

Men's Golf Captain's Blog – 24th March 2022



We are at last experiencing some sunny weather, the course is looking great, with Members getting used to faster greens and we have the prospect of evening golf (and drinks on the terrace) just a few days away. The draws for the various summer knockouts have been made and so we are set fair for a busy summer of golf.

Surrey Golf – first round wins

Last weekend, our Surrey 5's B team defeated Cuddington at home (3–2), while our Scratch team defeated Windlesham at their course (4-1). Congratulations to both teams.

The Surrey 5 B team was Justin Thesiger, Paul Igoe, Simon Prince, Shaun Erasmus and me. The B team is playing Kingswood (away) in the next round. Given people's commitments, the team for the Kingswood match is not fixed so if you want to be considered for selection for this match (once the date is arranged – it will be in April), please contact Simon Butler.

The Scratch team was Vince Thorne, Scott Stanley, Peter Crocombe, Finn Begley and Alex Tonge. In the next round, they will play away at either Reigate Heath or Hampton Court.

Our Surrey 5's A team plays Walton Heath Artisans (away) on Saturday. Whilst, on the same day, Richard Lurcott and Richard B Williams visit Dulwich and Sydenham in the first round of the 4BBB Kelso Hamilton knockout. We wish them well. Our other Kelso Hamilton pair – Johnny Perkins and Malcolm Turner - are to play Reigate Hill in the second round (they had a bye in the first round).

Daily Mail Foursomes

Rob Cutler and Nigel Reynolds (the winners of last year's Winter Foursomes) won their first round of The Daily Mail Foursomes defeating their opponents from White Lodge Golf Club, 1 up. Next up, Rob and Nigel play Strawberry Hill (away).

Men's Winter Foursomes Final

The finalists are Miles Otway and Alex Fernandes (who defeated Scott and Oliver Stanley in their semi-final) vs Niels Verbeek and Ben Angood (who had a w/o against Richard Spalding and Roy Martin, as Richard had unfortunately sustained a serious injury).

Summer Knockouts

These have now commenced, so please ensure that you play your matches by the set deadline. In the Men's 4BBB and the Lockwood Foster, the first-round matches *must* be played by 1st May.



Rest of the World v Ireland, 12th March

The Rest of the World vs Ireland mixed 4BBB match took place on 12th March. We had 32 men and ladies playing, and Ireland, led by Gerry Dennigan, won convincingly (6.5 to 1.5). Thanks to everyone who entered this most friendly of friendlies, and it was good to see some of our newer and younger Members playing.

Captain and Pro 4BBB Challenge Matches

Ricky and I had the pleasure of playing Justin Thesiger and Bob Mitchell on 13th March. It was our fourth match in the Challenge series, and I am pleased to report that we emerged with a win, in another close match. Ricky and I won 2&1. The next challenge match takes place on 6th April.

As I'm close to organising my family holiday this summer, I will shortly offer some new dates for July and August, and these dates will be posted on the Noticeboard.



Scratch Team Medal

Our low handicappers played on 19th March. George Palmer won with a gross 76, with Rob Findlay (5) in second (also shooting a 76) and Bryn Rocke in third (77, on count back to David Birn).

Golf Diary Dates

Please check IntelligentGolf for the competition dates (there are many), but in particular, please note the following between now and the end of May.

- Men's Stableford – 26th March (we have a full entry but please check IG in case of any last-minute withdrawals)
- Centenary Putter – 10th April
- Syd Scott Mixed Foursomes – 2nd May
- Men's Spring Meeting – 14/15th May
- Charity Golf Day (open to Men and Ladies) in aid of Regenerate – 21st May
- Men's Invitation Day (Member/Guest) – 28th May

Details of the **Men's Invitation Day** will be published shortly; I do hope that Members will support the day and invite their guests. It will be 18 holes (shotgun start) 4BBB, with a three-course lunch to follow and various prizes to win.

Ladies' Open Gold Challenge Cup

This prestigious competition takes place on 9th April, with some of the very best lady amateur and professional golfers. Your support on the day would be very welcome.

Men's Golf Committee

We met on 15th March. Among the issues discussed were course etiquette, the summer golf arrangements and the 10th tee works. Members are taking heed of the need to repair pitchmarks, rake bunkers and replace divots. However, we can't afford to relax and we, along with the Club and the Ladies' Section, will continue to encourage Members to do their bit and more.

We are though concerned about the slow pace of play and the poor understanding of the Rules. The TagMarshal target time for a fourball is 3.45 hours, ideally quicker than that, so please play ready golf, and be willing to wave people through. And there are plenty of ways to improve your knowledge of the Rules: check the Noticeboard, read Tricia's blog, download the R&A rules app, read one of the golf magazines and read the emails from Tristan and Louis.

The **Club's Golf Committee**, chaired by Niels Verbeek, met on March 22nd. Minutes of this meeting will be posted on the Golf Noticeboard in the Club Reception. The Men's Committee minutes are on the Locker Room Noticeboard.

Food for thought?

This photo of me on the 17th tee was taken by Greg Whitaker, as Pip Riddle and I were facing defeat against Greg and Katy Preston in the Ireland vs RoW match. We lost 2&1.

Captions welcome ...

Happy golfing everyone ...

Paul Taylor, Men's Golf Captain

