

THE STORY SO FAR BY ALF HUNT

Establishment

After two or three informal discussions among interested Captains, an inaugural meeting was held at the Royal Clarence Hotel, Exeter, on 10th November 1937. Sixteen Captains attended, representing eleven clubs and the Devon County Golf Union. The formation of the Devon Golf Captains' Society was agreed and the rules of the society were approved.

Affiliation to the Devon County Golf Union was arranged in 1941 at a cost of £1.11.0 (£1.55), and to the English Golf Union in 1980.

The name was changed in 1984 as some clubs were limiting society meetings to 100 players. At the Annual General meeting the word "society" was dropped from the title.

Committee

For the first twenty-seven years the committee comprised the following four officers :- President, Vice-President, Captain and the Honary Secretary, who also acted as Treasurer. A Vice- Captain was added in 1963 and in the following year they were joined by the Past Captains, who were elected as vice-Presidents. From 2003, the Past Presidents were also included.

The first three Presidents, F.H.Andrew of Yelverton, J.C.Bowering of the same club and W.F.Savage of Torquay had a combined tenure of 63 years. From 2000 onward A limit of three years was agreed.

In the seventy-three years of the organization there have been only seven Hon. Secretaries, the last three of whom have achieved a combined total of 47 years, (not out).

Membership

The membership has increased from about 100 in 1937 to well over 600 in recent years, of whom some 300 are "active" members. The cost of Life Membership was increased from half a guinea in 1937 to a guinea (£1.05), in 1959 and is now somewhat higher.

Golf Meetings

The first event was held at Yelverton Golf Club on 7th July 1938, attended by 42 members. They competed for the Andrew Bowl, which was presented by the first President. A foursomes competition was held in the afternoon. Only one other meeting, attended by 34 members, was held before the 1939-1945 war, during which all of the Society's activities were suspended.

In 1947 the normal (Summer) meeting was abandoned due to atrocious weather and the competition was held in October. From then onwards two competitions were held each year, eventually settling down to meetings in May and September. In 1976 these became the President's Day and the Captain's Day respectively. A dinner is held after each of these events.

In 1987 an additional meeting was held at Torquay Golf Club to celebrate our 50th anniversary.

Trophies

The Andrew Bowl is the major trophy on President's Day and the Bowering Salver on Captain's Day. From 1991 The Savage Cup has been awarded to the best score by a Veteran at the Spring meeting and since 2001 a team prize has also been given.

Administration

The committee meets annually, usually in July. The Annual General Meeting is held in the evening of the President's Day Meeting.

Matches

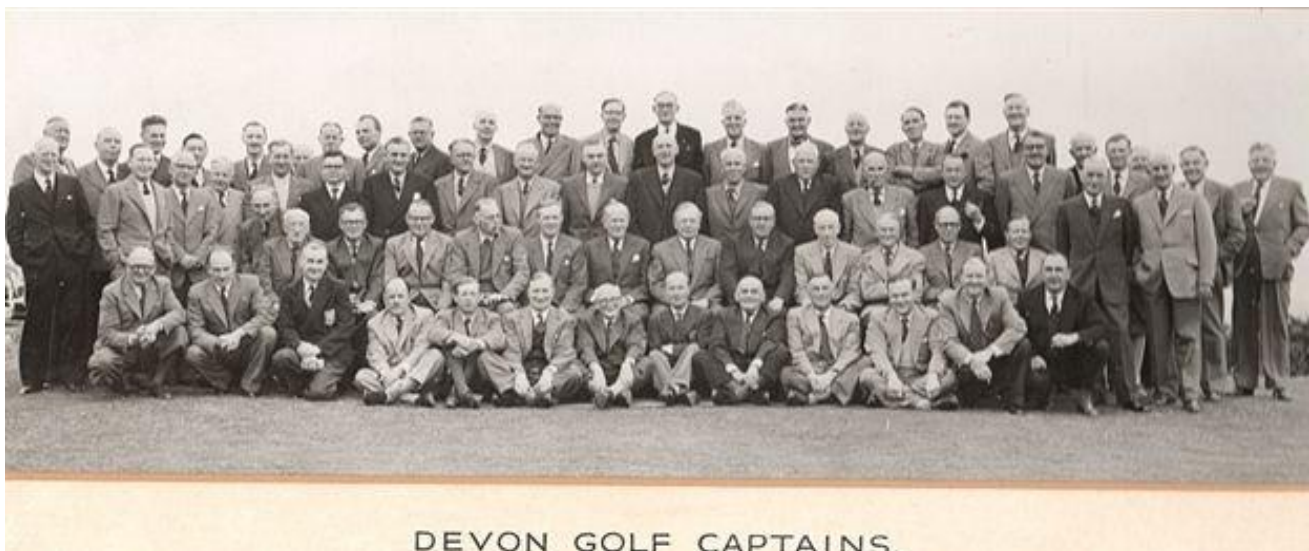
Only one match was played before the 1939-1945 war; this was against the London Golf Captains, who were the only other Golf Captain's Society in existence at that time.

After the war regular matches were played against the Gloucestershire Golf Captains ; these were held at Burnham and Berrow Golf Club for many years. Occasional matches were arranged against Devon Clerical Golf Society.

Matches against Somerset and Cornwall soon followed and more were added until the present total of eighteen, which include the Devon Ladies' Captains, the Devon Junior Golf Society, the South-West Secretaries and the British Seniors' Golf Society.

Alf Hunt

Picture from Mike Badcock



Teignmouth 1958

Please send any information for the "History Page" to Roy Smith at info@devongolfcaptains.org.uk or by post