

Captain's Report Feb 2022

I am finally reaching the end of my extended term. Two years of Covid stop/start and a complete lack of certainty. That said I have to report that I have thoroughly enjoyed my time and a big thank you to the past Captain's committee for having the confidence in me. It is a genuine privilege to be asked and the outcome over the year(s) in terms of courses played, people met, invitations and the memories made, will live with me forever.

These past 2 years have been a bit of a double act for my wife Carole and I. As captain of the lady's section, we have had a really great time in both our respective roles and indeed when we have come together for mixed events, internally and externally.

But all this could not happen without others around me providing support, suggestions, advice and good company. Therefore, a big thank you to David Coverdale our President, Brian Roddick as Vice-Captain, Simon Lax and then Jonathan Pearson as club manager, Dean and Simon our professionals and of course all members of the Council.

We managed to complete most of the competitions this year, so all credit to John Gunn and the comps committee for ensuring a successful year. All the various competitions were contested with some great golf, and I am pleased to report we were able to make the end of year prize giving evening a rather boisterous and successful event.

I ask, what is a golf club without a good golf course? This year Kyran and his team and all the volunteers have done an incredible job in terms of course improvement, new bunkers, new drainage, new tees, new 18th pond and surround, tree felling and removal, as well as cutting the grass. I am sure I represent you all in thanking Ian Hawkyard as chair of greens together with his greens committee and Kyran and his team for a great job – well done.

And what is a golf club without a professional or in our case two professionals. Dean and Simon are our front of house, often the first and sometimes the only people visitors see. They represent the face of the club, they represent the captain in friendly matches, they represent all members of this club, they organise all of the Saturday comps and are a real asset to Horsforth Golf club. This year they have been with us for 21 years, which is truly awesome, we owe them a big thank you.

The scratch team had a remarkable year, ensuring promotion and top of the league table by winning an absolute belter of a game against Garforth in the final match of the year, played on 'Magic Monday' during the Tokyo Olympic games. It has been my absolute pleasure to witness many of these scratch team matches, both home and away and I ask that we bring extra support to all our teams next year. Playing with a partisan crowd is a great encouragement and creates a real buzz.

The net team managed to retain a mid-table position and given the strength of the competition it was a great result. I know that Vice Caption Brian was most complimentary at the teams dogged approach in representing our club.

My personal thanks to the 8-15 team managers, Steve Galbraith for the Leeds & district league and to Jonathan Hirst managing the Bradford & district league. And I know they are always looking for new talent, so if you want to play in either of these leagues, then just ask Steve or Jonathan. A special thank you to Steve for personally asking me to partner him in the Leeds 8-15 knock out, where we went on to win 'the Shield' in a very exciting final at Cookridge. It's not often I can finish with a run of 3 birdies and a par (net birdie) over the last 4 holes to secure the win, what a day.

The Rabbits section and the Toff's section managed to fulfil all of their commitments and I know Rabbits Captain Kevin Hill and his vice-captain Paul Kilburn had a great year. I really enjoyed the Rabbits trip to Bradford golf club in July. I ended up managing the Toff's, which I have to say are always friendly, competitive, and played in the true spirit of golf.

My captain's friendlies were such fun events, this year we managed to lose more than we won, but in these events it's all about taking part, meeting new people, and enjoying the course and the company. Maybe Brian's pick next year will produce better results?

I was invited to represent the Leeds & District Union against Manchester, Harrogate and Sheffield districts. This is an honour available to all past captains in the Union and I must say another opportunity to play different courses and meet some charming people.

In September Keith Jewel, Brian Roddick and myself represented the club in the Mackenzie Medallion. This is an annual event played between all clubs which have been designed or had influence by the legendary Dr Alistair Mackenzie. We came joint first, but on countback we came second, just the 1 shot between the 3 of us could have made all the difference! Keith was the team star winning the best individual score on the day.

Actually, I had so many great days, my captain's day, good weather, splendid hospitality cooked to perfection by Rob Outhwaite and the first time the 18th had been in play for some 6 months, with a tricky pin position, just behind the pond. My captain's trip to Durham, despite Covid almost scuppering the accommodation for 36 players, but rescued as we managed a replacement hotel, played 3 great courses, and had a thoroughly enjoyable and memorable time.

A big achievement for me this year has been the amount of money raised for various charities. The big one being the Norman Hunter day. To raise £42,780.32 is incredible and a big thank you to the Hunter family, Leeds United and all the Horsforth members who made this such a successful day. Carole and I chose the Lucy Air Ambulance for close family reasons. Carole and the lady's section ran several events, we had the pound coin contributions from people landing in the 18th pond and a very successful family fun day in the overflow car park/practice area. Therefore, I must thank Andy Reeve of Morton's butchers, Morrisons, Greggs and many more for their support and generosity in helping us raise almost £10,000. Finally, the prostate awareness week, which was hastily put together. We managed to raise in excess of £1750, therefore my thanks to Kevin Boocock for his commitment, and to his friends at Greggs for providing sausage rolls, brownies and drinks for both Kevin's charity and mine.

I would like to take the opportunity to wish every success to Simon Lax who becomes Vice President to the Leeds & District Union, to Mike Allan as he becomes Captain of Captains at the Leeds Society of golf captains. To Carole Outhwaite as she takes office as our new President, to Brian Roddick who steps up as Captain and to Sally Hirst as incoming lady captain. Congratulations to these special people who represent the members of this great club and best wishes for a successful year ahead.

A big thank you to Carole for her understanding and her support (in golf and grandchildren) and her happy, cheery disposition in everything she does.

Finally, a thank you to all members for supporting, representing and volunteering throughout the year, best wishes for a successful golf season in 2022.

Paul Edmondson

Captain 2020 - 2021