

Captains Report – 2018/9.

It doesn't seem a year ago.

I took on my role on a cool October morning and after Dave Brooker completed his putt-out I managed an adequate drive somewhere near the correct fairway.

My golf was not quite as spectacular as past Captain Dave was the previous year, he scored 43 points in winning, nevertheless I did manage to get 38 but was pipped to the post by Jim Chisholm who had 39! The morning's golf was followed by lunch where I was fortunate enough to be joined by my family and about 60 other club members.

The Christmas draw was a big success with the choir and families, friends and members present there appeared to be more people there than I had seen before. Ticket sales went well and it was agreed again that **all** proceeds are to continue to go to nominated charities.

The Christmas meal, after the Turkey trot, which won by Ben Chesney with 39pts, was well attended and as such rounded off another great year of golf at FPGC.

In the New Year the County Competitions begin and 2019 was no exception and a big thank you must be extended to the following:-

Peter Waknell – Jubilee Cup played on a league basis, of the four matches FPGC won one, lost two and halved one, not quite enough to progress to the knockout stages.

Ted Layton – Norman Plum, with matches played home and away, the team lost narrowly 3.5 to 2.5.

Paul Beckwith – Leslie Wood this was a rematch away to Stockbrook Manor who beat us last year. We were fortunate enough to progress to round two but lost out away to Basildon.

Dave Brooker – Thorndon Cup, a tough draw away at Hainault Forest saw the team lose 10.5 to 4.5.

Without members willing to give up their time to organize the teams and arrange dates for the fixtures Forrester Park would not be able to enter these enjoyable competitions.

Throughout the year we also compete for a variety of in-house trophies, Sadler Shield, Simms Bowl, Club v Committee and Club v SAGS. The juniors retained their hold on the Sadler Shield whilst the Ladies won the Simms Bowl albeit with far too many extra shots! The Club managed to get an honourable draw against the Committee with ex-Captain Carl narrowly failing to gain the extra point required for a Committee win. But there was one success the Club retained the SAGS Shield!

In addition to the competitions above, the club continues to thrive with numbers playing in Sunday morning competitions steadily rising. At this point I would like to formally thank Phil Prior for his work in organizing the competitions and starters over the course of the year. He is not able to be here tonight.

The Big Club Challenge, with Craig Lockwood's Team playing Paul Tritton's Team, is now a permanent fixture and involving members from all sections as well as 'guests', the club is certainly inclusive one.

Craig, whose team won the Big Club Challenge, is also the focus for the development of the junior section and we will hear more of their exploits from Craig later, enough for me to say both junior teams did exceptionally well in their respective County Competitions.

The guest day in June went very well with over sixty players out on the course. Next years Captain, Paul B had a long wait before his tee time and some would say over-indulged before teeing off and his shot from the tenth tee ended up just reaching the eighteenth fairway! What can I say, one too many Stellas?

After the golf we retired upstairs for our excellent 'after round meal' prepared by Paul and his team. A good few beers were consumed by all.

Captain's Day in July from my perspective was very enjoyable. I had the pleasure of playing the ninth hole with every group and whilst my golf wasn't great it was good to see so many others struggle with that hole as well! The day went smoothly and the weather held out for the BBQ and entertainment in the evening. It was a delight to see so many members enter into the spirit of the day and dress accordingly for the evening event. I have the pictures so beware!!!

The Club Championship followed a similar format that proved so successful last year with one or two additional tweaks. The prizes for the day were spread out amongst a lot more competitors with divisional, scratch and plus14 handicap prizes. The Club Champion this year was our Junior Captain Marley Read. He had two great rounds and finished on +2 for the day, one of the best scores since Dale won the club championship. Well done to Marley and good luck in the future.

It would be inappropriate of me not to mention some of the many people that have supported me over the year. Firstly, to my wife Vicky who has been there, supporting me at every event and also running the hut on those shotgun starts on Sunday mornings. During the year she received support in various forms from Barbara (next years Lady Captain), Dawn, Jeannine, Sue and last but definitely not least Chris Hurrell. A big thank you to all of you.

The Committee. They deserve a special mention as a group they have given me so much support during the year. Despite a bit of stick from a few they have all been keen to get on board, help and encourage me over the year, it has certainly made my job easier. Thank you.

Tim, Annie and The Management Team at the Club. They do a super job with Paul and Matt getting all the lovely food together. Katie and Leo and all the other backroom staff and bar staff who make the running of events go so smoothly. They have been excellent with their prompting, especially when I was a bit slow to organize things!

Jeff Taylor and his staff. It is all too easy for people to forget just how much work Jeff and his team do during the year. You will all have seen the improvements to the course, and I'm am sure he has heard this many times before, but I do think the course has played as well as it ever has done this year. My thanks go to them, what a great job they do.

The two other Captain's, Steve (and in his absence Ian) and Judy have acted as great sounding boards for some of the events during the year and have always been willing to pitch in and help. Thanks both of you.

I know have mentioned helpers with the hut and the Team Captains earlier but we also are very fortunate to have so many other members working hard to make events run smoothly.

Denis and Vivien with the 200 club.

Barbara, Judy, Jane and Chris Morris with starting, scoring and selling raffle tickets on Guest Day and Captain's Day. Beryl and Peter with the chipping and putting competitions. Craig and Kevin for all they have done to make Captain's Day, Guest Day and Club Championship run so well.

I am sure I will have forgotten someone, for that I apologise but thank you all for your support and encouragement this year.

Finally, well nearly, my charity 'Prostate Cancer UK'. The members, during the course of the year, have managed to raise over £2600 with a few more items still to include. I know that the Vets have also had this as their charity and Steve and I will be making a joint presentation later in the year. A tremendous effort and my heartfelt thanks to all of you for all your support for this worthwhile cause.

I can honestly say it has been a privilege to serve as Captain of FPGC and when I look back on it I am sure I will be able to say I have enjoyed this year.

Finally, yes really, would just like to close by wishing Paul every success in his Captaincy and assure him that I will do everything I can to support him throughout the year.

Steve Brewington
Men's Captain 2018/9

2nd October 2019.