



Men's Golf Captain's Blog – 14th March 2024

Let's start with the obvious, it has been very wet. February had the highest total rainfall in the South East since records began.

An obvious casualty was the cancellation of the Four Ball Scramble on Saturday 2nd March.

However, I hope things are looking up with longer playing hours. The sun set on 12th March at 6pm and the next time the sun sets at 6pm will be 19th October, giving us seven months of playing opportunities. Further the clocks will spring forward on 31st March.

The Summer Knockout programme was announced earlier with those wishing to participate required to have signed up by Sunday 10th March.

This is a great opportunity to play with new people and with luck maintain an interest in playing golf throughout the summer. Please sign up so we can have a large pool of players.

Competitions Played

Saturday 17th February the Alan Scott Trophy took place. It was my pleasure to host Alan who presented his magnificent trophy and made a short speech with some lovely words.

He regaled some stories when he was our Club professional for 28 years from 1980. He explained he played golf and his wife Susan ran the shop.

His portrait is located on the landing ascending from the locker rooms. It is hoped that the Club will be able to place a portrait of his father Syd Scott alongside his own.

Alan explained his father was an accomplished Professional who played in the Ryder Cup and was runner up in the 1954 Open Championship. A talented golfing family.

Congratulations to our winner David Worden with 41 points and runner up and ex Captain Paul Taylor with 40 points. A special mention goes to Harriet Prince who was the highest placed lady with 35 points. Well done everyone for competing and making this a great day.



On Saturday 24th February we played a fun competition – Kick, Throw, Gimme, another mixed event off the red tees.

I played with my Vice Captain Justin Thesiger, Suzanne Collins and the Ladies Vice Captain, Claire Martin. We returned 42 points with the mistaken belief we were at the races but ended up languishing in mid to low table.

The winners with an impressive 53 points were Ben Wilson and Didier Magne. Not only was their golf good but their strategy of knowing when to kick, throw and use their gimmes was exemplary.

Nigel Brown and Mike Kappler came second with 52 points beating Nick Wells and Brian Crotty on countback. Thank you to all participants for creating a great atmosphere.

Roll Ups

We have recently held four roll ups despite the poor weather.

Tom Biddle won on 10th March with 37 points, MG Gurbaxani won on 25th February with 33 points and Jeremy Connick with 41 points on the 11th February.

I should say that MG Gurbaxani also won on 28th January with 42 points. Congratulations to all entrants for getting up so early, in the dark to play this great game.



Captain and Pro

Will and I played the talented Birn brothers on Saturday 6th March in match five. Now all of you will know that this is a formidable pair to challenge let alone to overcome.

It was a great match with prodigious driving by both brothers. However, in the end Will and I won on the 16th.

Will was the star of the show and as is the Professional's lot had to hurry off to a lesson, I owe you a drink. Thank you to each of you, I thoroughly enjoyed the morning, great company and a lot of fun

Match four was postponed due to illness and terrible weather. Match six will be against Richard C Williams and Martin Horsfield.

Team Events

We entered two pairs in the Kelso Hamilton for the first time. Paul Farrell and Henry Umney travelled to London Scottish and unfortunately lost 3 and 2. Commiserations but thank you for representing the Club.

Neil Anderson and Mike Kappler also played away against Woodcote Park and won 2 and 1. Congratulations and well done. Their next match is away again to Banstead Downs.

The John Ling Trophy – First round is away to Bramley on 3rd April. This fine team of midweek warriors is led by Nigel Brown who also captained the side last year. Good luck Nigel and gentlemen and may the wind of good fortune always be on your backs.

The Two Surrey Fives Teams – captained by Malcolm Turner and Johnny Perkins. Both teams have been selected and their away matches arranged. May I wish you all well and let's bring home a trophy this year.

We are very excited about The Scratch Team's prospects this year. A squad split into a first and a developmental team who will push the firsts for their places, captained jointly by Scott Stanley and Peter Crocombe.

Having secured a successful start with a 5-nil win over Croham Hurst we wish them all the best in the upcoming draw for the EAGG.

Finally, it has been drawn to our attention that a few Members are damaging the fairways with numerous divots from the same spot, usually around 100 yards from the greens.

This is inappropriate behaviour and shows a lack of respect for our course and consideration for Members. The Club will sanction those who are identified and they will have to answer to the Golf Committee.

Until the April blog I hope you enjoy better conditions and smooth swings.

As a wise Golfer once said, always play to the centre of the green.

Peter McGovern, Men's Golf Captain

