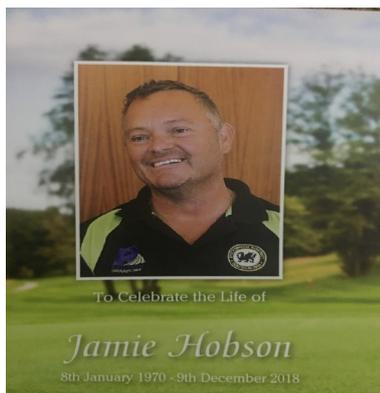


# Stocksbridge & District Golf Club Members Newsletter January, 2019



## SECOND EDITION



### Jamie Hobson Remembered

As the Golf Club entered the winter period and members readied themselves for Christmas, we all learnt of the shocking news that Jamie Hobson, our long standing Head Greenkeeper, had died suddenly on the 9th December. He died in his sleep, the result of an unknown heart problem. It was news that was hard to take for members of the Club and it must have been (and will still be) devastating for his family and close friends.

It was a fitting tribute that so many people attended his Funeral at the City Road Crematorium in Sheffield. The number present must have been close to 300 and along with family there were many there from the two golf clubs he worked at for near on 30 years, Lees Hall and Stocksbridge. The service was personalized to Jamie, both in terms of his musical tastes and the low key nature of the readings. The most poignant moment was the reading of the poem called "Dad":

"He never looks for praises  
He was never one to boast  
He just went on quietly working  
For those he loved the most"

Jamie will be missed by all at the Golf Club.

### Replacement Plans

Although it is a difficult time for the Club and the Greens staff in particular, we have to move on and make plans to replace the gaping hole that Jamie's death has left at Stocksbridge. Following the Board of Directors meeting on the 14th January it was agreed that Robert Grayson should be interviewed for the position of Senior Greenkeeper. The Directors are pleased to confirm that Robert was successful following his interview and has been appointed to the position with immediate effect.

I am sure you will be pleased to know that we have the full commitment from Robert to take on this new role. Robert will be closely supported by Alf Pearson as Chair of the Greens Committee. As Chair of the Directors Roy Myers said: "I ask that you all provide your support and encouragement to Robert. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the Directors."

We are still one person down with the Greenkeeping staff. One of Robert's immediate priorities will be to recruit an additional greenkeeper to work in the team and the Directors will support him with this task. We already have a number of interested candidates and a separate interview process will be set up soon. Our aim is to have the Greens Team back up to a full complement before the start of the summer season. We will provide further updates once this recruitment process has been completed.

In the meantime, a workplan has been agreed with the Greens Staff to ensure the course is maintained in good condition and to date they are making an excellent job of it. The Directors ask that members do as much as they can to help and in particular to make the best use of the fairway mats that have been provided by the Club, free to all golfers. Use of them on fairways and first cut rough is mandatory.

---

## **A REMINDER:**

### **New Member Offer: Introduce a Friend and Earn £100**

Any member who introduces a new full or 5 day playing member to Stocksbridge Golf Club will receive a credit of £100 on his/her club card when the new member renews his/her membership for the second year

Conditions

1. Officers and Directors of the club are excluded from this offer
2. The offer only applies to new full or 5 day playing memberships proposed by a playing member
3. A member must nominate a new playing member on the club's official nomination form.
4. The proposer of the new member will receive a credit of £100 to his/her club card when the new member renews his/her membership for the second year. No cash alternative is offered.
5. The proposer of a new member joining for an initial period of 6 months or less will be credited with the £100 on the second renewal of the new members full yearly membership subscription. (ie after 18 months)
6. This new member offer is available to all members from December 1st 2018 until further notice and includes all new memberships received under any discounted membership offers available at the time.
7. House members proposing a new playing member will receive a credit of £50 on his/her club card when the new member renews his/her playing membership for the second year.

### **Try Golf for £99**

Anyone wanting to try golf can join the House plus Golf membership scheme for just £99. The £99 fee entitles the new member to house membership of Stocksbridge Golf Club with £20 bar credit and a maximum of 6 rounds of golf ( 6 x 18 holes or 12 x 9 holes)

Conditions

1. This offer is designed as an introduction to golf and can only be taken up for one year.
2. The vouchers cannot be used at weekends or on bank holidays
3. Participants will be issued with 6 vouchers which must be handed in to the professional or office manager before commencing their round. Players playing 9 holes must have the voucher signed by the professional or office manager
4. After using all the vouchers players can continue to play by either upgrading their membership to full or 5 day playing membership or by paying the appropriate green fee each time they play
5. The vouchers are valid up to end of the current subscription year membership for the second year

## GREENS COMMITTEE UPDATE, JANUARY 2019

We have already covered the main issue for the Greens Committee on page 1 of this newsletter.

The remaining headlines are that Bert and Wayne, with support from Mick Shouler and a number of volunteers, are working as many hours as the weather permits to keep the course in excellent condition.

The Directors are delighted with the condition of the course and given that the weather has been helpful, it is the first time in many years that by the middle of January we are still on 18 holes, playing 18 summer greens and not knee deep in mud! We know that surrounding courses are not in such good condition for the time of year and we could all help the club coffers by promoting the Club to anyone you know who might want a game of golf to burn off some of those Christmas calories.

Once we have the replacement plans sorted for Jamie, Alf Pearson will agree a new plan for the course in preparation for the summer season. Alf will provide an update for members in the next newsletter.

### WINTER FAIRWAY MATS

In preparation for the Winter season, the Directors agreed to invest in the winter mats, as an alternative to teeing up. This has been a significant investment with the mats costing £8 each. They were tested, along with a variety of astro turf alternatives and found to be the best option. Most members have now been issued with a mat and should now be using them on fairways and first cut rough. A second batch of mats, for those that do not have one, will be available soon.

**PLEASE USE THEM** to protect the fairways. A small number of members are not using them at the moment and are either teeing up or even playing from the turf. This is not acceptable, please inform anyone of the directors if you witness a member not following the winter rule.

Please submit any suggestions for the Greens Committee to Alf Pearson.

### DATES FOR THE DIARY

#### Club Meetings:

- The AGM will be held on 20th February. On the same evening there will be a separate meeting to vote on the revised articles. **PLEASE NOTE** the revised articles will be posted on the noticeboard 21 days in advance
- Captains Changeover will take place on the 2nd March, the event starting at 7.30pm.

#### 2019 calendar:

The 2019 calendar has now been agreed and will be issued in the next few weeks. There will be two additional competitions in the year, one as a memorial for Barrie Turner and Jamie Hobson and the second a mixed four-somes. We hope you will support the incoming Captains, Alison Sedgwick and Steven Haigh by playing in as many club competitions as possible.

#### Social events:

The postponed Abba night will now be held on 16th February, starting at 8pm. More details will be promoted in the clubhouse nearer to the date.

## **ROGER'S CORNER: Message from the Club Professional**

Happy New Year to all of our valued members.

I have asked the Board of Directors to support plans to develop the Pro Shop to develop space for a Launch Monitor and indoor putting mat. The plans are at a very early stage, assessing the feasibility, particularly with regard to building regulations and planning permission. I will update you further as the plans progress.....watch this space.

### **SPECIAL OFFERS**

Taylor Made M3 Driver was £429....Now £289

Taylor Made M4 Driver was £349....Now £239

Taylor Made M4 Fairway Wood was £199....Now £139

Taylor Made Hybrid was £169....Now £129

Taylor Made M4 Iron sets (5-sw, stiff flex steel shafts) was £649....Now £449

Taylor Made M4 Irons sets (5-sw, graphite shafts) was £749....Now £549

### **NEW FOR 2019**

Custom fitting clubs available now, available to pre-order, or available to purchase from 1.2.19. Ranges include:

- Taylor Made M5 and M6
- Callaway EPIC FLASH
- Ping G410 (coming soon)
- Cobra F9 (coming at the end of January)

**THIS IS YOUR CLUB NEWSLETTER: Tell us what you think, tell us what you would like to see:**

Email: [stocksbridgegolf@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stocksbridgegolf@hotmail.co.uk)

Or just talk to one of the Directors: The President, Captains and Club Officers would be pleased to hear your ideas

## R&A RULES OF GOLF CHANGES 2019: SUMMARY

1. Taking a drop: You must now drop the ball from knee height, not shoulder height. Measure the area to drop your ball with your longest club, (except a putter). You must drop in and play from the relief area. When dropping back on the line, your ball cannot be played from nearer the hole than your chosen reference point
2. Time to search for a lost ball now 3 Minutes
3. If you accidentally move your ball, when searching for it, replace it without penalty
4. No penalty for double-hitting the ball, counts as one stroke
5. No penalty if your ball strikes the flag stick when you have chosen to leave it in the hole
6. No penalty if your ball strikes you, your bag or your equipment after a stroke
7. Accidentally move the ball on the putting green, replace it without a penalty
8. Ball marked, lifted and replaced on putting green is moved by wind to another position – replace ball on the original spot without penalty
9. You may remove loose impediments and moveable obstructions in a bunker
10. In Bunkers, you cannot touch the sand with your club in the area right in front of or right behind your ball, during your backswing or in taking practice swings.
11. You may repair spike marks and other shoe damage on the putting green.
12. Unplayable ball in bunker – extra option to drop outside the bunker for 2 penalty strokes.
13. You cannot have your caddy stand behind you when taking your stance.
14. Penalty Areas: You may now move loose impediments, ground your club and take practice swings in penalty areas, just as you can on the fairway or in the rough.
15. You cannot take relief from a penalty area unless you are at least 97% certain your ball is in the penalty area.
16. Free Relief is allowed if your ball is embedded on the fairway or in the rough (BUT “embedded” means that part of your ball is below the level of the ground)
17. **Pace of Play**- It is recommended that you take no longer than 40 seconds to make a stroke, (usually much less).
18. Ready Golf is encouraged in stroke play. Furthest from the hole still plays first in match play.

Players who lose a ball have the option **under a local rule** to drop the ball in the vicinity of where the ball is lost or out of bounds, under a two-stroke penalty. See the R&A explanation below.

### GOLF'S NEW RULES: STROKE AND DISTANCE

A new Local Rule will provide an alternative to stroke-and-distance relief for a ball that is lost outside a penalty area or out of bounds. This new Local Rule will be available beginning January 1, 2019.

**BALL OUT OF BOUNDS**

**LOST BALL**

If the Local Rule is in effect, you can still take stroke-and-distance relief, but you will now have the following additional option that comes with a penalty of two strokes:

<p><b>A DETERMINE SPOT</b> where your ball went out of bounds (left diagram) or is likely to be lost (right diagram).</p>	<p><b>B FIND NEAREST FAIRWAY EDGE</b> no closer to the hole.</p>	<p><b>C DROP YOUR BALL IN SHADED AREA</b> as defined on one side by a line from the hole through point A and on the other side by a line from the hole through point B, and not nearer the hole. The relief area is extended on both sides by two club-lengths.</p>
---	--	---

This Local Rule is not intended for higher levels of play, such as professional or elite amateur level competitions.

R&A USGA