

Senior's Golf Chairman's Report

10th October 2024



I have thoroughly enjoyed being Senior's Golf Chairman during the past four seasons but I have decided that now is the time to step down and to pass the baton to someone younger and fitter than me! In the course of my time in the chair, I have gotten to know most of the golfers who join in our Wednesday competitions and play for the Roehampton Club Seniors team in matches against local golf clubs. I am grateful for the friendship and support so many of you have given to me in since I took over from Quentin Robey and I look forward to giving my support to the incoming Chairman.

I shall be proposing at our AGM on 30th October that **Nicholas (Nick) Brown** replace me as Chair. Nick has many excellent qualifications to take on the role, but the most important one is that he plays most Wednesdays in our senior roll ups and other competitions. His regular presence and the affable way he takes charge of events, or captain's the team make him an ideal choice.

Golf Committee

When I took over as Chair in 2021, I was invited to stand for membership of the Golf Committee. I was fortunate to be elected unopposed. I have completed a three-year term on the committee and have decided not to seek re-election. I have enjoyed adding my views to the discussions among the golfing community at Roehampton Club and learning how our grounds staff, under the leadership of Peter Bradburn, meticulously plan and work to give golfers the best possible golf experience. I look forward to offering my support to the new committee in due course.

Review of 2024 matches and fixtures for 2025

At this time of year, we have an opportunity to look back at the season and record what has gone well and what has been less successful. We will have played a full programme of 22 matches this season, with only 21 results as our trip to the RAC in Epsom in April was abandoned mid round due to wind and hail. After a disappointing series of losses in mid-season, a recent run of four successive victories leaves the season with seven wins, 10 losses and two halved matches, with two matches still to be played. The results of our matches are available on the Intelligent Golf website.

The matches are great fun and so I urge those who have not taken part this year to sign up to the senior squad on Intelligent Golf and make themselves available for next year's matches. Next year we already have 22 fixtures planned, so there should be opportunities for most seniors to play for the team.

Also, within the ambit of seniors golf, a Roehampton Club team led by Nigel Brown has reached the final of the John Ling Salver – a competition which the team won a couple of years ago. The final will be played on 17th October against Farleigh GC at Banstead Downs course. We wish the team the best of luck in bringing the Salver home again.

Senior Mixed and Over Eighties matches 2024

Seniors have also played in Senior Mixed matches and in the Over Eighties team. Their results can be seen on Intelligent Golf. We are grateful to Siobhan Ralston for organising these fixtures. Led by Peter Sabine and Nigel Karmel, we also organise an Over Eighties team which has played six matches in 2024. The Club also staged Over Eighties open competition and produced the winner on the day Hassan Dajani.

Weekly competitions in 2024

We have held competitions every Wednesday throughout the year, with modified roll-ups and Grails every month plus two Medals, in spring and autumn. I have reported regularly on the winners of those competitions in the course of the year.

This year we have been able to play to a finish all our regular knockouts. Some seniors have had particularly successful years. There are always some serial winners. Nigel Brown won the Colum Sharkey Cup and the Ockleshaw Cup. Obviously his matchplay skills have been honed by his experience leading the Roehampton Club team in the John Ling Salver. To cap it all he was the winner of the Annual Medal, having done well in both the spring and autumn events.

John Tyrwhitt has also had a good year, winning the Ockleshaw Plate, the August Grail and recording the best gross score in the summer Eclectic. I should also mention that my long-time playing companion, Ian Taylor-Restell won the Hamid Lari Trophy for the Summer Eclectic for the umpteenth time!

Prizes will be presented at the AGM and three or four may also be (re)presented at the Men's Golf Dinner on 29th November. At least two tables will be populated by seniors and so I ask seniors to sign to join us. A list of all the prize winners is set out below.

Colum Sharkey Cup 2023-24	Winner Nigel Brown	Runner up Bob Mitchell
Winter Foursomes 2023-24	Winners Chris Cowan, Tony Durrant	
Senior scratch 2024	Winner Roy Martin	Runner up Andrew Linford
Ockleshaw Cup 2024	Winner Nigel Brown	Runner up Richard Lurcott
Ockleshaw Plate 2024	Winner John Tyrwhitt	Runner up Bob Mitchell
Super Seniors 2024	Winner John Randel	Runner up Bob Storer
Seriously Seniors 2024	Winner Bill Phelan	Runner up Martin Flint
Spring Medal 2024	Winner Alec Lever	Runner up Mark Tydeman
	Gross winner Andrew Walker	
Autumn Medal 2024	Winner Paul Gordon-Brown	Runner up Julian Bass
	Gross Winner Peter McGovern	
Annual Medal (Combined) 2024	Winner Nigel Brown	Runner up Neil Hemsall
	Gross Winner Roy Martin	
Summer Eclectic 2024: The Hamid Lari Trophy*	Winner Ian Taylor-Restell	
	Runners up Hassan Dajani and Ev Schenk	
	Best gross score John Tyrwhitt	

The Grail

Most gratifying of all has been the high number of entries for all of our events, especially the monthly Grail when participation averaged well over 50 entrants. We have also attracted a number of low handicappers who tend to perform more consistently than those of us with high handicap!

Winners since November 2023 have been:

November 2023	Roger Gilbert
December 2023	Alec Lever
January 2024	Nicholas Brown
February 2024	Raj Vara
March 2024	Brian Hall
April 2023	Brian Hall
May 2023	Alun Hughes
June 2023	Peter Sabine
July 2023	Peter Bateman
August 2023	John Tyrwhitt
September 2023	Bob Storer

Events 2024-25

A similar programme of events is planned for 2025. The draws will soon be made for the winter competitions – the Colum Sharkey trophy and the seniors winter foursomes. The winter Eclectic, which will start this month, goes on till the end of March and seniors can still enter.

Dates in July and August 2025 have been affected by the work being done in that period to upgrade the drainage on the 4th, 5th, 7th and 16th holes which will have temporary greens for several weeks. This follows on from the successful drainage work on four holes this summer.

Seniors will get the programme for the coming year sent out next week. Up to Christmas the key dates are:

Wednesday 27th November	Grail
Wednesday 11th December	Grail
Wednesday 18th December	Christmas nine holes and lunch
Wednesday 11th December	Grail
Wednesday 18th December	Christmas 9 holes and Lunch

Recent competitions

Autumn and combined Medals

More than 50 players competed for the Autumn Medal on 11th September. Congratulations to Paul Gordon-Brown, who won the Autumn Medal on countback with a nett 70.

Congratulations also to Nigel Brown on winning the Annual Medal which is a combination of both spring and autumn medals with a total nett score of 141.

The results of the Autumn Medal were:

1st	Paul Gordon-Brown	Nett 70 (countback)
2nd	Julian Bass	Nett 70
3rd	Denis Gould	Nett 71 (countback)
4th	Gerard Dennigan	Nett 71 (countback)
Best Gross	Peter McGovern	Gross 78

September Grail

In a field of 57 players on 25th September, only five people played to or bettered their handicaps. Congratulations to Bob Storer, who won the September Grail with 42 points! The full result was as set out below.

1st Bob Storer	42 points
2nd Faisal Rahmatallah	39 points (countback)
3rd Chris Cowan	39 points
4th Ian Taylor-Restell	38 points
5th Terry Dillon	36 points

We played in decent conditions, given all the recent rains and it made for an enjoyable round despite the relatively low scoring.



October events

On 2nd October the seniors played a team Stableford in the format Step up / Waltz. Scoring was difficult but the winners were a team of Hassan Dajani, Mohamed El Guindi and Denis Gould who scored a total of 71 points!

The runners up were a team of Michael Godfrey, Alun Hughes and David Moss who scored 69 points. It is wonderful to see that Michael is still winning having just reached the elevated status of a nonagenarian.

Support from the Club

We have benefitted enormously from the assistance given by the Golf and Games Manager Louis Laville. He has been ably assisted by Matt Fidler in organising our Wednesdays and especially our major events. When visiting clubs play with us, it is always gratifying that they are impressed by the assistance and professionalism of Louis and Matt in supporting our matches.

October Grail and AGM

I hope to see as many seniors as possible at the AGM on Wednesday 30th October. The planned shotgun start should enable the meeting to start promptly at 2pm.

Douglas Millar, Senior's Golf Chairman