

Men's Golf Captain's Blog – 30 June 2024



It feels like it's constant golf for weeks now – or perhaps that is just the lingering impact of witnessing the 150-hole golfing extravaganza completed by Tom Benbow and Louis Laville during the 'Longest Day' challenge on Friday 22nd June 2023. This is man incredible achievement, eight rounds of golf (plus 6 holes!) from dawn until dusk. The number of birdies and eagles scored was huge – Louis putting out for a gross 64 in his fourth round of the day! Alongside 24 'mortal' Members who 'only' completed 72 holes or 36 holes, regardless of duration – it was a magnificent achievement raising over £5,000 for the Captains' Charities Age UK and www.sportinmind.org. It is not too late to donate, so if you can spare just a little, please follow this link and share with others: <https://www.givewheel.com/fundraising/625/roehampton-club-golf-challenge/>



Club Championship

On Saturday 17th June we once again witnessed a play off for the Club Championship. The course was in superb condition and many thanks go to David and his team for preparing the course on a Saturday morning. With the flags in tough spots and some interesting tee positions on par 3's, scoring was tough and after the morning round thirteen players were within five strokes of Luke Gorman who led with -2 (69) from Mike Hamblin and Connor Hamilton (both level par 71). Afternoon scoring was a little higher as the greens firmed up and at the end of 36 holes, we couldn't split the top three from lunch who had all finished at +1 for 36 holes. The playoff is a straight 'last man standing' along the 1st and then 18th, repeated until we have a winner. After Connor Hamilton chipped close to the flag, Mike Hamblin gave his birdie chance a go and ended up eliminated with a bogey. Luke Gorman played it steady making par leaving Connor an 8ft chance for birdie. The 'fist pump' told it all ... or did it? The hand of the golfing god struck and plucked Connor's birdie putt from the hole, and it completed a full 360-degree lip out! So, the playoff continued for two 'rounds' of the playoff holes before, under the watchful eyes of 50-60 assembled Members, Luke Gorman was crowned 'Champion Golfer of the Year'. Congratulations to all three in the playoff – exciting to watch and fun to be a part of.



Alongside the Club Championship we also played for the newly introduced competition for over 55s – those possibly past their golf prime but never say never! The first winner of the 'George Gadd Mashie' was Roy Martin (77+79 = 156) from Peter McGovern (83+77 = 160). Well done Roy – I am absolutely delighted that you will be the first to 'hang your ball' onto the mashie. Finally, Will Major triumphed in the handicap with 67+71=138 from Simon Butler (71+68=139).



While sadly I couldn't be there, I give compliments to Duncan Christie-Miller for arranging the super 'Salute the Services' event. Duncan, who can regale you with fantastic stories of 'action', commits much time and energy to supporting the collective of his former brothers in arms. The winner of the day was Raj Vara with 46 points from Douglas Millar (42 points) and Lorna Robey (39 points).

The mixed shotgun was another hugely popular mixed competition with a full start sheet for the shotgun start. The winning team with 106 points were Joanna Foyle, Ken Ukoko, Ali Wright and Thomas Carr, the Captain's team were second, and we all celebrated afterwards on the deck.

The First Team were sadly eliminated from the Surrey Championships away to West Hill. Every match was close and Max Stanley took his game to the twenty-third hole before being beaten. The First Team are in action again this weekend, away to Ealing. Good luck chaps and I'll be missing you at my Captain's Prize! This weekend I am delighted to be hosting the 'Captain's Prize' on Saturday morning. We still have a couple of spots left for this fourball better ball pairs event so please signup via IG or Club Reception if you can. I look forward to greeting you all on the 7th with refreshment and convivial banter.

Looking forward to next weekend, we have the Professionals' Day where Ricky and the team have planned out some fun on the course. Entry is via IG or through Club Reception.

Happy golfing!
Simon Butler
Men's Golf Captain

