



Seniors Section Newsletter December 2020

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL READERS.

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES OR DOES IT?

HERE'S AN EXTRACT FROM THE START OF THE DECEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

Not much golf to report so (well that hasn't changed)

New Year a time for wishes, *here's a selected few from last year's wish list:* -

- 1) *For those members and members partners who have not been well of late, have a better and brighter 2020. Hopefully everyone stayed well but the brighter bit certainly didn't happen. For all of us waiting for a vaccine jab, may time go quickly.*
- 2) *That the monsoon season soon ends, the much-promised global warming takes over and the puddles recede. Who called it Thorney Lakes??? No change of words needed, just change the date!*
- 3) *That the fun, banter and comradery associated with Thorney Seniors continues to flourish. We all truly wish for that this year; we miss the golf as we used to know it and the banter even more.*

Who could ever have thought it was going to be such an awful year? The Ed was not alone in pronouncing at the Thursday morning roll up, "it's just another flu, it will be over as quickly as it comes". How wrong, how totally wrong could such pontifications be.

This year's wish list can be summarised into:

"Let's hope for normality and most of all that every member of the section avoids the awful virus".

Normality, when it returns, will seem extraordinary and everyone will value the simplest of things that we once took for granted far more than we can ever imagine.

New Year's honours list.

Hopefully Messrs Sharman and Rickett got to the palace, sadly doubtful, like the rest of us the Queen has been isolating but the awards still stand.

So, who is on the list this year?

Robert Ford awarded the AAO. For services "against all odds". Certainly, a creator of banter in those few early days but never had the chance to flourish and develop his "stand-up routine". Bob certainly battled "against all odds" to organise some semblance of competitions and watched in despair as event after event was taken away. The Captain's role is never easy and as predecessors can testify, it does need a chunk of time and dedication. Sadly, Captain's day, Charity Day and especially the Anniversary should all have brought moments of pleasure and fond memories. Bob you were certainly dealt a "bum" hand and denied much of the fun, but everyone appreciates all your effort in what has to be the most dreadful of circumstances.... But there has to be a silver lining somewhere.....you didn't have to chair an AGM!

David Plant, FGOTTSP. (Former Guardian of the Thorney Seniors Purse) whoever thought of that one didn't realise the similarity to a typo for FAGGOTS). 10 years a committee man and 5 of those as Treasurer. In terms of gongs that deserves a big one. Treasurer, perhaps the most thankless of all the tasks within the section, requires a lot of time and performance is measured by the number of questions at the AGM. Success and performance are actually measured by far more than that, as every committee man can testify, meticulous books and guidance for the financial well-being of the section are key. David has faultlessly provided both and the section should be very grateful. The Newsletter staff and all members wish David an enjoyable parole. Not quite the living obituary that follows a life sentence but at the very least David deserves a gong. Of others stepping down from the committee and mentioned in despatches but not gonged unless any reader can propose a suitable award are the following: -

Paul Rawlings Captain 2019, ex-officio 2020, for services in his role as Captain and to the committee. Paul has completed his ex-officio and will also hopefully be able to enjoy his



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retirement. By comparison Paul's year may retrospectively seem easy compared to the last, never so Captaincy brings its challenges, all be it under normal conditions, also rewarding.

Trevor Walker, for his contribution to the committee over 5 years of service. The section needs a strong and active committee, each committee member in the first instance represents the membership and provides support and friendly challenge to the officers and Captain. Well done Trevor for playing your part.

So, to the inauguration..... **Mr Roger Kennedy, Captain 2021.**

No issues over conceding, no recounting of votes, no claims of misappropriation, no thronged crowds on the streets of Thorney.

Tragically, no fitting of the Captain's jacket, just a gloved exchange from a suitably distanced outgoing Captain.



A baptism of fire, more tiers or is it tears, followed by the floods. It has to get better Mr Captain, there is no plural of "annus horribilis". (Well not one the Ed can spell)
.but Roger what have you got on your hand? Looks like something for the weekend!!

Mr ex-Captain, as the picture reveals, immaculately turned out, just a reminder the N/L does have a Buy and Sell section....."One jacket, as new, hardly worn, Velcro badge attachment, perfect for any prospective senior's Captain, all offers considered".

A letter from your Captain.

Gentlemen,

Firstly, I would like to wish all members of our section, a very happy and safe New Year.

Secondly, you will be aware, at a committee meeting in October, a decision was reached to increase the roll-up fee to £4, this would include automatic entry to the two's pot. It was felt that inflation had caught up with us, and we should address the matter.

Since then, feedback from various sources had us questioning the wisdom of our decision. An overriding factor being that for those who never enter the two's (from a financial or ability point of view), the proposed increase amounted to 100%.

Over the past week, we have had a committee meeting (with help from the wonderful world of technology), and our treasurer has assured us the Section finances are in a healthy state.

I'm therefore, very pleased to inform you, that the overwhelming view of the committee is to cancel the increase.

Best regards, Roger Kennedy, TLGC Snr. Capt. 2021





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Golf Report, if anyone can remember golf, Board Comps and the rest.....

Neil's Test The course played exceptionally long but in wet and very difficult conditions Keith Manning returned an excellent score. Keith was the clear winner with 38pts, five ahead of John Unwin and Danny Huddleston both on 33 points.

Receiving prizes in the two divisions Div 1 : 1st John Unwin 33. 2nd Danny Huddleston, 33. 3rd Roger Davey 31. 4th Clint Allen. 5th Ray Dowland. Div 2 ; 1st Keith Manning 38. 2nd Bill Dodman 32. 3rd Dave Plant 30. 4th John Mc Cann 30. 5th Michael Pearce

Russian Stableford An excellent win for Jim Rorison & Paul Cooper on 78 points. Both get a grade A in GCE maths for their efforts.

2's Dave Plant 17th, Ron Needham 11th, Steve Batchelor 2nd, Trevor Walker 17th and Colin Lockwood 11th

Dec 31st Roll Up, half a course, very wet very cold, ten hardy souls and John Unwin's 19 points was the winner.

A second missive from the new Captain

Just like buses see one and second quickly follows, ... all membership fees are halved.... That must be Fake News, it is but what he intended to say....

PGA 2021 RULE CHANGES IN EFFECT FOR GOLFERS AGE 50+

Rule 9k.34 If a tree is between the ball and the hole, and the tree is deemed to be younger than the player, then the ball can be moved without penalty. This is so because this is simply a question of timing; when the player was younger, the tree was not there so the player is being penalized because of his age.

Rule 1.a.5 A ball sliced or hooked into the Rough shall be lifted and placed on the Fairway at a point equal to the distance it carried or rolled into the Rough with no penalty. The senior player should not be penalized for tall grass which ground keepers failed to mow.

Rule 2.d.6 A ball hitting a tree shall be deemed NOT to have hit the tree. This is simply bad luck and luck has no place in a scientific game. The senior player must estimate the distance the ball would have travelled if it had not hit the tree, and play the ball from there.

Rule 3.B.3 There shall be no such thing as a lost ball. The missing ball is on or near the course and will eventually be found and pocketed by someone else, thereby making it a stolen ball. The senior player is not to compound the felony by charging himself with a penalty.

Rule 4.c.7 If a putt passes over a hole without dropping, it is deemed to have dropped. The Law of Gravity supersedes the Rules of Golf.

Rule 5. Putts that stop close enough to the cup that they could be blown in, may be blown in. This does not apply to balls more than three inches from the Hole. No one wants to make a mockery of the game.

Rule 6.a.9 There is no penalty for so-called out of bounds. If penny-pinching golf course owners bought sufficient land, this would not occur. The senior player deserves an apology, not a penalty.

Rule 7.G.15 There is no penalty for a ball in a water hazard, as golf balls should float. Senior players should not be penalized for any shortcomings of the manufacturers.

Rule 8.k.9 Advertisements claim that golf scores can be improved by purchasing new golf equipment. Since this is financially impractical for many senior players, one-half stroke per hole may be subtracted for using old equipment.

And the final word from the Editorial staff.....

Horried..... More than upsetting to see 12 beer drinking, fee paying, non-members in a close group on the first tee! Strongbow cans in the car park and seen on a subsequent round cans discarded on the course. Had the misfortune to have a tee in the midst, let through to play first hole ahead only to listen to remarks outside the realms of banter. Does Thorney Lakes really need the green fees from such individuals???? Christmas is a time for good cheer and good will to all men.....but there are limits, totally disrespectful to the current situation and Thorney Lakes Golf Club and its members. Their parents would be so proud!!!