

Men's Golf Captain's Blog – 8th August 2024



Welcome to a truncated August blog. Having had to squeeze many competitions into the early part of the season to facilitate the green drainage works there have been few to report on in August. However, the September and October calendars offer many playing opportunities and we hope to have a full complement of 18 holes by the end of August.

Greens' drainage works

Well done to all the Course and Grounds' Team for working so hard to make the course even better. I know there was a lot of late evenings spent in the early stages of the works with staff working tirelessly. The techniques used to lay the drains were unique to our course and required a lot of ingenuity. Principally it involved removing tracks of turf, laying the aggregate and pipes and then replacing the turf. Usually the turf is not taken up and can leave lines in the ground which take longer to grow back. This was used on the 14th fairway which left lines on the grass for several months.

Captain and Pro matches

We played three exciting games. John Fooks and Russell Gooding took the honours on the 15th July when Sam and I played extremely well. Sam shot a 31 on the front 9 with a lost ball in the 1st however despite this we lost 2 and 1.

The challengers played sensational golf and seldom had to dovetail as they both played brilliantly. For example, they scored birdies on the 7th which required Sam and I to have holes in one to halve, which disappointedly did not happen.

This was followed by Shaun Feldon and James Gooding on the 20th and then Martin Abbott and Keith Atkins on the 28th against Ricky and Oscar respectively. Both matches were great fun and closely fought affairs with wins for Captain and Professional. A huge thank you to all participants, for making these very enjoyable matches.

Roll ups

We have held two roll ups on the 14th and 28th July. Well done to Harry Rowlinson who took the honours with 39 points on countback from Dan Bird.

Congratulations to Bob Mitchell with an impressive 43 points followed by the evergreen Paul Farrell with 40 points. The next opportunity to play will be on Sunday 18th August.

Dads v Lads Match

I would like to thank all the participants but particularly Oliver Hunt who took the reins and organised the event.

He put in a lot of effort to making this a fun event which raised £300 for the Captains Charity Small Steps. Very much appreciated for this excellent cause.

This match I understand was conceived by the younger members of the Scratch section who felt confident enough to challenge the older Scratch players and kindly invited me to play.

This was the second outing and the Lads prevailed over the Dads in a tightly fought match before returning to the bar to watch the England game.

John Ling Salver Match

Another win against Addington Court on 26th July led superbly by Nigel Brown. They have reached the quarter final and play Bletchingley at home. Nigel provided an excellent report of his team's performance which I include below:

'Anyway we won the match 3-2, all matches going to at least the 17th and lots of ups and downs. We had had to rearrange the team a couple of times as well due to illnesses.

Roy Martin and Nigel Brown were 3 down with 6 to play after being hit by numerous gross birdies from their opponents on the front nine, before Roy had a crucial birdie of his own on the 13th which triggered a great fight back, and we won on the 18th.

Simon Culliford and Danny Gesua had both reconnoitered the course on Thursday and used their knowledge and skill to keep ahead throughout their match and win 2 and 1.

They then went out on their golf buggy to support John Fooks (who had been called into the team only on Thursday morning) in his sole and heroic quest to take his match up the 19th and onward, after he and Simon Lucas had halved their match and poor Simon had to leave and get home. The valiant John halved the 19th and then won the 20th against the shell-shocked Addington pair! A big shout out to all the team; as I said, all matches were close.'

Scratch Section

Congratulations for a great win against Effingham on the 20th July and now into the semi finals. Unfortunately despite valiant efforts we did not progress in The EAGG and lost in The Antlers.

Men's Fun Team Competition 3rd August

This was a fantastic addition to our golf calendar which we hope will become a regular fixture. Lots of novel ideas made it different such as Spin The Wheel on the 7th to determine your playing club while closest to the pin. Surprisingly, despite nearly a full field no one hit the green. Double points upper and lower pin on 11th. To raise funds for the Captain's Charity each team were given two chips on their starting hole, a sandy and a three putter.

Whoever hit the ball into a bunker or three putted held the chips. The player (s) holding the chip at the end of the round paid £10 to the Captain's Charity. Next year we may introduce Spin the Wheel on one of the short par fours.



Junior Cadet Stableford 28th July

The Roehampton Club stars of the future played 9 holes in their Stableford. Harriet Prince won with 16 points followed by Edward and Jonathan O'Shea, Harrison and Harvey Bouchier and Thomas Feldon. Well done everyone and keep enjoying your golf.

Finally ...

Congratulations to the Ladies' Pearson team who won the Trophy and are Champions for 2024. Therese Swanson, Captain and Emma Angood, Vice Captain led the team and were supported by quality caddies including our Ladies' Golf Captain.

I leave you with some quotes ... Arnold Palmer said 'golf is deceptively simple and endlessly complicated; it satisfies the soul and frustrates the intellect'. Or Raymond Floyd: 'they call it golf because all the other four letter words were taken'.

Enjoy your golf.

Peter McGovern, Men's Golf Captain