

THE CAPTAIN'S WEEK

I think I'm just beginning to get into the spirit of Christmas. It's probably an age thing but it does seem that the older I get, the harder it becomes to really embrace the Festive season. But having just spent the morning with the team putting up the Club's Christmas decorations and tasting the first homemade mince pies of the year, I'm just starting to feel the stirrings of something mildly Christmassy. And with a programme of Christmas events coming up at MGC over the next four weeks, I'm sure I'll be completely hooked by the time I arrive for the **Mens Christmas Dinner** next Friday (7th December). If you'd like to share in my excitement, please put your name down for the dinner as soon as possible.

Anyway, there was a highly motivated and well organised team of about 20 of us hanging garlands, baubles, wreaths, stars and paper chains and the overall effect looks great. My thanks to Pip Davis and the ladies and gentlemen who turned up to help for doing such a good job.

While we all joined MGC primarily to play golf, one of the joys of being a member of the Club is the opportunity to share other interests and sometimes work together for a common cause. That might be one reason why I joined the General Committee, and why I enjoyed participating in with the communal efforts to put up the Christmas decorations. It is also why I loved the **Open Mic** evening which took place last Friday. The event was organised by Lindsay Cole and Steve Suckling and once again provided a showcase for some of the musical talent that resides within our membership. As you will see from the photographs later in the Newsletter, even I grabbed my 'drum box' or cajon as it's known, and played along with some of the songs. . It was good fun. And Lindsay and Steve are now working on the next Open Mic for the New Year. Don't miss it.

Playing in a band can be an ensemble enterprise but taking part in a singles match is much more of a lonely affair. The re-arranged final of the **Brock Cup** took place on Sunday in fairly inclement weather. The contest was between Martin Cragg, making a remarkable comeback after 2 years plagued with injury, and Stuart Roberts who has already shown his class by featuring in other men's Major competitions during the year. The conditions were always going to suit Stuart's power game over 36 holes and he duly won despite Martin's brave efforts to stay in the game. You can see more about the match and the reason why the Brock Cup is such an important competition in the Club's calendar on the next page.

While I didn't play that much golf this week, I did take part in the **Mix-Up** that also took place on Sunday. Twenty players braved the weather to put their name in the hat for the team competition. The winners, with a dominant score of 88 points (best 2 from 4) were Andy Smith, James Houghton, Richard Howell and Sam Mahon. Well played guys.

IT'S A KNOCK-OUT

I mentioned last week how successful our members have been in raising money for various deserving causes. Well over £30,000 in total at the last count.

In that vein, I'd like to pay tribute to Nick Stevens who gave up alcohol for 8 weeks and embarked on a tough training schedule (at least, that's what he told me) to take part in a boxing match as part of a **Media Fight Night**. The evening was organised to raise money for research into Head and Neck Cancer.

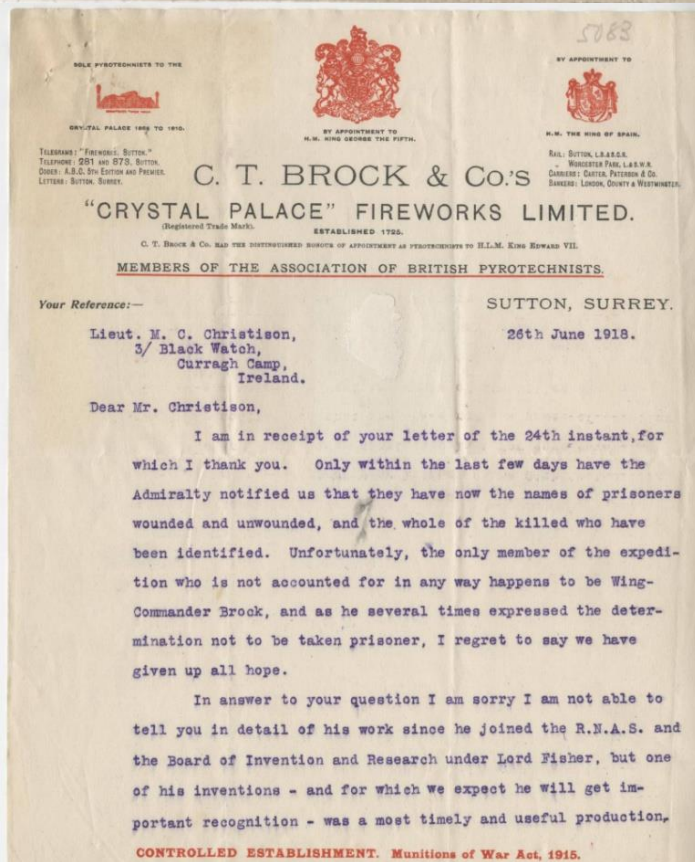
Now, I've never boxed but I can imagine how tough it can be. So the fact that Nick (aka *Steam Train*) managed to survive 3 rounds and come away with an honourable draw despite thinking he probably should have won was a fine achievement. Altogether, the evening raised £150,000 for the charity. If you'd like to make a donation in recognition of Nick's efforts, you can by going to: <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/mediafightnight2018>



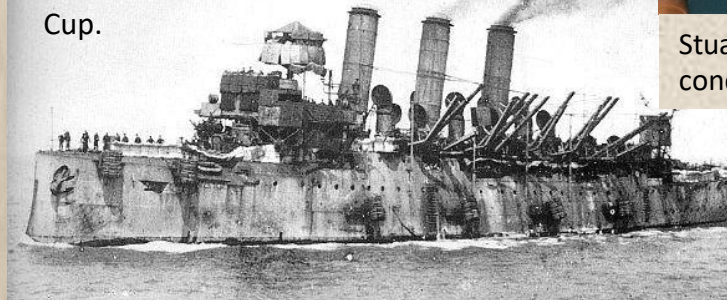
While on the Vindictive I endeavoured to learn more of the fate of Wing-Commander Brock, the officer who devised the smoke screen which helped the attacking ships so materially. All that I could ascertain was that he was last seen running along the Mole, and was "knocked out." A warrant officer told me that at the time Commander Brock fell he was "going singlehanded for a gun's crew."



Stuart was too strong in difficult conditions but Martin put up a good fight.



The HMS Vindictive after the Zeebrugge raid. A plank taken from the wooden deck was used to make the base of the Brock Cup.



Martin Cragg and Stuart Roberts line up with sponsor David Woolmer, referee Ray McCullagh and me on a cold dank Sunday morning. Not the best day for golf.

THE FINAL OF THE BROCK CUP

Dedicated to the memory of **Wing Commander Frank Brock**, a member of our Club, who was killed on 23rd April 1918 during the Royal Navy's raid on German submarines that were based in the Belgian port of Bruges-Zeebrugge.

CHRISTMAS COMES TO MGC



A work of art? Ewan's centrepiece decoration in the restaurant



We won't let a little decorating put us off our important Bridge match!



'nail, hammer, scissors...that should do it'

Adding some sparkle to the bar



The decorating team takes a well earned break for coffee and homemade mince pies. Great job everyone



'well, it's almost round'



'where do these baubles go?'



It looks great but I can't see my name now!

WHAT'S COMING UP?

Here are the main highlights of our **CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME:**

Saturday 2nd & Sunday 3rd December – Mens Monthly Stableford

Sunday 2nd December – **Weekend Ladies Christmas Competition**

Tuesday 4th December – Ladies Christmas Competition and Lunch

Friday 7th December – Mens Christmas Dinner

Sunday 9th December – Mens Christmas Fayre

Friday 14th December – Ladies Christmas Dinner

Sunday 16th December – Christmas Lunch and Prize Draw

Monday 31st December – New Year's Eve Dinner & Dance

For more information and to sign up for these events, please check the noticeboards in the foyer or in the locker rooms.



MALDEN GOLF CLUB PRESENTS

The Mens Christmas Dinner

Friday 7th December at 7.00 pm

Featuring:

A traditional 4 course menu

Fine wine and a variety of other drinks

How well do you know MGC? quiz

A speech

Tickets just £45 – book your place now