



## Men's Golf Captain's Blog – 11th April 2024

Hopefully it is not overly optimistic to say that spring has finally sprung. In doing so I hope I do not hold our golfing community fortune to hostage. Since my last blog we have had some very enjoyable competitions as the season begins to gather momentum ...

### Competitions played

On Sunday 7th April The Centenary Putter was held in windy conditions. Congratulations to Ralph Evers who won on countback from Blair Ferguson with a respectable Nett 73.

Given the weather conditions and the juicy rough scoring was a tad on the high side. There was a lot reflection in the Members Bar afterwards with many players displaying some trauma. However, there was a good turnout and Members were able to enjoy the Man Utd and Liverpool match.

The course was presented in superb condition for The Centenary Putter having hosted the Gold Cup the day before. It would be remiss of me not to thank all who made this possible and allowing the Club to hold this prestigious event with class and style. Well done and thank you.

The winning Professional with six under was Hannah Screen. The leading amateur was Hyun-Ji Kim who used to be a Member of the club with level par.

The Syd Scott Mixed Foursomes was held on Monday 1st April. I had the pleasure of pairing with our Ladies' Captain, Caroline Dewar and playing with Jo and Justin Thesiger who came a respectable third but who may have won the event were several short puts held.

Congratulations to Claire and Roy Martin with a winning score of a nett 70. Aisling and Ben Wilson came second on countback beating Jo and Justin in third place with a nett 72.

This competition is held in the name of Allan Scott's father, Sydney Scott who was our Head Professional between 1958 and 1980. He was one of England's most accomplished golfers having played in the Ryder Cup and was runner up in the 1954 Open Championship.

The Arthur Clarke Foursomes was held on 23rd March. Our winners and two very popular Members were Past Captain Richard Lurcott and our Vice Captain Justin Thesiger with an





impressive 71, well done gentlemen. This is one of our oldest trophies and I believe Mr Clarke played in The Open in 1948.

The International Teams Event took place on 16th March. This has evolved into one of our most popular competitions which is eagerly contested with not a small amount of ribbing taking place.

Six teams representing England (x2), Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Europe and a Rest of World. Scotland and Wales had to join forces to make one team as many of their potential players were away at the final six nation games.

Nevertheless, as the joint team did not perform very well it was difficult to determine who underperformed. Wales of course were the defending champions. The final result was a tie between Ireland and Europe.



However after a short discussion between Louis and myself we decided to award the first place to Europe as the winner of the individual prize was Christian Schniewind who is a very proud Swiss national.

Thank you to all who participated, particularly the respective Captains for all their assistance and to those who stayed in the Bar afterwards.

### Team Competitions

Unfortunately Malcolm Turner's team lost in the Surrey 5s after a strong fight against Dulwich by 3 matches to 2.

Meanwhile our second team, captained by Johnny Perkins, won against Banstead by 3 matches to 2 and now proceed to play Walton Heath Artisans.

I would like to thank both Captains and their panels for all the hard work in organising and participating in the matches. There is a surprising amount of work that goes into arranging these games.



John Ling – unfortunately once again we lost with the consolation of now automatically playing in the Plate. Led valiantly by Nigel Brown we lost 3 and 2 against Bramley. Our winning pairs were Neil Anderson and Simon Lucas, Pair 3 and Alec Lever and Richard R Williams, Pair 5.

It has been reported in despatches that the standout performance appears to have come from Simon with his trusty broom handle putter. He swept the winning putt in on the 18th.

Commiserations gentlemen and many thanks to Nigel for all his efforts on arranging the match.

I must add that Nigel is now the proud winner of the Colum Sharkey Cup after a great match against the formidable and talented Bob Mitchell who as a result is currently in therapy, the match having proceeded to a one hole playoff.

### **Roll ups**

These are beginning to ramp up with the next match on Sunday 14th April. I would encourage Members to play in these. They are a great opportunity to meet new Members and play with new players.

The AM and PM matches start on the 28th April.

### **Other news**

The Marketing department have authorised a Men's Golf WhatsApp group. We hope this will facilitate the flow of news, notifying Members immediately of important events and news.

Our Joint charity Small Steps' annual Charity ball was held at Royal Mid Surrey Golf Club and was a huge success with over £40,000 being raised. Thank you to the Club for donating a fourball slot which raised over £400.

Small Steps is a local charity supporting pre-school age children and their families with physical disabilities

If anyone would like to contribute separately outside our golf fund raising events then please do not hesitate to contact me.

It is amusing to remember that Golf is a strange game. Where you hit down to make a ball go up. You swing left and the ball goes right. The lowest score wins and the winner buys the drinks. All makes sense!

Here's to a great golfing year and I hope your golfing ambitions are achieved.

**Peter McGovern, Men's Golf Captain**