

Men's Golf Captain's Blog – 17th September 2026



Whilst we might be at the end of the summer holiday season and the Mediterranean / Middle Eastern weather has finally relented we are now firmly back in the second half of the golfing season, after the summer recess. We not only have a packed diary of competitions and events for September and October but we have a golf course that is getting greener by the day, a full set of greens (all of which are holding and rolling beautifully), a large number of new bunkers across the course (which look and play so much better than the old ones) and still very little rough. Now is the time to play the course and get your handicap down before that juicy rough makes a reappearance in the autumn! Thanks again to David and his team for not only ensuring that the course was in excellent condition throughout the summer despite the unrelenting heat, sunshine and works to the greens, bunkers and IGC but in reacting so quickly to the changing weather and encouraging so much extra growth particularly on the fairways. Thank you!

It's been a busy few weeks and I have already played 14 rounds since my last blog so here goes with a resume of what has been happening on the golf course.

Competition results

I had a very enjoyable round with our Scratch Captains, Dave Birn and Pete Crocombe, in our final 'major' of the year, the George Gadd Challenge Cup, on Saturday 5th September. It's not often that I better one of the scratch squad with a gross score (I'm saying no more as to whether that was down to my golf or his) but my gross 80/nett 73 was not quite good enough to get me on the podium.

Those that did make the top 3 were:

1st Craig McLean – 67

2nd Ben Wilson – 68

3rd Ethan Waunford-Brown – 71 (on countback)

Many congratulations to Craig (who shot an excellent gross 75) and also to Mike Hamblin, who won the best gross prize shooting a level par 71.

The previous Monday saw the August Bank Holiday Bowmaker being played. It is now a tradition that I team up with Lucy Dickson and our current Ladies' Golf Captain and the immediate Men's Past Captain, Mr and Mrs Thesiger. Having won the competition last year we were confident of a strong performance and whilst we scored well, our 84 points were just not quite enough to get in the prizes, which were won by the following teams:

1st Andrew Bacon, Kathleen Bacon, Gavin Tingle and Anna Tingle – 86 points (on countback)

2nd John Fooks, John Randel, Paul Igoe and MG Gubaxani – 86 points

3rd Nicholas Greenwood, Charles Greenwood, Therese Swanson and Jinni Featherstone-Witty – 85 points

Congratulations to the Bacons and Tingles (which sounds like a Christmas breakfast!) for edging out the second placed team of merry men.

There was also a **Mixed Individual Stableford** played on Sunday 23rd August which saw the following golfers in the top three positions:

1st Alec Lever – 39 points (again!)

2nd Jon McLoughlin – 38 points (again!) (on countback)

3rd Moritz Lindhorst – 38 points

Scratch section

The Scratch team took on Surrey A last Sunday at the Club. Having gone 4 – 0 down in the morning foursomes (with all 4 matches going to at least the 17th) the team were up against it in the eight afternoon singles. Whilst the ‘Miracle of Medinah’ was not quite repeated, the boys performed valiantly in winning the singles 5.5 – 2.5 and so narrowly lost the match 6.5 – 5.5. It was an excellent performance and demonstrates the strength of our scratch section.

The Scratch team’s next outing is a last 16 EAGG (Elite Amateur Golf Group) knock-out match on Sunday 27th September, away to Pyecombe GC. Good luck to the boys for that one.

And finally, the final of the Club Scratch knockout will be played on Saturday 26th September and is a clash of the scratch titans, Connor Hamilton and Henry Dubiel. It is likely to be a great match so please do come down and watch some great golf by arguably the two best golfers in the Club. Let’s hope there are no premature fist pumps!

Junior section

The Junior Section continues to be busy with two competitions being played in the last 4 weeks, the results of which were as follows:

Junior 18 Hole Stableford – Sunday 30th August

- 1st Harvey Bouchier – 36 points
- 2nd Wilbur Wilson – 31 points
- 3rd Jake Erasmus – 31 points

Junior Club Championships 2026 – Sunday 6th September

- 1st Zaal Owen – gross 72
- 2nd Casper Cooper – gross 84
- 3rd Ethan Wauntford-Brown – gross 85

Junior Club Championships 2026 – Sunday 6th September

- 1st Jake Erasmus – nett 68
- 2nd Charles Greenwood – nett 69
- 3rd Harvey Bouchier – nett 70

Congratulations to Jake for winning the Club Championships and to Harvey for two podium finishes in a week. And also, congratulations to Zaal Owen for a very impressive best gross of 72 in the Junior Club Championships. It’s great to see so many juniors playing in these events and scoring so well. The Junior Section has gone from strength to strength this year which is mainly down to the time, effort and enthusiasm of Shaun Feldon. I am delighted to report that Shaun has agreed to be co-opted onto the Men’s Golf Committee as the Junior Section Liaison. Thanks for agreeing to do that Shaun and thanks for everything you have done for the Juniors this year.

External matches

Arguably the biggest Club match of the year is the annual fixture against Royal Mid Surrey which embraces all of our shared histories and has the added twist that our Golf Chair usually turns out for RMS together with former Club Member, Graham ‘the Sleeper’ Terry. And this year was no different. I could have



selected a team of 30 golfers there was so much interest in playing for the Club. I had to settle on 12 men of steel to try to win back the Whale Trophy. It was an excellent day.

The course was in great condition; the weather was perfect and the lunch (as well as the rest of the hospitality provided by Patsie and Vitalii and their teams) was outstanding. And I am delighted to report that despite Johnny and I going down to the RMS Captain and VC in our match, the rest of the team performed valiantly and just like postmen delivered the Whale back to the Club, winning 4.5 – 1.5. The celebrations went long into the evening with the Whale being filled and refilled numerous times. Thanks to my team of Whalers for bringing it home!



Henry John and Jack Collins have had another excellent year in attempting to make history and defend the Kelso Hamilton Trophy (which is the Surrey County Golf four-ball better ball competition). After numerous rounds they beat Silvermere GC away in the quarter final (winning the first extra hole) and then narrowly lost 3/2 to Farleigh GC, again away from home, when Henry had to play on his own as Jack was ill on the day of the match. Well played Jack and Henry. You have represented the Club magnificently over the last couple of years in this competition.

Internal matches

On Sunday 6th September I was honoured to be asked to captain the Dads in the annual Dads v Lads match, with the Lads being skippered by Rob Findlay this year. It was the 'Battle of the Bobs'. Unfortunately, my army of Dads were completely humbled by the Lads who all played sensational golf.





I decided to partner Mike Hamblin (who had shot a gross 71 the previous day in the George Gadd) and we were simply blown away by some of the best 4BBB golf I have ever seen from George Palmer and Jon McLoughlin, with Jon going out in 31 and the pair having gross eagles on holes 5 and 6 to our very average gross birdies! It summed up our day!

We did well to hold on for an 8/7 loss (by far the biggest loss of my very average golfing career). The Lads won the match 5 – 1. Congratulations to Rob and his team of Lads. I just hope a number of them become fathers in the next 12 months so that we have a tighter match next year! And many thanks to Oli Hunt for his superb organisation of a great afternoon of golf and fun.

We then played the annual Captain and Past Captains vs the Club match on Saturday 12th September. I was delighted that we managed to field 16 Past Captains plus myself and Nigel Brown, the John Ling Captain. The Club was ably led by my VC, Johnny Perkins, who put out a very strong team which was demonstrated by the Club winning the 4BBB match 7 – 2. Many thanks to Peter McGovern, Neil Anderson, Mike Kappler and Nigel Brown for bringing home a couple of points for the Past Captains and so avoiding a total humiliation. Congratulations to Johnny and the Club team.

My team captaincy record that week was far from impressive and I am clearly not going to be remembered in the Pantheon of team captains in the same way as Messrs Jacklin, Gallacher and Donald! Fortunately I at least captained the Club to retake the Whale Trophy, otherwise it could have been a very barren year!

We are also getting to the business end of the internal knockout competitions. Craig De Silva is waiting to see whether it will be David Stuff or Richard Lurcott who he plays in the final of the Lockwood Foster and it will be an intriguing final of the Four Ball Better Ball Knockout when Andrew Baynes & James Bushell play Jo Cochrane & Nick St John. Good luck to you all. And congratulations to Danny and Sally Gesua for winning the Married Knockout Foursomes.

Captain and Pro Matches

We have managed to play four more Captain and Pro matches in the last four weeks and unlike my record in team matches, I am delighted to report that we have won all of them!



The first match was with Ali against the very steady pair of Andrew Linford and Earl Knudsen, who both played some excellent golf at the beginning of the round with Andrew putting like a pro. We were 3 down after 7 holes and then Ali woke or sobered up (or both) and we managed to win 6 of the next 9 holes to edge out the challengers 3/2.

I then played my first match with Oli against another steady pair of Peter Leather and David Worden. We were 4 up at one stage but got pegged back to win 2/1 with Oli shooting a gross 72 and us

carding a gross 68 better ball score. It shows how well Peter and David played.

This was then followed by my first match with new pro Max, against Clive Nicholson and Robert Stone. It was a lovely morning but Max demonstrated the golfing skills that had kept him on the DP World Tour for 5 years, carding a gross 31 at the turn and hitting a couple more birdies before we concluded the match early and headed to the bar. Max is a sensational player, and I am looking forward to partnering him again this Friday. He makes it look easy and certainly ensures that very little pressure is applied to my game!

And then just yesterday Ricky and I took on two of the stalwarts of the Men's Golf Section, Adam Musikant and GWB. It was a hard-fought match with both some excellent and lousy golf played by the 3 amateurs. Fortunately, Ricky's consistent golf shone through, and we ran out victors 2/1. It was a great afternoon of golf and chat.

Many thanks to you all for the challenges and also for the extremely generous donations to my charity, HomeStart Wandsworth.

I have four more matches to play in the coming weeks culminating in the Captain and Pro Finale on Sunday 4th October. The Captain and Pro matches have been one of the many highlights of my year as Captain, and I am looking forward to the final 4 outings and playing the Finale with Ricky.



Upcoming competitions

There is plenty more competitive golf coming up over the next 4 weeks including:

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

Friday 25th September – **Friday Club Stableford (18 Holes)**

Saturday 26th September – **Men's Stableford**

Sunday 4th October – **Captain and Pro vs Challengers**

Sunday 4th October – **Junior Autumn Meeting**

Saturday 10th October – **Captains' Drive In**

Sunday 11th October – **Mixed Individual Stableford (AM & PM)**

Sunday 11th October – **Junior 18 Hole Stableford**

Please sign up.

And finally ...

On Sunday 6th September history was made when two Roehampton Club Members had holes in one on the same day, but not on the same hole or even the same course. I was on the course when Joanna Zheng holed her 168 yard tee shot on the 7th hole. I was so happy for her. Joanna did the honourable thing of putting a bottle of champagne on the bar but unfortunately it had all gone when I got to the bar after my Dads vs Lads match!

And then word came in that Ben Walmsley had holed his 7 iron at the 150 yard 5th hole at Sunningdale Heath GC in the British Speedgolf Championships. That was a remarkable achievement when as Ben put it he 'chucked it on the tee, hit it and ran and as it was an uphill hole didn't see it finish'! No time for celebrations either as time is of the essence! Congratulations to Ben who was not only 10th overall but was the Senior Men's Champion and the first ever player to have a hole in one in the history of the Championships. Congratulations also to Will Major who was 7th and Tom Benbow who was 13th in the Championships. Ben has kindly agreed to buy everyone a drink at an event of my choosing – the Men's Dinner in November is looking very appealing!

It's going to be a very busy final four weeks of my Captaincy but I am looking forward to it.

Bob Mitchell, Men's Golf Captain