

March and April 2022

Captain Malcolm's musings

Well March and now April have flown by and I am doing my best to balance being Captain with also being a golfer. Sometimes I manage to play a fairly decent round but on other occasions I end up trying to hit the ball rather than swinging the club in a sensible fashion and sweeping the ball onwards towards a distant green.

But never mind I am able to appear on the 1st tee on a regular basis and not have advancing years or illness of myself or another family member preventing me from doing so.

I have noted that members have been able to beat 36 points or more in the roll ups (so well done to Mike Walton and last week to Maurice Sharman for their great scores).

Sadly, since I last wrote we have lost Richard Chapman with whom lots of us had enjoyable rounds with. Mike Walton has kindly sourced several pictures of Richard in action, and these will be passed on to his family by the time these notes appear in print.

On looking ahead our numbers of actively playing members remains small. We had 22 players in the roll up and 12 representing the club on 28th April. Greetham Valley, our guests for the day, tell us that they have 90 or more in their roll ups.....

From them we received thumbs up for our course and the food (a great steak pie) afterwards. Plus we achieved a 3 all draw in the match.

See you all soon

Malcolm

The captain remembers Richard Chapman. R I P

On 3rd April the section lost one of its longstanding members with the death of Richard Chapman. All who met him were always greeted with a smile. He brought his own unique skills to the game and was often in contention for prizes in competitions. Sometimes he would show me how easy it was (for him at any event) to use his driver on the fairway if his ball had come to rest in a good lie. I never mastered this skill myself but then Richard had the ability (and the nerve) to use this shot to send his ball in flight towards a distant green. In and around the greens themselves his short game ensured his putter came into play. So on behalf of us all a fond farewell from Thorney Seniors to one of their characters. Richard's service is due to be held at 1,30pm on Friday 6th May at the Crematorium. If you cannot make it then his family will be pleased to see you at 3pm at the 19th hole.

Malcolm Robinson, Seniors Captain

Editorial.

Rumblings abound following the review of green fees, £899 and £779 (plus £16 affiliation fee) for 7 and 5 day membership, the increases are significant. Over the two year period since the May 2020 renewal an increase of 28%!! Any increase is worthy of challenge and it certainly raises the question, does the product continue to provide value for money? Those defending an increase will always refer to other courses, substantiating the theory prices are actually set by market opportunity and not cost based. The course is now very clearly a "pay and play" operation and whilst the renewal letter refers to the "tight knit and friendly community" it has to be said that is generated by the members and certainly not an added value from the ownership. Those that generate the core revenue of the business are simply not rewarded. Seniors in particular have suffered, concessionary fees were removed, as have the privileges once afforded, exclusive Thursday morning use of the course, course maintenance in the middle of Board comps, to mention a couple, the list is not short. Everyone of course has a choice but why do most of the senior's section play at Thorney, for the social aspect, the contact with old friends and the banter that goes with it. Many have an allegiance to their golfing buddies but sadly no longer to the club. "Trapped" is a good description, is the situation likely to change, it seems not.



Know your rules.

Grateful to Graham H. for raising a couple of interesting questions. (Answers at the end)

- 1) During a round a player becomes aware of having more than 14 clubs, the player must immediately take an action that clearly indicates each club that is being taken out of play. Name two ways this can be done??
- 2) What is the penalty for having more than 14 clubs: -
 - a. When discovered on the first tee?
 - b. During the round?
- 3) Can a player add a club during a round after leaving the 1st tee with less than 14 clubs?
- 4) Starting a round
 - a. Do you know the rules concerning start times?
 - b. Can you start without penalty before the allotted tee time? If yes, by how many minutes.
 - c. Can you start without penalty after the allotted tee time? If yes, by how many minutes.
 - d. What is the penalty for a breach of the rules concerning start times?
- 5) How long can you look for a lost golf ball?
- 6) A ball is potentially lost, a provisional ball is hit. The provisional proves to be an excellent shot, what are your options?

Answers at the end so read on.

Competition Results.

It's been a while and results have been well publicised in the Captain's Thursday words to the masses, so a few highlights.

Qualifying returned on **March 3rd** and the mysterious handicap system is back in place. It's calculated from your best 8 of the last 20 rounds, even if the 20 is made up from the previous season. Mike Walton's 34 was enough to win the first qualifier of the year.

March 10th saw a very small field of 14 players but good to welcome Joe Pasqualino who claimed the only prize on offer with a score of 35 points.

Start of Season Cup delayed from the beginning of the month, in conditions almost unplayable at times due to extremely strong winds. Congratulations to overall winner Roger Kennedy with a net score 76.

York Cup Round 1 In contrast to the SoS cup, played in excellent conditions on a dry course with little wind. According to the rules played off white tees but to the astonishment of all every tee was set back to the maximum yardage. Has someone upset the greenkeeper?? To make play a little more challenging some greens had recently been slit, others during the round and in the case of the 14th debris littering the green whilst green keepers enjoyed their lunch. Perhaps someone really has upset the Head Greenkeeper? Despite all, a very credible 38 points for Colin Lockwood and 36 for Ron Needham as both look forward to future rounds.

March 31st With a home match, flurries of snow and high winds discouraging the remaining members, only 6 played in the roll up. Keith Richardson won with 32 points in conditions that were more than challenging.

April brought better conditions less wind but a virtual drought. As the month progressed run on the course was extraordinary and holding a ball on the greens all but impossible. In the medal on the **14th April** Ron Needham's net 70 was enough to win Div. 1 and in Div 2 welcome to Greg Kinsler playing his first comp with the seniors and winning with an impressive net 67. Also not a bad day for Maurice Sharman with an exclusive 2's win and NTP to go with it.

Another very small field on the **21st April** due to the match, on a friendly course the winner was player of the month, Maurice Sharman with 41 pts. Word is Maurice gets VIP treatment in the shop these days.

April 28th On an exceptionally dry course with lots of run and relatively calm conditions winner on the day with 43 points, a card of 11 pars Mike Walton.

Matches

The team have found it something of a challenge, having played 6 matches the highlight so far being two draws against Old Nene and Greetham Valley. The match against Toft was in the traditional Ryder Cup format and whilst Roger Davey and Paul Rawlings prevailed in the singles the remaining matches were not so cheery.

At least Roger Kennedy picked up a bottle for his efforts at Rutland water.

Forthcoming events.

May	5th	Roll Up	Old Nene (A)	June	2nd	3 club	
	12th	Roll Up	Committee meeting		9th	Roll Up	
	19th	York Cup R2 (OoM)			16th	Roll Up	Heacham (A)
	Mon 23rd	Captains away day			23rd	Championship R1 (OoM)	
	26th	Roll Up	Rutland Water (A)		Mon 27th		Oundle (A)
					30th	Championship R2 (OoM)	

The Rules, answers.

- 1) After declaring more than 14 clubs the player must either:
 - a) turn the club upside down in the bag,
 - b) place it on the floor of the golf cart or
 - c) give the club to another person.
- 2) What is the penalty?
 - a) Before a Round. If a player becomes aware shortly before starting that he has more than 14 clubs, the player may take any such excess clubs out of play before the start of the round, using the procedure in 1), **without penalty**.
 - b) During the round in Match play – **with penalty** Score Revised by Deducting Hole, Maximum of Two Holes: – At the end of the hole being played. the match score is revised by deducting one hole for each hole where a breach happened, with a maximum deduction of two holes in the round.
 - c) Stroke Play – Two Penalty Strokes, Maximum of Four Strokes: The player gets two penalty strokes) for each hole where a breach happened, with a maximum of four penalty strokes in the round.
- 3) Less than 14 clubs, a club can be added during a round without penalty.
- 4) Start time.
 - a) A round starts when the player makes a stroke to start the first hole.
 - b) You can not start before the allotted time.
 - c) You cannot start after the allotted time. A starting time set by the Committee is treated as **an exact** time (for example, 9 am means 9:00:00 am, not any time until 9:01 am).
 - d) Penalty: **Disqualification**, **except** in these three cases:
 - I. Player Arrives at Starting Point, Ready to Play, No More Than Five Minutes Late: The player gets the general penalty (Loss of hole in match play or two penalty strokes in stroke play) applied to his first hole.
 - II. Exception 2 – Player Starts No More Than Five Minutes Early: The player gets the general penalty (Loss of hole in match play or two penalty strokes in stroke play) applied to his or her first hole.
 - III. Committee Decides that Exceptional Circumstances Prevented Player from Starting on Time: There is no breach of this Rule and no penalty.

- 5) Searching for lost ball: Three minutes, if two balls are potentially lost in the same group it is not two x 3 minutes consecutively. Calling through the group behind does not offer the opportunity to extend the search time.
- 6) Provisional balls
- a) You can only play a provisional ball if you think your ball may be lost, however outside of a water hazard or out-of-bounds This is an often misunderstood rule so take note, these are the only two scenarios when you can play a provisional ball.
- I. **If you are virtually certain that your ball is in a water hazard, do NOT hit a provisional.** You lose the right to drop the ball near the hazard in this scenario and your provisional ball was not, in fact, a provisional at all and was in play.
- II. Make sure you announce that you are about to play a provisional ball. If you hit a provisional ball because you think the first may be lost, **you have 3 minutes to search for it.** After that, your provisional ball is in play.
- III. If your original ball is found but deemed unplayable, **the provisional ball cannot be played**
The provisional ball can only be played if the first ball is lost or out-of-bounds. In this case, play proceeds with the original ball under the rules for an unplayable lie – which may mean going back to the place the original ball was struck, under penalty of stroke and distance.
- b) Declaring a ball lost, any ball can be declared lost, and a penalty imposed before playing from the same position. **You can not hit a provisional and then declare the first ball lost.** The provisional only comes into play after 3 minutes of meaningful searching and the original remains lost.

Ed's advice:

- 1) Acquire the skill of counting accurately up to 14, useful for clubs and shots. For instance into the water on the 18th to end a medal round. For the mathematicians it goes 3 in, penalty 4, 5 in, penalty 6, 7 in, penalty 8 and so on. When the total passes 14 ask a playing partner to help.
- 2) Get a fancy multifunctional but accurate watch, synchronise time with playing partners identify the first player and remember every second counts. A 3 minute alarm would also be useful.
- 3) Remember the provisional ball is easier to hit straight, studies have shown it to be true.
- 4) Good to see the rules have been modernised and are now far more functional.

Finally



Really, who would do this?????