

Devon Golf Captains

FOUNDED 1937



President: Lew Easter

Captain: Jeff Laing

Hon Secretary: Malcolm Jordain

Vice Captain: Bob Beeson



CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2023



Executive 2023/24

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Gentlemen ,

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

As we approach this festive season I hope everyone has a happy and healthy Christmas and hope that the New Year – 2024 is good to all of us.

Let us hope that we can stay safe and healthy so that we can enjoy some great golf in the New Year.

I am very proud to be able to serve as President for another term office and 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 .

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 can be as good as it can be.

Your Executive Committee and I 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 2024 brings happiness to you at home and on the golf course. I look forward to seeing you on the fairways.

All the very best

Lew



A MESSAGE FROM THE CAPTAIN



It was an honour to step into the role of Vice Captain at the Warren and a pleasure working with Captain Phil over 2023. Phil organised a great Captains Day at Ilfracombe to end his year where members enjoyed his hospitality and our thanks must go to Ilfracombe for allowing us the use of the course on the day.

If he manages to return from the delights of the Far East, I look forward to teaming up with my Vice Captain Bob Beeson and enjoying the same camaraderie at matches and away trips that Captain Phil achieved in 2023. A special thanks to those Captains that stepped up at short notice to fill in when we had unexpected drop outs for some matches.

The matches that we play are a great way to meet your fellow members and I hope that we can grow and encourage present captains of our clubs to join us. I look forward to the support of current and new members in joining us for our 2024 fixtures.

After another great year of golf with Devon Golf Captains our thanks must go to Mike Badcock for once again working so hard to achieve such great venues for us to enjoy and Hon Sec Malcolm Jordain for his hard work in producing match reports and updating our website. His ability to morph into a market trader during the season was also a joy to behold.

I would like that take this opportunity to send all my best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a safe and healthy 2024.

Jeff Laing

A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CAPTAIN

Bob Beeson



I hope you will all agree that this year's golf was most enjoyable and on a personal note it was most rewarding to visit new and old courses over the year. It allowed me to reunite myself with old friends and make new ones & the 3 Tour Matches were superb. I do hope that we see a few more new faces at all Devon Captains Events in the future along with the "good old (or not so old) faithful. I will try to emulate Jeff's duties and have been fine tuning my photographic skills as well as my quick change act as traditionally the photographer is always last off

!! I would like to thank the executive for inviting me to be Vice – Captain and hope I can maintain the standards that both Phil & Jeff made last year. Have a great Xmas & New Year & look forward to meeting old & new members & friends in 2024 .

Bob

A MESSAGE FROM THE MATCH SECRETARY



So another year has come to an end and we now look forward to 2024 with a full diary of fixtures from April to September under the Captaincy of Jeff Laing and Vice Captain Bob Beeson.

The success of the 2023 season was due to the hard work and dedication of our Secretary / Treasurer Malcolm, the Captain Phil Webb and the Vice Captain Jeff Laing, they all made my task a lot easier, for which I am most grateful.

This is not only a Christmas message but the usual annual plea regarding availability lists. If you want to be considered for any of the matches it is up to you to download the list from DGCs website which will be posted at the end of the year. Tick those fixtures that interest you, complete the form in full including contact details

at the bottom so that I can keep the register of members up-to-date. Post or email it to me so that I can add it to the list which is then forwarded to the captain & vice captain who are responsible for picking the teams.

If you are finding it difficult to download the form let me know and I will post you a copy.

n.b. If you don't forward a completed availability list you will not be considered.

Compliments of the season

Mike Badcock

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

As I begin to write this year's newsletter it suddenly became apparent to me that this is to be my last, as Website Moderator and more recently Secretary/Treasurer. When I first mooted the idea of a website in 2009, having just finished my two years serving the late dear **Alec Gosling** and then Captaincy with **Lew Easter** as my Vice-Captain, I had little idea of how prescient this facility was to become.

Communication and information was immediately more readily shared also relieving Roy Smith of a very time consuming task in sending, by snail mail, 400 or more entry forms on each occasion for President's and Captain's Day. This my last contribution because happily, **Ian Black** (Exeter G&CC 2016) is to take on the role of Secretary/Treasurer during the course of 2024, this will be a transitional period whereby Ian will become familiar with the duties of the positions and comfortable to ride solo. This will also apply to **Brian Mushens** (Dartmouth G&CC 2004) who will be undertaking the role of Website Moderator. With enthusiastic support, for this is my baby, I'm delighted to pass the role to Brian whose expertise in IT will allow the website to grow and prosper. For both men I readily welcome their involvement and spirit of voluntary support for our long standing association, their stewardship is vital for the future. My very best wishes to both men for I am about to cross the Rubicon !



Reflecting on the past year, as usual there have been good, not so good and difficult times from which we have weathered and emerged on the other side. **Phil Webb** and **Jeff Laing** have proved to all that, they are stalwart members by their actions in steadying the ship with their enthusiastic and positive leadership on the golf course. That which cannot harm can only make us stronger! We have lost some valued members this year including the marvelous John Burrow and personal friend Brian Harris (Churston 1990 centenary year) both nonagenarians and stalwart

supporters in their day. The Ryder Cup returned to Europe however Brian Harman demonstrated how to play links golf by winning the Open.

Looking forward to 2024, the **Inaugural Annual Dinner** is an event to which many of you will support and attend if possible. For £50 per head where would one expect a 3 course meal, with wine, a prestigious guest of honour in **Rob Baxter**. An impressive raffle with a superb golfing break in France for two for just £5 or 3 for £10. Consequently it is hoped that **Graham Ruth** is also able to attend as our guest and **Bonjour Golf** sponsor. Our thanks to **Graham Heaman** and **Steve Spicer** for suggesting and initiating the evening and valuable input from **Brian Waggett** and **Bob Beeson**. Once again **Brian Waggett** will be organising the **6 Counties event** at Stover, you may remember this was washed out last year so, fingers crossed for 2024

2024 also presents the new 'Team' of **Jeff Laing** and **Bob Beeson** on the field of play, leading us forward to a new season of golf versus all our old adversaries for combat, friendship and enjoyment, please support them with your match applications and involvement. President's Day is to be held at **Dainton Park** and Captain's Day at **Libbaton GC**. I will also be announcing entry for the **2024 4bbb competition** in the new year, we now have a pair of prestigious trophies currently in the possession of **Phil Webb** and **Stuart Darke**. Our fixture list prepared by **Mike Badcock** will soon be published for your perusal and match application. Our continuing good relations with Devon Clubs is vital and we are always pleased to acknowledge their helpful cooperation in arranging our tournaments and matches every year.

Finally I would like to express my own gratitude to our special club, Devon Golf Captains. In my 30 years of membership I have made many enduring friendships, retained many happy memories of matches and incidents mostly accompanied by humour and enjoyment. My enduring thanks, for the last time also, to my very good friend **Chris Morton** who has always been there for me when needed, Chris is also retiring. My best wishes to all those who follow and lead us to the future whilst still retaining the essence of golf, the sport from which we have all received such benefit and privilege.

Best wishes Malcolm Jordain

A MESSAGE FROM IAN BLACK



I was delighted to recently accept the role of Secretary & Treasurer to Devon Golf Captains. Timing is good as I will have a couple of months working with Malcolm before the new season starts which will enable me to learn the intricacies of the roles. I am sure you will agree that a 'fresh pair of eyes' can only be good for the Society although I am conscious of the traditions that have served the Society for many many years.

Above all I am looking forward to meeting a great number of past captains on and off the golf course and hearing their stories and suggestions. I am also looking forward to the Sandy Park Dinner in February which I am sure will be a wonderful social evening and become a fixture in the calendar.

Finally my best wishes to you and your families for a Happy Christmas and a splendid New Year.

Ian R Black

A MESSAGE FROM BRIAN MUSHENS



Having started in computing in the days of paper tape and punched cards, Brian lectured in computer science at the University of Plymouth for 34 years before retiring in 2016. His specialist areas were search - just imagine life before Google - and application development for enterprise databases. He enjoys problem solving and is often called upon as IT support for fellow golfers, friends and family.

His golfing career goes back even further starting with Putt-Putt (sophisticated crazy golf) at 11, progressing to pitch and putt before joining Whitburn GC as a junior. University, marriage and a mortgage curtailed golf until his late twenties when he had his first (but too late) golf lesson. After relocating to Devon in 1982, he later joined Elfordleigh when it was a nine hole course before moving to Dartmouth in 1996. He served as Dartmouth captain in 2004 and joined Devon Golf Captains that same year. His golfing claims to fame are, having waited over fifty years for a hole in one, to achieve that feat twice in the same season and meeting the great Arnold Palmer.

He looks forward to working on the DGC website once he gets up to speed with unfamiliar software and would welcome any suggestions for improvement.

EDITOR'S FOOTNOTE



As I indicated earlier, with my other hat on, this is to be my last newsletter together with my good friend Chris Morton, who has always been there to render help when necessary. On occasion, his good wife, Shirley has been subjected to some fruity language when we have been confronted with IT issues, over the 14 years that have ensued since launching. I will shortly be entering my 85th year and Chris not too far behind me so, it is timely that he and I assume the 'Waldorf and Stadler' box and enjoy reading the 2024 newsletter from other sources.

We both wish our successor well and our very special association, arguably the best club in Devon. I have many times reflected upon our predecessors and, their time and energy, to have sustained Devon Golf Captains since 1937. Many of whom I have been privileged to have known, Roy Smith, Alf Hunt, Dougie Daniel, Bill Savage and Ron Blake to name but a few, unfortunately no longer with us.

So it is with gratitude and inevitability I wish all our members good golfing, durable friendship and a great deal of pleasure, since becoming a member of Devon Golf Captains in 1994 I have enjoyed all three with members past and present. Thank you and goodbye, I look forward to the next time on the golf course.

Our very best wishes to everyone for a Merry Christmas and a very safe, happy and healthy 2024

Ed. Malcolm Jordain and Chris Morton

