



### Welcome to the first edition of our Newsletter!

#### Finance

We continue to be challenged by the difficult financial climate experienced not only by our club but nearly all golf clubs in the United Kingdom. Our budgets have been reduced wherever possible and are the subject of strict control. Bar profit is ahead of budget as a result of both internal and external functions. However, subscriptions and green fees are behind target. Our main source of income continues to be our membership subscriptions and in an attempt to attract new members two new categories of membership have been introduced :-

#### Flexible Membership

This is ideal for the occasional golfer who has limitations on playing time which makes full membership not financially viable. An initial purchase of 550 golf points to use each time you play for initial cost of £275. The points value of a round varies on the time and day of the week you play. Flexible members can enter both Saturday and mid-week competitions with the exception of board prizes and club knockout competition's, and obtain an official CONGU handicap – full details are advertised on the web site.

#### 3 month - 5 Day Starter Membership

Ideal for novices of all ages by combining professional tuition and access to the course for just £150

#### New Website

Our new website is now live but is still accessed via the same address - [www.walmersleygolfclub.co.uk](http://www.walmersleygolfclub.co.uk) Please check it out. There are still some additions and minor changes to be made. Please send any feedback to: [secretary@walmersleygolfclub.co.uk](mailto:secretary@walmersleygolfclub.co.uk)

#### Secretary

Phil Woodcock has decided to retire from his position as club secretary and will be finishing after the 2019 AGM. Anyone interested in this part-time position should speak to Phil or the Captain for more details

#### 100 Club

A new 100 club has recently been launched – a way in which you can help the Club and also have a chance of winning some money. For an annual fee of £36 per unit, you will be entered in a monthly draw with prizes of £75; £50; and £25 or 50%; 33% and 16% of the current subscription.

The draw is open to all members and their families and friends and there is no limit to the number of units you may hold.

We hope to hold the first draw in September, subject to sufficient numbers. Application forms are available in the clubhouse, near the main notice board. Once completed please submit to the Club Secretary.

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## House

We slowly continue to improve facilities within the clubhouse. The refurbishment of the main lounge has now been completed and the results speak for themselves. The dining room has also been redecorated creating a much brighter and clean environment.

Future work in the clubhouse includes replacing all the old beer pump pipework in the bar and cellar and replacing the showers in both the men's and ladies' locker rooms.



## Greens



As you will all be aware our greens have suffered in the hot summer and despite efforts of the greens staff and volunteer members to water them at every opportunity they have been very poor. The greens staff and chairman of greens have held meetings with a qualified agronomist and a programme of work has been undertaken. All greens have recently been verti-drained, top dressed and re-seeded with bent grass as advised by the agronomist. Greens 3, 4 and 5 have also had lime applied to increase the PH content. The blades on the greens mowers will be raised slightly to assist recovery and the putting green has been closed as a short term measure.

The rhododendron bush to the right of the 7<sup>th</sup> fairway has been allowed to flower but is to be re-shaped and the areas around it to be tided.

The new bridge fording the ditch on the right of the 7<sup>th</sup> fairway has been completed and looks superb - as seen in the image on the left.

The historical plans of all drainage on the course appear to have been mislaid which led to complications when attempting to resolve issues.

## Marketing

In terms of marketing we are looking at hiring out the function room for all the usual reasons - weddings, christenings, birthdays etc. We would appreciate any members who could help promote this through their own social media as a means of income for their club.

We are also looking to use the facilities of the clubhouse for meetings and presentations - all with catering.

Please contact the marketing committee or secretary if you have any ideas on how we could further market the club.

## Handicaps

Weekly updates continue to be provided to members. However, members need to be aware of the significant changes to the rules of golf scheduled to come into effect at the start of 2019.

Full details can be obtained from the R&A Website—[www.randa.org](http://www.randa.org)

## Social Events

This year has seen a number of extremely successful social events that have been well attended and which have raised significant revenue for the club.

Future events include an

- ABBA night on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September
- Mixed dinner on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November
- Ladies Xmas dinner on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December
- The traditional New Years Eve Party.