



# Society of Hertfordshire Golf Captains

Captain: Nick Brookes 2025-2026

Hon Secretary: Eric Diment

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## Stop Press:

### Additional Fixture against Essex Golf Captains Tuesday 26th August at Harpenden Common Golf Club

An opportunity has arise for us to pilot a fixture against Essex Captains and as we are now in the fortunate position being oversubscribed for all the matches this season I hope the membership will support this 16 a side match despite its proximity to the Mixed Invitation Meeting at Brookmans Park. Interested members should contact the Hon Sec direct.

## Herts Salver

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May saw the Captain at his home club Letchworth along with the Hon Sec to see the Men's County Championship Qualifier played with the top 17 going forward to the final.

This is an event that the society has been proud to sponsor for many years now.

A full field of 72 enjoyed a warm sunny day and a course in excellent condition but one that challenged the entrants with home club Ethan Akpan leading the field home with a great score of -3.

Congratulations to Ethan and good luck in the County Championship.



## Inter Club Liaison Officers Meeting

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May saw the society back at Moor Park for the Inter-Club Liaison Officers meeting where new club Captains, VC's and General Managers get a chance to meet and understand the ethos behind the society.

21 teams enjoyed a ploughman's lunch before setting off for a shot gun start on the High Course with the sun shining. The course as always was tricky in places and played long although the recent dry weather did help the roll on the fairways, but the greens proved tricky for some. Including the Hon Sec who won nearest the pin on the 18<sup>th</sup> but still managed to 3 putt form 2 feet!!

After a fine meal in good company the results showed that as always it was a close call, and a balanced team was the approach to take if you wanted to get those 4 points on the card. Arkley, previous winners were in fourth place on 77 points, one behind Hadley Wood on 78. In second were last year's winners Moor Park with 79 points but the winners this year with 80 points were Brookmans Park, led by Club Captain Robin Buxton, VC John Dewberry, Stuart Leigh and Past Captain of the society Richard Blanchflower.

Congratulations to everyone who participated



## Match v London Captain's

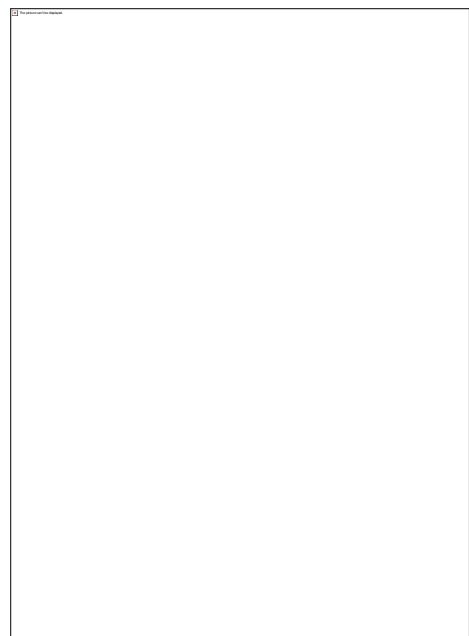
Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May saw the society at Old Fold Manor to play the first match of the season against London Captains, a fixture that has been going since our inception in 1966 and therefore our oldest match.

Over the years we have been very unfortunate with the weather for this match but 2025 proved that sometimes the golfing gods are on your side the sun was out, and the conditions were fair for everyone.

Although we all acknowledged that golf courses desperately need some rain but please not when we are playing !

Old friendships were renewed as 10 pairs a side saw a large field split over 3 tees to speed up the day and we set off after a light lunch to the challenges of the course. As is always in this fixture the majority of the matches were close, and several halves resulted. After a decent meal the Captain's made their usual speeches and as the away Captain it was left to David Snare from London to announce the result, a home win for Hertfordshire 6 - 4. This was revenge for last year's defeat at Pinner Hill.

So, a decent start for Captain Nick Brookes in his first match and of course he did remind our IPC about last year's defeat. So, as our good friends left OFM we are already looking forward to meeting up again next year to renew our friendly rivalry.



## **Match v Buckinghamshire**

Our first away fixture this season saw the society travelling to Harleyford Golf Club, just outside Marlow to play for the Harleyford Trophy! which we sadly lost last year at home.

The weather was almost perfect for golf with the sun shining and very little wind. The course looked in great shape despite the lack of rain with the ball rolling well on the fairways and the greens being true, the challenge would be stopping the ball on them.

8 pairs ventured out to enjoy the peace of the Buckinghamshire countryside before enjoying a delightful meal afterwards. The omens didn't look good with most of our pairs narrowly losing out to their opponents. It looked like we gave away too many shots to the locals and when the Captain's stood up to announce the results our worst fears proved founded with a home win 6 -2.

So, we look forward to next season, and maybe a new strategy and in the interim congratulations to Buckinghamshire. As we left the closing comment from Doug Barson our stand in Captain to your Hon Sec, was well I hope you're telling the Captain we lost, and I duly did.





## Mixed Match v Norfolk

This year the mixed match against Norfolk was to be held at Royal Norwich and I am delighted to report that we had a large field for this fairly new fixture, 14 pairs travelled up from Hertfordshire to play at a very impressive course.

The day started off so well, everyone arriving on time and then the rain came. Sadly, the weather didn't improve for the majority of the afternoon round and everyone got wet, but we did enjoy the company, vista and the course was in great shape. Definitely a course to play again on a decent warm day.

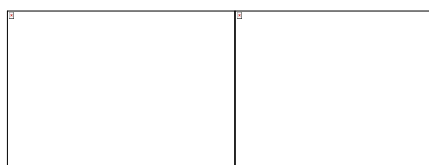
At around 7pm we all sat down to an excellent meal and the usual commentary from Norfolk President Kevin Woolley a good friend of the society. Then we came to the speeches, and we waited to hear whether Hertfordshire would retain the Tony Thacker Trophy.

We all knew it was a close-run thing as after 13 matches were declared we were tied at 6 ½ - 6 ½ but sadly the final match was lost on the 18th hole as the Norfolk Hon Sec and his wife prevailed over your own Hon Sec and Herts Lady Captain Di Tass.

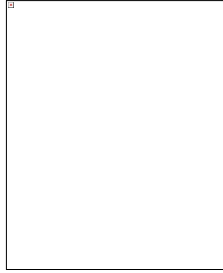
We tried and battled well with some excellent results including an away win 7 & 6. Well played everyone, congratulations to Norfolk who can now pay for the engraving, and we look forward to hosting our guests next season and regaining the trophy.



Nearest The Pin Winners



## In Memoriam



### Ray Johnson

Society Captain 2015-2016

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Ray Johnson, a founding member of Aldenham Golf & Country Club and a true pillar of our golfing community.

Ray's contribution to Aldenham was nothing short of foundational. As one of the club's original members and a former Club Captain, he helped to shape the spirit, culture, and camaraderie that so many of us continue to cherish today. His leadership extended beyond our fairways; Ray also served as Captain of the Society of Hertfordshire Captains, where his dedication and integrity earned him the respect of his peers across the county.

Ray was not only a respected figure in the world of golf, but also a distinguished police officer. His sense of fairness, duty, and quiet authority was evident both in his professional life and among his golfing companions. Later in life, Ray became a valued member of Arkley Golf Club, where he brought the same warmth, wisdom, and good humour that had endeared him to so many at Aldenham.

Those who knew Ray will remember him as a kind and honest man—a gentleman in every sense of the word. He had that rare ability to gently but firmly keep things in order when necessary, always with grace and without fuss. Whether he was offering quiet encouragement, sharing a story, or keeping things on track in his unmistakable way, Ray made a lasting impression on everyone he met.

Ray's presence will be sorely missed, but his legacy will live on in the friendships he nurtured, the values he upheld, and the club he helped build from the ground up.

We extend our deepest sympathies to his family and loved ones.

# Fixtures 2025

Thursday	6 <sup>th</sup> March	Annual Dinner	Aldwickbury Park	AL5 1AB
Wednesday	26 <sup>th</sup> March	With Herts Lady Captains	Mill Green	AL7 4TY
Thursday	10 <sup>th</sup> April	Past Captains Dinner	West Herts	WD3 3RL
Tuesday	22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Captains Day & AGM	West Herts	WD3 3RL
Saturday	3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Herts Salver	Letchworth	SG6 3NQ
Tuesday	6 <sup>th</sup> May	Inter – Club L/Officers	Moor Park	WD3 1QN
Wednesday	14 <sup>th</sup> May	London Captain	Old Fold Manor	EN5 4QN
Tuesday	20 <sup>th</sup> May	v's Buckinghamshire	Harleyford	SL7 2SP
Tuesday	27 <sup>th</sup> May	Mixed v Norfolk	Royal Norwich	NR9 5JE
Tuesday	3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Triangular	Ramsey	PE26 1DD
Monday	9 <sup>th</sup> June	v's Suffolk Captains	Brett Vale	IP7 5LR
Thursday	26 <sup>th</sup> June	Match v Vice Captains Club	Welwyn Garden City	AL8 7BP
Sunday-Monday	6-7 <sup>th</sup> July	Mixed Away	The Warwickshire	CV35 7QT
Tuesday	15 <sup>th</sup> July	Presidents Day	Aldenham	WD25 8NN
Tuesday	5 <sup>th</sup> August	Four Counties	Thetford	IP24 3NE
Tuesday	26 <sup>th</sup> August	v's Essex	Harpenden Common	AL5 1BL
Wednesday	27 <sup>th</sup> August	Mixed Invitation Mtg	Brookmans Park	AL9 7AT
Thursday	4 <sup>th</sup> Sept	v's Northants	Kingsthorpe	NN2 7BU
Thursday	11 <sup>th</sup> Sept	v's Bedfordshire	Whipsnade Park	HP4 1RH
Monday	15 <sup>th</sup> Sept	With Herts Lady Captains	East Herts	SG9 9NB
Friday	17 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Autumn Meeting + Crameri Cup Final	Brickendon Grange	SG13 8PD
Thursday	23 <sup>rd</sup> Octo- ber	Presidents Reception	Aldenham	WD25 8NN
Thursday	30 <sup>th</sup> Octo- ber	County Boys (Under 14's)	Essendon	AL9 6HN
Monday	1 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Xmas Fayre	Letchworth	SG6 3NQ