

## Men's Golf Captain's Blog – 20th April

Once inter-club matches start, we really know that the golf season is upon us in earnest. So it was that on Sunday we journeyed to the Richmond Golf Club and I am delighted to report that Roehampton Club re-captured 'The Horn' in our annual match! At the halfway point, Richmond led 2-1, our point coming courtesy of Stuart Loggie and Justin Thesiger. Thankfully strength in depth played its part and, thanks to a half from Paul Taylor and Andrew Walker, a win from Gerry Dennigan and Peter McGovern, it all came down to the last match. Nigel Reynolds and Rob Cutler were square approaching the final green and a hush descended as Rob hit a beautiful shot to only 8ft from the flag. Much celebration among the Roehampton Club team as Rob calmly slotted home the winning putt! A 3 ½-2 ½ winning margin made the fantastic Richmond hospitality even sweeter! Honourable mentions to our other players – Adam Musikant, Simon Butler, Johnny Perkins and Russell Gooding who did ever so well!



On Thursday we travelled to Woking for our annual fixture against the Senior Golfers Society. The oldest fixture in our calendar, it dates back to 1931 and features five foursomes matches in both morning and afternoon. At lunch the match was tied 2 ½-2 ½ with wins from Loggie and Butler, McGovern and Taylor, an honourable half from Whitaker and Thesiger but losses from Martin and Spalding and Birn and Verbeek (who claimed their opponents were highly experienced players – which was true as they were both 80+)! Entering the afternoon session we had high hopes but higher fitness levels among the SGS meant they took the overall match by 6-4. Many thanks to the Roehampton Club team who made it a tremendously enjoyable match with games played in great spirit and at great speed – circa 3 hours per round!



I've run out of golfing superlatives to describe the play of Ricky Pharo in our Captain and Pro matches! This last Saturday we took on past Captains Roger Mountney and Mike Kappler. They ran into inspired play from Ricky who made birdies at 2, 3, 6, 9, 10, 12 and 15 to stand 7 under par. As a pair we were 9 under betterball when the match ended on the 15th. It

was a very high standard of play and Mike and Roger kept up the tradition of every pair making an eagle against us when Mike hit his second shot to 12 inches at the 11th for a birdie 3, net eagle 2. I'm really grateful to Roger and Mike for their generous donations to the Captain's Charity 'Sport in Minds'.

I'm hopeful that this weekend will also see a good amount raised when we play a 'Dads vs Lads' match in aid of the Captain's Charity. All off scratch, with 'fines' for birdies, eagles and various other misdemeanour.

This weekend we have a Club roll up both morning and afternoon. Meet up is in the Club Café for both – at 07:30 for the morning and 12:30 for the afternoon. Vice Captain Peter McGovern is in charge of the morning session while the afternoon is being run by the Ladies section.

Excitingly, we will soon know the result of the Men's winter foursomes. The final will be contested between Matthew Woolston and Iain Welsh against David and Ollie Rimmer. Good luck to all you gents!

The singles and pairs knockouts are progressing nicely and we are grateful to all competitors for getting matches played to deadline which keeps the draws on track and makes scheduling matches a little easier!

**Simon Butler, Men's Golf Captain**