

Men's Golf Captain's Blog – 4th July 2024



Our season is truly up and running as we try and cram in as many competitions as we can before the start of the four green drainage programme. This is essential drainage works to holes 3, 6, 14 and 15 which is scheduled to start this week and continue for up to eight weeks. These holes will have temporary greens.

Despite the course having four temporary greens Members will still be able to input scorecards for handicap purposes. England Golf state that only two temporary greens are allowed and so Members are allowed to input a 16 hole scorecard with two temporary greens. Further we are allowed to submit a nine hole card with one temporary green. When submitting a card for handicap holes 6 and 14 will be out of action and you must not play these holes but walk to the next tee.

Competition results

Men's Club Championship 15th June

Congratulations to Alex Tonge who is our Club Champion for 2024 with a superb total of 142 off a -3 handicap. Connor Hamilton was second, one shot behind on countback from Mike Hamblin. Well done gentlemen.

Unfortunately the day was disrupted by torrential rain which resulted in play being suspended for an hour. Several greens failed to drain quickly, however, thankfully most of these greens are part of the maintenance programme which we hope will prevent a similar suspension in the future.

Seniors Invitation 19th June

Well done to Nicolas Brown and Grant Anthony for winning this popular event with a sterling 45 points who pulled away from Michel Godfrey and Mel Davies on 42 points



Longest Day Challenge Friday 21st June

This was a fabulous day where Members volunteered to play 100, 72, 54 and 36 holes depending on their ambition.

A huge congratulations to all of the participants who played in sunny conditions to raise funds for The Captain's Charity Small Steps. With a very generous contribution from the Club we raised £5,000.

The 100 holers started at 4am and finished around 9.45pm, exhausted but exhilarated by their endeavours.

Individuals recorded circa 60,000 steps during the day. I had the pleasure of accompanying many of these hardy golfers and while it is difficult to highlight any in particular I believe a few participants should be given a mention.



Scott Creed carried for the 100 and persevered through some discomfort for the last nine. David Birn with a total of 19 birdies, carded a 63 on his first full 18. Katy Preston who played through back spasms and Greg Whitaker with flu. Last and not least Louis Laville who had a primary role in organising the day and played 100 holes and memorably played 150 last year. Everyone who played were heroes and contributed magnificently to a great charity. Caroline Dewar, Ladies' Golf Captain and I thank you.

Mixed Shotgun 22nd June

Our winners with a total of 102 points were Dan, Helen, Zac Kershaw and Giles O'Flynn with 102 points followed by Roy and Claire Martin and Bridget and James Barton with 97 points.



Pro's Day Friday 28th June

A wonderful event played in sunny conditions organised by our Head Pro Ricky and his splendid team. This was another mixed event which the Club excels at organising. Caroline and I had the pleasure of playing with Clodagh and Paul Taylor who were unlucky not to pick up a prize. Congratulations to Astrid and Tim Drayson who came first with 51 points. Jane Peel and Gunilla Huldts were second followed by Angela Atkins and Siobhan Rolston.



Captain's Prize Saturday 29th June

Many thanks to all the Members who made it a great day and gave a warm welcome to my family. The Club put on a splendid showing on this special day. It was a very closely fought match with the top three all on 43 points.

Our winners were Andrew Walker and Nigel Reynolds, followed by Gerry Dennigan and Brian O'Boyle and in third were Peter Leather and David Worde.



Roll ups

Held on 23rd June a field of 20 participated. Congratulations to Nigel Reynolds with an excellent 41 points. Held on the 30th June with a field of 10. Well done to Christian Schniewind with a credible 36 points.

Captain and Pro Matches

Wes and I took on Club stalwarts Graham Terry and Francis De Freitas. Their very steady golf saw the challengers victorious, 2 and 1.

This was followed by challengers Mike Kappler and Michael Murray in a fiercely competitive match which ended in an agreed half. Ricky yet again shot mid 60s despite having not played for several weeks.

Both matches were superb fun and highly competitive. The challengers certainly bring their A games to the matches. Thank you to all participants.



Scratch Team update

Big matches coming up with a team representing the Club in the Antlers 36 Foursomes on 7th July at RMS.

On 20th July the team will play their next match of the Surrey Knockout away to Effingham. Then the final group game of the EAGG against Ealing will take place on 21st July. Good luck gentlemen.

Future competitions

We have a number of roll ups coming up over the summer that members can play in on 14th and 28th July and 18th August. We also hope to have a Fun Golf day competition on 3rd August.

A brief mention to Martin Abbott / Keith Atkins and Peter Leather / David Worden who participated in the third round of ten 4BBB Knockout. The match was played over two days when the match was decided, I understand on the 21st hole. Well done to all four golfers.

I would like to convey the Members' gratitude to our Head Greenkeeper David Howe and Peter Bradburn for presenting the course in such excellent condition for us all to enjoy, well done, we all appreciate your efforts.

Harvey Penick a legendary American teaching professional advised if you do not have time to warm up before a match just stroke a few chip shots rather than rushed full shots into a net or rushed putts.

This will put your mind on the business at hand – which is to play golf.

Hope you all have a great summer of golf.

Peter McGovern, Men's Golf Captain