Chairman’s Column

Pressed for Time

With nearly half of my year as Chairman nearly gone its finally dawned on me how valuable time is. The very fact that I’m writing this report on yet another flight and (much to Scott’s frustration) right on the deadline for submission for the July issue is testament to how difficult it is to fit everything in. I really shouldn’t complain however as Travel really does broaden the mind and the opportunity it gives to meet people and forge new relationships is invaluable.

Since the last issue the inaugural Neil Thomas Memorial Golf Day has been held at Aldwark Manor. On what was inevitably a day of mixed emotions 29 teams enjoyed fine weather and did their bit to raise funds for the Hospice in Harrogate that cared for Neil so well toward the end of his illness. It was a great pleasure to welcome Elaine, Grant, Adam and Natalie back to Aldwark Manor. They are coping admirably with their loss and I hope the words from Walter Woods and Kerran Daly, on behalf of the Master Greenkeepers, were of some pride and comfort.

While trips to Scotland for the R&A’s 250th Anniversary Celebrations and the above mentioned Golf Day and combined Board meetings have been most enjoyable, the pace at Carden has not slackened. We are no less busy with final preparations for The De Vere PGA Seniors Championship in early August and my team continue to do a great job-hopefully they can now see some light at the end of what appears to have been a long dark tunnel.

Having just watched most of the last days play at the US Open from Shinnecock Hills the thought struck me about how unusual it is to hear players complain about green speeds being too quick! Maybe just maybe you do reap what you sow! With The Open taking place at Royal Troon this year it will be interesting to see what comparisons are drawn. I’m sure that Billy McClachlan will have the superb layout in its finest condition and my best wishes to him for a successful event.

Wherever you are and whatever the size of event(s) you are hosting at this time hopefully you will all be enjoying the chance to share the longer nights with your families or even play your Golf course. It’s a tough job we do but the real reason we do it, and for most of the time at least, enjoy it, can be found by simply walking your course as the sunsets on a Summer evening. I would suggest that for all of the Science, business management etc. that we are engaged in today, it’s the artistry and the result of our labours that keep us going. Enjoy it and be proud and when Golfers congratulate, accept humbly for it won’t be too long, whether you be a Greenkeeper or the mighty USGA, before their complaints yet again ring in your ears!

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Chairman