

RUDDING PARK

— HARROGATE —

GOLF MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2026

MESSAGE FROM YOUR CLUB CAPTAIN, JOHN BURKS



September has been another busy month at Rudding Park Golf, with plenty of great golf. There's certainly been no shortage of golfing action, team success and reasons to celebrate.

First, a huge well done to our 2026 Order of Merit winners: Jes Illingworth (Golfer of the Year), Dave Balbi (Senior Golfer of the Year) and Julie Gibbs (Lady Golfer of the Year). Congratulations also to Andy Hamilton, who took the Champion of Champions title with an impressive 43 points. Clearly, some people have been saving their best golf for the end of the season!

Our members have also been busy in the Knockouts, with Finals Day bringing another season of competitive golf to a close. Away from the individual honours, our teams have given us plenty to shout about, including the Harrogate Union's historic Yorkshire Inter-District League victory after 39 years and Rudding Park retaining the Oakdale Jubilee Trophy for the fourth-year running. Not a bad haul!

Looking ahead, please save the date for our Members' Annual Awards Dinner on Friday 13 November. Preparations are already underway for what promises to be another memorable evening celebrating everyone's golfing successes in 2026. It's a chance to recognise our winners, share a few laughs and enjoy a great evening together.

As we head into the winter season, there are still competitions to enjoy and plenty of reasons to get out on the course. Keep supporting one another, enjoy your golf and I'll see you around the club.

John

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2026 GOLFER OF THE YEAR

We are delighted to announce that this year's Golfer of the Year is Jes Illingworth, with an outstanding 25 Order of Merit points. Jes' season included wins in Club Stablefords, alongside strong performances in other Major competitions including the Spring Cup and Memorial trophy. Congratulations also to our other top performers:

- 2nd – Ian Rotherham (20 points)
- 3rd – George Preece (19 points)
- 4th – Stu Ingham (16 points)

A fantastic season of golf from all involved.



2026 CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS

Rudding Park hosted the Champion of Champions on Saturday, 26 September. This prestigious event brought together everyone who secured a club competition win throughout the season, creating a thrilling stableford competition amongst over 50 members.

Congratulations to Andy Hamilton who claimed overall victory with an impressive 43 stableford points. Well done to all who took part and contributed to another fantastic day at Rudding Park.



SENIOR GOLFER OF THE YEAR

The 2026 season has brought another well-deserved Order of Merit success, with Dave Balbi crowned Rudding Park's Senior Golfer of the Year.

Dave accumulated 24 Order of Merit points across the season, demonstrating his consistency in the club's senior competitions and finishing the year at the top of the standings.

The award recognises a season of strong performances and regular involvement in competitive golf, making it a fitting reward for Dave's efforts throughout 2026.



LADY GOLFER OF THE YEAR

Julie Gibbs was awarded the 2026 Lady Golfer of the Year.

Julie secured the title with an impressive 35 Order of Merit points, earned through the club competitions she entered throughout the season.

Her consistent participation and performances across the year have been rewarded with this well-deserved accolade.

Congratulations, Julie, on a fantastic achievement and a brilliant season.

FINALS DAY AT RUDDING PARK



Over 380 members entered this year's Knockouts, culminating in an exciting Finals Day on Saturday, 12 September.

Matches for Open Singles, Ladies Singles, and Tigers were played on the day, while the other categories were decided beforehand. The trophy presentation followed, led by Club Captain John Burks and Lady Captain Katherine Fenton.

- Scratch Singles: Alex Forbes
- Open Singles: Stu Ingham
- Ladies Singles: Louise Shermer
- Senior Singles: Bryan Holmes
- Rabbits Singles: Andy Hamilton
- Mid Handicap Singles: Ian Barnes
- Tigers Singles: Ashley Prescott
- Open Pairs: Rob Thompson & Nathan Pettitt
- Senior Pairs: Dean Pike & John Horvath
- Mixed Pairs: Julie Gibbs & Mark McHale



ROSEBOWL - LADIES V MEN ANNUAL MATCH

The Rosebowl was played on Sunday 6 September in a real mix of weather conditions, starting with showers before finishing in lovely bright sunshine. The Men came out on top, winning the match 6.5–3.5.

Well played to all involved, and congratulations to the Men on their victory. We look forward to next year!



HARROGATE UNION HISTORIC SUCCESS

Huge congratulations to The Harrogate & District Union of Golf Clubs on winning the Yorkshire Inter-District League for the first time in 39 years. Rudding Park has played a huge part in this fantastic achievement, with seven of our players representing the Union throughout the season: Jack Carolan, Alex Forbes, Marc Rice, Dex Ward, Jack Ward, Tom Wharldall and Matt Wharldall. Well done to everyone involved.



RABBITS ECLECTIC TROPHY

The season-long Rabbits Eclectic reached its climax on 29 September, when nine players contested the final round. Captain Dave Spenley led with 53 points, followed by John Topping on 50 and Mike Procter on 48. John improved at the first, while Mike gained points at the seventh and ninth. Dave missed chances to extend his lead. At the eighteenth, John needed two points to tie and calmly secured par after reaching the green in two. A countback gave John the trophy on the stronger back nine. Congratulations to John, and thanks to everyone who played throughout a spirited, enjoyable season.



HDUGC OAKDALE TROPHY FOUR YEARS IN A ROW!

The Harrogate & District Union of Golf Clubs Mixed AmAm was held on Sunday 20 September at Ripon City Golf Club, and we're delighted to announce that Rudding Park has retained the Oakdale Jubilee Trophy for the fourth year running. The trophy is awarded to the club with the highest combined score from its two teams.

Our teams delivered another fantastic performance: 2nd – 82 points: Esther & Richard Noland, Allison & Kevin Simmonds, 5th – 78 points: Julie Gibbs & Mark McHale, Karen & Paul Rutter. A combined total of 160 points secured the trophy for Rudding Park.



CAPTAINS' CHARITY PAIRS RESULTS

The Captains' Charity Pairs was held on Sunday 20 September at Rudding Park Golf in glorious sunshine. Congratulations to our top three pairs:

1. Ruth Whiteley & Cliff Herrington – 46 points
2. Tom Wharldall & Dan Bulcock – 45 points
3. Peter Whiteley & Carol Whiteley – 43 points

Well done to everyone who took part and helped make it a fantastic day, while supporting the Captains' charity fundraising in aid of Saint Michael's Hospice.



SOLHEIM CUP CELEBRATION

On Sunday 27 September, Rudding Park Golf held its biennial "Solheim Cup Celebration", with our five teams going head-to-head: First Team, Bainbridge, Ladies, Seniors and Rabbits.

The final results saw the Bainbridge Team take the honours once again, retaining the title after another closely contested day of team golf.

A fantastic day of competition and a great atmosphere throughout. Congratulations to the Bainbridge Team on another Solheim Cup victory and to all of the individual prize winners.



RUDDING HOSTED THE YIDU 6-MAN TEAM EVENT

Rudding Park proudly hosted the Yorkshire Inter-District Union 6-Man Team Championship, welcoming eight district teams for 36 holes of stroke play on the Hawtree Course. Harrogate Union fielded Rudding Park's Matt Wharldall, Marc Rice and Alex Forbes, alongside Richard Fawcett, Henry Croft and Michael Robson. Following their first Yorkshire Inter-District League title in 39 years, Harrogate received the trophy and finished third with a combined gross score of 716, behind winners Teesside (711) and runners-up Sheffield (713). A special shout-out to Matt Wharldall, who placed third individually after superb rounds of 70 and 69, finishing five under par.



BONFIRE NIGHT AT RUDDING PARK IS BIGGER THAN EVER!

Remember, remember... Bonfire Night at Rudding Park is back, it's bigger and better than ever!

Join us on Saturday 7 November - gates open at 5pm with a Family Fire & LED Show, walkabout characters, face painters and food stalls before the bonfire and firework display. Standard tickets from £15 and £7 for under 18s.

Book online at ruddingpark.co.uk/events/whats-on
New for this year - a VIP experience on Clocktower Terrace. Bubbles, canape-style pizza, a private bar and DJ. £35pp, over 18s only and strictly limited.

NEW FOR 2027 COMPETITION QUALIFICATION

In line with many other clubs in Yorkshire and the UK, the Handicap and Competitions committee are tightening up the handicap entry requirements for entry into competitions from the start of the 2027 season.

The 2027 yearbook will state the following:

To be eligible to win competition prize money (and trophies/awards), a player must have a minimum of 6 (SIX) acceptable scores on their WHS playing record. At least 4 (FOUR) of these must be *COMPETITION SCORES (official scheduled club Medal and Stableford rounds or other WHS recognised rounds submitted by UK/regional golf unions etc) played within the 12 months prior to the date of the competition (or the date of each round/match, if playing in a series/league).

If you are in a team, the whole team must meet this requirement. Verification will be carried out AFTER each event and if the winners don't meet the eligibility criteria, the prizes/money/trophy will be awarded to the next eligible competitor.

*COMPETITION SCORES. These are scores which are added to the handicap record after playing in a recognised competition. They are defined on your handicap record on the 'MyEG' app, with a red circle around your gross score. They are NOT general play scores, which have a blue circle around your gross score

This change will help to ensure that the player's handicap index better reflects their current ability thus maintaining a fair and equitable field.

Handicap & Competitions Committee



Please join us to celebrate our
Golf Achievements of 2026 at our

MEMBERS' ANNUAL

Awards
DINNER

NOVEMBER

FRIDAY

13

6.30 PM

Meet at 6.30pm for pre-dinner
drinks in Rudding House followed
by a 3-course dinner and awards
celebration from 7pm

**More details will follow by
email to all members via BRS**



SENIORS UPDATE

Firstly, congratulations to all the winners of the Front 9, Back 9 and Overall competitions.

In Division 1, John Patrick was the overall winner with 35 points. John Lyon won the Front 9, while Kevin May took the Back 9.

In Division 2, Sandy McDonald was the overall winner with 36 points. Jonathon Pollock won the Front 9, and George Bellis took the Back 9.

The Seniors Club Medal results were as follows:

In Division 1, Darren Webb won with a nett 63. Colin Tichias finished second with a nett 70, and John Lyon was third, also with a nett 70.

In Division 2, Sandy Mackenzie won with a nett 63. Chris Norcliffe finished second with 69, and Dave Birch was third with a nett 70.

Well done to everyone mentioned above.

The final Friendly League matches took place in September. Masham won the league for the third year in succession, with Rudding Park finishing second - a fantastic result in our inaugural year.

I would like to thank everyone who stepped forward to play or serve as a reserve, not only in the league but in all our friendly matches. Your support made the task of selecting teams much easier, and it was greatly appreciated.

My sincere thanks also go to all the past Seniors Captains for their advice and guidance, and to the Rudding Park team - particularly Jonathan, Marc, Nick and Sophie - for all their help and support over the past year.

As I hand over, I hope you will give Mev, your new Seniors Captain, the same wonderful support you have shown me.

That's it from me. Thank you all.

John



JUNIORS UPDATE

Junior Championship Results

It has been another exciting period for our junior section, with strong participation, individual success and a well-earned team promotion. Our Junior Championship took place on Sunday 6 September, and it was wonderful to see so many juniors taking part. We were especially pleased to welcome several new faces competing in the Championship for the first time. Congratulations to this year's winners:

- U14 Nett: Joshua Patrick
- U14 Gross: Dan Hill
- U18 Nett: Josh Taylor
- U18 Gross: Tom Wharldall
- Girls Nett: Angharad Grabham
- Girls Gross: Isobel Welborn

Well done to everyone who played and helped make the day such a success. We hope to see even more of our juniors competing next year.

Fletcher Ball Wins the 2026 HDUGC U15 Order of Merit

Congratulations to Fletcher Ball on winning the U15 Order of Merit in the Junior Open Series. Across the season's six open events, he

recorded five top 10 finishes, including an impressive first place and second place. His victory is a superb achievement and reflects the consistency he has shown throughout the year. We are delighted to celebrate Fletcher's success and to see another Rudding Park junior progressing and enjoying competitive golf.

Rudding Park Juniors Promoted to HDUGC Junior League Division 1

Rudding Park Juniors are heading to Division 1 of the Harrogate & District Union of Golf Clubs Junior League after winning a three-way play-off against Oakdale and Ripon at Masham Golf Club. Congratulations to Josh Taylor, George Preece, Griffin Earley, Alexa Walmsley, Ollie Pritchard and Joshua Patrick, who represented the Rudding Park Golf Juniors' Team, as well as every junior who contributed throughout the season.

After six years away from league competition, the junior section returned just two years ago. To earn promotion in only our second season back is an outstanding achievement and a credit to everyone involved.

Brilliant work, team - and thank you to all the members and families who continue to support our juniors.

Mark



RABBITS UPDATE

With the Rabbits competitive season now at an end, we have finished with some great successes.

Andy Hamilton won the Champion of Champions with 43 points, the Rabbits team tied for 2nd place in the Solheim Trophy Celebration, with Paul Bean the top scorer on the day with 44 points, and the season-long Eclectic went down to the 18th green when John Topping needed a par to tie with me on 53 points. John played the hole superbly, making the 4 and beating me on countback to win the Trophy.

In the Harrogate Rabbits Autumn Invitational at Otley, the 3 Rudding Park pairs of Andy and Tom Robinson, Ian Borthwick and Pete Plummer, and Kevin Askew and Steve English all played really well to score a total of 113 points, only 1 point behind the winners, Knaresborough.

Now that my tenure as Rabbits Captain is almost at an end, I'd like to thank all the Rabbits who have turned out to play in all the different competitions, home and away, throughout the year. I have received great support, no one has ever let me down, and it has been a great pleasure to be the Rabbits Captain.

Best of luck to Richard Cook, who, subject to confirmation at the AGM, will take over as Rabbits Captain for 2026/7.

Dave



NERGA UPDATE

Truth be told, we, as Ridding Park Rabbits NERGA representatives, did not perform as well as we would have liked.

To summarise, we were there. Although we did not make the team finals, our singles representative, Mr David Spenley, did well, finishing 9th out of 32.

Along the way, while not performing to the best of our abilities, we did achieve some successes. These included second places at Masham and Kirkbymoorside (if only we'd kept this up). Four-ball vouchers were won by Kevin Askew and Andy Robinson by virtue of being the highest-scoring visitors at Masham and Kirkbymoorside, respectively.

However, despite all the aforementioned melancholy, I am happy to say that a really good time was had by all, and indeed, that's what golf is meant to be all about.

I would highly recommend that anyone out there with a handicap of 15 to 28 who enjoys weekend golf, good company, and good courses for (at the moment) only £15 get in touch with me by phone, email, or WhatsApp. I would be happy to welcome you into the fold.

To all those who have participated this year, please accept my sincere thanks for your support and camaraderie, without which I would not be embarking on another stint as your coordinator.

Winter well, all of you, and let's come back fighting next year.

Bryan

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LADIES UPDATE

September has been another busy and enjoyable month at Rudding Park Golf, with plenty to celebrate as my year as Lady Captain draws towards its conclusion.

Congratulations to Carol Whiteley, winner of the Past Lady Captain's Trophy, and to Esther Noland, who took the honours in the Summer Reds Competition following a fantastic season.

There was also success in the HDUGC Oakdale Trophy, with Esther and Richard Noland, Allison and Kevin Simmonds, Julie Gibbs, Mark McHale, and Karen and Paul Rutter finishing on an impressive 160 points to secure the trophy for Rudding Park, which will be the fourth year in a row.

Our Ladies' and Mixed Pairs Knockout competitions have also reached their later stages. Louise Shermer won the Ladies Knockout and Julie Gibbs and Mark McHale won the Mixed Pairs Knockout.

Anne Brewster added another major title to her season by winning the Lady Captain's Trophy. Congratulations to Anne and to everyone who competed.

Our Captain's Charity Pairs competition was another wonderful day, with Cliff Herrington and Ruth Whiteley taking the win while helping us support our chosen charity.

Congratulations also to all our September Medal and Stableford winners – it's fantastic to see so many members enjoying competitive golf throughout the month.

Lady Captain's Trophy (monthly stableford)

Division 1:

1. Anne Brewster - 34 points
2. Anne Davies - 31 points
3. Julie Gibbs - 30 points

Division 2:

1. Mary Kennady - 32 points
2. Rosie Ellis - 31 points
3. Maggie Pimley - 28 points

A particularly special congratulations goes to Julie Gibbs, who has been named Lady Golfer of the Year, finishing with an impressive 35 Order of Merit points.

Finally, our annual Rosebowl (Men v Ladies) and Solheim Cup Celebration provided two fantastic days of competitive team golf and camaraderie.

Thank you to everyone who has taken part and supported the ladies' section throughout September.

Katherine



End Of Season SALE

Selected Stock Only
Don't miss out.
Great prices.



GROOVES GOLF®

There's plenty happening at Grooves Golf as we head into the final few months of the year.

DON'T MISS OUR END OF SEASON SALE

Our End of Season Sale is now on at Grooves Golf, with some great deals across the brands.

Drivers from £249

Fairways from £179

Iron sets from £749

Wedges from £99 or two for £185

Whether you're looking to upgrade a club, replace some older equipment or simply pick up a great deal, come and have a look before it's gone.

Our team are on hand for advice, so you can get your equipment ready for the season ahead.

You can find out more about Grooves Golf at groovesgolf.com or visit the team upstairs in Gimme Golf, formerly the Rudding Park Golf Academy.

CAMIRAL GOLF & WELLNESS 2027 — NEW DATE RELEASED

We're heading back to Camiral Golf & Wellness in Spain in September 2027, and our latest trip is now open for bookings.

26th–30th September 2027

4 nights B&B • 3 rounds of golf

Set within the stunning Camiral resort, this is one of our favourite golf destinations, combining fantastic courses with excellent facilities, great food and plenty of time to relax away from the course.

Places are already starting to fill, so if you've been considering joining us on one of our golf holidays, now is a good time to get in touch.

Discover more about our coaching holidays at: <https://www.groovesgolf.com/experiences#coaching-holidays>

Grooves Golf



COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS

OCTOBER 2026

3 OCTOBER - WEEKEND MEDAL
7 OCTOBER - MID-WEEK MEDAL
10 OCTOBER - OCTOBER STABLEFORD
13 OCTOBER - LADIES' SEASON CLOSER
17 OCTOBER - SEASON CLOSER
17 OCTOBER - WINTER PAIRS AUCTION
20 OCTOBER - LADIES WINTER BLUES RD 1
21 OCTOBER - MID-WEEK STABLEFORD
25 OCTOBER - WINTER LEAGUE ROUND 1
28 OCTOBER - LADIES' CELEBRATORY EVENING

NOVEMBER 2026

4 NOVEMBER - MIDWEEK STABLEFORD
7 NOVEMBER - NOVEMBER STABLEFORD
8 NOVEMBER - WINTER PAIRS ROUND 1
14 NOVEMBER - NOVEMBER STABLEFORD
18 NOVEMBER - MIDWEEK STABLEFORD
28 NOVEMBER - WINTER LEAGUE ROUND 2

KEY EVENTS:

13 NOVEMBER - MEMBERS' AWARDS DINNER
18 NOVEMBER - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

DISCOVER WHAT'S ON AT RUDDING PARK
[HTTPS://WWW.RUDDINGPARK.CO.UK/EVENTS/WHATS-ON/](https://www.ruddingpark.co.uk/events/whats-on/)

Thank you for reading!