

# Men's Golf Captain's Blog – 18<sup>th</sup> December 2025



I can't believe that Jo and I are already well into the third month of our captaincy year. It's flying by! However, I am pleased to say that we're really enjoying it, and despite the autumnal weather, including Storms Amy and Bram, we have all continued to be able to get out and play. We owe a huge amount of gratitude to David and his brilliant team of greenkeepers for keeping the course in such good condition. It's an incredibly difficult job at this time of year when the weather can quickly oscillate between autumnal storms, balmy mid-teen temperatures and frozen ground. And with the last of the leaves having fallen, and collected, we have no more excuses for not being able to find our balls!

## Indoor Golf Centre

Whilst I know that not everyone voted in favour of the building of the IGC, I was personally delighted that following the consultation, the Board has now approved the development of the IGC with building starting next year. I truly believe that the IGC will be a tremendous asset for the golf section and the Club as a whole and will provide us with the practice facilities which we have never had and would otherwise not be able to provide. As I said on Saturday at the Christmas Charity Competition (more of which later) many people have put a substantial amount of time into developing and ensuring that this project goes ahead and in particular our current and immediate past Chairs of the Golf Committee, Martin Abbott and Niels Verbeek, are due a huge debt of gratitude from us all. Thank you both and also thank you to everyone else who has been involved. You know who you are!

## Competition Results

Whilst it is not the time of year to be playing Roehampton 'majors', since my last blog there have been a number of internal competitions. I'm pleased to say that despite the weather some very impressive golf is still being played by at least some of us.

The Mixed Stableford on 23rd November was a casualty of the weather but there was a good turnout for the Men's Monthly Stableford on Saturday 29th November (which a few of us played after very little sleep and with some very thick heads following the Royal Mid-Surrey Annual Dinner!) and the prize winners were:

- 1st Stuart Mills – 39 points
- 2nd Lou Tricarico – 36 points (on countback)
- 3rd Richard Spalding – 36 points

Congratulations Stuart (great score at this time of year) and to James Daw who narrowly won the Mixed Individual Stableford the following day from John Threshie. Also congratulations to James and Jonah Goode on their victory in the FE Bland Family Foursomes with 36 points last Sunday. The Goodes narrowly won from Greg and Ethan Waunford-Brown who shot an impressive 76 gross. Well played both fathers and sons.

## Christmas Charity Competition

While it is certainly not a 'major' in any sense, last Saturday's competition and the entire day has already become one of the highlights of my year to date. It was a cold wintery morning with frost on the ground as we tucked into our pre-round breakfast butties and pastries, but the sun shone and the skies remained blue

throughout the day. We had 80 golfers playing in the team competition and given the wonderful conditions the scoring was excellent. Jo and I had a fun round with Shaun and Kate Feldon, and were treated to watching Shaun play a slightly different game to the rest of us which included 6 birdies in the last 10 holes including three 2s! On the winners' podium were the following teams:

1st Steph Williams, Ben Wilson, Nick St John and Sam Lynes – 102 points

2nd Fiona Pollard, Amanda Campbell-Lambert, Emma Angood and Niels Verbeek – 100 points (countback)

3rd Greg Waunford-Brown, Ethan Waunford-Brown, Paul Farrell and Will Glassey – 100 points

The nearest the winners were Nicki Fillingham, Steph Williams, Henry Dubiel and Sam Lynes. Many thanks to all of you who played, paying an extortionate entry fee, buying mulligans and then the lucky few only winning a cheap bottle of plonk, but it was all for charity! We all then convened to the balcony and the bar for the traditional pre-Christmas drinks and auction, which I hope everyone enjoyed. Many thanks to everyone who bid, whether you were successful or not! While the final numbers have not been audited yet I am delighted that we raised over £8,000 on the day for our two charities – The Baked Bean Charity and Home-Start Wandsworth. Thanks to all of you who joined Jo and I on the day (and those people who made advanced sealed bids) for your very kind generosity.

I would just like to thank and acknowledge Keith Atkins' role in the Christmas Charity Competition. I understand that Keith started the event over 15 years ago when he and a group of friends would play a competition each December and raise money for a chosen charity. The day and the competition have become a fixture in the Roehampton Club golfing calendar and raises much needed funds for the Captains' Charities. Thank you for your vision, Keith.



## Golfing Socials

At this time of year I seem to spend more time in the bar and the dining room than on the golf course and so I just wanted to mention a couple of highlights over the last month.

### Men's Annual Golf Dinner – Friday 21st November

Over 100 Members of the men's section enjoyed a great evening in the newly refurbished dining room during which the trophies were presented for the major tournaments and knockouts from the previous year. We were joined by Iain Carter, the golf correspondent for BBC Radio and permanent 'Special Guest' on *The Chipping Forecast* podcast, who entertained us with some great golfing stories and experiences and some interesting answers to questions which sometimes veered away from his specialist subject of golf! It was a really enjoyable evening and a fitting end to Justin's excellent year of captaincy.



### Seniors Christmas Competition and Lunch – Wednesday 10th December

In the absence of the Ashes watching Chair, Nick Brown, Jo and I were invited by Vice Chair, Clive Nicholson, to join him and his wife, Tricia, for 9 holes of Four Ball Better Ball followed by an excellent Christmas lunch, superbly prepared by our brilliant chefs and kitchen staff. Thank you, Clive, for your generous hospitality and a wonderful day.

### Ladies Christmas Competition and Lunch – Tuesday 15th December

By the time you are reading this I will have braved (aka thoroughly enjoyed) the Ladies' Christmas Lunch with 106 ladies and 4 men in attendance! I will report back in my next blog!

And finally all that remains for this blog and this year is for me to wish you and your families a wonderful festive break and I look forward to seeing you all in 2026 for what I hope will be a very happy golfing new year, made even more joyful by the celebration of the Club's 125th anniversary.

Have a good one!

**Bob Mitchell, Men's Golf Captain**