

## Men's Golf Captain's Blog



*Rain, rain, go away, come again another day ...*

Unfortunately, that hasn't been the case over the past four weeks, with storm after storm soaking our fabulous course. Despite these challenges, Peter Bradburn and his team have done an incredible job keeping it open, but we all have a role to play in its upkeep.

First, please check the noticeboard by the 1st tee. It kindly asks golfers to take responsibility for a designated hole (based on their surname) and repair any pitch marks they see, even if they aren't their own. Of course, please always repair your own pitch marks on other holes as you play. Smooth, true greens benefit us all, so let's do our part.

Second, please remember to replace your divots on the fairways, and please do not use the course for 'chipping practice,' as evidenced by this photo taken on the 9th fairway.

Together, we can keep our course in top condition for everyone to enjoy. Thank you for your cooperation.



In better news, huge congratulations to my predecessor, Peter McGovern, and the former lady captain, Caroline Dewar, for raising an incredible £20,500 for their charity, <https://smallsteps.org.uk/>.

A fantastic achievement and one that the entire golf section is immensely proud of.

### Changes to handicap requirements for summer and winter competitions

Please look out for an email from the office explaining what is happening. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to drop me a message or catch me at the Club.

### Competitions and events

#### Men's Stableford 25<sup>th</sup> January

A strong field of 43 players turned out for the first Stableford of the year. The course played long, with receptive greens making for a day of 'target golf.' Congratulations to Patrick Stuff, who claimed overall



victory with 42 points. Scott Creed secured second with 41 points, followed by Peter Leather in third with 40 points, Zaal Owen in fourth with 39 points, and Justin Thesiger in fifth with 37 points (cb). A special mention to Scott Creed for also winning the scratch competition, well played.

### Mixed Individual Stapleford 26<sup>th</sup> January

A small field of seven turned out with the expectation of getting very wet with the arrival of Storm Herminia but luckily the heavens only opened as we were coming down 17th. Congratulations to Andreina Townsend winning on 37 points, Justin Thesiger second on 33 points beating my son Ben Thesiger third on 30 points.

### Captain and Pro 1<sup>st</sup> February

My second match, partnered with Will, was against Gerry Dennigan and Marcus Carrigan. It was a thoroughly enjoyable contest. Will wasn't firing on all cylinders (his words, not mine), yet he still managed to be 2 under, making it an uphill battle for our challengers. In the end, the Captain and Pro secured the victory. I now look forward to the next challengers on 15th February.



### Fun Club Shotgun 8<sup>th</sup> February

The clue for this competition was in the title, and despite the cold and wet weather, it was great fun 😊. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed using their 'kicks,' 'throws,' and 'gimmies' to produce some remarkable Stableford scoring. The clear outright winners, with a hugely impressive 51 points, were Ben Wilson and Greg Whitaker. Five pairings followed closely behind with 47 points, with MG Gurbaxani and Gautam Samarth securing second place and David Birn and Niels Verbeek coming in third. Many congratulations to everyone, and a big round of applause for Sandra Drum and Rick Kimber for winning the nearest-to-the-pin contest on the 13th hole.



## Upcoming Competitions and Events

- **Captain and Pro matches** – Please sign up on the sheet in the changing room or ‘DM’ me. More dates have been added plus a few Friday 2pm tee times. Dates waiting challengers are - 8<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> March, 11<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> April, 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> May and 13<sup>th</sup> June. More dates to follow through the summer.
- **Alan Scott Trophy (season opener!)** on 22<sup>nd</sup> February
- **Mixed Individual Stableford** on 23<sup>rd</sup> February and 9<sup>th</sup> March
- **Men’s Pairs Scramble** on 1<sup>st</sup> March
- **Mixed Knockout competition** – if you need a playing partner, let me know—I’ll do my best to find you a suitable partner.

Thank you for reading. Please don't hesitate to share any suggestions for future blogs. Unfortunately, there were no nominations this month for my 'What a Shot' feature. I’d love to hear how things are going out there, fingers crossed for better weather this month. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on our glorious course.

Justin Thesiger  
Men’s Golf Captain