



Captain's Update

26th March 2020

Having taken over as Captain with effect from 7.00pm last night I thought my first update should effectively be the speech I had intended to make at the AGM with a few additions to mark the unusual circumstances we find ourselves in.

To tell you a bit about myself personally, I have been married to Sandra for almost 51 years and we have 3 children and 6 grandchildren. I started my working life as an apprentice installation electrician and towards the end of my apprenticeship went into the RAF where I stayed for 22 years working mainly at RAF Hospitals where, after further training with the Army I qualified to work on medical equipment. I was in the RAF during the Falklands Campaign, although I didn't go (I told them my mum said it was too dangerous), I did end up going to the Gulf during the first gulf conflict and that was an interesting experience but luckily I only flew in and out a few times picking up patients to Medevac back to UK. After leaving the RAF, I settled in to a job at the Swindon Marriott Hotel as a Chief Engineer so stayed in the Swindon area for about 10 years until a job opportunity arose in the Cardiff Marriott Hotel where they were looking for a Maintenance and Facilities Manager, this meant Sandra and I could move back to Cardiff where we both grew up, so effectively, after 30 years away from Cardiff, we came home.

When my wife (Sandra) and I first applied to join the club we spoke to the Secretary Kenvyn Newling who was very encouraging so we already started feeling comfortable about the club, then back in March 2003 we were interviewed by Jim Young (outgoing Captain), Bobby Foulkes (incoming Captain) and Maureen Evans (Ladies' Captain). Sadly, Jim and Bobby have passed on now, but we still remember how welcome they made us feel through the interview, even to the point of inviting us to play in a mixed competition being held a few days before our membership was due to commence. During our first year at the club Bobby or his wife Ann would phone us and ask us if we were playing in any mixed competitions that were due and they would also check to see if we wanted to attend the various functions that were planned, which we invariably did and that normally meant a walk home at the end of what nearly always ended up as a really good night. Those thoughtful touches led to us meeting and getting to know many couples who became close friends and I'm pleased to say that we are still regularly in touch with a good number of them.

I would like to say a huge thank you to our outgoing Captain Andrew Walters for selecting me to be his Vice Captain, I've had a very enjoyable year in this role, meeting with vice captains from around the region and supporting Andrew in his year and now it is a tremendous honour for me to become The Captain of St Mellons Golf Club. I hope that I can do the club proud and shall endeavour to perform the job as well as those that have gone before me, certainly to the best of my ability.

At this point it would normally be my pleasure to announce the result of the Ballot and then to introduce and congratulate the President on their election, unfortunately the current crisis situation dictates that it would be an unnecessary journey and so we will secure the ballot box with all votes up until 7 o'clock last evening being added to the ballot. When it is deemed safe to do so I shall arrange for the ballot box to be opened and the votes counted and verified. I would then hope to make the

announcement at the AGM or if that seems to be too much of a delay I shall send out an email with the announcement.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce my choice for Vice Captain. This person first joined the club in 1984 and has been a member ever since, apart from a short sabbatical at Newport Golf Club, he has had significant club achievements in winning the open championship one year and the Bronze Championship in 1986. He has helped with course maintenance and upkeep working alongside John Critchley and Barry Thomas, more recently he has been noticeable around the course improving pathways and Tee Access areas and, of course, the recent re-development of the seating and rest area around the halfway House.

My nomination for my Vice Captain is Steve Anderton.

Over the years Sandra and I have enjoyed being involved in a variety of sports including Running, Badminton, Squash, Triathlon, eventually settling for Golf. During these years we have supported many charities which have been close to our hearts after losing loved ones and indeed we still see so many worthy causes which still affect close family. I have however looked at those charities that support families before we reach the sad endings and for this reason, I have chosen Dreams and Wishes to my charity for this year. Dreams and Wishes is a charity dedicated to helping seriously ill children by making their dreams and wishes come true, it operates entirely with volunteers and there are no wages or expenses so that every penny donated goes toward helping families.

Finally I would normally wrap up the AGM by inviting everyone to the bar for a drink, unfortunately this can't be the case at this time but hopefully we will get a chance in the not too distant future to hold our AGM, after which I would be pleased to buy you a drink.

Steve Parry

Captain