

# THE CAPTAIN'S WEEK

Let me tell you a little about **Battle Back Golf**, Linda's charity for her year as our Lady Captain.

BBG was founded at the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre, Headley Court in 2009. The BBG programme is a military initiative designed to utilise golf to support the wounded, injured and sick. Over the years the programme has proved successful in supplementing the physical, psychological and cognitive rehabilitation of over 200 serving and veteran personnel. The programme offers golfing education and coaching, competitive opportunities and access to tailored golf equipment to experienced and novice golfers all of which helps the members to engage with golf and enhance their social integration.



On Wednesday morning, Linda and her team of ladies organised their first event of the year to raise funds for BBG. Though it was described as a '**Coffee Morning**', the occasion was more like an indoor 'Summer Fayre' with a variety of stands laden with freshly made Japanese and Chinese food, home baked cakes, artisan oils, chutneys and preserves, fresh flowers and fun golf and household merchandise as well as a tombola and, of course, a raffle. It all looked really impressive....just take a look at the pictures on the next page.

The fundraiser also gave Linda the opportunity to introduce Nathan, a serving RAF pilot, who has benefitted from the BBG programme and works to promote their work. Nathan told us about how he broke his back when the transport aircraft that he

was flying into Camp Bastion, the British base in Afghanistan, went into an uncontrolled nose dive while coming into land. Despite his injuries, Nathan was able to regain control of the plane. Since then, he has undergone four years of treatment including having several of his spinal discs fused together. Part of his rehabilitation also included trying to get back to playing golf again which is how he became involved with Battle Back Golf, and now helps to raise money for them.



Nathan also explained how the different charities that support our injured personnel are finding it much more difficult to raise money these days. This is primarily because our forces are no longer heavily involved in such high profile conflicts and as the media coverage for the British contribution has subsided, so the general public's willingness to donate money to the armed services charities has also been reduced. So Nathan was delighted that Linda had chosen BBG to be the focus of the ladies' fundraising efforts for much of 2019.

All in all BBG is a really worthy cause. And once we have improved our disabled facilities, we might be able to host events for organisations like BBG.

While I was only an interested observer, after less than an hour walking around the different stalls I managed to accumulate a variety of cakes and scones, a golf ball, a box of tees, a bottle of Spanish wine, a jar of Rosemary flavoured honey and a big bunch of tulips. Thanks to the efforts of the ladies and all those who turned out to support the 'coffee morning', the amount raised for BBG was **£2180**. A great start to Linda's fundraising year.





A cornucopia of tastes and flavours



The Great MGC Bake Off



Raffle ticket?



**Beyond the call of duty....** Veronica went on Saturday morning at 5am to check out the flower market at Covent Garden and then Pip and Lesley went back equally early on Monday to buy the flowers!!



"You name it, we've got it"



**Linda introduces Nathan who talked about Battle Back Golf**



And it was also Makiko's birthday



Tombola with Hildabola, Lindabola and Annbola



Weighed down with shopping



Overwhelmed by the smell of fresh blooms



# WHAT ELSE HAS BEEN GOING ON?

Last week, we held a small gathering to say goodbye to our **Head Greenkeeper Kris Durrant**. Kris's wife has just given birth to a baby



boy so he'll be spending some time with them before starting his new job at Knole Park at the beginning of next month. We are clearly sad to see Kris go after just 17 months at MGC but we wish him well in his new position, and are looking forward to working with Scott Weale as he takes over the HGK reins.

Here is Chris Gems presenting Kris with an engraved glass tankard to say thank you for all his efforts.

And on an equally sad note, Ben and I lost our latest match in the **Captain and Pro Challenge series**. We began the first game of the year with hopes that we would be able to turn round our poor record. But unfortunately Johnno Gordon and Nick Stevens hadn't read the script. We did manage to win the first hole even though Johnno drove the green albeit it with his provisional ball. That win was just a flash in the pan as Ben and I were overpowered by a combination of big hitting and an excellent short game. We eventually went down 3&2 but did manage to win the back nine and then a follow-up game of snooker. So it wasn't all bad news!

And it wasn't bad news on Wednesday for Stephen Mason who won the **Mens' January Mid-Week Stableford** competition with a fine score of 42 points. Well played Stephen. A little way behind and in second place was Marcus Harrison who came in with 39 points and Phil Hazlewood was third with 38.

Last week, the **Ladies** played their **Monthly Stableford Competition**. The weekend competition was won by Harriet Ruby with a good score of 34 points and Linda, the Lady Captain, won on Tuesday with 29 points. Congratulations ladies.

# FINALLY, A SMALL FUNDRAISER OF MY OWN

I've already covered how the Ladies got off to such a great start raising money for the Lady Captain's charity Battle Back Golf.

I'd also like to raise some money, and while the cause also has a strong military connection, it's not actually for a charity on this occasion. Those of you who attended the 125 History Evening may remember that Julian McCarthy from the Malden & Coombe Heritage Society mentioned that New Malden is one of only four towns in the country that can claim that three recipients of the **Victoria Cross** came from the same area and yet New Malden is the only town that doesn't have



a dedicated memorial to recognise the extreme gallantry of these men. Julian is now raising money from local people and organisations with the aim *'to mount plaques commemorating the 3 VCs on the wall of Waitrose such that people, young and old, can stop, read, think and then turn to consider the others on the memorial who also gave their lives that we can live as we do today - freely'*.

Some of you may have seen that we have our own recipient of the Victoria Cross. The memorial to Sergeant William Boulter, along with copies of his medals, hangs in the bar. While we are unsure of William's exact involvement with the Club, it is clear that we also have a connection with the Victoria Cross.



Now Julian has already raised most of the money he needs to put up the special VC memorial which is due to be unveiled on 31<sup>st</sup> March to co-incide with the anniversary of the date when one of the local VC recipients, Cyril Barton, was killed. If you'd like to help fund the last few hundred pounds that's needed, you can either put some money in the jar which I'll put on the bar or go to the fundraising website: <https://uk.gofundme.com/New-Malden-VC-Memorial-Plaques>

**Ever fancied singing  
with a live band?**



**MGC is hosting Rockaoke  
on Friday 18th January  
from 7.30pm**

**Head up on stage with your friends (or solo  
if you're brave enough) we'll provide the  
lyrics, conductors and backing singers to  
help you smash your performance!**

**If you would like to perform please contact  
[comms@maldengolfclub.com](mailto:comms@maldengolfclub.com).**

**The full set list is attached but if you would  
like to perform a song not on the list add that  
in your email and we will see if it's possible!**

**There will also be music from MGC  
members and friends bands**



## **RULES NIGHT**

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January at 7.30 pm**

**A fun and informative evening that looks  
at the recent changes to the Rules of Golf**



## **ALSO COMING UP...**

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> January: Draw for Partners**

**Please sign up on the main noticeboard in the foyer**

**Sat 2<sup>nd</sup>/Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> February: Men's Stableford**

**Saturday tee times available to all Full Members**