

SbN December Captains' Newsletter

Each month, our three Captains – Sam Volk, Bev Ellender and Graham Cork - share with us their news from the previous few weeks and take a quick look ahead to the upcoming month. But, remember, general news, competitions and team updates will appear as they happen on the members website at <https://sbngolfmembers.co.uk/> so bookmark the page and visit regularly – you can also book tee times from there and check your members card.

Men's Captain, Sam Volk

Hi Everyone, I hope you are all having a great month and gearing up nicely for Christmas! It feels like the Drive-In was an age ago, I want to thank everyone again for coming and making the day one I will never forget! My drive on the 2nd tee went around 10 yards so I narrowly avoided disaster!

I would like to introduce everyone to this years team captains, I have included their email addresses so if anyone would like to be considered for selection please reach out to them. It would be great to see some fresh faces playing in the teams along with the seasoned pro's (not literally)

Curry Cup – Rob Kilgour – robertkilgour@live.co.uk

Lesley Wood – Kevin Hitchman – kev.hitch@gmail.com

Jubilee – Steve Hale & Ian Smith – shale7762@yahoo.co.uk iansmith.playgolf@gmail.com

Norman Plumb – John Sandford – john.sandford@hotmail.com

We are still looking for a captain for the Thornton Cup, if anyone would like to put themselves forward please email myself at samvolk1987@gmail.com

I would like to thank Graham Cork, Seniors Captain, for the invitation to the Seniors & Ladies mixed comp which was a fantastic day! Him and Bev Ellender did a great job and raised some good money for their charities. The catering team on the day also need a special mention as the roast turkey was excellent!

I am hoping the early weather forecast for Yuletide this Saturday improves throughout the week, just to remind everyone there is a breakfast beforehand. There will be Baileys on the 9th so please help yourself to a Christmas drink on me! I will leave a collection pot out for St Helena Hospice, any donations will be hugely appreciated.

A few members have mentioned bunkers not being raked, just a polite reminder for everyone to rake them please, or better yet, stop hitting your ball into them ;)

Last but not least, as promised, a big congratulations to Stuart Taylor for his incredible hole in one on the 7th Gainsborough!

I hope everyone has a fantastic month both on the course and off, hopefully see you all soon

Ladies Captain, Bev Ellender

Ladies captain's newsletter November /December Well, where has this last year gone? It only seems five minutes ago that I was Vice captain and all of a sudden my Captains Drive in was upon us.

The ladies drive -in was on Thursday 6th November, the day dawned bright and sunny and after our annual meeting and handover, I took to the tee for my drive with much barracking on my back swing from the ladies I managed to hit an okay drive! Then after our golf we celebrated in the Champs lounge with Buck fizz and nibbles. The main driving on Saturday was again a beautiful sunny autumn day. Sam and I approach the tee with definite nerves! But again, I managed to hit an okay drive.....whew ... a great sense of relief!! Congratulations to Martin Hilliard who won a bottle of champagne for guessing 167 yards, the distance of my drive.

We are now in full swing for our Christmas festivities having just had a fun time at the ladies and seniors 13 hole Greensomes competition, even if the weather was slightly damp we enjoyed afterwards a lovely Christmas lunch the first for many of us this year, I'm sure, and then presented the winners, Nick Wright and Jacqui Trudgett with the Roy and Edna Martyn trophy. We are now about to hold our two Christmas socials a 9Hole and 18hole Greensomes followed by lunch (and games!)and of course our Christmas Jumpers !

I'd like to thank Jill Pottle for all her hard work as last year's ladies captain and I'm looking forward to working with my vice captain Liz Kiddy this coming year.

Wishing you all an enjoyable festive season and a happy, healthy, and great golfing 2026 .

Seniors Captain, Graham Cork

Welcome to the last newsletter before Christmas. Preparations are in full swing, not least at the resort, who have done their usual magnificent job in making the place look very festive.

I am pleased (and relieved) to report that the Drive In went well, and many thanks to all who participated in the drive distance sweep (185.5 yards if you were asking!). We raised £270 for Bowel Cancer UK, a great start to the year. Congratulations to Simon Merriam, who won Division 1 with 34 points, two clear of Rob Davies, with Barry Hitchcock a point further back on 31. The captain's relief of not putting his drive into the car park was evident as he won Division 2 with 38 points, with Dick Lumsden 2nd on 36, just ahead of Rob Swan on 35.

The Hi-Lo Pairs Greensome produced a rather disappointing turnout: a pity, as in my opinion Greensomes is an enjoyable format – the excitement of foursomes, but with the “insurance” of two tee shots. Nonetheless, there was some excellent scoring, not least by Mark Clark and Ian Bickers, who strolled away to victory with an impressive 41 points, five clear of their nearest challengers Tony Carman and Rob Ogles.

On the 24th, we had the annual Seniors and Ladies Mixed Greensome. This is a fun event, played over 13 holes followed by a Christmas lunch, and this year's renewal was no exception. The competition was extremely close, a single point separating the top three pairs: well played Tony Emms and Jacqui Trudgett, who edged out Terry Mitchell and Bev Thompson on countback. This was a very enjoyable day and I would encourage as many of you as possible to play in next year's event.

Coming up very soon is our last Stableford of the year, which has attracted a strong field – 52 entrants as of Sunday evening. Let's hope the BBC Weather forecast for the day (not always the most reliable) is accurate on this occasion – 10 degrees C and sunny.

Our last competition for the year is the Yuletide Scramble on 10th December. This is another fun format and is free to enter. We try and raise funds for the Sudbury Food Bank, donations for which are, as in previous years, coordinated by Roger Davies. If you wish to donate, please see Roger or me at the club. Please note that this is **not now a drawn competition**.

Following the Yuletide Scramble competition, Kevin Price will making a presentation to the Nayland First Responders (his charity for his year of captaincy). This should take place at approximately 1:30pm and it would be great to see as many seniors as possible there to see the culmination of his efforts over the past year.

It just remains for me to wish you all and your families very happy Christmas and New Year.