

# Men's Golf Captain's Blog – 19<sup>th</sup> June 2026



Well as expected it has been quite a month of golf since my last blog. I will have played just over 20 rounds in the last 29 days by the time most of you are reading this. Whilst 5.5 of those rounds (i.e. 100 holes) will have been on Friday in the **Longest Day Challenge** it still will have averaged out at a round every other day for the last month. Whilst several of you do that on a regular basis, it's been unusual and a bit of a marathon for me. It's all good training for Friday though! I shudder to think how on earth Will Major and Katy Preston are feeling at the moment about playing 180 holes in 29 degrees heat! Thank you to everyone who has donated to Jo's and my charities so far. We and our charities really appreciate the support. There is still time to make a difference and spur us all on – [click here to donate!](#)

Apologies in advance for the length of this blog but there is a lot to report on!

## Competition results

There was some terrific scoring in the **Captains' Charity Golf Day** which was a team competition held on Saturday 23rd May. Jo, Cathy, Johnny and I thought we had carded a pretty competitive score of 100 points, only to see our team slip down the leaderboard and out of the prizes when even more impressive scores had been posted by the following teams:

- 1st Rob Findlay, Oli Hunt, Dave Birn and Luke Gorman 105 points
- 2nd Mark Gradwell, Shaun Erasmus, Craig Wallace and Shaun Feldon 103 points
- 3rd Kasandra Spalding, Lou Wills, Katy Preston and Nicki Fillingham 101 points

It was good to see the English / Scottish Alliance just pipping the South Africans! Thanks to everyone who took part, bought mulligans, donated to the charity and then bid for the auction lots. We raised a large amount of money for our charities although the numbers have not yet been finalised. Most importantly it was a really fun and enjoyable day with the course in great condition and the weather perfect. Thank you everyone!

After one day's respite a number of us returned on the Bank Holiday Monday for the **Frankland Moore Married and Mixed Foursomes**. Cathy and I were defending the mixed trophy and whilst we had a good round and a very enjoyable morning with Bob Storer and Val Patten, we just didn't drain the putts and were unable to compete with the winners, who were:

## Married Foursomes

- 1st Catherine Emanuel and Shaun Feldon 38 points
- 2nd Richard and Kassandra Spalding 36 points

## Mixed Foursomes

- 1st Simon Butler and Charlotta Lyckeus 37 points (countback)
- 2nd Sandra Drum and Paul Taylor 37 points

Congratulations to all of you. I was particularly pleased to see Simon on top of the podium again. I am sure that Charlotta guided you expertly around the course Butty!

And then it was onto the **125 Festival of Golf Events** starting with Jo's Lady Captain's Day and Nick's Senior Chair Day which was followed by the first full weekend of 125 Events with the Club's first ever

**Mixed Invitation Day** being held on the Saturday. It was hugely successful and definitely one we may look to keep in the diary for the future. The sun shone, the course was in great shape and the scoring excellent and then a BBQ and prizegiving in the gardens. It could not have gone better. The podium was made up of:

- 1st Anna Tingle and Adam Burke (St George's Hill) 44 points
- 2nd Emma Angood and Chris James (Royal Wimbledon) 42 points (countback)
- 3rd Therese Swanson and Allan Collins (RAC) 42 points (countback)



Then on the Sunday it was the **Family Fourball Competition** where the top 3 pairs were:

- 1st James Stratton and Sophie Fox 47 points
- 2nd Dai Clement and Edward Clement 42 points (countback)
- 3rd Kate Clarke and Daniel Griffin 42 points (countback)



The following Wednesday saw the special **Friends Day** event being held where we invited two golfers from our neighbours (such as Roehampton Uni, Rosslyn Park, Ibstock School etc.), local golf clubs, teams who we play annual matches against and Surrey Golf and England Golf to join forces with two 'ambassadorial' Members.

Despite being threatened with a washout we decided to proceed with the competition. The rain just about stayed away and all guests and members had a good time both on the course and over dinner. We definitely were in credit on

the goodwill front with all of our guests. The winning teams were:

- 1st Jane Peel, Greg Whitaker with Caroline Hardy-Evans and Colin Barr from Surrey Golf 90 points
- 2nd Justin Thesiger, Cathy Staveley with Bill Boucher and Nicky Russell from Richmond Golf Club 89 points (countback)
- 3rd Viv Harris, Charlotta Lyckeus with Amm Waite and Mandy Hiscocks from Surrey Women's Golf 89 points (countback)

I then had my **Captain's Prize Day** on Saturday 6th June, which fortunately, after a heavy night on Friday, I was not playing in but I did see a lot of the 7th hole. It still doesn't get any easier! We were again lucky with the weather, the course was in wonderful condition and it was great to share a few beers with some old and new stalwarts in the bar afterwards as well as seeing the Scratch Team come in victorious, recording a win against Reigate Heath GC in the Surrey Scratch Plate Knockout competition. Anyway, back to the podium for Captain's Day which was made up of:

1st – James Stratton and Sam Lynes 47 points  
2nd – Ethan Waunford-Brown and Joe Walmsley 46 points (countback)  
3rd – MG Gurbaxani and Christian Blinkenberg 46 points

And then to finish off the **125 Festival of Golf** (apart from the Hickory Event!) we had the aptly named **Finale** where each team fielded a pair in the morning to set a 4BBB score and then the afternoon pair went out in the afternoon to see if they could add to each hole's score. Whilst it was a great competition (and thank you Emma Angood for coming up with the idea of a 'Druce event').



I personally felt underwhelmed by my own performance. I went out in the afternoon and didn't improve on any of the morning pair's scores (well done Jo and Cathy) and my partner in crime in the afternoon, Vice-Captain Johnny Perkins, only improved on one hole and it was only because the ladies didn't score on that hole! Perhaps that was more of a reflection on JP's and my golf! Anyway, I think everyone else had a much more productive time and it didn't affect my and our enjoyment of the day. And the winners were:

1st Nigel Brown, Kristoffer Huldt, Gunilla Huldt and Caroline Williams 51 points  
2nd Gill Griffiths, Barbara Boyle, Pippa Walker and Caroline Nettel 50 points  
3rd Luke Walker, Vanessa Walker, Lou savage and Phillipa Addison 49 points (countback)

And then finally we had the **Hickory Golf Competition** last Friday. Thanks to everyone who attended the interesting talk on the history of golf equipment before the golf, played in the event (using the hickory clubs) and those who dressed the part.

I thought we all looked amazing and great efforts were made by everyone but particularly by Claire Martin, who won the best dressed golfer award.

I think there were more golfers in the running for that competition than the actual golf itself. At times looking around the golf course it did feel as though we had been transported back to Edwardian times!



And the historic winners were:

1st Greg Whitaker, Olivia Mayell, Julian Nettel and Caroline Nettel nett 32

2nd Roy Martin, Claire Martin, Liz Collins and Liz Dodds nett 32 (countback)

I think that we can definitely say that the golf section has celebrated the Club's 125th anniversary in style with a different, interesting and fun range of events for both Members and a variety of guests.

Many thanks again to the various teams that have delivered all of the events and made them so enjoyable including David and the Greenkeepers, Nicki and the F&B teams, Ricky and the Pros (not forgetting Joe) Simon, Matt and Oli and of course the tremendous 125 Golf Committee (Emma, Cathy, Jo, Matt and Ricky) all of whom were so ably and wonderfully marshalled and led by Liz Collins. A massive shout out to Liz for what she has done this year making it so memorable for all of us. She is, as she would say 'an athlete', who smiles through everything. Thank you, Liz.



### Men's Club Championships

Last Saturday saw the best of the Club's golfers take on the course with the tees at the back and the pins in tricky positions in blustery but warm conditions. The turnout was excellent and the standard of golf was superb in difficult conditions.

I was absolutely delighted to award the trophy to Connor Hamilton, who had suffered a few near 'fist pump' misses in recent years, and who scored an excellent level par aggregate gross score of 142 for the two rounds, having shot a 67 in the morning.

Luke Gorman was the runner up 3 shots behind Connor and Peter Smith won the best 55+ scratch prize and the George Gadd Mashie. A big shout out to Alex Tonge for pushing Connor all the way down to the 36th hole in the last group.

And congratulations also to Issy Simpson for winning the Ladies Club Championships on the same day.

### Captain and Past Captains event

This was held on Thursday 28th May when we welcomed back all the previous captains, including several who are no longer Club Members. It was a great day with 14 Past Captains playing golf with Johnny and me in the afternoon and a further six Past Captains joining us for dinner. The golf was a bit of a side show but congratulations to Gerry on edging out Stuart to secure the claret and then we all settled down for an evening of speeches, stories and debate and JP's very important announcement of his vice-captain for next





year. His decision to appoint Malcom Turner was met with universal acclaim and support. I am absolutely delighted for Malcolm, and it must be one of the first times that a golf club outside of Yorkshire has had two Leeds United supporting captains in the space of three years. MOT!

The evening included a debate on what you should call a group of Past Captains. We decided that it had to be a "Shank of Past Captains"!

And congratulations to Emma Angood on being appointed as Cathy's vice-captain. Emma and Malcolm will be a great team.

### **Junior Section**

Firstly, many thanks again to Shaun Feldon for stepping up and taking charge of the Junior Section competitions this year. We are getting some real momentum in the Junior section and some great turnouts.

On Sunday 24th May, the **Junior Spring Meeting** was held. Conditions were not easy and all the boys played really well. I was delighted to be there to present the prizes to:

- 1st Jasper Karim-Brown 50 points
- 2nd Jonah Goode 39 points (countback)
- 3rd Max Harrison 34 points

I suspect Jasper's handicap will be significantly reduced for the next competition! And then last Sunday we had the **Junior Ryder Cup** event and the top three were:

- 1st Zaal Owen 40 points
- 2nd Ethan Waunford-Brown 37 points
- 3rd Seb Gradwell 36 points (countback)

It's great to see so many boys playing in these events and also to see Zaal and Ethan recording those scores, when they both play off a handicap of 2. It is tremendously exciting and encouraging for the future of junior and senior golf at the Club. Well played lads!

### **Upcoming competitions**

There is even more golf coming up over the next 4 weeks including:  
Friday 19th June – **Longest Day Challenge** raising money for Jo's and my charities – [Home-Start Wandsworth](#) and [The Baked Bean Charity](#). Please do come to support, caddy and [click here to donate!](#)  
Saturday 20th June – **Founders Cup Medal**  
Saturday 4th July – **Men's Invitation Day** (plenty of spaces available)

### **Captain and Pro matches**

We have managed to play three more Captain and Pro matches, and unfortunately my record has been dented with two losses and one win. The first match was with Ally against the determined duo of Greg Whitaker and Ben Wilson. The scene was firmly set on the first





hole when Greg pulled his shocking drive into the trees on the left with Ally pin high, but just off the green, with his drive. Greg found his ball in a small clearing, took out a gap wedge and holed it for eagle! Ally just missed with his chip to half the hole. Game on! Then Ben drained two 30 footers (with that pink putter of his) and to be honest we were pleased to hang on for a 2&1 loss.

Sam and I then had a really good match and a much more pleasant afternoon against Stephen Jones and Nic Fox who we just managed to beat 4&2.

And then Ricky and I lost our undefeated record as we came up against GWB and Stuart Logie last Sunday who were on fire with their golf. Clearly battered and

bruised from the Club Championships on the previous day they were truly inspired and put together a wonderful 3 under gross 4BBB score to beat us 3&1.

Many thanks to you all for the challenges chaps and also for the extremely generous donations to my charity, Home-Start Wandsworth.

Whilst the list of future Captain and Pro matches is currently full, Ricky and I are still working on some more dates which I will circulate as soon as possible.

### **Club matches**

We had our annual match against the **Senior Golf Society** on Thursday 21st May. This is always a very special fixture. Whilst it is our 125th anniversary it was also 95 years since this fixture had first been played. The match also had a little bit of extra spice with two of our Members (Paul Taylor and David Stuff) playing for the Seniors and SGS members, Peter McGovern and Giles Sanderson playing for the Club.

At lunch (and it was a very good lunch!) the Club were 4-2 down but we rallied in the afternoon and just lost 6.5 to 5.5 after a stewards' enquiry after one of the Seniors' golfers pulled up lame. A half in that match was only right and whilst we lost the match, it had been close with some excellent golf played and everyone (well almost everyone!) from Roehampton Club contributing to the score.

### **And finally ...**

Neil Anderson didn't have his scheduled knee replacement operation and so he is back playing, drinking and being mentioned in my blog! You need to do something special in the next month Neil to get a mention in July's blog otherwise the run will be over!

### **And finally finally ...**

This is the last blog that I will write with Matt and Oli at the helm of the administration of the golf section. As you all know Oli leaves us on 26th June to join the DP World Tour and Matt departs after the Men's Invitation Day on 4th July to head 'down under' with his partner. Thank you both for everything you have done for the golf section and for the Club as a whole. Your enthusiasm, work ethic, attitude and willingness to help have been tremendous and you will be sorely missed. Apologies Matt if I continue to WhatsApp you for days after you leave but it has become a daily habit which I will find difficult to kick! Go well both of you.

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