

## Men's Golf Captain Blog

Back from sunny Ireland, where every horsebox appears to have been converted into a pop-up coffee shop, face masks were required indoors, and indoor socialising is slowly being resurrected. Only 40,000 were permitted to be present at the All-Ireland hurling final at Croke Park (capacity 80,000) and more bizarrely just a week later the attendance was capped at 25,000 for a football semi-final. Ireland's Chief Medical Officer, seemingly the de facto Prime Minister at the moment, did not elaborate on the science behind this! Still, great to visit and see family for a few days, and play a little golf too.

Meanwhile at Roehampton Club, on Saturday 21st August, while we were travelling to North Wales to take the ferry to Ireland, a Club Stableford was played. And was played especially well by our incoming Ladies Captain, Patricia Morgan, who shot a brilliant score of 44 points, well played indeed! Some fine golf also by the chaps trailing in Patricia's wake, with Martin Horswood, Nick Wells and Keith Atkins each scoring 40 points. Martin's round included a hole-in-one on the 13th, so will be added to the board in the locker room in due course; congratulations Martin.

Thank you to everyone who played in the Captain and Past-Captains vs The Club match on 4th September, 36 players in total including 12 Captains in 9 fourball betterball matches. A great morning's golf, with the Captains and honorary Captains winning the first 4 matches But then... we lost all of the remaining 5 matches! So along with my record of least words spoken by a Captain per month, the coveted trophy will be engraved twice with the word LOST next to my name, oh well! Afterwards, we donned our blazers and ties for a three-course lunch and discussed the matches in further detail

throughout the afternoon over a couple of glasses of claret. A grand day indeed.



Back on the course next morning to join Head Pro Ricky Pharo for our match with my good pals John Randel and Frank de Freitas. Apologies to both, completely forgot to take a photo, then remembered it out on the course, mentioned it to Ricky, and then we both forgot again (how's that

for blame sharing and delaying the bad news). Out on the course, Ricky and I were up against it, finding ourselves 2 down thru 9, with the challengers at 3 under par to our level par effort. All square after 12 but back to 2 down with 3 to play. Ricky holed a great putt on 17 to take us down 18 hoping to halve the match but it wasn't to be and the challengers were victorious by 1 up. What a great battle we had, thank you chaps!

Also out on the course were 18 Members playing in a Club Roll-up, won by Justin Colver with 43 points, none of which were scored on the 17th, very impressive sir.

Runners-up were Richard C Williams on 39 points, and Tony Durrant on 37 points.

My golfing marathon continued with a re-scheduled Captain and Pro Match the very next day, Monday 6th, again with Ricky, versus the formidable pairing of Past-Captains Stuart Loggie and Greg Waunford-Brown. A closely fought front 9 had Ricky and I just 1 up, though as we've frequently been 2 down at that stage, this was very good for us! We went on to have a true ding dong battle over the back 9, with the score in the match changing 6 times, and we were 1 down playing the 18th. This time we were able to win the 18th, and the result of this brilliant match was all square. Many thanks to Stuart and Greg for a great afternoon, and to Ricky, in our final match together, for propping me up through the series!



After 1 golfless day, it was back to the Club on Wednesday afternoon, to join Will Hancock versus challengers Geoff Bradford and Roger Perry. A closely fought front 9 had us at 1 up thru 9 holes. We were still just 1 up after 12 holes



even though Will had birdied 10, 11, and 12. The challengers were battling very well indeed. We finally got it to 2 up after 14, and Will's Eagle on the 15th took us to dormi 3 up. But the chaps kept battling and Geoff made an excellent 5 nett 4 on the 16th to keep the match alive. A half on 17 meant a 2 and 1 victory for Captain and Pro. Thank you to Geoff and Roger, who's leaving us to relocate to Scotland at the end of the month, and also to Will who's been brilliant in the 3 matches we played together. I've included a photo of Roger's tees and pitch repaired also.

After all this intensive golf, I was looking forward to last weekend's Autumn Meeting, but could not deliver a decent score apart from my Sunday back 9. No such problems for our Golf Committee Chairman Niels Verbeek, winning the 36 hole nett prize with a 70 and a 65, congratulations. Niels' gross scores of 74 and 69 were only bettered by our Club Champion Luke Gorman, who shot 67 and 73. Congratulations to both trophy winners and to all prize-winners. Many thanks also to Peter Bradburn, Ashley Allpress and their teams for preparing a course in such fine condition.

The Men's Four Ball Better Ball knockout (2021) has progressed to the quarter-final stages and one of these matches has already been played. Well done to all who are still in the competition, and please ensure you complete your matches by the play-by date of Sunday 26th September.

Just one last, the final one ever in fact, Captain and Pro match to report on, played yesterday. The challenge came from Danny Gesua and Graham Post, and I was joined again by our newest professional, Nicole Stewart. Nicole has been helping Danny with his game, and with Graham also playing very well, we found ourselves 3 down after 6! A win on the 7th cheered us up, but that was to be the only hole we



would win, with the chaps dove-tailing brilliantly all the way. So 2 down after 9, with Nicole's birdie on the 10th just giving us a half. We were to lose the 11th though Nicole was unlucky to lose her ball from her tee shot. We found it after the hole was decided; she'd driven into the right hand rough less than 20

yards from the green! It was 4 down after my 3 putt on 13, and there it stayed for a thoroughly deserved 4 and 3 victory for Danny and Graham. Many thanks gentlemen.

Final tally for this series was 7 victories for the Captain and Pro, 2 halved matches, and 5 defeats. Thank you to all players who signed up and to our team of professionals for making it such an enjoyable series. I look forward to the Captain and Pro Challengers Event on Sunday 26th September.

This will be my penultimate blog post before I hand over to Paul on October 16th.

Enjoy your golf!

Gerry Dennigan, Men's Golf Captain