# Men's Golf Captain's Blog – 16th October 2025



That's all folks from me — welcome to my final blog. 😊

I've had a fantastic year, huge fun, and I'm enormously grateful to you all for your support throughout. Over the past 12 months, I've been extremely fortunate to play 103 rounds of golf, over 350 miles on foot (my knees can certainly confirm that!) with countless highlights along the way.

It has been both a privilege and an honour to serve as Men's Golf Captain, alongside the superb Ladies' Golf Captain, Claire Martin. We are thrilled with how our year has gone, especially working together on behalf of our <u>joint charity FiSH</u>. We look forward to sharing the final fundraising total with you in the coming weeks.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Course Marshals (always patient and massively supportive), Head Pro Ricky and his fabulous team, the outstanding Grounds Team, the incredible F&B crew, and — last but by no means least — Simon Baker, Matt Fidler and Oli Vargo. Without you three, my year would have looked very different. You've been calm, unflappable, and consistently positive, keeping everything moving (especially me!) and making the experience a true pleasure.

Finally, I'd like to wish Bob Mitchell and the new Ladies' Captain, Jo Thesiger, every success in their year ahead ... it goes in a flash but it's a blast!

#### **Surrey FINALS Day**

#### Scratch Team

History was made on Sunday 5th October at Addington Palace, when our Club Champion, Scott Stanley, drained a sixfooter on the 19th hole to win the Surrey Scratch Knockout — the very first time in the Club's history! A massive achievement and huge congratulations to the whole squad: Alex Tonge, Henry Dubiel, Shaun Feldon, Connor Hamilton, Finn Begley, Vince Thorne, Mike Hamblin, Pete Crocombe, Dave Birn and the captain Scott Stanley. We look forward to celebrating this victory at the Men's Dinner on 21st November.

#### Surrey 5's

Your new Vice Captain Johnny Perkins and team played Foxhills in the unification (East vs West) match on 5th October at Woodcote Park GC. The Roehampton Club team displayed





determination, grit and sportsmanship in a hard fought contest but narrowly lost 3-2. A special mention goes to Christian Blinkenberg who was undefeated throughout the whole campaign. Huge congratulations to the whole team for winning the East Division; Jonny Perkins, Giles O'Flynn, Christian Blinkenberg, James Bushell, Paul Igoe and earlier rounds supported by Ralph Evers and Rob Cutler.

#### Kelso Hamilton

Jack Collins and Henry John go for the unification match (East vs West) on 19th October. Please join me in wishing them well. Good luck boys!

#### **Competitions and events**

More summer KO comps have now concluded ...

4BBB – Many congratulations to Scott Stanley and Justin Thesiger for winning a highly competitive match on the 18th from Bob Mitchell and David Stuff. Special mention to Scott for doing 'back-2-back' 4BBB wins (2024 and 2025) with different partners, great skills from our Club Champ!

Mixed Foursomes – A hotly contested final saw Aisling Wilson and Greg Whitaker just pip Henrietta O'Shea and Richard Spalding. This is Aisling and Greg's second title in three years ... great teamwork!

Scratch KO – A cracking final worthy of being televised between Henry Dubiel and Vince Thorne. Many congratulations to Henry for winning.

Lockwood Foster – Huge congratulations to Alastair Wright for firstly having to play his Dad in the semi finals and then winning the final on the 22nd hole against a very tough opponent in Stephen Jones.

# Autumn Meeting – 20th and 21st September

A full field and excellent conditions, both the weather and the course, set the stage for some fine target golf. We had two standout performers. Alex Tonge impressed with a superb 6 under 65, followed by a steady level-par 71 on day two, to rightly claim the Scratch Autumn Challenge Cup. Meanwhile, Ralph Evers secured the Whitney Challenge Cup with a very fine combined nett score of 137 (65 + 72).

Both Alex and Ralph also achieved the 'double' for best aggregate scores across the spring and autumn events. Alex taking the Eastman Cup and Ralph the Polo Cup. Many congratulations to them both; we look forward to presenting these trophies at the Men's Dinner on 21st November. There were also several other notable performances over the weekend – well done to everyone who made it onto the leaderboard.

# 9 hole Greensomes – 27th September

A great way to start the Ryder Cup weekend with a cheeky 9, followed by the golf in the bar to cheer on Team Europe. Many congratulations to the Ladies' Golf Captain Claire Martin and Roy Martin for winning





with 21 points. Jinni Featherstone-Witty and Tim Russell taking second on countback from Colin Hector and Nicola Pearson with 20 points.

## Club Stableford – 28th September

This shotgun was reimagined from Saturday to Sunday PM, to get everyone back in for the Ryder Cup singles and what atmosphere and result it was! The weather nearly spoilt the day but the sun arrived towards the end. Many congratulations to former captain (2020/21) Gerry Denningan 1st place with an impressive 40 points. Second was Tom Francis on countback from Jane Farrell with 39 points. Fourth was former captain (2009) John Randel with 36 points.

## Mixed Stableford AM/PM - 4th October

Storm Amy was blowing through making conditions very tricky. However, former captain (2009) John Randel managed to skilfully get himself around in 36 points for the win. Congratulations to everyone who played, it was not easy out there, always good to get a card in before the winter sets in.

#### Captain and Pro – 4th October

My 18th and final match, partnered with Ricky, was against Roy Martin and Richard Spalding. The Captain and Pro took an early lead and didn't let it go with the Challengers fighting hard but couldn't quite catch up. A huge thank you to Roy and Richard for playing and for their generous contribution to my charity FiSH.



#### Captain and Pro vs Challengers Day – 5th October

A wonderful way to finish my year — a great collection of challengers playing a bogey competition! I've absolutely loved playing the Captain and Pro matches this season. My record stands at P-18, W-12, D-1, L-5. A huge thank you to Ricky and his amazing team for taking time out of their busy schedules to play, and another big thank you to all the challengers who helped raise over £2,000 for my charity FiSH.





Staff and Members – 10th October

What a super way to end my year playing with people who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes and made things run so smoothly.

# Scratch Section I'm absolutely

delighted to announce that Alex Tongue and Issy Simpson combined like 'Fleetwood Mac'

to win the Scratch Mixed Foursomes at Hankley Common. Many Congratulations to Alex & Issy, more silverware!



#### Junior Section

Many congratulations to all those who took part in the 18 hole stableford on 27th September. Emily Butler won with an impressive 39 points ahead of Charles Greenwood with 27 points.

# **Upcoming Competitions and Events**

- Mixed Individual Stableford AM and PM 19th October and 9th November
- Junior 9 hole Stableford 26th October
- Men's Stableford 1st November

I've thoroughly enjoyed writing these blogs and following everything related to Men's golf over the past 12 months.

I very much look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Men's Dinner on 21st November, where our guest speaker will be BBC Golf Correspondent, broadcaster, author, and regular special guest on the 'Chipping Forecast' podcast – Iain Carter.

Justin Thesiger, Men's Golf Captain