

Devon Golf Captains

FOUNDED 1937



President: Malcolm Jordain
Hon Secretary: Brian Rice

Captain: Graham Heaman
Vice Captain: Terry Thorne



CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2021



Executive 2021/2

(Some members were not available for this photograph)

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Gentlemen

Although I am currently President of Devon Golf Captains, I would wish to represent your Executive committee in wishing everyone, including your family, a safe and healthy Christmas. 2021, in some ways, has been a rather more 'normal' year in terms of golf and other sports. We have been fortunate to fulfil most of our fixtures with just a few regrettably needing to be cancelled. Together with some replacement calls I have been most fortunate to play in all matches this year, a very enjoyable duty. If we had some poor weather I have conveniently forgotten and the excellent friendships, old and new, always take first place in my recollection.

Our Captain Graham and his dutiful Vice, Terry, have manfully dealt with all situations presented to them, well done to you both, I know sometimes it has been far from easy! All the 'backroom team' have had their moments this year and Roy Smith, Brian Rice and Mike Badcock have all coped with whatever has been necessary, thank you from us all. Next year's fixtures and dates are pretty well finalised by Mike and will be distributed, along with availability lists for your consideration in early 2022 so, please try and put your name forward for as many matches as possible. There is no 'closed shop' for matches I can assure you however, there is also no space for 'cherry pickers' either. None of us can be sure what 2022 will produce in the near future, let alone thereafter, relating to circumstances concerning Covid but those involved will ensure that no one will be excluded for selection in matches.

I will be organising the second 4bbb county wide competition next year and hopefully the entries will be once again plentiful from all over the county. Instead of four regions I am intending to have two areas only, probably North and South, this is mainly to balance the fewer number of clubs in the Northern region. President's Day at Churston Golf Club is on Thursday 12th May, I look forward to meeting as many members as possible on the day!

Inevitably we have lost members this past year, including two members of our Executive, Past President Tom Williams and Derek Reed, both members of Tiverton GC, our other friends, too numerous to list, are also sadly missed. More positively a number of new Captains have played in

matches and tournaments and it suggests that our 'club' is regenerating which of course is essential, a warm welcome to you all.

Finally, I very much hope that 2022 will be significantly, better in all aspects, including our ability to hold a full programme and enjoy each others company on the golf course.

Stay safe and healthy.

Malcolm Jordain

A MESSAGE FROM THE CAPTAIN



Dear Fellow Devon Golf Captains

It is wonderful to finally be able to write this Christmas message to yourselves after events over the past 18 months or so. To be able to start playing the game we love earlier this year was a relief not to just get out of the house but to get some fresh air, exercise, and to meet up with friends who we had not seen for a while. I believe to socialise with people again was of great benefit to us all.

The season started off with an excellent President's Day at Stover organised by our outgoing President Brian Waggett albeit with the restrictions at the time. After a couple of cancelled matches we finally managed to get the season's matches started at Dainton Park on the 27th May against Warwickshire Captains, again due to restrictions and the match played, we all retired to the club house for a rolling buffet and departed without the normal speeches. This was the format we had to adhere to for the next couple of months, but at least we managed to play the matches.

The first match we played and able to change after into our normal attire, sit down together for dinner, was at Staddon Heights against the Cornish

Captains at the end of July. (And even better we won 6-3). The final match of the season was played at Teignmouth GC on the 2nd September against Somerset Captains and it was good to finish on a good note with a hard fought match that went down to the last putt on the last hole to end the match with a draw and so retain the match trophy.

Overall throughout the season we managed to play 8 matches and two 2 day tours. Of the 8 single matches 7 were at home of which we won 4 drew 2 and lost 1 with 1 away at Weymouth which we lost! Of the 2 two day tours we won one day and lost the other three, (but two of them were lost on the last hole)

On to my Captain's Day at Exeter G&CC on the 12th September, I would like to thank Exeter for kindly allowing me to hold it there, as most of you know my home club is Exminster as it's a nine hole course we would still probably be playing now. I would like to thank everyone who played on the day for making it a very enjoyable event and one I will not forget for a long time, congratulations again for all the winners on the day.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank a few people who have helped myself over this year and pointed me in the right direction. First our President Malcolm for all his experience and knowledge keeping me right. Brian, our Secretary, for patiently answering all my enquiries, and not allowing me to spend too much on the credit card. And especially to my Vice-Captain Terry for correcting my errors and getting everyone to the right place on the right day to play.

Graham Heaman

A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY



Another strange year is coming to a close and I trust you have all managed to get through the year healthily. We endured a long lockdown earlier in the year causing all the golf courses to be closed. Not being able to play was bad enough but not being able to meet any of our friends face to face was difficult. We

all learned about 'Zoom' meetings, I even took part in several plays that were performed over Zoom. Very strange but at least we were able to keep in touch with our friends and relatives. Thankfully, things took a turn for the better and we were all able to start playing again and we had a very successful President's Day followed by our matches getting played and culminating with our Captain's Day. Unfortunately, the matches didn't restart until after my term as your Captain finished, so I was in the strange position of being our longest serving Captain, time wise, since 1947 but due to the cancellation of the matches prior to the middle of May I was Captain for the fewest matches than any other Captain for a great many years.

I officially took over as Secretary/Treasurer after President's Day but had been fulfilling the role for most of the time since January. I now realise even more what a tremendous job Roy Smith had done for the previous eighteen years, I just hope I can be half as good as he was. We had some changes in how we did things especially with regard to how the members could now pay for match and event fees using BACS. This was a very positive move for the membership but it wasn't without its issues, mostly with regard to the reconciliation of payments and the referencing of them. Its been a learning curve and I'm sure that we'll have learnt enough to make it easier for next year. One thing that really pleased me was the fantastic clothing sales we had at both President's and Captain's Day's with over £1,000 of clothing being sold over these two days. Hopefully, after us all having our various jabs 2022 will be far better than 2021, fingers firmly crossed.

I take this opportunity to wish you, and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2022

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Brian Rice

A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CAPTAIN



Fellow Captains

Well, how nice it was to be able to get back onto the golf course again this year after a long and enforced break. It was a pleasure to greet many old friends again and also to meet some new members of Devon Golf Captains.

Thank you to all those who accepted last minute invitations to some matches.

Special thanks to Malcolm who had only half an hours notice to play at Stover, when I inadvertently filled my car with petrol (rather than diesel) on my way to the match!

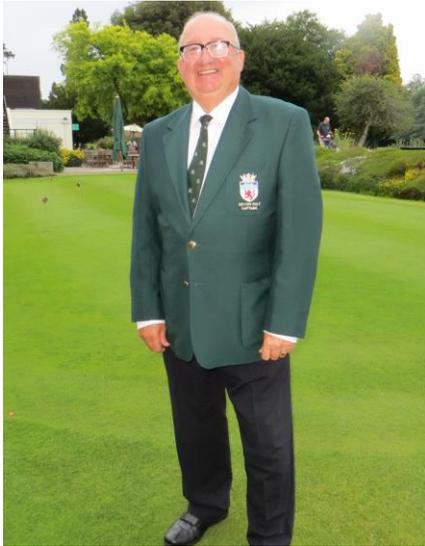
It was an honour to be selected as your Vice-Captain this year and I look

forward, with enthusiasm, to our 2022 fixtures.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Peaceful, Happy and Healthy New Year.

Terry Thorne

A MESSAGE FROM THE MATCH SECRETARY



Although we all hoped that the disaster of 2020 would not be repeated, the tentacles of covid 19 spread into the fixture list for 2021 resulting in the loss of the matches with Devon Juniors, Oxfordshire and the away fixtures with Sussex and Hampshire. Also the Six Counties at Stover, organised by Brian Waggett for early April. This followed the cancellation by Saunton of all the events that we have enjoyed in North Devon for so many years.

We have no alternative but to make preparation for 2022 in the hope that normality will return. Accordingly, the completed fixture list will soon be on line together with the 2022 Availability list.

Although Malcolm Jordain has made the point on many occasions, I will repeat, that unless Members complete the Availability List and return it to me they cannot be considered by the Captain and Vice Captain for any matches. I collate the returned lists and forward it to the Captain/Vice Captain which makes it easier for them to pick their teams in advance. Some think that I am involved in picking the teams but this is not the case as I am only responsible for the fixtures.

My very best wishes to all DGCs for Christmas & the hope of a good golfing New Year

Mike Badcock

EDITOR'S FOOTNOTE



Gentlemen

Wearing my other hat, as website moderator, I believe enough has been said previously about Covid and its affect upon all our lives. So, on a more positive note the situation only slightly affected the new county wide 4bbb competition. There were a few glitches here and there but eventually the competition was completed. My thanks and congratulations to the winners Keith Parnall & John Fairman (Exeter G&CC) who managed a victory over David Taylor & Quintin Payne-Cook (Downes Crediton GC) in very difficult wet conditions, well played to everyone! I shall be sending out the entry details early in the new year for the 2022 competition.

Subsequent to Saunton GC no longer holding some of their 'Jamboree' competitions, Brian Waggett suggested that we continue to hold the Six Counties event "in house". This was enthusiastically agreed and welcomed by your Executive and furthermore, equally so by the other five counties. Saunton generously donated the trophy, sourced and presented by the long time organizer Colin Maw. Brian bravely volunteered to organize the inaugural event, not unreasonably, at Stover GC. More details of this competition will follow in due course.

WHS, mention this to any golfer and the reaction seems fairly predictable, many simply roll their eyes and want nothing to do with it, including the variant handicap allowances relative to the competition being played. Fewer golfers, it would seem, are interested and quite happy to chat about the system and its merits or otherwise. Personally, like anything new, I believe it will be 'tweaked' possibly but it's probably here to stay. Let's all try to accept and utilise its methods and in another 12 months it will have settled down to become more familiar and acceptable, remember 1983 and all the changes then?

Despite extreme business hardship for many in the world of commerce, many thanks to our sponsor, Graham Ruth has continued to support us on President's Day and Captain's Day please support Golf Tee-Time Service & Brittany Ferries Golf Desk if possible.

Finally, as always, my best wishes and thanks to my good friend for many years Chris Morton. Chris is always available, if necessary, to help out if I have an IT issue, fortunately this occurs on fewer occasions these days

Our very best wishes to everyone for a Merry Christmas and a very safe, happy and healthy 2022.

Ed. Malcolm Jordain and Chris Morton

