

Men's Golf Captain's Blog

While the weather seems to indicate otherwise, summer is truly upon us, and many Club Members have already left for warmer, sunnier, or better climates! Not so for the Captain and Pro who play on regardless!

Since my last report, we have played seven Captain and Pro matches:

Against Greg Waunford-Brown and Andrew Walker, Ricky was his usual fantastic self, and despite an eagle two from Greg at the 12th Ricky posted six birdies, and we duly won 3/2.

We then played Adam Musikant and Dante Mama. A fantastic match which Adam and Dante won by 3/2 with some excellent scoring.

Next to the crease were Clive Nicholson and Robert Stone. Another match of fantastic scoring – Clive managed Robert beautifully (which meant he stopped him hitting Driver!) The match went right to the last hole when Robert got up and down from behind the 18th green, forcing your captain to do likewise for a halved match.

Our match against John Randall and Frank De Freitas again saw some exceptional golf, especially from John who was six over par when the pair one by 3/2. That's not to say that Frank didn't play his part as he made gross birdies on six and 10.



Looking to break a losing streak, we took on John Fooks and Russell Gooding. However, it wasn't to be with John playing especially well making net birdies on 5th, 6th, 15th, 16th, and 18th. I'll hardly mention the net EAGLE John made on the 11th! Suffice to say despite some excellent golf from Oscar, we lost one down.

In the first of our Friday night matches we took on Colum Murray and Richard Lurcott. A fantastic match and I'm glad to say that we returned to winning ways, with Wes Byatt playing especially well to give us a victory by 3/2.



Our most recent match was against Roy Martin and Richard Spalding. Once again, a superb quality of golf with lots of birdies. Ricky pulled it out of the bag with a sensational eagle at nine followed by a birdie at 16, which gave us victory by 3/2.

As a mid-season 'scorecard' our Captain and Pro tally stands as: Played 13, Won 8, Lost 4, Halved 1.

Captains' Prize was a fantastic day, and I'm delighted by the support shown by all the Members to both myself, and my charity 'Sport in Mind'. Members very kindly allowed me to give them a £5 charity 'mulligan' on the 7th and of the 13 putts I took, I managed to sink 11! Nearest the pin on the 7th was Mike Kappler, nearest the pin on the 13th, Justin Colver. The longest drive on the 16th was Scott Stanley. In the main event in third place were Stuart Loggie and Will Major with 44 points. In the runners-up position with 45 points, Zach, Kershaw, and Michael Innis. The winners for the third time in four years (Captain and Pro specialists?) were Alec and Michael Lever. Congratulations to everyone!



Club knockout competitions are entering the final stages. In the Lockwood Foster (handicap) we see two past Captains still challenging! In the top half of the draw, Paul Taylor will play Craig Da Silva. In the other half of the draw, the two quarter-finals are comprised of Neil Anderson vs Will McEachern and Greg Whitaker vs Paul Farrell. In what, at other golf clubs would be considered the club championship, the Scratch match play has reached the semifinals where Scott Stanley will play Peter Crocombe and Connor Hamilton will play Alex Tonge. Good luck to everybody left in both the Lockwood Foster and the Scratch Knockout.

The John Ling team (over 55) are still going strong and following a 5-0 victory will be playing Banstead Downs at home on Friday 4th August. Good luck to all the team. The First Team have qualified for the knockout stages of the EAGG with a crucial home victory two weeks ago. Near success at Royal Mid Surrey where Vince Thorne and Peter Crocombe were runners-up in the prestigious 'Antlers' tournament.

Simon Butler, Men's Golf Captain