



# Society of Hertfordshire Golf Captains

Captain: Nick Brookes 2025-2026

Hon Secretary: Eric Diment

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## Stop Press:

Our friends from Essex have supplied a Trophy for our new annual fixture and we need a name for the Jug. If you have a suggestion then please forward it to our let our Hon Sec who will, if acceptable see if Essex are agreeable.

## Four Counties

So, 2025 saw the Four Counties being played at Thetford, hosted by Norfolk at the same venue we visited in 2021. This is always a challenging course with some extremely long par 4's and when there is a strong wind as we experience this year even the bigger hitters were struggling to hit the greens in regulation. Thetford as a course has experienced the same weather patterns as we have this season which meant whilst the greens and tee boxes looked good the fairways were struggling to recover. Sadly, due to the lack of any fairway definition the decision was made by the hosts not to play preferred lies and that made a big difference as a great shot was often not rewarded with a great lie and chipping was interesting as well as challenging!

After a good showing in the Triangular earlier in the year the team had high hopes with several of the players from last year's away fixture at Droitwich playing, when as a team we averaged 40.2 points. Maybe we were over optimistic as the wind blew; although we did manage a full round in sunshine which has been a challenge recently, the course and conditions just proved tricky. Whilst Norfolk, Buckinghamshire and Worcestershire all to some extent seemed to master the course collectively as a team we seemed to be second best this year with no disasters but no really good scores. As always, the company and camaraderie were excellent and a decent meal after the golf ensured the conversations flowed. Well, it has been a long time, 2014 in fact since Norfolk had won this event but with home advantage and some great scores including one fourball with 45 points they came out on top by a country mile with 207 points for their best 5 scores. That left Worcestershire, last year's winners on 186 points, followed by Buckinghamshire on 183, and sadly Hertfordshire a distant fourth with 173 points. So, congratulations to Norfolk on a fine win, now the holders of the J.E.S. Teddy Brookes Trophy. Next year we will hope to do much better, especially as we are due to host the event at Brookman's Park, a course we all know well.



## Match v Essex

Tuesday 26th August saw a new fixture played for the first time as we hosted Essex Golf Captains in what is hoped will be the start of a yearly battle to win a new trophy donated by the current Hon Secretaries of Herts, Eric Diment and Peter Freeman from Essex at Harpenden Common. The weather forecast for the day was threatening rain but after a light shower before the first match tee'd off, the golfing gods for once were on our side and the match was played in decent conditions. Courses across the country have suffered with the drought during the summer and Harpenden Common had stood up well, the greens as always at this course were true and very fair. The challenge was those dreaded short pitches off bare lies, but it was the same for everyone.

Many new friends were made and several old acquaintances renewed so there was banter throughout the day that continued during our delightful carvery meal. As the Captains welcomed everyone and the results were declared it soon became apparent that Hertfordshire's recent run of poor results in matches was going to be continued. Maybe that was only fair as we pipped Essex earlier in the season to win The Herve Cup when we played at Ramsey with Cambridgeshire. So, the overall result was 6 ½ to 3 ½ to Essex, but with Henry Appiah a member of both societies playing for Essex, we could have claimed a half point in that match!

So, congratulations to Captain Brian Sparks and Essex, the holders of the new trophy and we must look at our selection criteria for next season when we are due to renew the battle at Maylands Golf Club on the 13th of August.



## **Mixed Invitation Meeting**

A busy week for several members of the society as the day after our match against Essex we held the Mixed Invitation Event at Brookmans Park, where 20 pairs turned out to enjoy the excellent course and company in this annual Greensomes event. The forecast was not promising but the majority of the field managed at least 9 holes before the rain came, a few blustery showers then blew through the course but it didn't detract from the day or some excellent scoring.

The course was in good condition for this time of the year with excellent greens but like most courses it was the fairways that proved challenging and those chips onto the greens. Another excellent meal was had by everyone before the results were announced. Maybe, not surprising 3 out of the top 4 pairs were from the home club. Congratulation to Richard and Mandy Blanchflower in fourth place on 39 points, 40 points on countback were Dave and Janis Lines in 3rd place, just pipped by Lesley Hewitt and Martin Connolly with an excellent 20 points on the back 9 also scoring 40 points. However, out in front by a mile were the eventual winners Peter Davey and Paula Rands from Arkley with a fantastic 47 points and the new holds of the Millenium Salver, congratulants and we hope to see you next year at Old Fold Manor to defend your win.



# Fixtures 2025

Friday	17 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Autumn Meeting + Crameri Cup Final	Brickendon Grange	SG13 8PD
Monday	1 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Xmas Fayre	Letchworth	SG6 3NQ