

THE 'RIDGE' REPORT

January 2024



NEWS FLASH

Russell Parsons has taken over as the Chiltern Breakfast League Captain. He is currently finalizing fixtures for the Summer League and will also arrange the Challenge Cup and Winter Knockout 2024/25.

Russ is always on the lookout for new players. If you would like to get involved in club matches, then please email him at cpgcmen@gmail.com

Matches are normally played on a Saturday and provide the chance to play other courses.

CAPTAIN'S COMMENT

This is my final newsletter before I hand over the captaincy to Bruce Smith at the Annual General Meeting on the 10th of February. It has been a privilege to be your Club Captain over the last year and I would like to sincerely thank everyone, both staff and members, for supporting me during my tenure. I hope you have enjoyed your golf at Chartridge over the last year. Looking back over the last 12 months there have been many highlights and fortunately only a few low points. The weather continued to have a bearing on several planned events which was frustrating at the time, but this was far outweighed by many good memories. As captain, I have met many more members across all the sections, and I have enjoyed organizing events and then watching people just having a good time. Games on the putting green at Sandy Lodge in the evening sun with a beer and the Ryder Cup event in September are just a couple of highlights that stand out for me. I wish Bruce all the best for 2024/25.

I must also thank everyone for their extraordinary generosity in supporting my Captain's Charity, Buckinghamshire Mind. I have now raised £3700, that is £700 over my initial target, which is fantastic! To put this into perspective, this could fund 37 school assemblies to raise awareness on mental health in young people, or train 74 volunteer befrienders, or purchase materials for wellbeing groups.

Committee Vacancies

This section appeared in a previous newsletter, but I am appealing to all to see whether you can spare some time and get more involved in the club. If so, then why not volunteer your services to the Committee? Some long-standing members will be stepping down in the next couple of weeks having given a great service to your club. We really need to recruit some new members to the Committee so if you think you can help, then please speak to Bruce Smith or any Committee member or just email cpgcmen@gmail.com.

Annual General Meeting - Free lunch!

The AGM will take place on Saturday 10th February. It will be preceded by the annual Captain Vs Vice, 18-hole pairs scramble and will kick off with a shotgun start at 9am. This is a fun event with no entry criteria other than being a current member at CPGC. There will be lunch afterwards provided by the Committee, then the AGM and annual prizegiving. If you want to play, register using the sign-up sheet that was circulated by Eric or speak to the staff at reception.

Course Improvements

There has been a lot of work on the course recently to remove bushes and hedges. This will allow more light onto the teeing areas and greens whilst also improving the airflow to help areas dry out. The Committee have recently purchased

some additional shoe brushes to help remove mud off the bottom of shoes. These will be placed around the course on the 4th, 12th, and 15th. These are in addition to the existing one on the 8th.

World Handicap System (WHS) - Changes

There are a few small changes to WHS that take effect from 1st April 2024, my thanks to the Handicap Committee for providing the following update.

The most significant change that affects our members will be the new way of calculating course handicaps. The home nations will fall into line with the rest of the world and introduce “course rating minus par” to the existing equation. This means that when playing to your handicap (from April onwards) you will score level par. In the past, when playing to your handicap you would have a score equal to the course rating of a course (the new word for SSS) and not necessarily the par. This means that when looking up your course handicap you are likely to find you receive a different number of shots than you do now.

For Chartridge, where the Course Ratings are all 1 to 2 shots less than relevant par the adjustment will result in players receiving a lower number of shots than currently. It does mean that for men playing off say the yellow tees, who have effectively needed to score 38 stableford points to play to par (37pts for Men white or Ladies reds), this will in future equate to 36 points. Significantly though, the way in which your handicap index is calculated remains unchanged.

Forthcoming Events

Captain vs Vice, AGM and Annual Prize Giving – Saturday 10th February

Presidents Day – Saturday 27th April 2024

Celebration Cup – Monday 27th May 2024

Club Championships – Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th June 2024