

# Men's Golf Captain's Blog – 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024



I'm feeling immensely privileged to be writing my first blog as your Men's Golf Captain for 2025. I would like to start with a huge thank you and recognition to my predecessor Peter McGovern. He was a magnificent Captain, I thoroughly enjoyed shadowing him, learning lots and I just hope I can be half as good as he was, they are indeed big shoes to fill.

Secondly, I would like to thank and acknowledge two amazing contributors to the golf section; Neils Verbeek, former Golf Committee Chair and Douglas Millar former Seniors' Golf Chair. Both are stepping down after more than three years in the post and have left the golf section in excellent health, so thank you both very much for all you have done. I would like to wish Martin Abbott all the best in taking over from Neils and Nick Brown the same for taking the helm from Douglas.

Lastly, I am very much looking forward to working with Claire Martin, the new Ladies' Captain, building on the success of the mixed events this year plus we are sharing our Captain's Charity [www.fishhelp.org.uk](http://www.fishhelp.org.uk)

## Competitions and events

### *Members and Staff 11<sup>th</sup> October*

A beautiful sunny afternoon saw 30 Members and 10 staff play 9 holes with the winners (on countback) being Colin Hector, Matt Fidler, Claire Martin and Justin Thesiger.

### *AGM 12<sup>th</sup> October*

Please make sure you read the published minutes, it was an excellent meeting. A highlight for me was Peter Bradburn's fascinating presentation on what his team have done throughout the year to keep our course looking and performing so well and what they intend to do next year.

Congratulations to all the mixed competition winners: Caroline Dewar and Peter McGovern (Frankland Moore Mixed Foursomes), Aisling and Ben Wilson (Married Foursomes), Claire and Roy Martin (Syd Scott), Claire Martin and Justin Thesiger (Mixed Foursomes) and Astrid and Tim Drayson (Frankland Moore Married Foursomes).





### *Captain's Drive-In 12<sup>th</sup> October*

Both Captains managed to get their drives in the air and closer to the green, which was a huge relief. Congratulations goes to Gill Edmonds guessing the combined length, incredibly out by just 1 yard. It was a hotly contested competition with all top three being placed on countback. Congratulations to Thomas Carr and Alastair Wright in third place, Martin Abbott and Graham Terry in second place and the winners were Claire Martin and Justin Thesiger with 46 points.



### *Roll Up 20<sup>th</sup> October*

A small but nevertheless competitive field gathered with John Threshie winning on 35 points, congratulations.

### *Season Finale Shotgun 26<sup>th</sup> October*

A full field gathered with some impressive golf being played; Neils Verbeck and Dante Mama playing together both getting an eagle on the 5<sup>th</sup> and Connor Hamilton shooting an impressive 4 under. The top three individual finishers were Graham Terry in first place with 39 points, Connor Hamilton in second place with 38 points and Nick Wells in third place with 37 points (countback). Congratulations to the winners plus the team event was won with a notable 110 points by Connor Hamilton, Nick Wells and Bryn Rocke.





### *Men's Stableford 2<sup>nd</sup> November*

61 golfers turned out on an overcast Saturday. Congratulations to Ollie Rimmer for winning with 39 points, Oliver Aikens in second place with 38 points Simon Lucas in third place with 36 points (countback).

Congratulations to Luke Gorman for winning the scratch category with gross 71. I had a number of comments about how great the greens were especially the new ones, which is testament to Peter Bradburn and his team's hard work, so thank you.

### *Mixed Individual Stapleford 10<sup>th</sup> November*

Congratulations to Harriet Prince in first place with 39 points, Justin Thesiger in second place with 38 points and Hanneke Smits in third place with 37 points.

### **Scratch Team**

Many congratulations for pulling off a fine victory to win the Surrey Shield against the Surrey 'A' Team. What was also great to hear was how complimentary the Surrey team were about the course and what amazing condition it was in. Thank you again Peter Bradburn and team!



### **Seniors**

Many congratulations for winning the John Ling Salver final against Farleigh GC on 17<sup>th</sup> October. It was a display in controlled chipping and putting with a 4-1 victory delivered by Stephen Jones and Nigel Brown (half), Frank de Freitas and Alec Lever (half), Neil Anderson and Russell Gooding (4 and 3), Gerry Dennigan and Simon Lucas (5 and 3) finally John Randel and Danny Gesua (4 and 2).

Getting through to the final was no mean feat with the Roehampton Club team playing six rounds through the spring and summer and displaying great strength and depth from this fine squad, who all played their part ... Roy Martin, Simon Culliford, Keith Atkins, Richard R Williams, Simon Butler, John Randel, Mike Kappler, Nigel Reynolds, John Fooks, John Dawes, Clive Nicholson and Paul Taylor. Thank you all for 'chipping – in'.

I would like to call out one individual if I may, that is Nigel Brown, who superbly captained the side throughout the competition. I am incredibly grateful to Nigel for agreeing to continue in this role for 2025.



## Juniors

Well done to everyone who played in the Junior Cadet Stableford 9 hole on 3<sup>rd</sup> November. Congratulations goes to Harvey Bouchier who scored 19 points to, Wilbur Wilson who came second with 17 points and Harrison Bouchier who came third with 14 points.

## Upcoming competitions and events

- **Captain and Pro matches** – some dates have been released and are on the noticeboard in the changing room with more dates to follow. Please feel free to sign up.
- **Men's Annual Golf Dinner 29<sup>th</sup> November** – limited spaces are still remaining. It would be great to have a full house. Please contact Louis or the Reception Team, it is always a very good evening. Guest speaker is former world top 10 golfer David Howell.
- **Christmas Charity Competition 14<sup>th</sup> December** – followed by an *amazing* auction with fabulous prizes to raise money for [www.fishhelp.org.uk](http://www.fishhelp.org.uk)
- **FE Bland Family Foursomes 15<sup>th</sup> December** – this was moved from October to allow for school / university holidays. This is open to all golf members, both full and weekday. It would be great to get a good turnout.

Thank you for reading and please do not hesitate to give me any suggestions for future blogs. I look forward very much to seeing many of you on our glorious golf course.

Best,

**Justin Thesiger, Men's Golf Captain**