

RAL Golf Society annual report 2018-2019

2018 was another great year for the RAL Golf Society. Following the previous year the society was again headed by the committee of Darren Ballard (Chairman), Paul Benson (Secretary). The Golf Society Captain for the year was Darren Ballard.

This year we managed 8 meetings of the society between February and October. With the format being the same as the past season, 5 results from the 8 rounds were to count towards the overall league.

Rounds were played at mostly the same venues as the 2017-18 season, however due to having more members; we were able to negotiate better deals to play higher quality courses than previously – examples being Studley Wood GC, Oxford GC and Marlborough GC. Though these courses propose a sterner test of golf, their better quality greens and set up mean that were enjoyed by all who attended.

The Inter-Establishment was this year hosted by Rutherford Lab and was played at the Hellidon Lakes Golf & Spa Hotel over 2 days in June. RAL entered 2 teams and DLS entered 1 team, with DLS being the team winners and RAL B being the team runners up. Further success was enjoyed by Neal Grafton who was runner up in the scratch competition and Paul Seller who was runner up for the individual Stableford score of the tournament; Brian Duckhouse won the best Stableford score on the Tuesday. Best Par 3 score was Paul Benson.

Finals day was again played at West Berkshire GC. The overall title (The Gordon Walker Cup) was won by Richard Chapman with 43 points, securing the overall title by 7 points, with Paul Benson in second place and Tony Kershaw in third place.

Another event to take place in 2018 was the RAL v Diamond Ryder Cup event. This was played at Sandford Springs GC in September over 27 holes. The morning format saw 10 players from each team play in pairs and then after a quick lunch it was down to an afternoon of single play. After RAL holding the cup for the last 2 events, DLS came out victorious winning 13.5 to 1.5.

4 other trophies that were won through the year were the RAL Trophy played at Carswell GC won by Andrew Malandain, Cotswold Cup (new cup) played at the Marlborough GC won by Peter Allan, the Charity Shield played at West Berks GC was won by Richard Chapman and the 2018 GS Matchplay Knockout which was won by Tony Kershaw.

The 2019 season has already started with golf played at Drayton Park GC and Oxford GC. Membership numbers have levelled out to around 40 with 20 playing in the first game and 18 in the second game. The society continues to grow and would like to thank Paul Sedwards, Joe Moxon, Ronnie Brumfitt and the Rec-Soc committee for their continued support in what we believe to be one of the best and well supported clubs within the Recreational Association. We look forward to some better weather and hotly contested competitions through the remainder of the 2019 season.

At present there is ~£330 in the society account (we can supply an accurate figure to anyone who would request it). Members of the society who are CSSC members are charged £5 a year membership, non-members pay £10. We do however encourage members to take out CSSC membership when they express an interest in joining the society.

2019 Committee.

Chairman – Darren Ballard

Secretary – Paul Benson