

# Devon Golf Captains

FOUNDED 1937



**President: Lew Easter**

**Captain: Phillip Webb**

Hon Secretary: Geoff Pascoe

Vice Captain: Jeff Laing



## CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2022



**Executive 2022/23**

(Some members were not available for this photograph)

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Gentlemen, fellow Captains,

I would like to take this opportunity to send every member of the Association and your families warm Season's Greetings.

As we approach Christmas Day I hope everyone has a happy and safe Christmas and hope that the New Year – 2023 is good to all of us. Let us hope that we can stay safe and healthy, COVID free of course so that we can enjoy some great golf in the New Year.

Certainly 2022 has brought a few challenges as we return to “normal” following Covid lockdowns but I am very proud

of all the efforts from the members of The Devon Golf Captains Association supporting the growth of this wonderful game.

Behind the scenes, the Executive Committee continue to ensure that good golfing runs seamlessly for all. Their commitment, motivation and enthusiasm is contagious and I applaud them for their efforts in ensuring that our golf is as good as it can be. I would like to say a personal “thank you” to our committee and all those who have assisted in the organisation of golf days or in any other way throughout the past golfing season.

To all members of the Association I say “Thank you” for your loyalty, support and encouragement during the past year. It has been a pleasure to play alongside so many of you. I and your Executive Committee are mindful that this Season is not a happy time for some. We have members who have lost loved ones this year. Our thoughts are with you at Christmastime especially. Likewise – in the past year we have

lost several lovely golfing members, they are remembered fondly and our thoughts are with their families at this time.

Whatever this time means for you, whether it's a small family gathering or larger, I hope the Christmas Season is a happy one. My family and I wish you good health and hope that 2023 brings happiness to you at home and on the golf course. Remember what Gary Player said ... "Enjoy the game – happy golf is good golf"

I look forward to seeing you on the fairways.

All the very best

Lew



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## A MESSAGE FROM THE CAPTAIN

Fellow Devon Captains

It has been great to get back to playing normally over this year's season what with restrictions hindering the last couple of years . We've had a great year with several new members playing for the first time and playing on some very good courses especially on the away matches .it is always good to play somewhere new . My time as Captain has finally come to a close and I would like to thank everyone who has helped myself through this time, especially my vice Captains Terry Thorne and Phil Webb, for without them my life would have been difficult to say the least .I would also like to thank Mike Badcock for all his hard work behind the scenes arranging the matches ,food accommodation etc. I've had over my time over 120 different fellow captains playing in matches and I would like to thank you all for supporting Devon Captains matches ,plus Presidents and Captains days. I would like to wish your new captain Phil Webb and vice Jeff Laing an enjoyable 2023. And I look forward to seeing you all next season if not before, happy golfing. I wish you and your families a happy Christmas and prosperous new year.

Best Regards

Graham Heaman



## A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY



Dear Fellow Golf Captains

I wasn't sure when I had my first conversation with Malcolm Jordain what I was taking on when I agreed to join the Executive as your new Treasurer and Secretary. Having now been in the position for some 6 months I can honestly say (contrary to what some of my fellow golfers thought would happen), I am thoroughly enjoying it !!

There are obviously, with the world we live in now and what our members want from Devon Golf Captains, some tweaks that need to be made, but I will not be rushing to suggest big changes until I feel it is the right time. Too many clubs/societies have made big decisions in recent years and in many cases it has not been for the better.

Please feel free at any time to contact me or any member of the Executive with your feelings/suggestions, and I can assure you these will be looked at always in a constructive manner.

We are only human and mistakes do happen, (wrong tees at the Warren !), but hopefully members still enjoyed the day as a whole.

I never realized how much goes on behind the scenes with Devon Captains, with the work done for you by the likes of Mike Badcock on match fixtures, the Captain and his Vice-Captain on running these matches, together with of course Malcolm Jordain on the website.

This year we lost Roy Smith who was our Secretary/Treasurer for many years. He will be a great loss to us all but especially myself as he had been a great help to me in my short term of office.

Finally, may I wish you and your families a wonderful Christmas and a fabulous new year. I hope during 2023 we get to meet on or off the golf course.

Geoff Pascoe



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## A message from the outgoing Vice-Captain and Incoming Captain for the 2023 Season

Dear Fellow Captains

It has been an honour to step into the role of Vice-Captain this year and to serve Captain Graham who unexpectedly agreed to serve a second year. I have really enjoyed playing in almost all of the matches and being Vice-Captain certainly means you get to meet and interact with many different members. I wish to thank all of those members who volunteered to play, often at short notice when the team was short of players it was good to know of several members who were always willing to make up the numbers.

Having stepped up to be Captain from Captain's Day at The Warren I now have the full 2023 season to look forward to and as usual Mike Badcock has done a superb job in arranging the fixtures including three tours. I am delighted to have Jeff Laing from Libbaton Golf Club as my Vice-Captain and I am confident he will be a great help to me during my year of Captaincy.

I look forward to meeting many more Captains throughout my year and hopefully being able to welcome lots of new Captains into this excellent organisation. We will start the year with the Captain vs Vice-Captain fixture at my home club in Ilfracombe where you can "See the sea from every tee" and I hope that will be the beginning of a great year for all our members. Have a happy and peaceful time over the Christmas and New Year period and I look forward to seeing you all at various venues in 2023.

Phil Webb  
Captain



## A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CAPTAIN



Well what an ending to a great year for golf. I know have a garden more suited to making mud .

The fantastic dry summer may have resulted in some strange affect to our golf with long courses all of a sudden becoming shorter and golf balls developing a mind of their own. Playing matches with other members of Devon Golf Captains is always a pleasure and meeting new members to the group is a bonus and hopefully members will encourage their club captains to join us. Hopefully the trend will continue.

A special mention has to go to both Graham & Phil for extending their time in post after the affects of the last two years and to the sad loss of Roy and Henry who gave much of their time to ensuring we had such a well run organisation.

I would like to thank the executive for inviting me to be vice-captain and hope I have the ability to maintain the standards of my predecessors at least maintaining their photographic skills.

Have a great time over the festive season and look forward to meeting old and new Members in 2023

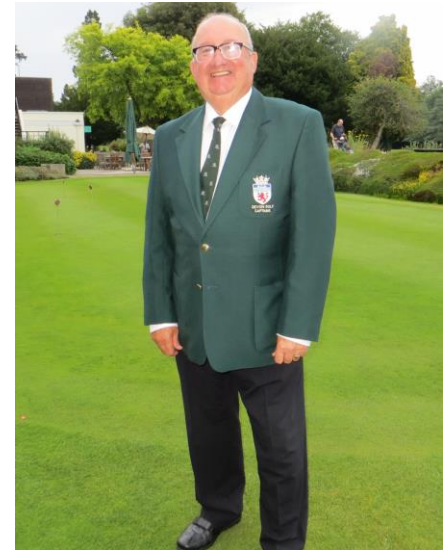
Jeff



## A MESSAGE FROM THE MATCH SECRETARY

2022 heralded the return of some normality to the DGCs calendar with the exception of the match with Devon Juniors. With the increased numbers of fixtures the County Junior Organisers are apparently finding it difficult to fit us into their schedule. However, I have a feeling the young stars of the County are not that enthusiastic in playing the stars of yesteryear even though we pay for their meals.

2023 is nearly upon us and we have a full calendar of matches both home and away, as will be seen from the fixture list to be published early next year, including Bigbury's centenary on 16<sup>th</sup> June. Once again I ask for everyone's cooperation so that the Captain and Vice-Captain can enjoy a stress free year. It really is an easy request so if you want to be considered for the excellent and reasonably priced events please do download the fixture and availability list from the website. Tick the matches you would like to be considered for and return it to me. I make a list and then forward to the Captain and Vice-Captain for them to pick the teams. Please complete all of the form as this enables me to keep an up to date register of members' contact details etc. If I don't receive your completed availability list you cannot be considered, if anyone is finding it difficult to download the forms just let me know and I will post you copies.



Compliments of the season to you all.

Mike Badcock

## SIX COUNTIES 2023

Following the phasing out of the 12 Counties Event held at Saunton in recent years, Devon Golf Captains have arranged a slimmed down version, named the Six Counties to be held inaugurally at Stover Golf Club on Thursday 30th March 2023.

The Counties involved will be Devon, Cornwall, Dorset, Somerset, Gloucestershire, and Wiltshire. Mike Badcock has communicated with all Counties and the proposed event has met with great enthusiasm with all confirming they will take part.

The format will be 4 ball better ball Stableford with 12 Players from each County. The DGC team will be selected by our President, Captain and Secretary choosing 4 players each, with a view to including as many as possible from the various Clubs across our County.

Dinner and Prize Giving will complete the day.

The cost will be £50 per head to include Golf, Dinner and Prizes.

It is very much hoped the event will continue with each County taking it in turn to host One of the other Counties has already agreed to host the 2024 event.

Brian Waggett



## EDITOR'S FOOTNOTE



Gentlemen

Little did I realise when writing “What a year” for last year’s newsletter that it would be entirely suitable to open this newsletter again !

“Annus Horribilis” comes to mind, earlier in the year we had to endure and overcome three situations which presented overnight on separate but each occasion. We did it! Suffice to say there are no problems only solutions, as is generally known those that stood up to be counted, when necessary, did so.

Moving on from there and with golf firmly restored in all areas a new season beckoned. Little did anyone realise what the weather had in store for golfers. Long hot beautifully sunny days were a joy to behold, shorts and cold drinks necessary but enjoyable. As the season progressed golf courses became drier and firmer eventually to their disadvantage. Even a cold “top” would run over 150 yards and drives well struck produced phenomenal distances. Therefore many thanks to all the greenstaff, wherever we played, for their skill and knowledge for preserving our courses. Thanks also to all golf clubs and their members for their welcome whenever we played our matches at their courses.

Ironically the county wide 4bbb competition was I believe played in these balmy conditions until the final. The final, played at Stover GC once again, was again played in continuous rain and low temperatures, as was last year. Defending their title Keith Parnall and John Fairman put up the best they could on the day but edged out on the 17<sup>th</sup> to Nigel Taylor and Nigel Roy who are both members from Elfordleigh GC. It is hoped to run this competition next year however, we must achieve a minimum of 16 pairs to do so.

Referring back to the earlier problems we experienced, in May on President's Day at Churston members present were introduced to and welcomed our new Secretary/Treasurer Geoff Pascoe. Geoff, known by many throughout the county and beyond, is a long time member of Exeter G&CC and has fulfilled many roles within the club during his time as a member. I and others have received many warm endorsements for Geoff's appointment including, at the time, Ian Black also a member at Exeter, who when hearing Geoff had submitted his name stood aside his own submission declaring, "You've got the right man, he will do a sterling job", thank you Ian generous and gallant. I look forward to working under Geoff and his guidance and stewardship of our association for the benefit of all members and golf itself.

Rightly or wrongly I feel WHS has made some progress with many golfers in the last 12 months, the indisputable playing record, best 8 from 20, indelibly produces evidence of our playing ability, possibly denting some ego's along the way. Rule changes and reference terminology, penalty areas and such still referred to as 'laterals, general area' and so on still difficult to absorb perhaps for seasoned golfers.

Looking forward to 2023, may I encourage all active members to consider applying to play in matches. You will most certainly be chosen to play in at least a couple of matches, there are three tours next year which are always special because we stay at least one night away, allowing and end enjoying the company of fellow captains in our "bonding sessions" perhaps better described as wine or ale tastings. Generally players travel together in two's or three's to minimize costs of travel. I will be sending and posting on the website, early in the New Year, the 2023 fixture list and availability form for you to return with your available choices.

With continuing difficulties in business generally I am delighted to report the continuing support of Graham Ruth and his companies on President's and Captain's Days this year, Graham no longer represents Brittany Ferries however, he has this year set up a new company called Bonjour Golf alongside his other golf related businesses. I hope to send out some flyers for golfing events on behalf of Bonjour Golf in the near future. Many thanks Graham much appreciated.

Now to the saddest part of the year, the loss of Roy Smith and Henry Paget, two of the stalwarts of Devon Golf Captains over many years. Good men such as these are very scarce and their passing leaves a legacy that those whom remain are fortunate to have enjoyed and continue to do so. They followed on from other similar stock Alf Hunt and Douggie Daniel quickly coming to mind. Those of us who have enjoyed their stewardship and integrity hope their qualities endure long into the future of Devon Captains. I have worked alongside both gentlemen since 2008, until their retirement, and have observed their dedicated service at close quarters with respect and appreciation. May they both rest in peace.



Finally, as always, my best wishes and thanks to my good friend for many years Chris Morton for his assistance, if needed, in my role as website moderator. Chris hasn't played golf for some time but hopes to return in 2023 with a new hip, set up with a slight draw if possible

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

Ed. Malcolm Jordain and Chris Morton