



# Datchet Golf Club

## QUARTERLY

### Winter 2017

# NEWSLETTER

Please submit your  
pics and stories  
for the next issue

secretary@datchetgolfclub.co.uk



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## NEW Captain's Report

I would like to start my first report as your new Captain by saying how excited I am at taking on the role at such an important stage of our club's three-year turnaround programme.

Those of you that attended the recent AGM will have heard the details of all the good work being done to develop the attractiveness of Datchet Golf Club for members and visitors and I am planning to build on this during my year with some innovative ideas on novelty events and family days at the club. I would also like to thank **Dave King** for accepting the Vice Captaincy role and I know Dave will be a brilliant support to me and a great Captain when his time comes.

As chairman of the Membership and Marketing (M&M) committee I will be kicking things off right from my **Captain's Drive-In** on January 1st and I would love to see you all there for the traditional scramble down the first tee to retrieve one of my drives. That will be followed by a *Texas Scramble* and what better way to start the New Year than with a bracing 9 holes followed by some hot soup and mulled wine!

After that, planning will commence on what I am hoping will turn out to be biggest day so far in the short life of the M&M team. This will be our **Open Day** scheduled for Sunday 15th April which will targeted at a family audience with the aim of attracting visitors and potential members across all categories. We are hoping that this will be a major showcasing opportunity for the club and we will start developing

our plans early in 2018. Your support would be very much appreciated on this big day and we will post a sign-up sheet for volunteers to help with arrangements. You do not have to be a specialist in anything as the variety of activity we are planning means there will be a role for all members if they are keen to participate.

Our board, the committees and the working party will be continuing their good work but I am now hoping to enlist more of you members in this second year of our recovery as we seek to move to the next level of performance as a course and as a club.

Thank you to all of you for your kind words and support since my election I am honoured to be serving you all for the next 12 months.



**RYAN KING**  
Captain 2017/2018

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for NINE!**



## CEO Report

With our AGM having taken place so recently I do not have an awful lot to share with you at this stage concerning current activity falling into the CEO role, though I do feel it is important that I provide you with an overview of how I perceive the role developing.

The reason for creating the new position was to try and establish greater continuity in the way the Board of Directors discharges its responsibilities. By compartmentalizing the administrative aspects of the board's role into the CEO role, it is expected that not only will we achieve that continuity but also that the Captain can focus more on marketing, membership, fundraising and a host of other short-term matters that are likely to start and finish within the Captain's year of office.

The Captain will continue to have an important role to play in wider discussions at Board level but there are several longer term strategic matters that the CEO will be better able to handle such as liaising with the Crown

Estate, the RBWM Council regarding the rates and our CASC status amongst others. So I won't be idle.

In addition to my CEO duties I will also act as Chairman of the **Club House Refurbishment Committee** and I would like to use this opportunity to request those members who have expressed an interest in discussing options we might have on soft furnishings, textiles, lighting and interior design to contact me so that we can have a wider range of tastes involved in the discussions on how we roll out our ideas for the clubhouse in 2018.

I am looking forward to the new season as I feel we can approach this year in a much more positive way than was the case 12 months ago. We must not get complacent but if we continue to maintain our rate of recovery I am confident we should be able to take another step back to full recovery of our great and resilient club.

**JOHN SIMMS**  
CEO 2017/2018

## Upcoming Events

### January 2018

New Year's Day  
Captain's Drive-in

Thursday 4th January  
Ladies Stableford – 3rd Rosebowl

Saturday 6th January  
Ladies Stableford – 3rd Rosebowl

Sunday 7th January  
January Stableford

8th to 14th January  
9 HOLE MONTHLY STABLEFORD

Sunday 21st January  
Sunday Lunch

Saturday 27th January  
Scots Guards Burns Supper

Second half of January  
(date to be confirmed)  
Night Golf



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## Treasurer Update

As the winds of time carry us relentlessly towards the close of another year it is inevitable that we would all wish to look back and consider the events of the last twelve months and our own role in influencing the outcomes.

I am going to resist the urge to introduce talk of our own surpluses, deficits, debits or credits in this festive newsletter as I find myself ever more in agreement with those who say that this time of year has morphed into an extended commercial jamboree. So let there be no talk of pounds and pence in this edition and suffice it to say that in 2017 our golf club not only survived but thrived. Members who attended our recent AGM will hopefully appreciate the very positive outlook the Board now envisages for our future.

Our year, none the less, was not without some low points. It is always sad when a club loses superlative players or loyal members but to have **Bob Lander** and **Percy Riddle** both taken from us in the autumn, particularly so close to one another, was a shock from which we have still not quite recovered.

Time in its' remorseless way moves us on but the members we have lost in the last 12 months will be fondly remembered and are commemorated in some small way later in this Newsletter.

This time of year is also closely associated with thanksgiving and I would like to express my own thanks to a number of you.

Firstly, to all of our staff in the clubhouse and on the course. We appreciate that depending on DGC for your livelihood links you in a deeper way than the rest of us to the fortunes of the club and on behalf of the members I would like to express our gratitude for the way you all handled yourself during some uncertain

times as well as for the endless support you have provided in turning around the club. We hope now that you feel you can participate in the better times we have ahead of us.

Secondly a huge thanks to retiring Captain, **John Simms**, who was instrumental in restoring the club to good health and has played an immense behind-the-scenes role in assuring our outlook was secured, even when faced with the bleakest of forecasts; I am very pleased John has offered his continued service to DGC in the new position of CEO.

To the rest of the Board and our new Captain, **Ryan**, and Vice Captain, **Dave King**, I thank you for your steadfastness and willingness not only to continue grasping the opportunities as they arise but also for putting in place a programme for delivery. I feel the club is in your very capable hands.

To everyone who has served on our committees and helped around the clubhouse, who have assisted the course staff as part of the working party, who have helped in the design, development and production of the newsletter, who have provided their legal, accounting, IT, brainstorming, marketing and other professional services in a manner our small club could handle I say, without reservation, that our turnaround simply could not and would not have happened without you.

And to everyone, members and their families, current and potential clubhouse customers, diners, green fees, society visitors and all of our stakeholders I wish you all very good cheer through the New Year celebrations and beyond.

**DAVE WALSH**  
Club Treasurer

## Pro's Corner

The quietest newsletter of the year from me as winter has firmly set in! What I must mention though is the fabulous quality of the greens for this time of year. They are in fantastic shape and a huge well done to the greens staff and all involved for their hard work.

I am personally looking forward to a happy and prosperous 2018 for Datchet GC and lots of plans are being put in place to improve facilities at the club and enhance your experience of being a member here. Keep an eye on future newsletters for updates on improvements to the Pro shop and practice facilities. Finally please note that there are still limited spaces

available at my winter golf school at the fabulous **Pinecliffs** resort on the Algarve in March 2018. It would be wonderful to welcome some members to my favourite resort in Europe. For details pop into the shop. **A Happy New Year to you all.**



**PAUL COOK**  
Head PGA Professional  
Datchet Golf Academy



## Secretary/Manager Update

Winter well and truly arrived with the mid-December spell of ice, snow and frost leading to our first closure of the new season. But neither the weather nor the brief disruption to the course has slowed the rate of activities taking place in the clubhouse and the team Datchet have continued to deliver a range of functions from musical evenings, society dinners, festive lunches as well as Sunday carveries and the Quiz night.

The first of the Night Golf events in November was a great success with over 50 players taking part in calm and dry conditions (conditions, if I am honest, which did not quite justify the amount of lovely mulled wine devoured before play commenced!). Feedback for the evening was very good and with everybody properly attired and well-illuminated there were no mishaps and some good scores. In the end the event was oversubscribed but members who missed out this time will be given priority for the next event scheduled for January (date to be confirmed). We shall reserve some tee positions to allow for this but if anyone who missed out wants to pre-book a slot please just come and see me and I will arrange.

I would like to give some recognition for the hard work already done by **Paul Cook**, DGC Professional, concerning the future development plans for our Schools Programme.

This groundwork done by Paul has resulted in Datchet Golf Club becoming recognised as an official **HSBC Golf Roots Centre** for delivering quality programmes for Junior Golf awarded by **The Golf Foundation** and one of the practical results of this is that we receive funding for our junior development initiatives.

In addition to these developing plans with schools and our aspiration to design a recognised pathway for school pupils to progress to become juniors at Datchet Golf Club, we are also re-establishing a **Junior Golf Academy Programme**. This programme had previously been delivered at Huntswood Golf Club and has now moved over with me to Datchet.

We also recently met with representatives from Bucks Berks & Oxon Golf and for 2018 Datchet has been awarded with the status of an official **BB&O County**

**Hub Centre for Junior Golf.** This is a great recognition of DGC's ability to provide both course facilities and an environment to enable juniors to develop their golfing knowledge and skills within and a safe and supportive structure.

All of these plans help support delivery of our commitment within the CASC regime to be recognised as a club that is open to all range of ability, age and economic status. And the conversion of school pupils to juniors, and then to fully-fledged members, is inextricably linked to the key part of our long-term strategy to strengthen the depth of our membership particularly at the younger end of the spectrum.

Paul and myself will now work together to re-invigorate the junior section of Datchet Golf Club.

### Very briefly in other matters:

- The new club brochure has gone to print and looks great (copies available shortly).
- Our new website and DGC App will be launching in January 2018.
- A virtual course fly over will also be available on the website in January.
- Including AGM updates in the Club Diaries will result in a slight delay in delivery.
- The **New 9 Hole Monthly Competition** has now kicked off and despite a slow start due to snow we have had some good entries considering the time of year. We might tweak this as it develops and may be look at weekend golf, if agreed by the Committee. I would like to thank **Bob Bussley** for his hard work and timely turnaround of new cards, a standard scratch score and being granted a 9-hole certificate.
- Other new competitions for the summer are a **Four Ball Better Ball Team Event** being held on the 10th June as well as a weekly Friday roll-up/fun night with varied formats for members and guests.

As the Captain has mentioned, in April we will be holding a **Family Open Day** for new golfers of all ages and experienced golfers looking to change or join Datchet Golf Club. This will be in the form of many fun skill challenges, a tuition centre, nearest the pin, an 8-hole Stableford competition, which should be an exciting day for all. However, for this to succeed we will need many volunteers to help on the day. Please could I support Ryan's request that you make a note in your diary and look out for the helpers list to be issued.

**MARK GRIEVE**

Secretary/Manager





# 2017 in PICTURES

## Brainstorming



## Upgrades



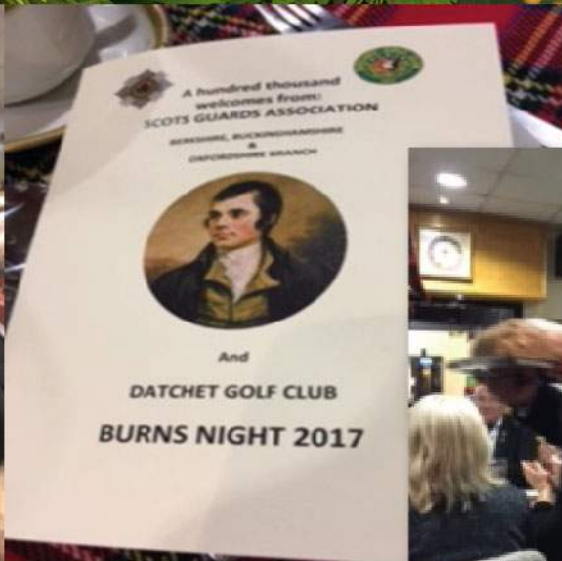
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# 2017 in PICTURES

## Parties & Catering



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# 2017 in PICTURES

## Visitors



## Fundraisers



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# 2017 in PICTURES

Happy People



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# 2017 in PICTURES

New Arrivals... Congratulations!



MARK GRIEVE



LARA ASLAN



ARCHIE THOMAS KING

## SAD DEPARTURES

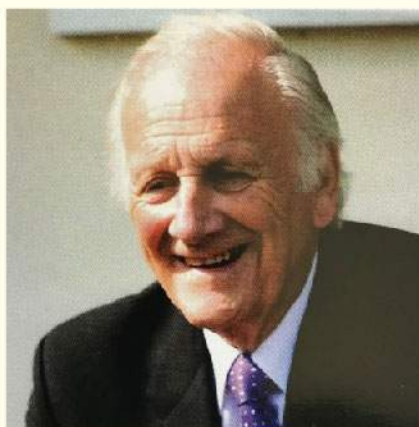
TONY BEARD

ARTHUR BENHAM

VIC RIGBY

JOHN DUNKERTON

CHARLES GRAY



DAVID BRYDEN

1933 – 2016



PERCY RIDDLE

1927 – 2017

For five decades  
A Loyal Club & Committee Member



BOB LANDER

1956 – 2017

Club Champion 8 times  
1991 – 2017  
36 Hole Championship Record  
(Gross 135)  
2004  
Course Record Holder (Gross 63)  
2004

## ALL FONDLY REMEMBERED

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