



# Devon Golf Captains Christmas Newsletter 2025

## *Officers 2026*

*President Roger  
Monson*

*Captain Dave Smith*

*Vice-Captain Neil  
Hayman*

*Hon. Secretary &  
Treasurer Ian R Black*

*Match Secretary Jeff  
Laing*

*Website Moderator  
Brian Mushens*

## *Calendar 2026*

## *Website*

[devongolfcaptains.org.uk](http://devongolfcaptains.org.uk)

## *Email*

[info@devongolfcaptains.org.uk](mailto:info@devongolfcaptains.org.uk)

Welcome to this year's Christmas Newsletter with contributions from officers of Devon Golf Captains. Enjoy reading them and please take note of the important information they contain. The 2026 calendar of events can be found at the end of the newsletter and invitations will be sent out in due course.

## **2026 President Roger Monson (Bigbury)**



As we approach Christmas 2025, I hope that you have enjoyed your golf this year at your various Clubs in Devon and especially with Devon Golf Captains. Our thanks are offered to both Peter Dunstan President and Bob Beeson Captain, for organising Presidents Day at Saunton G C, and Captains Day at Stover G C, now re-modelled to be an excellent golf course.

I am honoured to be Your 2026 President and look forward to attending and meeting you at matches and

tournaments during the summer months, especially President's Day on the 7 May at Exeter Golf and Country Club. My grateful thanks are offered to Ian Black for organising this tournament at his club. Also, my appreciation and thanks are offered on your behalf to the Committee Officers: Ian Black Secretary/Treasurer, Jeff Laing Fixture Secretary and Brian Mushens Website Moderator.

Dave Smith of Yelverton is your Captain next year, supported by Vice Captain Neil Hayman of Stover. Please give them your support throughout 2026 especially Dave's Captains Day on the 17 September. We extend an invitation to all current and past Captains to join our Golf

Association so please encourage them to complete and submit the entry form on the website.

Finally, may I wish you and your families a very enjoyable Christmas and good health throughout 2026.

Best Wishes

Roger

## 2026 Captain – Dave Smith (Yelverton)



As 2025 nears its end, my first duty as your Captain is to write a few words for this newsletter.

It was a busy and enjoyable year for me supporting last year's Captain Bob Beeson, who will be a very difficult act to follow, and rest assured I will be seeking his advice as my year progresses.

The final act of Bob's year was his Captain's Day, and he did us proud with the organisation and execution of such

a memorable day at Stover.

The preparations for the Annual dinner for 2026 are well underway, and the date is set for the 6th March 2026, at Sandy Park. I hope to see many of you there for an evening of good food, wine and comedy entertainment.

Next year's fixtures are now confirmed and will be published soon along with the request for your match availability. I thank the retiring fixture secretary Malcolm Jordain for his tireless efforts organising next year's fixtures, particularly by returning us to 2 tours annually.

I wish to thank all those who made themselves available last year, some at very short notice. Bob and I are very grateful for your support in ensuring we had a full team for every fixture. And I look forward to playing with as many members old and new of our wonderful association, so please put your name forward for fixtures.

At this point, I wish to thank Ian Black our Secretary and Brian Mushens the Website Moderator who ensure the smooth running of Devon Golf Captains.

We also welcome Jeff Laing as the new Fixture Secretary.

Well, I think I have 'waffled' enough - May I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Looking forward to seeing you in 2026.

Dave

## 2026 Vice-Captain – Neil Hayman (Stover)



I became an active member of Devon Captains in 2011 with my baptism of fire at Exeter Golf and Country Club followed with my first away trip to Droitwich travelling with Brian Waggett and the late Dudley Price. Trepidation was to the fore, and I was thinking what had I let myself in for. I was paired on the day with the formidable Mr Roy Smith which increased my nerves on the first tee.

Roy was reassuring, supportive and with him straight down the middle, he made my game easy as he defied his age with some great play. At the time I thought to myself how friendly the Devon boys were and how courteously the opposing pair

came across, I could buy into this and enjoy the camaraderie that I witnessed - and so the journey began.

I have enjoyed numerous matches over the years, coupled with many tours up and down the country and I have met some wonderful characters - some very good golfers and the odd one who is not and some great laughs but no tears.

So, when I was asked to become a possible candidate for the captaincy, it was an easy decision to make. My other commitments were coming to an end, and I felt I could give something back to the Devon Captains. I follow in the footsteps of some truly exceptional captains and hopefully I can achieve the same status.

I shall look forward to assisting Dave in his duties over the coming year, whilst hoping it will be successful and dry.

Neil

## Honorary Secretary & Treasurer - Ian R Black (Exeter)



As we close another successful year for Devon Golf Captains, I am pleased to reflect on the progress we have made 'on and off the course' over the past 12 months.

Firstly, Brian Mushens has led the management of our new email system MailChimp from which we can regularly communicate to over 300 playing members. In addition, the website structure and security have been strengthened and over the next few months further work will be undertaken on content including updating

the handbook. My thanks go to Brian for the time and expertise he brings in addition to his other duties at Dartmouth. Also, in 2026 Brian will be managing the 4BBB competition.

My thanks also to Malcolm Jordain who is finalising the 2026 fixtures as his final administrative role for DGC. We have been very fortunate to have Malcolm's commitment and leadership over many years, and I only hope that those following in his footsteps manage to uphold the high standards he and others have set.

Also, my thanks to Peter Dunstan for his work as our President during 2025 including hosting an excellent day at Saunton last May. I now look forward to working with incoming President Roger Monson during 2026.

Secondly, allowing Bob Beeson to take a well-earned rest after his successful 2025 Captaincy, our new Captain Dave Smith and Vice-Captain Neil Hayman are busy with their committee planning the Annual Dinner which is scheduled for Friday 6th March 2026 at Sandy Park in Exeter – full details and invitations to be issued shortly. Thereafter the season will start in early April with the usual Captain v Vice-Captain challenge at the Captain's club, Yelverton GC, and in May a team will head to Launceston to compete in the annual 6 Counties event.

The 2026 fixtures form will be issued early in the New Year and as always, please return it promptly to advise your match/tour availability. Please note 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.

Looking further ahead another member of our new Leadership team is Fixtures Secretary Jeff Laing who will be working on fixtures for 2027 in which we will celebrate 90 years since Devon Golf Captains was founded!

In conclusion may I send my very best wishes to you and your families for a peaceful Christmas and a happy golfing New Year.

Ian R Black

## Match Fixture Secretary – Jeff Laing (Libbaton)



So, another year has come to an end, and we now look forward to 2026 with a full diary of fixtures from April to September under the Captaincy of Dave Smith. As always, the success of the season is due to the hard work and dedication of those that work towards the smooth running of Devon Golf Captains, our Secretary / Treasurer Ian and the WebMaster Brian. Also, thanks must go to Malcolm for all his hard work in the past and juggling many balls in the air which contributed to the success and growth of Devon Golf Captains.

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 early in the New Year. Members are asked to tick those fixtures that you wish to be considered for selection, complete the form in full including contact details so that the register of members can be kept up to date. Please email your selection to the captain and myself on the form.

Best wishes to you all over the festive season and look forward to seeing you all in 2026.

Jeff

## Website Moderator – Brian Mushens (Dartmouth)

I have enjoyed my first full year, and as expected it's been a busy one. I have worked well with Ian on a variety of fronts and we're getting there!

After the development of the privacy policy early in the year, our main task was to move to MailChimp as our email communication platform. This went relatively smoothly and we are now able to communicate with over 300 subscribed members at the click of a button. You may have noticed a couple of differences from the previous system, both of which

are to protect users. A recipient cannot “reply to all” which can be seen as both a benefit and a drawback. Also, to prevent the distribution of malicious software, MailChimp doesn’t allow file attachments, so documents are now hosted on the DGC website.

My WordPress knowledge is improving but not sufficiently to be able to change the look and feel of the website significantly - the wobbly ship logo remains! That said, thanks to contributions from Captain Bob, Vice Dave and Malcolm, I’ve kept up to date with posting tournament and match reports. However, we can’t see how many have been read!

My most pressing task is to update the members’ handbook. I’m making good progress with this but inevitably there will be some errors and likely omissions which I’ll endeavour to rectify over time. We will be moving away from the current flip book to a more dynamic document which will be searchable.

I’m looking forward to taking over the management of the 4BBB knockout competition. This has been very much Malcolm’s baby since its inception, and I’ll do my best to ensure that it has a safe future.

Finally, although I will rely on Captain Dave and his Vice, Neil, to provide match reports for the website, if you feel that there’s something worthy of inclusion, please do send it to [info@devongolfcaptains.org.uk](mailto:info@devongolfcaptains.org.uk).

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Brian



## Calendar 2026

Date	Event	Venue
Fri 6-Mar	Annual Dinner	Sandy Park, Exeter
Thu 9-Apr	Captain v Vice Captain	Yelverton
Thu 16-Apr	Hampshire (H)	Libbaton
Wed 22-Apr	Sussex (H)	Elfordleigh
Thu 7-May	President's Day	Exeter
Tue 19-May	Oxfordshire (A)	Mapledurham
Wed 20-May	Warwickshire (A)	Moor Hall
Thu 28-May	Worcestershire (H)	Dartmouth
Wed 10-Jun	Shropshire & Herefordshire(A)	Kington
Thu 11-Jun	Shropshire & Herefordshire (A)	Herefordshire
Thu 18-Jun	Cornwall (A)	Perranporth
Thu 9-Jul	Dorset (H)	Ilfracombe
Thu 16-Jul	South Wales Coast (H)	Churston
Wed 22-Jul	Wiltshire (A)	Marlborough
Thu 13-Aug	Gloucestershire (H)	Okehampton
Thu 27-Aug	Devon Juniors (H)	Yelverton
Tue 8-Sep	Somerset (A)	Minehead
Thu 17-Sep	Captain's Day	Yelverton
Thu 24-Sep	Devon Ladies (A)	Libbaton

Annual Dinner invitations, match availability requests and tournament entry forms will be available in due course.

Santa hat image from [www.freepik.com](http://www.freepik.com)