



Society of Hertfordshire Golf Captains

Captain Brian Gary Rees (2024-2025)

Hon Secretary Eric Diment

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Stop Press

This newsletter, and all previous issues can be viewed on the Societies Website, search SOHGC, with all other information about the Society and our aims.

If you require any other information or have anything you wish to bring to the attention of our members then please contact Phil Greenwold on pgilgr@yahoo.co.uk

For those of a nervous disposition please be careful when opening page 8 which is headed

‘A Miracle in Hertfordshire’

Please be seated and have a stiff drink at hand.

Places Still Available



For those of you that have yet to sign up there
are still places available to play in the

Presidents Day

on the 18th July

Please Contact the Hon Sec on

sohgc@yahoo.com

And join Andy to celebrate his day

Triangular Match

Another match and this time the fixture was against Essex and Cambridgeshire in the annual Triangular fixture playing for the Herve Cup which Hertfordshire won back at Knebworth last year. These fixtures are always close run things with 15 members plus a professional from the Captains Club playing an individual stableford competition with all 16 scores to count, so little room for error.

This year the hosts were Essex and we all arrived at Brentwood looking forward to the day and hoping that the weather would hold fair, and it did, a real occurrence this season. The course was interesting for those that had never played it before with some challenging blind shots but it was well manicured and the only issue for some of our team were the slow greens which certainly took a few holes to master.

We enjoyed a good meal with our friends before the results were announced and as predicted before the spread of points from 1st to 3rd was only 9 different. Essex and Hertfordshire ended the day tied on 519, an average of 32.44 points each so for an away team, well played. We managed to beat Essex into second on count-back so they retained the wooden spoon but congratulations to Cambridgeshire scoring 528 at an average of 33 points a player, to regain the Herve Cup. We now look forward to next year's battle when Cambridgeshire will host the event at Ramsey Golf Club.



Match v Suffolk Captain's Royston GC

Nothing every goes smoothly in the world of golf as Captain Gary found out, failing to make the starting line-up after a dog bite during his early morning dog walk meant a quickly rearranged team sheet.

Another week brought us to the fixture at home against Suffolk, played this year at Royston, the first time back to the venue since a Triangular match a few seasons ago. Well, it is June so we should have expected sunshine but not the cold wind, rain and hail that we also experienced.

Royston is always a challenging course with its tight fairways and a few blind shots but between the weather and the thick rough the course was definitely the winner for this match. However, as is the case with Royston, the hospitality and excellent catering makes up for a lot and after enjoying a hearty lunch and enjoyable golf with old and new friends we sampled a superb meal before the results were announced. Probably the right result on the day after the course beat everyone up was an honourable draw, 3 ½ each. So, we look forward to next year with our fingers crossed for some decent weather as we will be travelling to Suffolk'



Gary at the Dinner after his
Tetanus Jab



Steve Finch, Vice President
giving his response

Whipsnade Park Half Centenary Meeting

Another week in the life of the society saw us playing a match against Whipsnade Park as part of their 50th anniversary celebrations. It was great to see so many Past Captains of the club participant in this match and the golfing gods were on our side as for once this year the sun shone on us all.

The course was a good test of golf with decent wide fairways, true greens and rough which wasn't as punishing as many. Everyone enjoyed the day and the scone cream tea at the halfway house added to the celebration style of the day, my thanks to Doug Root for organising that element of the day.

A lively meal with wine followed the golf and of course the aside for the day which was the result. The real winner already being the day, the 50th celebrations and the weather. So, the local members managed to win 3 out of 4 nearest the pins on the par 3's but the one member who prevailed was Mike Blee on the 3rd hole. congratulations. The match result followed the usual pattern for the society with a few close matches, the odd win but home advantage always prevails so congratulation to our hosts and Captain Barry for an 8 ½ - 3 ½ victory.

Better luck next time Gary.

The society wishes Whipsnade Park GC another 50 years of successful and enjoyable golfing.



The Clubhouse



Captain Brian



1st Hole



The Society Squad



The Home Team

Match v Vice Captain's Club

Letchworth Golf Club

Monday 24th June saw the society play its first match against the Vice Captains Club as we attempt to streamline our fixture list and increase attendance. We certainly chose the right day as the weather was excellent and we found Letchworth Golf Club looking resplendent in the sunshine. The fairways as always were in excellent condition and the greens true. This was the first time the society had played the course since the bunker refurbishment programme had been completed and they were great, consistent and very fair if you managed to find your way into one!

A 2-tee start enabled the day to run smoothly, and we were treated to an enjoyable half-way house, with food and liquid refreshment to fuel the second 9 holes, courtesy of our Vice Captain, supported by his wife Sarah along with Peter Lennie's wife who we must thank.

Letchworth then set the standards very high with an impressive evening meal consisting of a hot and cold buffet followed by a selection of desserts and cheese that ensured we all added those calories which we had lost whilst playing in the afternoon heat. We certainly look forward to seeing what Chef Charlie conjures up over Nick's Captaincy when we return next season. The meal was enjoyed by everyone, the wine flowed and the noise across the tables proved it had been a successful day, irrespective of the result. Well, when the speeches followed, it was the inevitable result with the home club winning this fixture again with an impressive 8 ½ - 5 ½ win. Congratulations to Club Captain Mark Sheard and we wish him well for the rest of his captaincy and please look after our Jubilee Salver until next year.



Mixed Away Meeting

Forest of Arden

Well after 3 days of Summer with high temperatures the Mixed Away meeting travelled to Birmingham and the excellent Forest of Arden Complex.

The weather unfortunately turns cold and windy but it did not dampen the spirits of the 8 pairs that took part in the event .

Day 1, played on the Alyesford Course for the Hanchet Trophy was very competitive with David Ross & Cathy Bibby coming third with 41 points, Phil Bibby and Maz O'Brien in second place with 42 points but the Winners with 44 points were Steve Vyse and Jackie Smith .

After a very pleasant evening meal, slightly delayed by the England Football team having to play extra time, followed with wine flowing and the excellent food .

The following day was played on the Arden Course, 3-4 shots harder than the previous day and the singles competitions were won by David Ross on 33 points and Maz O'Brien on 32 points. Nearest the pins were David Smith and Maz O'Brien. The day finished with lunch which included door stop sandwiches, Baked Potatoes and Cold meats and Olives, and there was so much food that many doggy bags were filled to take home.

Congratulations go to Phil Bibby for the organising of the event .



The Spectators were not impressed with the golf

‘A Miracle in Hertfordshire’



Melvyn got a Blazer

Fixtures 2024

Thursday 7th March Annual Dinner	Aldwickbury Park AL5 1AB
Tuesday 9th April County Boys (Under 14's)	Essendon AL9 6HN
Thursday 18th April Past Captains Dinner	Harpenden Common AL5 1BL
Thursday 25th April Captains Day & AGM	Harpenden Common AL5 1BL
Sunday 5th May Herts Salver	West Herts WD3 3RL
Tuesday 7th May Inter – Club L/Officers	Moor Park WD3 1QN
Wednesday 8th May London Captain	Pinner GC HA5 3YA
Monday 20th May Buckinghamshire	Aldenham GC WD25 8NN
Thursday 30th May Mixed v Norfolk	Brickendon Grange SG13 8PD
Monday 3rd June Triangular	Brentwood GC CM14 5RJ
Monday 10th June Suffolk Captains	Royston GC SG8 5BG
Wednesday 19th June Anniversary Match v Whipsnade Park	Whipsnade Park HP4 1RH
Monday 24th June Match v Vice Captains Club	Letchworth GC SG6 3NQ
Sunday-Monday 30-1st July Mixed Away Forest or Arden	CV7 7HR
Thursday 18th July Presidents Day	Knebworth SG3 6NL
Wednesday 7th August Four Counties	Droitwich WR9 0BH
Wednesday 28th Aug Mixed Invitation Mtg	Brookman's Park AL9 7AT
Monday 9th Sept Vs Bedfordshire	Bedford & County GC MK416ET
Monday 16th Sept Vs Northamptonshire	Aldwickbury Park AL5 1AB
Monday 23rd Sept With Herts Lady Captains	Mill Green GC AL7 4TY
Wednesday 9th Oct Autumn Meeting + Crameri Cup Final	Porters Park WD7 7AZ
Monday 2nd Dec Xmas Fayre	West Herts GC WD3 3RL