

Devon Golf Captains

FOUNDED 1937



President: Brian Waggett

Captain: Brian Rice

Hon Secretary: Roy Smith

Vice Captain: Graham Heaman



CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2020



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



The year 2020 has not been one any of us would have wished for, and I would have liked to have been reporting on a successful year all round. However if you have, as I hope, all stayed safe and well then that is far more important. I have quite unexpectedly found myself in office for a further year than intended, but as there has been so little to do it has been no hardship, although I had hoped to meet a few more of you.

You will have already been notified of our excellent Secretary's intent to retire having given us all top class service and guidance for 18 years. Roy plans to make President's Day at Stover next May his final duty and I hope as many of you attend as is possible to bid him farewell. Roy has been an absolute rock during his tenure and his traditional values are becoming almost impossible to replace.

As a result of Roy's retirement your Executive Committee are planning some changes, more of which will be revealed in due course.

Covid 19 has certainly placed restraints on all of us in many ways, being denied access to our respective Clubs being one. I am sure many of you just like myself, found jobs to do, mostly which we would have decided pre Covid as being quite unnecessary, but were now a way of tackling the tedium. I for one had not realised just how fit I had become when my wife remarked on the day the Club was open for play that she did not think Usain Bolt could have kept up with me as I shot up to the course for a knock.

It is sad that we, in line with all other Counties, had to cancel all of the scheduled matches for the year and so denying us the privilege of meeting up with so many friends and colleagues. I sincerely hope that this changes in the coming year and with it a retreat of the dreaded Covid.

Our Match Secretary has already planned all of next year's matches and a copy of this will be available on line. Please take some time to read and put your name forward for inclusion in at least one of the matches. If you do so then may I ask that you put that date in your diary and remain available and thus avoid the need for our Vice Captain chasing around last minute to find reserves, which sadly is all too common. New faces are more than welcome.

I am grateful to those who have kept DGC alive and kicking during these difficult times; Malcolm Jordain for keeping us up to date with news from within our organisation, Mike Badcock, for dealing with all the frustration of cancelling the years matches and then rescheduling for next year and especially Roy for carrying on regardless despite he personally having an extremely difficult year.

Christmas this year may be somewhat restricted but I have little doubt that all of our families and friends will make it the best it can be, and the coming year will be one of moving forward.

God bless you all, and a Happy Christmas and Healthy New Year

Brian Waggett

A MESSAGE FROM THE CAPTAIN



Well, I never expected to be sending a DGC Christmas message to you all this year but what a strange year it has been. 2020 has been nothing like anything any of us have experienced before and having no matches and not being able to get together with everyone has been difficult to say the least. On the positive side we at least live in a part of the country that has not suffered as much as some areas with this terrible virus.

I truly hope that all of you, and your families, have managed to stay fit and well and have not fallen victim of the virus.

Whilst we haven't been able to play any of our matches we have now at least been able to get out onto the course and play some golf. It was awful at the beginning of the lockdown not to be able to get out and play especially with the weather being so good. I went back to my childhood and started model making and now have a good collection of WW2 planes. I don't remember them having so many pieces and being so difficult, my patience was severely tested on several occasions and most of you will know what a patient person I am.

A consequence of everything being cancelled it has meant that I have had the honour of remaining as DGC Captain for an extra year. I was interested to see if this had happened before and I noted that the only other person to have been Captain for two years, excluding the WW2 years, was Major W.M.Brockman DSO in 1946/7, so I am in very exalted company. Although, I expect his circumstances were very different to mine.

Let's hope the situation will change as we move forward into 2021 and that we will be able to get together again for all our various competitions and matches. I have really missed all the camaraderie and banter when we meet.

I would like to wish you all the best Christmas possible in the circumstances and a happy, healthy and prosperous 2021.

Brian Rice

A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CAPTAIN



Where to start? It's been a year that we will never forget, what with the lockdown not even to get about unless necessary, let alone being able to play golf. Then with all the restrictions when we can play, I think each club has a slightly different approach to the rules, but basically the same result at the end of the day.

We've been lucky here in the South West to not be under the tough conditions of some other counties that

we play against, and I wish them well, let's hope things get to back to some sort of normality sooner than later.

I would like to thank Mike Badcock for all the hard work he's carried out over the last few months sorting the matches for next year, I keep my fingers crossed that it's not been in vain and hope we can all get together soon, I've missed the company and friendship that goes with Devon Captains, not forgetting the banter and gossip from other clubs.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all and your families a very merry Christmas and happy New Year and hope you are keeping well and safe.

Here's looking forward to a new year and a new future.

Best wishes Graham Heaman.

A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY



This time last year, who of us would have even dreamed of the world crisis that lay in store for everyone in the New Year It is like something from an H.G.Wells story.

Here in the West Country, I suppose we could consider ourselves a little fortunate, in that we have avoided the brunt of the epidemic raging further up North, and indeed, in other parts of the world.

Although the DGC,s have not struck a ball throughout the whole year, Golf Clubs, in general, have managed to provide some form of action for the Golf Addicts. Following very strict government guidelines, Clubs have provided golfers with the opportunity to get out on the course and enjoy the camaraderie that exists within the game of golf.

Some while ago, I had decided that my golfing days were over, having reached the 'nervous nineties', and so I gave my clubs to my grandson, who, in his first visit to a proper golf course, hit a drive and a seven iron to the first green at Stover (415 yards). Those were the days!!!

Retirement does not end there. Having had a few health problems and having served the DGC's as their Secretary for some 18 years, when I took over from DGC Legend 'Alf Hunt' in 2002, I have decided to pass over the reins myself next May, which, hopefully, will be Brian Waggett's President's Day at our home Club, Stover.

At this stage, our Executive Committee have decided that the job should be split up into several sections, as other Counties already have, and to this end I have already passed over 'New membership and Clothing' to our present Captain, Brian Rice, of Sidmouth Golf Club. Brian is also taking over the Treasurer's duties at the end of 2020, which is the end of our financial year.

Throughout my 18 years as Secretary, I have worked with some exceptional people, far, far too many to mention, but I must thank every single one of them for the tremendous support given to me in the course of my duties. I look upon them as long lasting friends and wish them nothing but the best, in the years to come.

As you probably know by now, my dear wife, Beryl, passed away last Sunday morning, peacefully in her sleep, at the Mount Pleasant Care Home in Newton Abbot. Apparently she had been particularly cheerful all the previous day and we must take some consolation from the fact that the end was quick and there was no suffering.

Many of you have already sent messages of condolences and I must thank each and every one of you for your kind words and thoughts. I have my daughter, Jacki and her family staying with me at the moment and Jacki has been handling the very complicated funeral arrangements now needed due to the Covid situation. As every one of the allowed attending mourners has to be listed, I am sure you will all understand that the funeral has to be by invitation only. That is really sad, for Beryl had many, many life long friends in the horse, table-tennis and golf world and they would have loved to have been there, to bid farewell.

Well, finally, in closing, may you all enjoy a memorable Christmas with your families and loved ones, followed by a very Happy and Healthy New Year, and hope that , shortly, may the DCG's be back on the golf courses once again.

Yours truly, Roy

A MESSAGE FROM THE MATCH SECRETARY



Like all matters relating to Devon Golf Captains, the office of Match Secretary and life in general, has been affected and dominated by the pandemic. Following the lockdown in March it was my sad duty to cancel all our events for 2020 which was also the decision of the other Counties. Rather than transfer this year's fixtures to 2021 it was felt much simpler to start afresh for next year as if 2020 matches had been played. On this basis the fixture list for 2021, with venues and dates, has been agreed. It includes three 2 day tours but the annual Six Counties event at Saunton in March has been cancelled by the club. They will also inform me in the Spring as to whether the Saunton Salver Team event in October will take place.

All we can do is hope that, by the time the matches start in April next year, we have returned to some semblance of normality so that we can once again enjoy the good company and friendly competitive golf with the Devon Golf Captains. In the meantime have a very Happy Christmas and a much better New Year.

Mike Badcock.

England Captains

To those of us who are members of England Golf Captains' all eight tournaments were cancelled, along with many more golf events. Probably England Golf will announce a prospective schedule for 2021 early in the New Year.

MJ

Editor's Footnote

Gentlemen, in golfing terms, maybe we can best describe 2020 as a 'non-qualifier'. Without exception it has been the most difficult year for all in so many ways, golf has been very low on many peoples' priorities. Even so those of us who have been affected have achieved success in other areas, gardening, DIY and other allowable pursuits have been welcome distractions.

As most of you know, the President, Captain and Vice-Captain have been requested to serve another year, all agreed so we thank them for their service and involvement when necessary. Next year a full programme of Tournaments and matches have been arranged hopefully, with a vaccine available, all or many of these fixtures will take place.

There are two new events added to the 2021 fixture list, an all new county wide 4BBB knockout competition, initially played within regions and the Semi-finals and Final played on a neutral course. As I write the North and West still have spaces available, just two spaces in the East and the South is oversubscribed. We have also added a Six Counties Tournament, at Stover GC in April, this replaces the tournament previously held at Saunton GC. For both these events full details will be circulated in January.

NB as I write this article there are still some spaces available in the North and West regions and one space in the East. At the closing date, there are currently pairs on the South's reserve list, any spaces still available will be offered to reserves in any area.

The current fixture list, on the website, is yet to be updated for 2021. I shall be circulating the 2021 fixture and availability list early in January. Hopefully we will receive many applications for matches and resume 'normal service'.

Sad to receive the sad news of the passing of Peter Alliss a few weeks short of his ninetieth birthday. Peter was one of the last of the real commentator icons, Johnners, Arlott, Dan Maskell and 'whispering' Ted Lowe a few of his contemporaries. I'm sure many of us will have a favorite quip we can recall.

How is everyone coping with the World Handicap System and the Slope ratings? If not already, may I recommend you download the England Golf App onto your 'phone or device, if needed it should provide the help you may require. When using the App, to inspect other courses slope ratings in Devon, you may well be surprised at some values, I know I was! There will possibly be some who feel this quantum leap in golf rules and conditions is unnecessary, please be patient. A number of people I have spoken with are either totally bemused or acceptant, on the basis it will eventually become familiar. The new terms in modern golf, penalty area, general area etc. are more difficult to remember when playing an 'air shot', over the wrong ball!

I have left the worst news until last, our hugely respected Secretary, Roy Smith, has announced his retirement from office. His final duty will be Brian Waggett's President's Day at Stover Golf Club next May. The most tragic news is of course the passing of Roy's beloved wife Beryl, a lovely lady. Our thoughts and condolences to all the family. Roy, now in his 92nd year, has not been in the best of health for a while and feels now is the time to pass the baton on. We will be able to celebrate Roy's service at Stover and those present will be able to convey their thanks to him personally. We have been very fortunate with this office in recent years, although many of you have been fortunate enough to experience Roy's stewardship those of us previously, under the guidance of Alf Hunt, have been equally well served. As has often been said, "Devon Golf Captains' the best club in the county"

Malcolm Jordain



Our very best wishes to everyone for a Merry Christmas and a very happy and healthy 2021.

Ed. Malcolm Jordain and Chris Morton

