a collection at a gathering of the Ladies on Tuesday – in true form the Ladies told stories of their memories of Gary over the years – some say they have never seen Gary lost for words before!!!

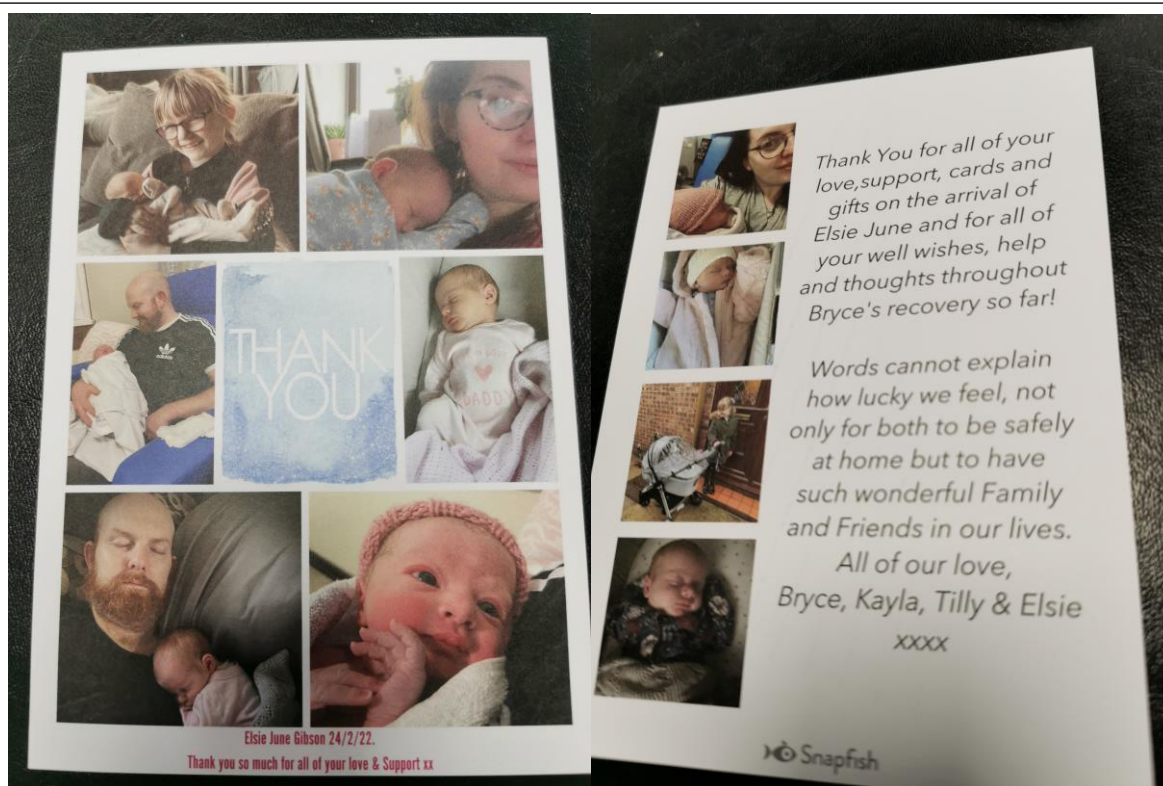
All the very best Gary!

Food & Beverage – Pricing & Discount Review

As committed in October, the 6-month review of the current Food & Beverage pricing and discount models is to take place soon with the Finance Sub-Group and the newly formed F&B Sub-Group (formed to allow House to concentrate on the buildings, with a separate group to have a specific focus on F&B operations). Communications of any changes to pricing and discount models be implemented before the end of April.

Bryce Gibson

We are pleased to report that Bryce is making some good progress following his accident. The General Manager is having regular communications with Bryce, most recently to let him know that the Members have raised just over £2,000 in donations which has been transferred to Bryce and his family. Bryce is utterly overwhelmed by the generosity of Members and has asked us to thank you all – the family have also asked that we share the following, which is also on the noticeboards:



Hi Everyone!
Just a really quick
Thank you for your gifts - well
wishes and support through what
can only be described as "a pretty
hectic time". Everything you have all
done has really kept us going.
Please feel free to share this
with the members too.
Hopefully we will all see/meet you
all soon!
Lots of Love,
Bryce, Kayla
Tilly & Elsie xxxx

New Crest

Members attending the Gentlemen's Annual Dinner earlier in the month may have spotted the subtle introduction of the new Marketing Brand recently developed by the Commercial Sub-Group and approved by the Management Board.

Why is it necessary?

The Club have, save for a few minor modifications, held the same Club crest since 1905, when the Club was originally called Davenport Golf Club; the current crest, which for the avoidance of doubt will remain the official Club logo, has been brought into question over the last few years, with some critical of the perceived "hanging man", which in reality is a "rogues neck in halter" and is derived from the crest of the Davenport family, who had been granted by the King the right to hang sheep stealers.



Some social media criticism of the crest initially led to a review of the suitability in a modern world; it was concluded that we should remain proud of our heritage and the crest remain, but a more "marketable" branding be created to sit neatly alongside.

There are some excellent examples of Golf Clubs using two "images", notably Royal Lytham, Southport & Ainsdale and Notts (Hollinwell) Golf Clubs.

How will it be used?

The primary positioning of the new branding will be on clothing and golfing accessories through the Pro Shop. We will also gradually introduce the branding to other items such as napkins, menus, social media and marketing materials.

The Club may over time wish to see the adoption of the brand go further, but this will be for future Management Boards to consider.

What does the new branding signify?

The new branding has been designed with "wearability" in mind; the tree is the large beech tree at the side of the Clubhouse, with the bench surrounding. We have incorporated the year of foundation and simplified by using the word Stockport, rather than Stockport Golf Club. This will be straight forward to produce on garments and will be tonal thereby enabling production in a variety of colours to match the item.

Several other concepts were considered reflecting the history of the local area but the tree, which provides a popular gathering point for many pre and post-round, was deemed most appropriate.

We are proud of the result and design, and hope that Members will support the new Professional in purchasing items from the Shop with the new branding, once in stock.

Car Park and Changing Shoes

The onset of Covid restrictions prompted the necessity to lift our standard of changing shoes in the Locker Rooms, and not the Car Park. The Club asks Members to now revert to pre-covid standards and forthwith change shoes in the Locker Rooms rather than the Car Park. We thank you in anticipation of your cooperation.

An update about the Juniors

The first competition for Juniors was held on Sunday 20th March. 19 juniors took part, which was an excellent start!

A 9 hole stableford had 5 competitors, 3 of whom scored 16 points. Thirteen budding golfers, 7 boys and 6 girls, from the age of 5 upwards, played a 6 hole Texas scramble on the practice ground. Many thanks goes to the greens staff who dug bucket holes and prepared the greens for the short competition. There were lots of adult caddies and coaches giving advice, which most of the children managed to disregard!

The competition could not have run so smoothly without the help of several volunteers who scored and generally instructed the players in the rules of golf. A very big thanks to them.

A putting competition completed the day for the children without handicaps, and this gained momentum when they were putting to sweets, rather than to the holes!

The Juniors had a great afternoon and enjoyed it, which is what golf should be about.

The hot chocolate and sausage rolls went down well (and quickly!) and all the players were given a certificate and a golf etiquette leaflet, and the winners took home golf prizes.

The next competition will be held on April 10th at 1.00pm and we would love to see even more Juniors involved. Further details will be sent out in due course.

Many of you will have noticed the green tees, which provide a shortened course. This will become a measured course in the near future, and we hope that by the summer most of the juniors will be sufficiently proficient to play this, and to gain handicaps on this course.

Val Garrett

Junior Organiser

County Card 2022

A quick note from the County Secretary about the 2022 County Card:

Anyone with a digital county card will have to renew from 1st April for another 12 months. This is via the IG County App as previous. I attach the relevant web page for reference.

[County Cards :: Cheshire Union of Golf Clubs \(cheshiregolf.org.uk\)](https://www.cheshiregolf.org.uk/county-cards)

Pilates

Some Members will remember that in the distant past before the onset of the covid restrictions, the Club used to hold Pilates sessions.

We are intending to get them back up and running again, likely on a Monday afternoon.

If you are interested in attending, please email the Office so that we can ascertain approximate numbers before committing to arrangements.