

Men's Golf Captain's Blog – 12th December 2024



The weather has certainly changed and taken a turn for the worse. Four 'named' storms in as many weeks brought heavy rainfall, flooding and major disruption. In terms of our course, it has only been closed twice with our new greens laid in the summer all doing really well. Fingers crossed for a slightly calmer Christmas period and New Year.

Men's Golf Dinner

We had our Men's Golf Dinner on 29th November. A tremendous evening, a great final 'thank you' for Peter McGovern and we raised over £1,000 for his charity [Small Steps](#), fine work gentlemen! This year we had former world top 10 golfer David Howell, aka 'Howler', as our guest speaker, who was excellent with lots of very entertaining stories. He also very generously agreed to play 18 holes with myself, Peter McGovern and Niels Verbeck beforehand. A real treat for us all and the treat got even better for Peter and I, taking David and Niels down by two holes.

Huge congratulations to all prize winners who collected their trophies during the dinner. A selection of some of the winners ...



Men's Golf Committee

We held my first Men's Golf Committee meeting on 19th November where roles and responsibilities for the year were agreed. I would like to take this opportunity to firstly thank the Committee for their time and commitment and secondly, introduce everyone and let you know what they will be focussing on:

Bob Mitchell (Vice Captain) and Roy Martin – Club Competitions
Malcolm Turner and Jonny Perkins – Surrey Competition Captains
Martyn Ryan – New Members Liaison
Peter McGovern – Mixed Liaison
Nick Brown (Senior Chair) – Senior Liaison
David Birn – Scratch Liaison
Gerry Dennigan – Roll ups / Sign ups
Colum Murray – new on the committee

Competitions and Events

Mixed Individual Stableford (24th November)

The weather was not very pleasant at all, in fact it was positively horrible delivered by Storm Conall. That said, a small but courageous field went out to face the elements. Many congratulations to Dan Bird in first place, Ben Angood in second and Charlotta Lyckeus in third.

Men's Stableford (30th November)

An impressive number of players (50) turned out, bearing in mind the Men's Golf Dinner was the night before. Late tee times were at a premium with the course looking fairly clear early on, however rather surprisingly, it was one of the early starters who came top of the leaderboard. Many congratulations goes to Ben Wilson in first place, Bob Mitchell in second, Les West in third, Richard Spalding in fourth, Greg Waunford-Brown in fifth, Peter Leather in sixth and Finn Begley in seventh. An extra round of applause goes to Finn Begley being the winner in the Clubhouse for the 'scratch' section.

Captain and Pro

I played my first match on 7th December against our Golf Chair Martin Abbott and Graham Terry. Storm Darragh was in full force when we arrived and as you can see from the picture, we were all thrilled to be standing on the first tee. My first drive, into the wind, landed just short of the netting in-front of the practice ground, so it was going to be a long and difficult round.

Graham and Martin combined really well to be two up at the turn with Ricky keeping us in it. We then had a purple patch with three birdies in four holes and taking it on the 18th by one.

A really great match in what can only be described as horrendous conditions. A big hand (warmer) to Martin, Graham and Ricky for making it to the end.





Scratch

Congratulations to Alex Tonge who played in the 2024 EAGG (Elite Amateur Golf Group) singles scratch matchplay championship final at Monte Rei in Portugal on 8th December. Pictured is Alex with David Howell and the Club trophies he won this year, what a superb 2024!

Seniors

A gentle reminder that there is the Seniors Christmas Lunch on 18th December, so please contact Nick Brown if you would like to join in the festivities.

Juniors

Well done to everyone who played on 17th November and 1st December. On 17th November, congratulations went to Huw Stradling finishing in first place, Wilbur Wilson in second, Edward Clement in third and Thomas Feldon in fourth.

On 1st December Charles Greenwood was in first place, Wilbur Wilson second, Paul Stanton third, William Marshal fourth and Tatijana Dupont-Liot fifth.

Please encourage your parents to enter the FE Bland Family Foursomes on 15th December. This is a fun event and open to all golf members and all capabilities.

Upcoming competitions and events

Captain and Pro matches

More dates coming up on 1st and 15th February, 8th and 29th March and 19th April. Please sign up on the sheet in the changing room or 'DM' me.

Christmas Charity Competition

Coming up on 14th December with a few spaces left followed by an *amazing* auction with fabulous prizes to raise money for our [Captains' Charity FiSH](#)

FE Bland Family Foursomes on

Coming up on 15th December. This is open to all golf Members, both full playing and five day. **Please get involved and let's make this a great event.**

Thank you for reading and please do not hesitate to give me any suggestions for future blogs.

Wishing you a very happy Christmas and New Year. I hope to see as many of you over the Christmas period and then in 2025 on our glorious golf course.

Best,

Justin Thesiger, Men's Golf Captain