

Portal Golf Club

Captains Log

Star Date : 12th February 2024



3 weeks as Captain and there has been a realisation that actually playing golf is only a minor part of it – meetings and emails are taking over! On the bright side, my first drive as Captain did find its way into the middle of the fairway but I then proceeded to visit all parts of the course thereafter!

Phil Earl did point out that one of my responsibilities as Captain was to check the loo paper in the gents toilets – not sure if he was joking or not but I've added it to my to do list anyway!!!

Myself and Lady Captain have had a number of productive meetings with Macdonalds Management including Rhys Townsend (Hotel Manager), Gareth Bevan (Regional Director) and Jamie Anton (National Director of Golf). The discussions have included dealing with certain 'here and now issues' but also looking forward to the year ahead. It feels like we are all of a similar view on what we want to achieve.

I make no apology for choosing the bunker at the front of the 5th as the Captains Bunker for this year, a voluntary donation of £2 would be appreciated when you get back to the clubhouse.

Please support the Quiz night on 9th March, I will be there with my usual target of trying to avoid coming last!

I'm still having sleepless nights about actually hitting the ball at the Drive-In, distance to beat is that of Mr Pat Roper in 2016.



9th March

The first social event of the year is The Portal Golf Club Quiz hosted by Mr Pat Roper. This will be held in the Castle Suite in the Hotel, heating and a hot meal will be on offer, 19:00 start. This is open to non members so please bring family and friends. (Cost : £15)

6th April

The traditional season opener – Captain's Drive In followed by the Perry Cup, a shotgun start Texas Scramble with our very first Captain, Gil Perry, awarding the Perry Cup to the winners. Please come along, this is a great event where all are welcome (7 Day, 5 Day as well as New Members). My job on the day, supplying everyone with complimentary drinks on the course.

26th April – Save the Date

We are holding an evening with Andrew Murray (the Golfer not the Tennis Player). This would be an early evening start with maybe a putting clinic, chipping competition, food and a Q&A. Watch this space. Proceeds will go to club funds.



Around the Course

The courses in my opinion are looking good with the winter Programme progressing very well.

Some of the things you may have noticed:

- ***On the Prem : Area to left of 18th tee cleared, bushes around 17th pond removed, new alternative tee ready for turf on 6th, bank at back of 4th cleared, regrowth removed from pond on 18th, 9th fairway widened (after the bell). Proposed buggy paths on 16th and 18th have been mown in to agree their position.***
- ***On the Champ : New steps on the 12th, area at back of 9th green tidied up, new steps on 1st tee and not to mention starting to clear the fallen tree on the 14th***

There have been a few new members join recently who have cited their frustrations at their previous courses for the closures or part closures due to rain, we are very lucky at Portal.



As you will have seen the membership renewals have been issued. Don't forget to renew before the end of February if you want to be entered in the draw for a free 2025 membership. The draw will take place at the Captains Drive-In on 6th April.

Macdonalds have agreed a reciprocal arrangement with Nefyn Golf Club, £20 a round. I've never played Nefyn myself but have heard nothing but good things about it. A 2 hour drive but well worth it.



The reconstituted Competitions and Handicap Team had their first meeting on 29th January – I joined to say my farewells! I left knowing Mr Angelo Peccolo has everything in hand – or there are other people on the team that have things in hand that Mr Peccolo will claim the credit for!

The weather and course conditions have been good to us with all competitions running as planned. Singles Competitions are well attended but pairs competitions not so, we need to look at why that is.

The team are reviewing the implications of the WHS changes that will be implemented at the start of April – these will be communicated to all once agreed.

Congratulations to the following recent winners : Steve Nettleton, Scott Mulligan, Paul Bertinshaw/John Verdin, Steve Nettleton (Again), Mr President (Neil Tidd) and Paul Gott.



Seniors

The Monday roll-up continues to be well attended with the fight for a few more Order of Merit points at the top of the table heating up. The Winter Gross and Nett Eclectics are also very tight at the top.

The Chris Triggs winter knockout is also nearing its conclusion with Alan Groves, Ian Cunningham, David Mitchell, Gordon Holland and Phil Earl all still in the running.

If you are a member, 55 or over and can make it down to the club on a Monday morning (about 08:00), please come down and join the seniors, they really are a friendly bunch (well, most of them are !!)



And finally

If playing in a 4 ball, and assuming an average gross score of 90, if every player reduces the time between shots by 5 seconds, the round will be 30 minutes quicker.

Did you know if your ball is moved by the wind you need to play it as it lies but if moved by artificially propelled air, you have to replace it (without penalty).

And one for Mr Pat Roper – if your club breaks on your backswing, even if you then play your shot, you can re-take it without penalty. If it breaks on your downswing, tough, it counts as a shot.

But not every golfer can be expected to know the rules:

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/golf/article-13036957/Rory-McIlroy-suffers-bizarre-two-shot-penalty-rare-golf-rule-opening-round-T-Pebble-Beach-Pro-world-No-2-admitting-didnt-know-law-changed.html>