

## SGC NEWSLETTER – MAY 2023

Welcome to my first newsletter as Secretary of Somerset Golf Captains. I am a bit late to this party, it has to be said, but I have been very busy picking up my new “job”. As a result, this is quite a long newsletter and I promise to make future editions more frequent and a little shorter.

I must pay tribute to our outgoing Secretary, John Beer, who has not only done an amazing job since he was elected by you in 2020 but has been exemplary in helping me pick up the reins. John also guided Ian Gover, our newly appointed web site manager, through an equally complex handover. Good luck on the back benches John and enjoy the well-earned rest!

Our year so far has been beset by poor weather up until the match at Hampshire which at last bore some resemblance to Spring. We held our “Spring” (sic) Meeting with 64 Captains taking part on a cold and rainy day at Mendip Spring Golf Club in early April. Despite the bad weather and a very busy course and clubhouse, they enjoyed good food and company and attended the AGM, held after the golf concluded. Well done to Graham Hewlett and Dougie Woods from Worlebury who amassed 41 points to win the 4 ball better ball competition.

### **A New Committee**

The 2023 AGM saw a new Committee elected as follows:

President – Roy Parmiter

Vice-President – Iain Robertson

Captain of Captains – David Bate

Captain Elect – Mike Rossiter

Treasurer – Paul Chesney

Secretary – Clive Stilwell

Ian Gover has been appointed by the Exec Committee as Web Site Manager and Rob Fear as Fixture Secretary. Some minor changes to the SGC Rules will be brought to the next AGM to sweep up the evolution of the management of the group and update some of the original Rules from the 1960s which are no longer relevant in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century!

We all look forward to serving you during the coming year.

### **2023 Selection**

The selection process ran very smoothly thanks to John Beer and Ian Gover whose technical support was invaluable in making sure the games were shared equitably amongst those of you who made yourselves available. I was surprised by the sheer volume of requests and the care taken to ensure that selections reflected the team spaces available and the matches already allocated to those Captains who were being considered.

### **Early Fixtures**

At the time of writing, after 3 matches we have halved two and lost one. It may seem relegation form on the face of it, but we have already retained two trophies (against Oxfordshire and Hampshire) and only lost one match after perhaps our longest journey to Perranporth to face Cornwall. Given that our last trip west saw a losing whitewash, the loss by the narrowest of margins, 4 ½, to 3 ½, is progress!

We have upcoming home fixtures against Surrey and Wiltshire as well as two away matches on a mini tour against Warwickshire and Hereford/Shropshire. Let's hope we can break our 2023 duck. And a big event for SGC is on 13<sup>th</sup> June when we host the Four Counties competition. Good luck to all of those from SGC who are playing in these events.

### **Emails and Payments**

The Executive Committee is continuing to simplify and improve the process of collecting match fees and finalising teams by sending out emails a little earlier, asking for confirmation that you are playing and for payment to be made via BACS. We know there are a handful of you who are unable to pay via BACS and we will continue to meet your specific needs. But most of you have been brilliant so far this year in paying when requested, which has really helped reduce last-minute panics and eased the burden for our Match Managers checking whether players are going to attend a match. Please keep it up!

### **Captains Invitation at Oake Manor – 20<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

After an amazing day last year, we have secured plenty of spaces for the 2023 Captains Invitation and there are tee times still available if you have not booked. The guys at Oake Manor do a fine job of hosting us and the food is worth the journey alone. Contact me with the details of your guest and preferred tee time and I will slot you in, even if you did not express an interest earlier in the year.

### **Clothing**

Although I am hoping to update our entire range of clothing over the coming year or so, I have been successful in securing a deal with ProQuip to restock the black short sleeved rain tops (which proved so popular) with their Tempest model. We have been able to keep the price the same (£56) so if you are interested in ordering one, please let me know and I can include you in the first order. They will have the SGC logo on the chest and come in all sizes from Small through to XXXL so there's one for you there somewhere!

### **STOP PRESS!!!!**

The Annual Dinner will be held on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024 at Taunton Rugby Club – our guest speaker will be a former World Champion in his sport. Watch this space!

Kind regards and good golfing,

Clive Stilwell

Secretary, Somerset Golf Captains

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