

## SENIORS CAPTAIN'S REPORT 2018

Gentlemen.

Our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year is almost over, as is my year as Senior's Captain. I feel very privileged and humbled to have been elected and have thoroughly enjoyed all aspects of the role, which has been made easier due to the unstinting support of my excellent committee. I hope that you have all had a good year, be it through playing in any of the 36 or so Members Competitions, 38 inter club matches, 7 mixed fixtures or the special games organized for the Anniversary.

With regard to the Competitions, we have now firmly put 9 hole competitions into the calendar, some combined with an 18 hole competition, and due to the demand from our "senior" Seniors, we will be adding to the number in 2019. This has been somewhat enabled due to the ability to use the PSI scoring and the online booking through HowDidIDo. Demand for the competitions has been terrific, with over 100 playing at least once during the year, which often caused the start sheet to be full at an early stage, and so to help the numbers, we instigated the playing in fours rather than threes. I believe this has been a success and will continue next year, unless the Club Management allow us an extra half hours tee time! Tom Goodale has overseen the running of the competitions, and I thank him for doing an excellent job, which I know is very time consuming, and his dedication stands out.

Another, who puts in a great deal of time and effort, is Alan Jones, who masterminds the inter club matches. Thank you Alan. The season has been very successful and well supported with 66 members taking part, with full teams throughout and very few issues. 38 matches were played with 23 won, 13 lost and 2 draws, the only blot on the landscape is that we still have the "monkey", which goes to the losers in our battles with Waterlooville. So the report there is "must do better". New fixtures were played with The Army GC and Guildford – two big home wins and two hidings away, but all players thoroughly enjoyed the new courses. 2019 will bring another new fixture with Puttenham, which I can attest to being another great course. I will never tire of saying what a great experience it is to play in these inter club matches on all these different courses, with good competitive golf and great bonhomie both on and off the course with our like-minded opponents.

I must now thank Phil Sparshatt for again arranging the inter club fixtures and the members competitions. He works at it tirelessly to ensure there is competitive golf for over a third of the Club's Mens membership, and of course there is another third who could avail themselves of this facility if they joined the Section! He has also overseen the Seniors Open, which was again well attended and is important to our revenues.

Congratulations to all of our trophy winners and I shall pick out Dennis Wing, the very consistent winner of the Order of Merit, and Ian Barrowcliffe, who did the "double" winning both the gross and net trophies for the Seniors 36 hole Championship. Great golf was also played by Chris Overton.

Ken Watherston has organized all the fixtures with the Ladies, but I am sorry to say that he has found it extremely difficult to get numbers and details from them. His time on the committee is coming to an end and so I must thank him for his huge contribution to the Section over the past few years.

The Anniversary year produced a new trophy won by Chris Overton, and an Inter Club Invitation, when 2 representatives from 22 clubs joined 44 of our Seniors on another of our summer's perfect and memorable days with the course at its best. On the Social side, as well as a most enjoyable Ladies Night and Captain's Day, we held a Dinner Dance, which 102 attended. This was a great night and the committee will be discussing a possible follow up for next year. These events take a lot of organizing and we have been blessed by the talent of Brian French to this end, and I thank him for ensuring everything runs smoothly from good menus to table decorations.

Brian has also ensured payments have been made on time, which pleases our Treasurer David Lewis, who has had an even harder task this year keeping a grip on the spending, especially with the Captain wanting funds for the 50<sup>th</sup>. Thanks guys! Oh, I ought to mention that our 50<sup>th</sup> Tie is still on sale at the AGM for just £10 - last chance!

We try to keep everyone informed as to what is going on through the Noticeboard and the Website, but most memorably with the monthly Newsletter, which is brilliantly edited by Ian Barrowcliffe, and so many thanks Ian for your secretarial efforts, including the minutes, which arrive almost before the end of the meeting, and for trying to keep me in order on the golf course. Only pity was you took all my jokes, so I had none for the inter club matches!

We will be working hard in 2019 integrating new members to the section, and we are very fortunate to have Tuesday and Thursday Roll Ups, so well organized by Les Walsh and aided by Stan Barns. Thank you Gentlemen. It is often difficult for new members, who don't know anyone in the club to find people to play golf with, so the roll ups play an important role in helping new members to meet others.

During the year, principally to assist with the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events, we have been fortunate to have been supported by a number of local businesses:- Princess Motor Yachts of Swanwick: Conquest Kitchens of Farlington: Stephen Anthony Design of Havant: Harris Parkes & Drake of Rowlands Castle: Blendworth Tyres & Trailers of Rowlands Castle: Our own Golf Club and our suppliers Fullers. I thank them all for their help and support.

Finally, I must thank all of you for joining the Seniors Section and attending the AGM, and for all your kind comments during the year. You have also been extremely generous with your support of my Captain's Charity – The Rainbow Centre, to whom I recently presented a cheque for £1502.00. Many thanks that's brilliant.

Enjoy the AGM, be supportive of the prize winners and enjoy the meal.

STEVE LAPAGE  
Captain 2018