



Captain's Report Season '22

I am now nearing the end of my term as Club Captain of HGC. It has been an honour and privilege to serve as Captain of our great golf club and I thank the Captains Committee for electing and providing guidance during my year in office.

Throughout the year I have been supported by many people. In particular I would like to thank Carol Outhwaite our President, Chris Baxendale our Vice Captain, Jonathan Pearson our club Business Manager, Lynsey Bull our administrative assistant, Dean and Simon our Professionals, Sally Hirst the Ladies Captain and all members of council.

Throughout the year I have represented our club at many Leeds & District Union and Leeds Past Captains golf events. It has been great meeting many other Captains from these clubs and selling the good points about our club.

With exception of one club competition all were completed within the permitted timescales. I would like to thank John Gunn for ensuring that this happened, for organising our prize presentation and ensuring all our trophies were engraved and cleaned in time. Our prize presentation proved to be a lively and relaxed event with maximum attendance. There were various WhatsApp golfing groups present, well done to all the winners and thanks to all those who turned out to support your fellow golfers.

We continue to do work on our course specifically our bunker improvement work, ad hoc drainage work, tree removal work as well as ensuring that our greens and tees are well maintained. Great to see that we also brought a couple of our new tees into play this summer. The Greens team have been supporting the contractor in preparing the new practice facility, hopefully this will be open in Spring '23. Many thanks to Ian Hawkyard our Chair of Greens, to Kyran and his Greens staff for all the work they do day in and day out on the course. Also thanks to Paul Edmondson for his continued management of the practice ground improvement programme and to the many volunteers who continue to work on various projects on and off the course, your support of this club is invaluable.

Our Professionals – Dean & Simon – continue to provide the friendly face of our club and I'm sure this is endorsed by new / existing members and visitors alike. I have personally enjoyed playing golf with them in both the Captains friendlies & Leeds and District matches. They do a great job in ensuring that both new and existing members feel part of our club.

Our golf teams continue to be well represented and our team captains: Simon Hurd (Scratch - Leeds & District) ; Paul Taylor (Nett - Leeds & District Team) ; Steve Galbraith (Mid Handicap - Leeds) ; Jonathan Hirst (Mid Handicap - Bradford) ; Andy Jones (Juniors - Leeds & District) ; Paul Kilburn (Rabbits 2 man league & friendlies) & Paul Edmondson (TOFFS friendlies) all do a great job picking these teams and representing the club at the various golf and union meetings. All the team captains and players should be congratulated for representing HGC in such a sporting manner. Special mention must go to our team who won the 2nd division Leeds & District team championship – this is the first time that HGC have won this trophy since '96. Well done to Richard Giles, Pummie Moore,

Pete Dowson & John Hogg for lifting the trophy. Also special mention to our junior member Danny Jones who represented Leeds & District.

Thanks to club shirt sponsorship provided by Simon Hurd – SGH Events and John O’Connell Galtec – good to see that we have the smartest golf teams in the league !!

The Scratch team had a great season, narrowly missing out on promotion to Division 1 to Moor Allerton in the last game of the season which interestingly was against Moor Allerton. I managed to go along to the majority of home and away fixtures and it was a pleasure to witness some great golf from the players of both teams. I’m sure next season we will achieve promotion.

The Nett team narrowly missed out on winning the Division A league finishing 2nd in the league to City Of Wakefield. A convincing win in the last game of the season would have seen us winning the league. Thanks to Chris the Vice Captain for supporting Paul and his team at the various home and away fixtures. I know like me he witnessed some great golf, and it was great to see the Nett team squad of players increasing throughout the season.

The mid handicap teams in the Leeds and Bradford leagues didn’t have the best of seasons with the Leeds team being relegated to League 2 and the Bradford team finishing bottom of their league. Jonathan Hirst is stepping down as team captain after 3 years in the role, Paul Blackburn has kindly agreed to take over the role. Thanks to Jonathan for doing the job and to Paul for stepping up to take over. Our mid handicap teams are always looking for new players so if you’re interested please contact the team captains direct.

The Rabbits team finished 5th in the Leeds and District two man league and managed to complete all the Leeds and District cup matches and inter club friendly matches. I know the rabbits section have many players who are keen to play in these matches and that Paul Kilburn has enjoyed his year as Rabbits Captain with his day trip to Otley golf club being a great success.

The TOFFS provide friendly but yet competitive matches for our senior golfers with 14 matches being played throughout the season. Again there are many senior players who want to play in these fixtures. It’s a pity that Leeds and District don’t run a competitive seniors league as I’m sure this would be well supported by the Leeds Union clubs.

Thanks to all who supported me in my Captains Friendly matches where we only lost 1 match during the course of the season and managed to win the inter club annual trophy against Otley. Next season all the Captains Friendly matches will be away so hopefully we will have the same success ? Throughout the year I have had the opportunity to play in various mixed events organised by Sally the Lady Captain. These are great events but unfortunately the Ladies always manage to beat the Gents, maybe next year will be different ! At all golfing and social events our bar and catering staff do a great job serving the membership.

My Captains Drive-In seems a distant memory but thanks to all who turned up on a wet and windy Sunday last February. I look back with fondness to my Captains Day in early July where we had a record playing turnout, some hot weather and some excellent catering provided by my family at the Warren. This was followed up with a great night of entertainment provided by Horsforth’s local band Adonis run by our club member Bob Hudson and some good food and plenty of drinks provided by our bar and catering staff. We had some worthy winners on the day, namely Sean Ryan who won the Captains Cup, Graham Swithenbank who won the 2nd Division prize and Sam Smith who won the junior prize. Thanks to all those who helped me organise the day. My Captains Trip was back to my home area of Dumfriesshire, Scotland where we played some great courses and enjoyed some

typical Scottish hospitality. Thanks to all those who helped my organise this trip and who came along to play.

During the course of the season we resurrected our Filey Exchange trip which was well supported with a full coach of 40 members. This is a good way to meet new members and an enjoyable social day out which I would thoroughly recommend to the club membership. Thanks to John Gunn and Stephen Fowler for running the day.

We at Horsforth Golf club continue to hold a number of charity days – namely the Norman Hunter day for Leukaemia Research, the Danny Kitchen Day for Leeds Cancer Charities and the Prostrate Cancer awareness day. All these events are well supported by the membership, and I thank all of you who organise and compete in these events, give generously and provide your time to these worthwhile charities. I would also like to thank all of you who have supported St Gemma's Hospice, the chosen charity for myself and the Lady Captain for 2022.

I would like to congratulate Mike Allan for his year in office as Captain for the Leeds Society of Golf Captains and I trust he has enjoyed his year. I also wish Simon Lax every success as he starts his year in office as President of Leeds & District Union. I know over the year he will be holding many golf and social events at Horsforth Golf club so this will be a great opportunity to market both our golf course and catering facilities.

I wish our incoming officials: Trevor Pearson our President , Chris Baxendale our Club Captain and Pam Taylor our Ladies Captain best wishes for the forthcoming season as you represent both the membership and our club at various events.

A big thank you to my wife Debbie and my family for supporting me in my year as Captain.

Finally, many thanks to the membership for supporting me and the club throughout the year. I wish you all good health and happiness and a successful golfing season in 2023.

Brian Roddick

Captain 2022