

Captains Log December 2019

Well December proved to be a very busy month, lots of golf and so many social functions, with most of them serving up a never ending supply of mince pies, if I see another mince pie again, it will be too soon.

The first of the month I played in the clubs medal match, a great days golf with an enjoyable four ball where I joined forces with Gary Eldridge, Ian Mann and David Angier.

Following a disappointing round, my handicap was duly adjusted; only this time it went up, to 17, thank you H&C committee.

On the 3rd we held what I consider to be one of the golfing highlights of the clubs calendar, the Swindle and Ladies mixed match and lunch. It was cold but following the draw made by the Lady Captain and myself, I found myself teamed with the ever youthful Harvey Smith, the wonderful Paulette Asquith and the remarkable Cathy Cotton; and what a team we became, winning the overall match.

The golf was followed by a great lunch, as we have come to expect from our great team in the kitchen, and a prize giving.

All of those that played agreed unanimously that this bi annual match should be increased to a quarterly format and this is what we are preparing to do for 2020, so watch this space.

On the 7th, a Saturday evening, Jeff Payne the Dartford Golf Club Captain hosted a dinner for neighbouring club Captains and their wives and partners. A wonderful night of banter, music, drinking and dancing took place for which we are all indebted to the hospitality shown by Jeff and his wife Mary.

On the Sunday, I rose with a slightly thick head and prepared myself to host the clubs Xmas lunch, which had been moved to this date in order to accommodate a benefit day for a member going through tough times with health issues.

A huge thank you to all those that helped make this lunch such a really festive success, from the flowers, the table settings, the lunch itself to the entire ambience of the day, it was truly wonderful occasion.

All those that attended agreed unanimously that this was one of the best Xmas events the club had run, for those that couldn't or wouldn't attend, you really missed out.

I prepared several prizes for the tables and a special hamper, which was, raffled that day and won by Carol Quinn. An amazing £200 was raised which will go towards my fund for my year and my elected charity Parkinson's UK.

In addition, a couple of special prizes were awarded.

Barry Neil, the clubs own Jacque Cousteau, was presented with a pair of flippers so that next time he hits his ball into the river he'll have no trouble finding it.

Dave Collen and Mark Spencer, both past captains, like a hot beverage in the mornings, and at night, they enjoy a brandy or two, so in recognition of their help this year, they were presented with a mug with a hip flask banded around the mug itself killing two birds with one stone.

Wednesday the 11th, the Antiquarians section held an 18 hole pairs better ball match with all entry fees going to support the benefit day for Morgan Boulton, a long-standing member in ill health.

I was proud to play my part in a record turn out for this section and were we raised on the day £750 for Morgan's benefit, a really amazing and special day in so many ways.

That night I hosted my first Captains Committee meeting with all but two committee members attending. A great deal was discussed and decisions taken, some of which will be published through the clubs normal channels. Thanks to all that gave up their time once again in supporting the committee and delivering on its decisions.

The club diary was published this week, and I was delighted to bring back an old tradition where the Captain and Lady Captain grace the cover.

Due to very wet weather, the course was closed over the Xmas period, which was such a shame and the traditional Captains 9 hole swindle had to be cancelled accordingly.

A good number however turned out in force on the day as I celebrated a club tradition by hosting members to Port and Stilton which went down very well indeed. My thanks to all those that turned out, 70 plus to share in my Xmas day club tradition and who also contributed to my Xmas day raffle where Dean Smith won a jeroboam of fizz.

£100 pounds was raised which went to support my charity Parkinson's UK.

The course having re opened on the 28th of the month, meaning we could all get back to doing what we love, playing golf.

The last official function of the year was the clubs New Years Eve party. A fabulous night was held, one of the best of the year where 70 plus members enjoyed a terrific night accompanied by the magnificent voice of Jack Saxer as we partied until we all hit the floor at midnight to sing in the New Year with a rendition of Auld Lang Syne.

My thanks to the social team who along with my amazing wife made the room look so special, and I was delighted to set the tone for the evening by supplying wine for each table as is the clubs tradition.

So our 125th year has finished, 2020, a new year and new decade has begun, I hope you all have a wonderful year and enjoy good health, good fortune, and good golf.

Kevin