

# Devon Golf Captains

FOUNDED 1937



**President: Bernard Young**

**Captain: Peter Dunstan**

Hon Secretary: Roy Smith

Vice Captain: Roger Monson



## CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2013



### A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Another very successful year is over and this year we have enjoyed mainly good weather. It certainly was a big improvement on 2012. As always the smooth running has been due to our Secretary Roy and his helpers, many thanks.

I have attended many matches during the year. I would have liked to attended more but unfortunately my health restricted me.

Time certainly flies and 2014 will soon be upon us, when I am sure we will have another enjoyable year.

Once again Christmas and the New Year will be here and I would like to wish you and your families a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy and successful New Year.

With best wishes

**Bernard Young**

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE CAPTAIN**



**I cannot believe how quickly the time has passed since President's Day at Teignmouth golf Club on 16<sup>th</sup> May when I was elected Captain of Devon Golf Captains. I am thoroughly enjoying the honour of being your Captain and meeting and playing with so many of you over the last seven months.**

**My first match as Captain was against Wiltshire Golf Captains at Yelverton Golf Club. During lunch our Vice captain Roger Monson kindly presented me with a bottle of sun cream. He must be clairvoyant because by and large we have been blessed with sunshine for the majority of our matches this year.**

**Although first and foremost these matches are all about camaraderie and friendships we have actually only lost 3 of the 13 matches played to date. It was particularly pleasing to play against Okehampton as a part of their Centenary Year celebrations.**

**I would like to thank my Vice Captain for all his support and ensuring we have had a full team for every match. I would also like to thank our Match Secretary Henry paget for all his work in planning and arranging these matches.**

**Captain's Day at Saunton Golf Club on 19<sup>th</sup> September was a very happy and memorable experience for me. I thank all those players that took part for their support and to those who were unable to participate, for their messages of good will. In particular I would like to thank our hard working Secretary Roy Smith for making the day so successful and for all his hard work behind the scenes on our behalf throughout the year.**

**I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Malcolm Jordain and Chris Morton for all their time and effort in creating our new Devon Golf Captains website. It is a source of much information and will be to our benefit for many years to come.**

**I now look forward to the Spring when our matches recommence and I particularly look forward to the Captain v Vice Captain match at Saunton Golf Club on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April which has become a very popular match in our calendar.**

**Finally I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.**

**Peter Dunstan  
Captain**

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE CAPTAIN**

**My Christmas & New Year greetings to all DC Capts**

**Match attendance, as vice captain...my appreciation to ALL members who have played in the 2013 matches for responding promptly to selection invitations to play in matches. Those Captains who wish to be considered for Matches in 2014 please complete the Availability sheet on the website.**



**I will write to Club Secretaries/Managers/Directors in the New Year inviting the 2014 Captains to join DGC and represent their Club at our matches and events particularly Presidents and Captains Day.**

**Sidmouth GC 125 year Anniversary match on Thursday 29 May (fairly certain this is the selected date) I will ask Bob Webber to advise me which Sidmouth Past Captains intend to play in this match.**

**Bigbury News.....many improvements have been made to the course recently it is in good condition.**

**The new caterer Jenny is 'par excellence' and her food is very good! so any Past Captains wishing to visit Bigbury next year will be assured of good golf and food.**

**The very popular Harry Kerswell, Club Captain 2014 commences his year with heart surgery in January,**

**DGC send him best wishes for a successful operation and quick return to his golf to fully enjoy the majority of his year as Club Captain.**

**A Happy Christmas and New Year to all Captains**

**Kind Regards**

**Roger**

## **A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY**



**Once again the time has come to wish all Devon Captains the compliments of the season and briefly report on the highlights of the year.**

**We did enjoy much better weather, overall, as compared with 2012 but we were unlucky with our two big events, the President's Day at Teignmouth and the Captain's Day at Saunton, rain, wind and even hail becoming major**

**factors on both occasions. Never the less, worthy winners emerged and many congratulations to Ian Butterfield and Danny Wallace, who won the battle versus the elements.**

**Our most notable achievement of 2013 must be in retaining the West of England**

**Captains Inter-County Championship at Saunton, when the Devon team of 24**

**stalwarts ran away with the title with 29 points more than their nearest rivals,**

**Dorset. Well played everyone.**

**Our County matches have once again been expertly managed by our Captains**

**and Vice Captain, namely, Mike Penlington, Peter Dunstan and Roger Monson.**

**To present 16 players on the first tee at each match is indeed a remarkable feat, having to deal continually with selected players dropping out, having previously indicated they wish to play.**

**The results of the matches have been reported elsewhere but the usual camaraderie has prevailed on every occasion and many lasting friendships created as a result. Well done, Mike, Peter and Roger for keeping the DGC flag flying at full mast.**

**Sadly, the year is ending with less pleasant happenings, the recent loss of past President, Fred Westaway, at the age of 89, dear Alf Hunt, similar age,**

is now in a nursing home and our current President, Bernard Young and his wife, Betty, are both going through a patch of ill health. Fred had been in a nursing home for some 2 years plus, but the DGC's were in his last thoughts as he was buried in his DGC blazer. Alf still likes to hear what is going on and I recently wrote him a three page letter reporting on your activities. All your best wishes for a speedy recovery were passed on to Bernard and Betty, when I was recently in touch with them, likewise to Derek Reed, past DGC and Tiverton Captain, who is hopefully responding to his sessions of chemo.

Many thanks to our long serving Match Secretary, Henry Paget, who is also well on the road to a full recovery following a serious illness, I was particularly thankful to Henry on Presidents Day at Teignmouth, when other problems took me away from the competition desk, leaving Henry to cope with the results alone. I remember Henry's few words, 'we missed Alf today' Many thanks also to another first class administrator, Colin Maw of Saunton, who spent the whole day with me on Captains' day and is also responsible for the Devon Captains Day at Saunton in March and the Inter-Counties tournament.

Finally, a few words of thanks to Malcolm Jordain, who manages the web-site so well. His match reports could get him a job on many of the daily papers who proudly proclaim their 'expert pundits'. I also must give thanks to our co-opted computer boffin, Chris Morton, of Churston, who is always there to give Malcolm a guiding hand. A little reminder to those of you who have not returned your 'match availibility list' for 2014, the form is available on our web-site.

I am sure there will be something I have overlooked, so my apologies in advance. May I wish you all and your families a traditional Merry Xmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year and hope to see many of you at our 2014 events and matches.

Yours very truly,

Roy Smith

Hon. Secretary

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE MATCH SECRETARY**

**So another golfing year has flown by with beautiful warm and sunny weather. I cannot recall any match which was disrupted by the weather and can only think it was something to do with the Captains influence or his prayers, well done Peter.**

**Before any home match takes place I have conversations with the clubs management and catering staff negotiating the cost for the day. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the clubs for their co-operation, also for their help and the welcome they extend to both teams on the day.**

**If any member of the Past Captains would like to convey these thanks to their own club management it would be appreciated.**

**On the venues front we do have one major disappointment, we no longer will be playing at Royal North Devon G. C., or playing against the British Seniors Society who visit RND each year. The management of the club have decided that in future they will have to impose a green fee for societies who use the course and this will include the Devon Past Captains. This is now the second club we cannot use, the other being the continued refusal of courtesy by East Devon G. C. I'm very pleased to report that all other clubs in the county welcome us and extend courtesy to us.**

**All the 2014 home venues have been agreed and I'm now waiting for confirmation from two clubs for the 2015 home venues. When these have been received, hopefully before Christmas, an updated 3 Year Fixture List will be posted to the web site.**

**My term as President of the Devon County Golf Union comes to an end in December after another exciting year with the Boy's, the Men's and the Senior's reaching their respective National County Finals. Unfortunately no silver wear was brought home but a great pleasure for me to be at the finals, and all other matches, to support the teams and represent our County at the official functions.**

**So we move forward into 2014 with my one desire to find my golf game again and hopefully have the pleasure of being selected for the Past Captains in a few matches .**

**My best wishes to you all for the Christmas and New Year festivities, also for some great golfing in 2014.**



**Henry Paget**

## **COLIN MAW SAUNTON 2013**

**Gentlemen, can you believe another Christmas is almost here and the 2013 season is winding down. With the building works at Saunton now well underway our season has closed earlier than usual although there is still a limited facility available in the screened off tv lounge. The clubhouse you remember is no more with bare brick walls, bar and ceiling removed and supports inserted in all the essential places while preparations are in hand for the new extension.**

**With the ceiling removed the older members will be experiencing a whiff of nostalgia to a time when, I am told, the better golfers would drop a ball on the timber floor and practice pitch shots over the beams. Can you believe this in a time when we all had something called a “dress code”.**

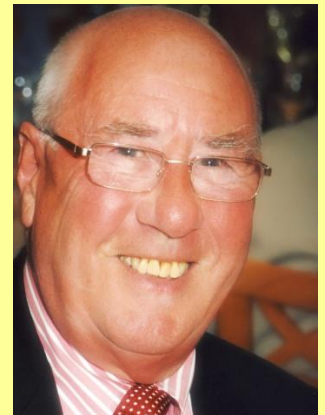
**The artist’s impression of the new facility shows a very modern bar sweeping round the corner into the old “stud” bar area thus providing a new reception area while waiting for the call to dinner.**

**All is planned to be ready just before our annual gathering on the 6<sup>th</sup> March and, I am delighted to advise, with Malcolm’s usual web assistance the entries came thick and fast to a very early full house.**

**This event is also your opportunity to showcase your form and make it difficult for Peter Dunstan to ignore you when he is considering his team of twenty four to represent Devon in the West of England Captains’ Inter County Championship on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2014. I seem to recall only thirty two points separated the winners Devon from the sixth team this year and, clearly, the betterball format continues to provide a nailbiting finish so I imagine Peter will restrict his search to only the finest athletes.**

**On a personal note; the building works have now condensed my events over a shorter period and I expect to be busy during the first quarter of 2014 however, I am very much looking forward to seeing everyone enjoy the new *Saunton Experience* and, in particular, Peter bowing out his year with another Devon win in the West of England event.**

**Thank you all for your continued support - have a Very Happy Christmas!**



**Colin Maw**

## English Golf Captains

For those of us who are members of EGCs information for next year's qualifiers are now available on England Golf website [www.Englandgolf.org](http://www.Englandgolf.org) go to Captains page and then to Tournament page. Unfortunately our nearest venue for the South West members is Kingsdown Golf Club Wiltshire, May 7<sup>th</sup>. Graham Ruth came a very creditable 5<sup>th</sup> in this years final at West Lancs. Next years Final venue is yet to be announced, entries will be available online from February 2014.

EGCs annual match versus Liverpool Captains is to be played at the prestigious Southport and Ainsdale Golf Club. I have played in the three previous matches and can thoroughly recommend to all to put their names forward, when advertised on the website. This year's match was played at Whittington Heath Golf Club and it was very enjoyable. MJ

## Editor's Footnote

2013 has proven to be a very busy year in ways other than the intensive programme we had last year for our 75<sup>th</sup> celebrations. A newly constructed website, by Phil Waddle and his company Sensible Web, has provided much more flexibility and options but has not been without hiccups and problems. Chris and I are still struggling with some issues but we will get there ! The new Forum has had a slow start which to some degree was expected. We now have 43 members registered unfortunately a few have yet to become "participants" ie finish their registration.

An option that may interest some members for the Forum is to use it as a vehicle for publicising an event, golf or charity, you are promoting. We have in the past declined the request for such promotion, simply on the basis that we are not a publicity agency. The Forum however belongs to you, subject to a Moderators approval, promote whatever you feel appropriate.

I hope to establish a Rules of Golf running topic, as recently submitted by Jeff Laing and James Rowland. All things are possible and as our younger Captains take their places the IT world they are more familiar with will develop the site naturally. Please remember this is not Facebook only approved



members are able to access the Forum, it is secure and monitored for inappropriate submissions.

Finally I must thank my good friend Chris Morton for his help and support once again. Chris has recently had a hip revision and it has proved to be more complicated than his original hip replacements, he is however doing very well and will be fully operational in the New Year.

My very best wishes for Christmas and 2014.

Good golfing !

**Ed. Malcolm Jordain**

