

Men's Golf Captain's Blog – 16th January 2025



I would like to start with wishing everyone a very heathy, happy and prosperous 2025. I sincerely hope you all had a relaxing (where possible), festive and most importantly fun Christmas and New Year celebrations.

As Clive Numby famously said in 2006, 'Data is the new oil'. I'm sure most of you have noticed that a 'Tagmarshal' has been given out for all tee times in December, and this will continue going forward. The data we collect includes the time taken by every group on each hole, the identification of slow groups based on both the course's pace-of-play target and the pace of other groups, and, most importantly, the identification of groups that are holding up those behind them.

A Course Utilisation Working Group has been established to continually review this data and make recommendations to maximize the use of our glorious golf course. We ask for your cooperation as we gather more data in the coming months. This is a work in progress, but I wanted to share this important update with you.

What a shot!

Please allow me to introduce a new feature into my blog. I would ask for anyone and everyone to submit suggestions each month, I'm sure we can make this a regular slot.

To kick things off, Robert Cutler chipped in at the 1st for a two (2) (two bounces on a frozen green and then hitting the flagstick) last weekend and Les West who managed a hole-in-one on the 17th using his trusted driver ... 'What a shot(s)!'



Competitions and events

Christmas Charity Competition

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge and thank Keith Atkins, who started this event a few years ago, it has turned into a regular feature in the calendar. A near full shotgun field with everyone playing off the reds. Some great golf, a huge amount of fun with congratulations going to Catherine Emanuel, Shaun Feldon, Craig Wallace and Mark Gradwell in first place with 99 points, Claire Martin, Bob Mitchel, Jo and Justin Thesiger in second place with 98 points and Wallace Wilson, Bryn Rocke, Stephanie Williams and Ben Thesiger in third place with 92 points.



Back in the bar, 10 lots were auctioned off and a massive thank you to all those who were successful in winning. We raised a tremendous amount for our [joint charity FiSH](#): over £3,500. Thank you to Richard R Williams, Charity Chair, for giving us an insight into the charity's work and to Danny Gesua for providing us with a volunteer's perspective.

FE Bland Family Foursomes

After moving this event to allow for school and university holidays, 10 pairings teed off. Many congratulations to Jack and Suzanne Collins in first place with 36 points, Fergus and Peter Leather in second with 35 points and Ben and Justin Thesiger third with 32 points. Thank you to everyone who played, it certainly makes golf a different game playing with a family member, but everyone had smiles at the end and I'm sure we can increase the numbers next year.

Christmas Foursomes

17 pairings took to the course on 27th December. Big hand to all those who ventured out after two days of festivities and congratulations to Jo and Justin Thesiger in first place with 37 points, Sam Lyons and Ben Wilson in second with 36 points countback and Angie and Keith Atkins third with 36 points.

4 Club Comp

The question at the beginning of every year in the locker room; 'what clubs are you taking and do you take a putter?' On a very cold and frosty morning 45 brave souls went out and congratulations to Ben Walmsley in first place with 32 points, Nigel Brown in second with 31 points, Luke Gorman third with 29 points, George Palmer fourth with 28 points countback and John Threshie fifth with 28 points.

Mixed Sign-up Stapleford

After a delayed start due to fog with 18 frozen greens and the ball 'pinging' all over the place, posting a score close to 36 was going to put you well in contention. An amazing round by Paul Taylor to win with 38 points, Ben Thesiger in second place with 34 points and Rob Cutler third with 32 points.

Winter Foursomes Comp

A gentle reminder that with the weather conditions being somewhat 'unpredictable', please can I ask all remaining pairs to book their matches early, so any delay due to weather does not impact the comp deadlines. Thank you very much in advance.

Scratch

Congratulations to Alex Tonge who won the 2024 EAGG (Elite Amateur Golf Group) singles scratch matchplay championship final at Monte Rei in Portugal on 8th December in convincing style; 6&5, in tough conditions 30mph winds.

Upcoming competitions and events

- **Captain and Pro matches** – please sign up on the sheet in the changing room or 'DM' me. Current dates waiting for some challengers are 15th February, 8th and 29th March and 19th April. More weekend dates will be added and some weekday times.
- **Men's Stableford** on 25th January
- **Mixed Individual Stableford** on 26th January
- **Mixed Fun Club Shotgun** on 8th February

Thank you for reading and please do not hesitate to give me any suggestions for future blogs and more importantly get your '**what a shot!**' nominations in as I would like to mention as many of you as possible.

Justin Thesiger, Men's Golf Captain

