

# ALDWARCK MANOR GOLF CLUB

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2017

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## Introduction

Welcome to the first Aldwark Manor Golf Club Newsletter for several years.

We hope that you will find it interesting and that it will also stimulate ideas on how you would like to see your club progress and/or any changes you feel would be beneficial to both your participation and enjoyment.

The committee are always happy to receive suggestions for improvement, whether to the course, competitions, or organisation and to listen to concerns members may have. Any suggestions or concerns we receive will always be given serious consideration at the following committee meeting. Please email correspondence to [admin@aldwarkmanorgolfclub.co.uk](mailto:admin@aldwarkmanorgolfclub.co.uk).

## Competitions

Despite the fact that the NERGA Competition has been added to our Calendar this season and has clashed with our own competitions on several occasions it is very good to report that entries for our own competitions are significantly up on previous years. It is good and encouraging to see many new members taking part during 2017/8 as this has not always been the case in recent years. Weekend competition entries are currently showing an increase in entries of approximately 10% over 2016/7 numbers.

For several years the numbers competing in Midweek Competitions had been falling. This resulted two years ago in switching the Midweek Competition from Monday to Wednesday as many members suggested that numbers were low because although they would like to play midweek competitions they did not wish to play on successive days. Unfortunately the numbers playing on Wednesday were even lower so this season the Midweek Competitions were

switched to Tuesday with tees changed from White to Yellow and limited to Stableford format as the Medal competitions had been very poorly supported. This change has seen a significant improvement in participation (an average increase of almost 90% over 2016/7 entries).

A number of Members have commented on the move to yellow tees and the lack of midweek medal competitions so for next season in response to Members' suggestions we will also hold several Midweek Medal competitions on Thursdays and all Midweek Competitions will revert to White tees.

Competition results are posted to the Howdidido website however there are a couple of notable results worthy of repeating.

Firstly Chris Dale followed on some good 'away' performances by recording a Net 62 in the July Medal – congratulations Chris, then Max Milne was successful with 8 points in the Gary Platt Trophy and this again equated to a Net 62. Well done Max.

## York Union

After many months of canvassing from Aldwark and despite some stiff resistance from a couple of other clubs in the York Union we are pleased that York Union of Golf Club competitions are now open to any member with a competitive Congu handicap and can be entered for their competitions, starting in October with this year's Cross Trophy. This means that our QFairway Members and 5 day Members can now participate in competitions such as the Cross Trophy providing they fulfil the competition handicap limits.

Already, there are increased numbers interested in playing in this year's Cross Trophy - 9 members so far added to the 20 who played last year, so we should be able to field larger numbers in future. We have for many years "punched above our weight" in York Union competitions giving consideration to our comparative low membership numbers. Indeed last year Aldwark members held three of the York Union major trophies. We haven't been quite so successful this season however congratulations go to Ian Prior and Trevor Bardy who took the Kitching Trophy held at Aldwark recently.

Not only did we win the Kitching Trophy but we also came second and third

through the great play of George Walker/Adam Green and Steve Manby/Dave Pittman.

In addition to the 1-2-3 in the Kitching Trophy, Peter Coughlin has recently come second in his division of the Pick Trophy, and Dave Pittman playing with Tony Bennett came second in the Sharp Trophy earlier in the Summer.

Hopefully we will continue to do well in the Cross Trophy

Tony Bennett is our representative to York Union and he is currently collating names for the forthcoming Cross Trophy competitions which begin in October with the first round being at Aldwark and Heworth. If you are interested in representing the club in these or any other York Union event please contact Tony – ([valtony10@aol.com](mailto:valtony10@aol.com)).

## North East Rabbits Golf Association (nerga)

AMGC entered teams into both the Inter Section (Handicaps 8 -15) and the Rabbits Section (Handicaps 16 – 28) for the first time this season.

The intention was to give our members the opportunity to represent the club playing competitive golf at a range of courses outside those we regularly play in York Union competition. It is fair to say that everyone who have participated so far have really enjoyed the format and the venues played making entry to the Association a success and one which we hope to continue in coming years.

### INTER SECTION

The INTER team has played at Whitby, Easingwold, Romanby, Ripon and Aldwark with more than a fair degree of success. The final league table finished as:-

<u>Team</u>	<u>Points</u>
1. Malton & Norton	24
2. Ripon City	21
3. Romanby	19

4. Aldwark Manor 18
5. Whitby 17
6. Easingwold 15

The notable success in the Inter Section came in the Individual Contest where some superb results from Chris Dale saw him emerge as Section Champion. Chris now goes forward to represent Aldwark Manor at the Finals Day to be held at Woodham Golf Club on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Congratulations Chris and Good Luck in the Finals.

#### RABBITS SECTION

Aldwark Rabbits have certainly made an impact on our first season in the competition. Although the section has still to be completed the table shows AMGC vying for second place – this really is a creditable performance when we take into consideration the relative sizes of the clubs we are competing against. The current table :-

<u>Team</u>	<u>Points</u>
1. Malton & Norton	47
2. Rudding Park	39
3. Aldwark Manor	38
4. Easingwold	31
5. Forest Park	29
6. KP Club	25
7. Scarborough North	20
8. Filey	19

In the Individual Competition Dave Pittman is leading the way for AMGC and is currently in joint 2<sup>nd</sup> position 3points behind the current leader with one round at Malton & Norton to come so with any luck we could have TWO Zone Champions come Finals Day. Rabbits Finals Day is on September 30<sup>th</sup> at Woodham Golf Club.

## Ladies Section News

Our Ladies have organised a Quiz night on Friday 13th of October.

This will be open to teams of 4 with an entry fee of only £12 per team providing exceptional value for money. The evening will start around 7pm, as well as much kudos there will also be a trophy for the winning team. Nibbles will be provided.

Not to be outdone by the Mens' Section the Ladies have their own notable results:-

Chrissie Warner won the Maggie Robson Trophy with 43 points

Ann Mead won the Granny Trophy with 36 points

Great results for both ladies – well done.

Now the Ladies' Captain (Carole Withers) seems to be able to do something that our men haven't done for years. Yes Carole has just achieved her second hole-in-one.

The latest came at the 18th hole in the August Medal. According to Carole it was an excellent shot thoroughly deserving the result.

Congratulations Carole – Tony Aldam and Dave Russon, your playing partners on the day will happily confirm your version of events

The annual Mixed Fortunes competition will be held on Saturday 30th September

## Qhotels News

Welcome to Aldwark to our new PGA Professional Tony Moore. We look forward to working with Tony on all golf related issues. At a recent committee meeting Tony outlined his plans for:-

1.) The Course (more below)

2.) Retail – You may have noticed that the shop stock has improved considerably since Tony's arrival. In future the shop staff will listen to members needs and requests and endeavour to get the best deals or price match on where possible on specific items required

3.) Lessons – With Tony’s arrival PGA Professional lessons are now available at Aldwark Manor. If it's an individual or group lesson please talk to Tony to book

4.) Junior golf is a very important part of any golf club. It helps to encourage the grass roots of our sport to all those juniors wishing to learn a sport that develops them in so many ways. Tony is asking all members to help introduce a junior - maybe a family member or a friend of a friend.

## The Course

Whilst most of us would agree that the course provides good value for money there are always areas which could be improved. As mentioned above Tony Moore has played the course and he has his views on where improvements can be made. The committee has over a number of years also raised issues/opinions/suggestions with regard to the course condition at Aldwark. It would be good to hear your views on any particular course related topic.

As a starter these are some thoughts previously discussed –

- Greens in comparison to other courses Aldwark greens often seem slow?
- Greens do not run true, putts often bounce towards the hole rather than run truly?
- Holes are crowned?
- Rough – the rough just off the fairway is too long? There is too much unnecessary rough?
- Paths - some paths need review (path down from 4<sup>th</sup> white tee)
- Paths across bridges slippery
- Bridge over river needs a safer surface than the rubber matting?

### IMPORTANT

Unfortunately this year the course seems to have been invaded by both Giant Hogweed and Himalayan Balsam. Whist the latter (the tall weeds with purple

flowers) is not necessarily injurious to health it is a rapidly growing, spreading weed and can be easily transferred to your own gardens or other areas through seeds clinging to shoes or clothing. It is recommended therefore that these areas are avoided.

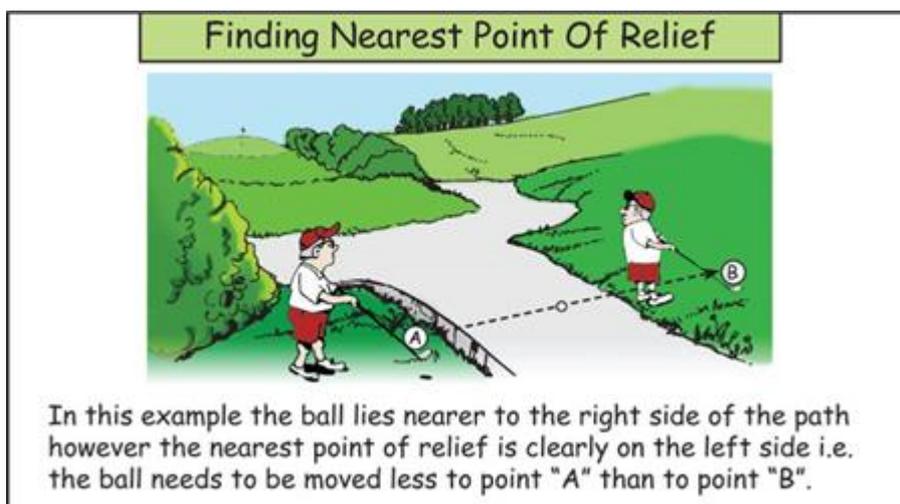
In terms of Giant Hogweed it is essential that you do **NOT** touch these plants. Touching the leaves can leave your skin with severe 'burns' and irritation which can last months and has been known to last years.

The committee has been in discussions with QHotel management previously and this has at least increased the number of warning posters on display. We are requesting that a management plan is put into place for the control or removal of these two plants as we believe that Giant Hogweed poses a Health and Safety issue.

## Rules of Golf – Aldwark FAQs

Q. If my ball lands on a path or on the green marked GUR on the 13<sup>th</sup> fairway where must I drop the ball.

A. There is a diagram to help below.



Unfortunately if you apply this to the unused green marked GUR on the 13<sup>th</sup> it clearly shows that unless your ball is well to the right hand side of the GUR and you're a right handed player you will need to drop to the left hand side of the

green (behind the trees!!).

The same logic applies if you're playing the 14th and end up on the path alongside the 4th tee.

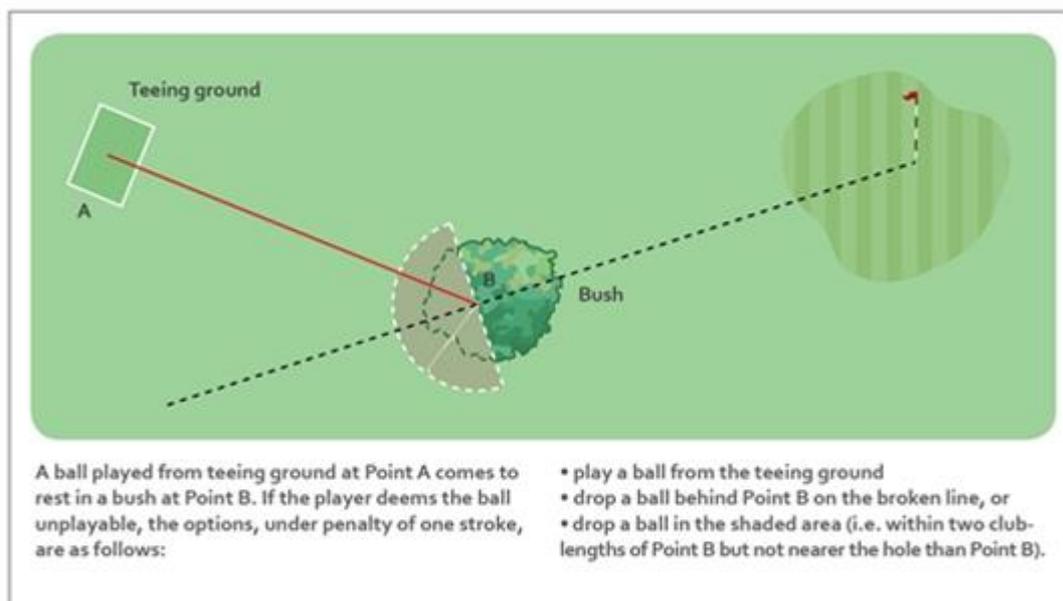
Note you cannot choose which side of the path or GUR to take relief – it is always the closest point (even if there's a bush or tree in your way).

Q. My ball ends up behind one of the rocks outside the hazard by the pond on the 18<sup>th</sup> – do I get a free drop.

A. The rocks are an integral part of the course therefore any drop is taken as an unplayable ball (Rule 28) and drop under penalty of one shot

Q. Where do I drop if my ball gets stuck in a bush/tree

A. As above follow Rule 28 Unplayable Ball so drop under penalty of one shot – see below for options under Rule 28



## Upcoming Events

Please , please, please look at the notice boards in the Locker Rooms and don't forget the Mixed Notice Board to the left of the outside door to ensure that you don't miss any club events or functions.

This year it will be twenty five years since the course became an 18 hole course, previously it was only a 9 hole course predominantly around the hotel. To celebrate the anniversary our Current Captain (Steve Manby) and the then Captain (Past Captain Peter Wright) will act as None Playing Captains for a challenge match to be held on Saturday September 2<sup>nd</sup>. If you wish to play see list on Mixed Notice Board.

As noted earlier the Ladies' have two events coming up:-

- Mixed Fortunes - Saturday 30th September
- Quiz Night Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October

Steve Manby will host his Captains Away Day on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

Please watch the Notice Boards for full details.

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**We hope you have enjoyed the newsletter  
– please let us have your thoughts and  
suggestions – email**

**[admin@aldwarkmanorgolfclub.co.uk](mailto:admin@aldwarkmanorgolfclub.co.uk)**