

THE DRAX

JOURNAL

ISSUE 4 - OCTOBER 2017

SPECIAL
EDITION



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This Issue Includes:

Final Results 2017
New Handicap Secretary
Course Development
And Much More...

LUCAS

SKILBECK

"I AM THE FUTURE."

Welcome to the fourth issue of The Drax Journal, the new newsletter that is circulated periodically around the club to keep you, the members up to date with what is going on.

In this very special edition, and as we wrap up another competitive golf year and move into Winter we look at Drax's Junior golf fanatic, Lucas Skilbeck who has represented the club at numerous events this year including the European Junior Golf Tour.

Liam Ridgill
Vice-Captain 2017



Competition Result Update

As the leaves start to fall on the fairways the competitive season at Drax Golf Club, like the summer, has finally drawn to a close. The year has seen the trophy cabinet spread widely amongst the keen and enthusiastic membership with no one dominating the headlines.

The prestigious Club Championship was September's main attraction and resulted in a double triumph for Paul Blackham who won both the Gross and Nett titles over a gruelling 36-hole day.



October has seen the completion of the Knockout Tournaments in all categories. Mark Webster fought off last year's winner, Dale Banks in a closely fought final to take the Men's Singles title. The Men's Doubles winners were the established pairing of Club Captain Kevin Harrison and stalwart Alan Puddyford. They took on the President Bill Scott and Snaith's own Richard Lyons to secure the much-coveted prize.

The Mixed Doubles Greensomes was won in style by a new pairing of Maxine Wagstaffe and Matthew Forde who beat the long-term partnership of Jenny Hammond and Kevin Hudson. The Mixed Foursomes were played by the same two couples with Jenny and Kevin reversing the result with a convincing victory.

The final medals of the season were completed with Alan Puddyford popping up to win the monthly medal in division 1. Steve Mileham and Mike Dobson were division 2 and 3 winners. Kevin Hughes won the 1st division midweek medal, joined on the rostrum by Martin Shaw, division 2, and newcomer Darren Neary in division 3. Having qualified for the medal final at the last attempt, Martin Shaw kept his form to win the division 2 final. Dale Banks showed a glimmer of last year's all conquering play to win the Division 1 final, with Martin Shaw's doubles partner, Richard Blake sweeping up the Division 3 title!

Jenny Hammond won the final ladies medal of the season, however the Ladies' season was dominated by Maxine Wagstaffe who completed her fine year with a convincing victory in the Medal Final.



The season long Senior trophies were dominated in unprecedented fashion by Rawcliffe's John Thompson who won the September leg of the Senior Cup on his way to picking up the overall prize. John also won the Senior Medal Shield by some distance, despite a brave attempt by Matthew Forde who shot a 63 to win the September individual prize.

Rules Update

To protect our fairways from damage during the winter months, so that they can be at their best during other periods of the year, Winter Rules are now in effect and have been since Monday 30th October 2017.

When 'Winter Rules' are in play (as indicated by the signage near the first tee and on the website) you MUST use one of the following options when your ball is in the fairway:

- Use an artificial grass fairway mat
- Tee up your ball using a short tee (not a long driver tee - please use your discretion).
- Take your ball directly into the left or right side of the fairway (whichever is closer) at the same distance from the hole and place it in the semi-rough.

To further protect the course, we are also implementing some rules regarding the use of golf trolleys. Again, these came into effect as of Monday 30th October 2017.

When 'Winter Rules' are in play (as indicated by the signage near the first tee and on the website) you MUST use one of the following options:

- Use a carry bag.
- Use winter 'hedgehog' wheels on your golf trollies**

**We understand that it might take some time for members to get hold of these hedgehog wheels, but please try and obtain them as soon as possible; if members choose not to carry, we expect members, guests and visitors to be using hedgehog wheels as of Monday 30th October 2017.

If you already have hedgehog wheels please start to use with immediate effect.

Hedgehog wheel covers can also be purchased from the club for £16.00. Speak to Matthew Forde or Denise Smith for details.

Also, please try to use available paths wherever possible when using a golf trolley or when carrying your bag.

Many thanks for your co-operation.



A Star in The Making!

Although the number of junior members has dwindled over recent years, Drax Golf Club has always tried to encourage a strong Junior Section presence.

2017 has seen a new lease of life instilled into the Junior Section with Samuel Blackham taking over as our first Junior Captain in 7 years and our latest member, Lucas Skilbeck showing all the potential of becoming a successful professional.

Lucas started making waves when he represented Drax on The JP Junior Series earlier in the year.

These events were set up in 2015 by PGA Professional Jonathan Pearson, who felt the game of golf was failing to attract enough junior golfer's due to the lack of playing opportunities.

Following his success in The JP Junior Series, Lucas has since played in the European Junior Golf Tour and Robert Rock Junior Golf Tour.

I'm sure everyone would like to congratulate Lucas on his success this year and wish him all the best for the years to come. Lucas's accomplishments are detailed on page six.



Month	Location	Result
May	Moor Allerton	1 st
June	Cookridge Hall	2 nd
June	Garforth	2 nd
July	Sandburn Hall	1 st
September	Headingley	Lowest Gross Score Winner
September	Howley Hall	Lowest Gross Score Winner



Month	Location	Result
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October	Waterton Park	1 st
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Month	Location	Result
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October	Beeston Fields	4 th
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Competitions Update

As we say farewell to yet another golfing season, we must also say goodbye to Steve Ryan who is stepping down as Handicap and Competitions Secretary after 7 years.

Steve will be keeping his post on the committee as a member representative and we thank him for all his efforts during his tenure.

In 2018, we will welcome Steve Burton back to the role which he vacated in 2011. Steve brings a wealth of knowledge which is difficult to replace and we thank him for accepting the post once again.

Should you have any queries moving forward, please do not hesitate to contact Steve directly, his details can be found below:

Tel: 07704 780 939

Email: steveburton@yahoo.co.uk

Course Update

Following the successful Autumn Open at the end of September, the green staff were quick to capitalise on the dry weather by steaming ahead with the winter maintenance programme.

Holes 6/12 were the first to be worked on with new drainage added in front of the tee box, which have been a problem area for several years. New pipes have been added along with Lytag, which is a lightweight drainage

material used extensively on golf course fairways and greens as well as all other sports playing fields.



This material is quick and easy to install and needs no specialist knowledge or skills necessary to use, this in turn reduces labour costs and time and does not damage maintenance machinery.





We would like to take this opportunity to thank Steve Fisher and the team at Lytag for their kind donations. Moving forward we will continue to use this tried and tested material to help further drainage on the course.



The Winter maintenance didn't stop there. As the dry, warm weather continued into the early weeks of October, it was the 8th hole which was next in line for renovation.

In line with modern greenkeeping practices, the right-hand bunker was reshaped and a run off area created at the back right of the green which, in summer will catch any stray shots resulting in a difficult chip back on to the green. To the right of this, in a historically wet area, a new swale has been created that gradually meanders to the ditch which runs through the heart of the course.



Additional drainage now runs into the swale which will combat the issue in that area and will add an extra degree of difficulty to an already tough hole.



This is by far not the end of the Winter maintenance program which as you can see, is focused around drainage, however you will have to wait for the next Issue for further information.

As you walk around the course, you will already see more work being carried out on holes 3, 4 and 5 with the bunkers on 9 and 18 also having a makeover.

We will continue to push forward as much as the weather allows to help reap the benefits in years to come.

On behalf of the committee and membership, we would like to thank the Head Greenkeeper Mark Sneap, Greenkeeper Mark Clarke, along with Graham Gilson and Alan Puddyford for their unpaid, extensive work on the course to complete these projects.

We also owe a big thank you to all those seniors for the hard work and efforts with the pruning and leaf collection this Autumn.

After the huge success we saw last year, we will be introducing regular work parties on a weekly basis through the remainder of 2017. The work parties have already commenced and the greens committee welcome anyone with time to spare on Wednesday mornings (from 8:30am). We have lots of general work on the course and by working alongside the green staff will see a successful completion of any necessary course maintenance.

If you can equip yourselves with a rake, and/or lopper all the better. Don't worry if you have no experience, the committee and greens staff value your time and efforts in helping make Drax Golf Club Yorkshire's Hidden Gem.



Etiquette - Care of the Course – As Per The R&A Guidelines

Unfortunately, since the last Issue, we are still having problems with care of the course. Once again, we feel the need to stress the importance of course care.

While we have a fantastic greens team pulling out all the stops to make your playing experience the best it can possibly be, we as golfers have an obligation to help them as much as possible.

Bunkers

Before leaving a bunker, players should carefully fill up and smooth over all holes and footprints made by them and any nearby made by others. If a rake is within reasonable proximity of the bunker, the rake should be used for this purpose.

Repair of Divots, Ball-Marks and Damage by Shoes

Players should carefully repair any divot holes made by them and any damage to the putting green made by the impact of a ball (whether made by the player himself). On completion of the hole by all players in the group, damage to the putting green caused by golf shoes should be repaired.

If you repair a pitch mark badly it can do a lot more harm than if you had left it alone, so it's essential you know how to do it correctly.

It's not just for the sake of the greens either, there is nothing more infuriating for a golfer than to see a perfect putt knocked off line, especially through no fault of their own.

But it is alarming how many golfers seemingly neglect to repair a pitch mark, don't know how to repair a pitch mark in the correct way, or perhaps think they are not allowed to because of the Rules of Golf.

As you can see below, the product of a badly repaired pitch mark is an ugly brown scar left on the green that not only looks awful, but that also affects the roll of yours and other peoples' putts.

Successfully repaired pitch marks however, can heal within twice the time it takes for a half-hearted attempt, and look more like the images below.

How do I repair a pitch mark correctly?

To achieve the ideal look, you need to push the earth inwards as demonstrated above, rather lifting it upwards, which is what causes the unsightly scarring. Once you have circled your pitch mark gently pushing the earth inwards towards the centre of the crater, you can then tap down

any excess material to leave the smoothest possible surface.

Read more at <http://www.golf-monthly.co.uk/features/the-game/how-to-repair-a-pitch-mark-correctly-12186>

Preventing Unnecessary Damage

Players should avoid causing damage to the course by removing divots when taking practice swings or by hitting the head of a club into the ground, whether in anger or for any other reason.

Players should ensure that no damage is done to the putting green when putting down bags or the flagstick.

To avoid damaging the hole, players and caddies should not stand too close to the hole and should take care during the handling of the flagstick and the removal of a ball from the hole. The head of a club should not be used to remove a ball from the hole.

Players should not lean on their clubs when on the putting green, particularly when removing the ball from the hole.

To alleviate pressure around the hole, we recommend that all players putt out, leaving the last person to hole their putt to retrieve all the groups balls from the hole.

The flagstick should be properly replaced in the hole before the players leave the putting green.

The advertisement features a dark wood-grain background. On the left, there is an orange vertical bar containing the Drax Golf Club logo (a shield with a white flower) and contact information. The main text is centered on the right side, with 'Drax Golf Club' in a white serif font, 'Winter Special' in a large white sans-serif font, and a promotional offer in a white box. At the bottom, there are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Drax Golf Club

Winter Special

Are You Looking for a New Golf Club?
Join Drax and Receive 15 Months
Membership for the Price of 12!
Join **NOW** and Save Over £95!

This offer is not valid for lapsed members who have left the club within the last 12 months

Facebook: [facebook.com/draxgolfclub](https://www.facebook.com/draxgolfclub) | Twitter: [@draxgolfclub](https://twitter.com/draxgolfclub) | Instagram: [drax_golf_club](https://www.instagram.com/drax_golf_club)

Well, what an issue that was! Should you have any suggestions or good news to publish, please email me on liam0409@hotmail.co.uk

Don't forget you can keep up to date wherever you are by visiting our blog or follow us on social media.

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Liam Ridgill
Vice-Captain

