



The Court Circular

Journal of The Coulsdon Court Veterans Golf Club

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Note from the Editor

Wow. Another strange year. But despite everything we have still got a lot from our golf in 2021 even though we didn't get going till the end of March. Let me start by thanking everyone who has persevered to provide and play their golf for another year. You the members have contributed so much. The ground staff, since August as employees of the hotel, have given their all to keep the course in as good a shape as possible. Matt and Mark in the pro shop have done their best to provide a service and have made allowances for course closure in our membership renewals.

A big thank you too to our Captain Ron Wellbrook who has kept the show on the road. A great job, Ron and not to forget the Committee which has 'zoomed' and met at the hotel to oversee the finances, deliver changes to handicapping and addressed changes at the hotel.

We had eight new members in 2021. A warm welcome to you all:

Roger Wells Jim Quinn Surinder Nagi Roy Misra

Paul Dibbs Brian Mustchin Simon Edwards Richard Hart

They are great guys who are already contributing to the Club on and off the course. We look forward to playing more together and integrating them further into our number as Covid conditions are relaxed.

This growth has been offset by the sad loss of Ernie Smeeth who was ever present at the Club. We pass our deepest condolences to the family as we were able to do in person at Ernie's funeral in August.

This Court Circular covers results, matches, membership, welfare and hotel liaison and if there is anything you want to know more or talk about, just speak to one of the Committee members or go to the website.

George Paulson-Ed

Outgoing Captain's Report

The year began marshalling the course to keep the course fit for purpose when we returned; not an easy task! The course reopened on March 29th to everybody's relief.

An excellent job was done putting together a full fixture list with other clubs, played with successes, and some nearly successes. Almost all our competitions were played. Our Match Secretary did an excellent job keeping all this going. Well done Mike and thanks.

After a year of restrictions to our after round, social drinks. I felt that the club would benefit from re-establishing this and with the warmer weather we got back to gathering in the garden for a drink or two.

Sadly, Club match lunches were poorly attended. I think we could give more thought to this as we do need to host the lunches correctly.

We were pleased to welcome more new members in 2021, hoping their membership will be long and fulfilling.

The new handicap system has now established itself over the past year. The Eagles Club has also grown, well done to all who have joined. In such a difficult year, the Charity Invitation Day had to be cancelled but the Annual Dinner and the Christmas Lunch were both well attended and raised more than £900 for my charity.

And so a very big thank you for your amazing support for myself and my charity (Huntington's Disease Association). I'm pleased to announce that over the year, we raised £3,203. Your efforts will make a lot of people's lives so much easier than they would otherwise have been.

Finally, thanks for the overall support my Captaincy has had over the past year from club members and the committee alike and ask you to give the same to the 2022 Captain. Looking forward optimistically to another good year's golf.

Ron Wellbrook

Our Incoming Captain 2021

Although the year has started in a difficult place, I hope that we can avoid the disruption of the last two years. As you will see, we have a full programme of competitions and matches and I look forward to playing with as many of you as possible throughout the year.

I am available to answer questions, listen to concerns and discuss suggestions that you may have. In particular, suggestions for raising money for my chosen charity which is Prostate Cancer UK. I have chosen this charity for two reasons. Firstly, I have two friends who are

battling with Prostate Cancer and secondly, it is a disease that is particularly relevant to men of our age. I hope you will all be able to offer your support throughout the year.

I am continuing the 2's competition this year. As not everyone carries money these days, I intend to offer the opportunity of 'play now, pay later'. There will be an IOU option on the 2's entry sheet. I shall keep a record of these and invite anyone who has taken this option to settle their bill with the Treasurer by bank transfer every quarter.

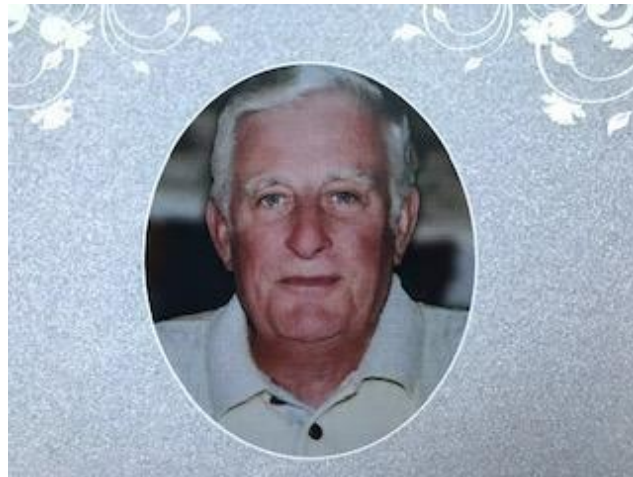
My charity bunker will be the greenside bunker on the 11th. Everyone hates going into this bunker but now you will have the consolation of donating to charity. As in previous years, you can purchase a season ticket for £10 which again can be paid to the Treasurer.

The Charity Invitation Day is on July 1st and I would be grateful for as much support as possible for this day. Your guests would be made most welcome too.

So, let's keep our fingers crossed for a great year of golf in 2022.

John Gill

Remembering Ernie



'Ernie' Smeeth was one of the nicest blokes you could wish to meet. Polite, well mannered, courteous and kind, Ernie was a long-standing member of the Vets and was everybody's friend. He would give you every encouragement as a playing partner whilst he quietly got on with his own game. Whether it be a cold, wet winter's morning for a medal, a summer trophy, an inter Club game or the Club annual dinner you could count on his presence, speaking oceans for his commitment and support. And it didn't stop at golf for he collected for charities including the annual Remembrance Day collection tin at the hotel reception. He fought his illness nobly, occasionally joining us socially towards the end. Just a few of us, representing the Club were able to say our farewell with Louise, the family and friends in August. You'll be forever remembered, Ernie. Thanks for all that you gave us.

George Paulson

Hall of Fame

We've had a difficult year but persevered. The accolades go to:

Monthly Medal

	Division 1	Division 2
May Winner Runner Up	Nick Getting Nigel Messett	George Paulson Les Harvey
June	Chris Reeves John Tavener	Brian Roberts John Gill
July	Les Ropke Ken Boyden	Alan Johnson Bruce Blackhall
August Paulson	Les Ropke Ken Boyden	George Bruce Blackhall
September	Chris Reeves Les Ropke	Ian Booker Surinder Nagi
October	Chris Reeves Ed Collins	Nick Getting Roger Wells
November	Chris Reeves Nigel Messett	Roy Misra Chris Watts
December	Les Ropke No Runner Up	Roger Wells Mac McRae
Presidents Challenge Cup George Boulter Trophy. Par Bogey Comp Kelly Shield.	Winner Ed Collins Winner Les Ropke Winner Ken Boyden Winner Roger Wells.	Runner Up Bob Lyndon Runner Up Bob Lyndon Runner Up Les Harvey Runner Up Ian Booker
Aggregate In Pairs	Winners George Paulson & Brian Mustchin Runner Up Tony Murphy & Nigel Messett	
Club Championship Christmas Competition Order Of Merit	Winner Les Ropke Winner Les Ropke Winner Les Ropke.	Runner Up Andres Holgado Runner Up Chris Watts Runner Up Nigel Messett

9 Hole League
Eclectic

Winner Nigel Messett
Div 1 Winner. Les Ropke
Div 2 Winner. Nick Getting

Runner Up George Paulson
Runner Up Ken Boyden.
Runner Up Ed Collins

All we can say in the difficult circumstances is a very big thanks to all and congratulations to the winners. Special recognition goes to Les Ropke for the standard and consistency of his game throughout the year. Well done Les, much deserved, and always a pleasure to play with you.

It is great too to see such a wide spread of members in our 'hall of fame' including just half of our new members Surrinder Nagi, Roy Misra, Roger Wells and Brian Mustchin. It's a well done to them and to everyone with a thank you for entering the competitions and playing with such a good spirit. And thanks to Roger for collating and overseeing the cards, a thankless task done with skill and enthusiasm!

From the Committee

Though somewhat hampered by COVID restrictions during the year your committee continued to meet on a quarterly basis via zoom up until June & in person at Coulsdon Manor from July onwards. The AGM also took place over zoom.

In its first full year of operation the World Handicap System interfaced remarkably smoothly with Master Scoreboard and credit for this complex transition must especially go to Roger Harding & Barry Townsend.

Graham Sigley resigned as Chairman at the December meeting with this role being added to that of President and filled by George Paulson.

Paul Nicholson

Handicap Committee

We have now taken on board the 2019 rule changes with positive feedback from members that the game is quicker and better for them. We are adapting to the World Handicap System (WHS) and a credit to everyone on our achievements in this challenge. Just to recap:

Handicap Index (HI). The HI you have is worked out from the best eight scores of the last twenty scores you have entered. There is a very useful aid, which is the 'MyEG' app – it is very easy to download onto your mobile phone. You will see your list of twenty scores, eight of which are highlighted with a green disc. These are the best eight scores after taking account of the course condition adjustment which affects the course rating on the day. Each time you enter a new score it goes to the top of the list and the last one drops off. The best eight scores are again taken as the basis of your handicap index (HI).

Course Handicap (CH). To get your CH, wherever you play, you look up your HI on the board provided, making sure you choose the correct tee, and you will find your course handicap (CH). This in effect is taking into account the difficulty of the course. You play to

your CH when you are playing a supplementary i.e. non-competition round.

Playing Handicap (PH). If however you are playing in a competition, you use your playing handicap (PH). This is worked out by multiplying your CH by 0.95 to give you your PH for that competition round. Your gross score is however used by England Golf to determine any adjustment to your HI. (Note: the adjustment factor is different for fourball (0.85) and individual match play formats (1.0)).

To address comments on white tees for competitions, other than a few specific competitions, division 1 will play off whites and div 2 off the yellows.

One other point I would like to bring to your attention is I would like you to continue sending me your scorecards and entering your score on master scoreboard as you do now.

Roger Harding
Chairman, Handicap Committee

A special mention is needed in support of the Committee due to their hard work to keep the handicapping, competition rules and course and card marking etiquette to the highest standards. The many of us who have been and/or still are members of other clubs will acknowledge the necessity and quality of the Committee's efforts with appreciation. And a big thank you to everyone who has marked, copied, sent and entered scores on Master scoreboard after our competitions.

Ed.

Greens Committee

The Greens contractor Turfrite finished in August so Rob is building his team and doing his best in difficult circumstances. At least the course has stayed open without any temporaries. The greens in particular have been very well maintained, though there are a few problems with fungal infection (the small brown patches) which has been treated. Work on the greenside bunkers will be completed in the Spring followed by the fairway bunkers by Summer. The GM has said that he wants to make further improvements; we wait to see. All in all though I think we should be pleased with the hard work Rob and his team have put into making the course playable.

Mike Jordan
Greens Committee Representative

Matches and Awaydays

With all of the distractions in 2021, it was difficult to keep the published Fixture program as we could. Well we did it! We managed to play all 6 home matches, 6 away matches and 5 internal matches, the Hector Fudge Trophy, the Lightbody Trophy, the Ladies Texas Scramble, the Tony Boniface Trophy and one match vs CCLGC. We managed to dent the pride of some of our opposition and likewise so did they ours! All round it was a great year.

For 2022 I have arranged matches with our friends at Addington Court, Mitcham, Woldingham, North Down, Lingfield Park, The Artisans and the Coulsdon Ladies. I am also hoping to arrange some away days but more information on that later in the year.

We plan some changes regarding club matches. First on hospitality, when you play you are also providing after match hospitality as we would expect of our guests when playing away. Unfortunately last year we sadly dropped the ball on a number of occasions, and it was noticed. Please also remember that it is club etiquette to buy the first round of drinks for our guests after a home match.

The second change is regarding the club attire. We are planning for badged club shirts, jumpers, fleeces and hats to be available for all. Representing our club in the same way others clubs do by wearing our club colours will not only make us look like a team, but maybe play like a team and hopefully we will have greater success this year!!

Thirdly I would like to introduce a change to the booking format for matches. All clubs play teams of 12 players. Previously on Master Scoreboard there were 12 playing spaces and some spaces for reserve and bookings were based on a "first come, first served" basis. For 2022 this will change and you will see the limit on Master Scoreboard for entering matches increase to more than 12 removing the necessity to have reserves and give other members the opportunity to enter their names. We will still only enter 12 players on the day. I would like to develop this into a selection process to allow stronger teams to play but this is likely to take a little while to set up. I would appreciate any suggestions/discussion for ideas from you, our club members, to go forward with this.

All in all we have another exciting year of golf with more opportunities for everyone to attend and enjoy our club programme improved as above. Make the most of it and enrol in the matches when you can.

This year we will not be printing cards but the calendar is available to all on our Coulsdon Court Vet Site <http://www.coulsdonvetsgolfclub.co.uk/>. Go to Master scoreboard and then into "Forthcoming Fixtures".

Enjoy your golf

Mike Jordan
Match Secretary

Membership

Though a difficult year for new membership, we have welcomed several new members into our club and they have settled in really well. Moreover, if you have any friends, neighbours or relatives that would like to join us why not ask them to get in touch with me (details on the website)

As you may know Selsdon Park has now closed from where we were hoping to attract several new players. However, they decided that Farleigh golf club suited their needs better. Can't win 'em all!

Nigel Messett
Membership Secretary

Welfare and Hotel Liaison

Welfare

This year we said farewell to Ernie Smeeth. Four members attended his funeral with appreciation expressed by the family. We have had a small number of isolated Covid cases and a number of illnesses and ailments. We have maintained a contact with those who have had more severe illness.

Hotel Liaison

The new General Manager, Neil Wootton arrived in July and the 4-Clubs Liaison Group met with him in September. He is more determined than his predecessors in making change and delivering improvements. Termination of the Turfrite greenkeeping contract has made available extra funds for additional staff and course investment which he is intent on continuing. We shall see improvements this year. He will be upgrading the changing room and toilet facilities using additional funds from the hotel owners. Neil is keen on bringing improvements to the catering standards and value for money. Watch this space??

On the purchase of the freeholds for the hotel and course, the hotel owners are still in negotiation with the Council. Every indication is that the deal will complete, more than likely this year. We are therefore keeping in close contact with the local councillor and residents associations (OCRA and HADRA) to ensure that as a minimum golf facilities continue to be provided.

George Paulson
Hotel Liaison

And Finally

A very big thank you to all our members for bringing such a good spirit to the Club even at this tricky time. We have an excellent membership, and a focused Committee which addresses members' concerns, organizes the club's business and thinks ahead to bring change for the better. We have benefited significantly from a first class handicap committee and match, membership, secretary and treasurer officers. I'm sure you'll join me in giving John and his charity our full support this year.

Stay in touch using the website www.coulsdonvetsgolfclub.co.uk for current information throughout 2022.

With everyone on the Committee, can I wish all our membership an enjoyable golfing year.

George Paulson
Ed.