

Captains Diary - November 2019



What a way to start my Captaincy, a memorable drive in were myself, my Vice captain, Ian Mann and outgoing Captain, Phil Charnley left the club house dressed as tourists accompanied by Frank Sinatra belting out Come Fly with Me dragging suitcases behind us.

The crowd of approximately 150 cheered as we three made our way onto the ninth fairway and to a set of screens, which were strategically positioned by the 100-yard marker.

Act 2. We then removed all signs of our tourist outfits and emerged in black tie t-shirts with inflatable guitars to the sounds of the Shadows and Apache.

We made our way along the fairway to the temporary green acknowledging the cheers (and laughter) from the crowds present.

Then it started to get a little more serious and Ian Mann armed with a wedge proceeded to hit the traditional shot across the river onto the green, success, first shot, over it sailed to the cheers from the crowd and left Phil with a 30 foot putt.

Phil missed his first putt, blaming the putter I had lent him of course, but made sure he sank the second.

We then, the three of us, made our way to the first tee where I drew out one of 140 numbered balls to drive with.

The winning ball was 71, which was chosen by Harvey Smith who generously donated his prize of £100 to my chosen charity Parkinson's UK, a really super gesture.

The third piece of music selected then began to play as I made way up to the white tee on the first to make my drive.

With the theme tune to Mission Impossible playing I composed myself and was just about to hit my drive when Dave Collen jumped out from behind the first tee board and cried out.

I stopped re set myself hit a great drive down the middle of the fairway, thank goodness, job done!

To the delights of all those present, the official part of the drive in had been completed and with some success, now we could head back into the clubhouse and party.

And that's exactly what we did, a superb buffet from Ian and his team was waiting for us as was our great bar staff that were kept busy all afternoon and into the early evening. The music, laid on by Tiger entertainments and the wonderful Joanna Lee, had the crowd up on their feet in no time at all.

During the afternoon we held an impromptu heads and tails competition for visiting and past captains of the club, the winner, Dave Collen won a bottle of fizz and a four-ball voucher for Holtye Golf Club.

As a result of the ball draw and other competitions held that day, we managed to raise just under £800 for my Captains fund, a great start.

The day was one that I will never forget nor will those who were present

My thanks go out to all that came to support me, those that gave so generously, the visiting Captains and their wives, our past Captains, the members, family and friends, the bar staff, Gary Morant for laying on the music and the kitchen staff.

Lastly my thanks go out to my wonderful wife and son who played such a key part in the organisation of the day and the running of the activities themselves; I could not have done it without them.

I was thrilled to be invited to attend the Lady Captains Drive in on the Tuesday following my own drive in. Barbara Coward held a 9-hole competition in the morning where Robin Pellet (antiquarians captain) and myself partnered Barbara and Jenny Williams, the Ladies Vice Captain.

We had a great round with Barbara and I winning the match, although, we were not able to and surrendered our victory to the team in second place.

The ladies as always put on a terrific show for their new captain, with the traditional and unique song for Barbara and the march under irons as she made her way to a beautifully decorated tee. I'm pleased to say, Barbara hit a lovely shot down the middle of the fairway and then we headed back in for a wonderful lunch and prize giving.

I was delighted to play in the Shortlands team against the police for the annual Steps trophy. A great days golf was had with Shortlands securing the victory, thanks go to Ian Mann and John Pearce for organising this years event and thanks must go out to all those that played in the Police team and travelled from other clubs.

Saturday the 23rd, the club hosted one of its fab tribute evenings where a great many of us were lucky enough to hear music from the amazing Beach Boys, we all dressed to suit the event and yet another great social event was enjoyed by all.

A great turnout, in pleasant weather, attend the annual Antiquarians Gil Trophy, I had a most enjoyable round with Robin Pellet, Mark Spencer and Tony Tonnelli, and apart from one or several errors accomplished a not to shabby 22 points from 13 holes.

The winner of the competition was Dave Collen with 30 points and (a questionable handicap we all think,) great performance, great result and a great day for all held in typical Antiquarians style.

I held my Dibby Bowl match on the Saturday 30th and played well but was sadly beaten on the 19th by Denis Cooper who also played well and clearly a little better than me that day, congratulations Denis.

I attended the outgoing Captain of Shooters Hill 's swan song on Saturday the 30th, and what a night it was, several captains of neighbouring clubs were present to cheer Lee Brockwell off as he ends his captaincy. After a very late night, it was back to the club early Sunday morning for my first medal as Captain, a very enjoyable four ball, but sadly the numbers weren't good enough.
C'est La Vie.

Welcome December!