

Men's Golf Captain's Blog – 20th August 2026



I am going to start with an apology for not writing my blog in July. A combination of a holiday in Le Touquet, a graduation in Newcastle followed by a tour of the north and working full-time (when I am supposed to be semi-retired!) during mid-July meant that there were not enough hours in the day and something had to give. That something was my blog. However, it clearly wasn't missed as I have received absolutely no comments from any of our 2,000+ golf members that they had missed reading it!

So, in the hope that a few of you might read this edition on the plane, beach, sun-lounger or in your lunch hour I will try to be as brief as possible in summarising the last two months of men's, mixed and junior golfing activities at the Club.

Firstly, I just want to send a huge thank you to David and his magnificent greenkeeping team. I have heard numerous reports about the state of golf courses, both in the locality and further afield, that are struggling to cope with the heat and lack of rain. In a number of cases fairways are described as being like motorways and greens more like yellows. In our case we still have 14 tremendous greens in play (with the other 4, which look in great condition, hopefully becoming playable in the next couple of weeks), the fairways still have plenty of green grass on them and we are about to have a number of reconditioned bunkers returned to the course, all of which look excellent, although I will still be aiming to avoid them!

Longest Day Challenge

I wrote my last blog a couple of days before, and in trepidation of the Longest Day Challenge on Friday 19th June. What a day it was! Teeing off at 4.30am with the sun rising (whilst speaking to my youngest son who was just returning to his villa from a nightclub in Marrakech!) was amazing although I wasn't fully prepared for the mosquitoes on a warm summer's morning with the sprinklers making it damp and humid.



Any self-pity quickly evaporated when we waded through Will Major and Katy Preston for the first of many times that day as we learnt that they had teed off with lamps and LED balls at 2.30am that morning. Not only did Will and Katy complete the 180 holes in record time they went on to play 201 holes (just because they could!), finishing before I completed 100 holes at 9pm and with Katy playing the last 36 holes in her socks. They were and are absolutely phenomenal and together with the merry band of golfers who played 100, 72 and 36 holes respectively helped to raise a staggering £13,360 for Jo's and my charities.

Many thanks to all of you who took part, particularly Will and Katy, supported, caddied and sponsored all of us. It was a phenomenal day. I didn't think I was going to but I absolutely loved every minute of it, playing with some wonderful golfers and even playing some half-decent golf. Having sunk a c15 foot putt on the 100th and last hole in front of the gallery on the terrace I think I deserved the fist pump and San Miguels that followed.



Competition Results

The day after the Longest Day Challenge was the **Founders Cup Medal**, one of our “majors”. My feet, body and head were in tatters after the exertions of the day before but incredibly Will Major, not only played but shot a gross 78. Ethan Waunford-Brown showed that if you're young enough tomorrow is just another day and Greg Whitaker just missed out on a top 4 finish with a phenomenal gross 73 (nett 70) having played a mere 100 holes the day before. The top 4 nett scores were:

- 1st – Alec Lever – 66
- 2nd – Stuart Loggie – 69 (on c/b)
- 3rd – Nick St John – 69 (on c/b)
- 4th – Luke Gorman – nett and gross 69

Many congratulations to Alec who is playing some tremendous golf this summer having also just progressed to the semi-finals of both the Lockwood Foster and the Ockleshaw Cup. And also congratulations to Luke on shooting an impressive 2 under par and taking the best gross prize.

The final event before the summer break was the **Men's Invitation Day**. The weather was glorious, the course was in great condition, lunch was excellent and a fantastic day was had by everyone who played. I joined forces with my brother who plays at Luffenham Heath and played with Justin Thesiger and his brother. If my brother's putting had only been as good as his post-lunch pint drinking, then we might have

been in contention but in the end we had to settle for a creditable fourth place with the podium being made up of:

- 1st – Johnny Perkins and Dave Reynolds (Hampton Court Palace) – 44 points
- 2nd – James Whidbourne and James Turner (Royal Wimbledon) – 43 points
- 3rd – Simon Butler and Trevor Rolls (Newbury and Crookham) – 42 points

Congratulations VC and 'Turbo'. Like the Longest Day Challenge, it was definitely one of my highlights of the year so far, although the drive to France the following day was a little challenging!



Whilst we have had the four temporary greens in play there have been no major competitions over the last six weeks or so but we have had a **Men's Fun Competition** and several **Mixed Individual Stablefords** the results of which were as follows:

Men's Fun Competition (two-man scramble) – **1st August**

- 1st – Lutfullah Kitapci and Greg Whitaker – 61 points (on c/b)
- 2nd – George Walkden and Rory Walkden – 61 points (on c/b)
- 3rd – Jon McLoughlin and George Palmer – 61 points

Mixed Individual Stableford – **28th June**

- 1st – Jon McLoughlin – 38 points
- 2nd – Me! – 36 points
- 3rd – George Palmer – 35 points

Mixed Individual Stableford – **12th July**

- 1st – John Threshie – 40 points
- 2nd – Harry Glassey – 39 points (on c/b)
- 3rd – Neil Anderson – 39 points

Mixed Individual Stableford – **26th July**

- 1st – James Daw – 41 points
- 2nd – Henry Umney – 38 points
- 3rd – Oliver Aikens – 36 points (on c/b)

Mixed Individual Stableford – 9th August

- 1st – Dan Bird – 42 points
- 2nd – Catherine Emanuel – 41 points
- 3rd – Brian O’Boyle – 37 points (on c/b)

Congratulations to all of the winners and runners up. Let’s see if those scores can be replicated on a course with no temporary greens (although I accept putting on them can be a bit of a lottery) and with all the bunkers back in play or in the case of a couple, filled in and new mounds created.

Junior Section

The Junior Section continues to be busy with plenty of competitive golf being played in the last couple of months, the results of which were as follows:

Junior 18 Hole Stableford – 28th June

- 1st – Ethan Waunford-Brown – 29 points (on c/b)
- 2nd – Edward Clement – 29 points
- 3rd – Joshua Barlow – 27 points

Junior Open Championship – 12th July

- 1st – Emily Butler – 40 points
- 2nd – Jake Erasmus – 39 points
- 3rd – Jasper Karim-Brown – 32 points

Junior 18 Hole Stableford – 26th July

- 1st – Harrison Bouchier – 47 points
- 2nd – Wilbur Wilson – 39 points
- 3rd – Harvey Bouchier – 38 points

Junior 18 Hole Stableford – 9th August

- 1st – Casper Cooper – 44 points
- 2nd – Seb Gradwell – 42 points
- 3rd – Harvey Bouchier – 40 points

It’s great to see so many juniors playing in these events and scoring so well although I suspect some handicaps will have come tumbling down over the last couple of months. There’s nothing like a long hot school summer holiday to work on your game and lower the handicap.

Captain and Pro Matches

We have managed to play five more Captain and Pro matches in the last couple of months, winning two, halving two and losing one.

The first half was with Ricky against the very steady duo of my VC, Johnny Perkins and ‘Mr Reliable’ Roy Martin.





As expected, the game ebbed and flowed and went all the way down to the last putt on the 18th. It was a cracking match.

Wes and I then had an excellent match against Gerry Dennigan and Jeremy Connick. We were 3 up with 4 to play and then Gerry used his shots and chipping and putting skills to win 15, 17 and 18 and with Jeremy and I halving 16 the match finished all square with the match again going down to the last putt on the 18th green.

Sol and I then managed to defeat Stuff Snr and Stuff Jnr (1 up) in another very tight match and then had a really pleasant Saturday morning match against Keith Duncan

and Chis Anderson. Sol is the only Pro who remains undefeated in Captain and Pro matches with a 3 from 3 record. Bring them on Sol!

The only blemish was Ali's and my defeat to the tried and trusted partnership of Simon Butler and James Goode. To be honest they were far too good for us shooting a 7 under gross better ball score. We did well to hang on and only lose 2/1! It was a terrific morning of golf and chat.

Many thanks to you all for the challenges chaps and also for the extremely generous donations to my charity, [HomeStart Wandsworth](#). To date, we have raised just over £1,500 from the Captain and Pro matches, which is fantastic. Thank you.



We have added a few more Captain and Pro dates to the list which are shown on the noticeboard in the Men's Locker Room. The following dates were still available at the time of going to print:

- 9th September 2pm (with Oliver)
- 15 September 1pm (with Ricky)

Upcoming Competitions

As the summer recess starts to come to an end there is plenty of golf coming up over the next four weeks including:

Sunday 23rd August – **Mixed Individual Stableford (AM and PM)**

Monday 31st August – **Bank Holiday Bowmaker** – please start pulling together your teams of four, which preferably should be a mixed team.

Friday 4th September – **Salute the Services** (this is the annual charity event raising money for Combat Stress). Please do support this event which will include a small display of military vehicles. [Click here for the poster and more information](#)

Saturday 5th September – **George Gadd Challenge Cup** – another Roehampton Club ‘major’.

Sunday 6th September – **Junior Club Championships**

Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th September – **Men’s Autumn Meeting**

Please sign up.

And finally ...

We finally managed to organise the charity match with Stuart Broad and Eoin Morgan that Will Glassey so kindly bid for in the auction at Jo’s and my Captains’ Christmas Charity Competition. The match was played on Monday 13th July with Harry Glassey teaming up with Stuart and Will playing alongside Eoin. It was a really fun morning with the boys on great form and Stuart and Eoin weren’t bad either!!

All I can say is that thank goodness Eoin was such a good One Day World Cup winning captain as his golf, albeit with borrowed clubs from Ian Ward, lacked a little bit of consistency and was of little support to Will. Harry and Stuart were far too good for them and romped away with a 4/3 win, although being a typical Irish gambler, Eoin suddenly came alive in the final three holes as a ‘double or quits’ was suggested!



And finally finally ...

We say goodbye to two stalwarts of the Men’s Golf section and the Club in Greg Whitaker and Alex Milward. They are also two of the eight golfers who have beaten me in Captain and Pro matches this year. Be warned guys this is what happens when you don’t let me win!

Greg is moving with work to Malta for a couple of years and already has his name down on the waiting list for Royal Malta. Greg has been a great member of the Club, serving on the Men’s Golf Committee for the last couple of years and having had an excellent season on the course picking up heaps of silverware, glassware and prizes. Alex has been appointed Consulate General to New York and Trade Commissioner for North America. If anyone can take on Trump then it’s Alex. We’re in very (large) safe hands. Alex is currently a member of the Men’s Golf Committee and is a regular on the weekend start sheet. We will miss them both and hope that they and their families have great times in Malta and NYC.

Let’s enjoy the course when it’s fully open and hopefully we can all play some good golf in the next couple of months.

Bob Mitchell, Men’s Golf Captain