

# Salute the Services Golf Day 2024



On Monday 10 June 2024 the Club celebrated the annual Salute the Services golf event. Our own G Day took place four days after the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D Day 1944 and Operation Overlord but we were blessed with better weather and no casualties.

This year we were supporting two aviation Charities – the RAF 617 Squadron – the Dambusters – and the Air League. These two work closely together to provide scholarships to help young men and women to both learn to fly and to enter the civil and military aviation world. We were lucky to have three recipients of these funds – two young RAF pilots and a young woman who currently flies with the London Air Ambulance and is shortly starting her commercial flying training with BA. In addition, we were fortunate to have other representatives of both organisations present – all were outstanding examples of enthusiastic, articulate and professional youngsters making their way in aviation.

Despite competing with two other golf events that day, it was a pleasure to have 23 Roehampton Club Members playing and generously contributing to the auction in aid of both charities. Henry and Harriet Hobson are brilliant at always supporting this event – this year they donated a stunning picture of a WW2 Lancaster bomber which got the bidding off to a very positive start. A big thank you to both of them.

The golf was played with enthusiasm and the occasional flashes of skill, with two RAF players joining us on the course. It did not rain, the course was in excellent condition and the half-way Hut provided splendid refreshment and calorie rich nibbles.

Our delightful Lady Captain Caroline Dewar won the individual trophy – the Spitfire Award with 37 Stableford points and played elegant and steady golf throughout. Astrid Drayson – again! – won the Longest Drive on the 16th and Caroline Dewar was the Nearest the Pin winner on the 13th.

And – appropriately – the Royal Air Force were the Team Winners: *Per Ardua ad Astra* – congratulations to all involved.

Thank you to all those Members who both played and to those who could not but still made a very generous donation. The total was £5,526 including a generous extra contribution from the Club. Your commitment and generosity ensures that more young men and women will reach for the skies assuredly and with confidence.

Duncan Christie-Miller



Duncan Christie-Miller presents the individual Spitfire Trophy to Caroline Dewar helped by Flt Lt Freddie Field RAF