

Birchwood Park Seniors

Dear Members,

Over the past couple of years at Christmas time, I have reflected on the season and 2016 has been an exceptional period particularly with the very welcome influx of so many new members.

For the benefit of our “newbies” it would be appropriate to remind members of important elements of the Senior section.

Our Monday competitions have an entry fee of £4 whether played from white or yellow tees and include individual matches played in two handicap divisions, as well as team and fun events. The annual Singles, Pairs, Winter Greensomes, Masters and Challenge cup have overall winners though not split into Divisions. The Divisions are under constant review by the committee. All senior competitions are governed by the “Competitions Information” document which may be obtained from the Captain. All senior members are members of the main golf club and governed by the Constitution, but for the purposes of section administration we are permitted to operate under the terms of the “Operational document for the Committee” and I would recommend members to view this document, a copy of which can be supplied by our secretary.

The Wednesday and Friday Swindles are not officially part of the seniors section though only seniors may play. The committee maintain an overview and a responsibility for ensuring that players maintain high standards of etiquette whilst playing. We are very fortunate in having Mike Grey, Duncan Woods and others who organise the matches throughout the year.

Members are encouraged to represent the section in external competitions, details of which are posted on the notice board. These include the inter-club friendlies, the Super-70's (for the more mature players!!!), the Invicta league and the annual Mitchell Thompson tournament. As a section we regularly do well thanks to the efforts of our captains and their teams.

In early March each year we have the captain's drive-in and our new captain for 2017/8 is Ian Currie who I know you will fully support. In July we have the captain's away-day, a subsidised event which is always well attended.

This winter we have seen the introduction of a “closed season” in line with the main club, which runs in parallel with winter rules. Handicaps will not be adjusted although the Handicap secretary has the authority to do so on “observation” to ensure fair play throughout the winter months.

This year saw the passing of a founder member Tony Nash who will be sorely missed. A number of members have suffered illness this year and I do hope the new year will see some improvement for them. We all wish them well.

Under the new arrangements we will be holding our Annual General Meeting in February 2017 after the Monday competition and I hope you will all attend to support your committee. Any member is entitled to stand for office and indeed I would encourage you to do so...no one has a monopoly of good ideas.

Finally I would like to personally thank each and every one of you for supporting the section throughout the year; in particular the committee who have worked tirelessly as always, to ensure we have a popular and successful section, and those like Fred Thompson who help run the Monday desk.

My best wishes to you and your families for Christmas and a happy healthy New Year.

John Beschizza

Chairman