

Studley Wood Seniors' Section

Captain's Report to the AGM 5th March 2019

Reflections on the 2018-19 Golfing Year.

Firstly I would like to give my thanks to Bob Clarke, Mike Atkins, Paul Doré, Stephen Capaldi, Stephen Painter, Peter Nicholls, Roy Fulton and Martin Wilkinson for their work as officers and Committee Members and the tremendous support and advice they have given me throughout this year. Mike has given up his role as Treasurer this year to move on to be the Club Men's Captain. I thank him for all his work on the Committee and wish him great success in his new role.

We successfully completed all 18 of our planned Inter Club Matches this year. Making time to squeeze in an extra home match with Harleyford at the end of the season, following an enjoyable away day at their Club organised by Peter Nicholls. This year we will play a home and away match with Harleyford, and my thanks to Rowley Willis who helped us set up this new fixture. Following the lead of Peter Crook and Paul Dore, we trialled two fixtures featuring casual after match meals held in the bar, in playing clothes. These were with Donnington Grove and Harleyford. And whilst the meals were not entirely successful the format was and will be repeated for 2019. Most of the rest of the clubs allow a "smart/casual" dress code for the meal now, with only The Wychwood and Burford stipulating a Jacket and Tie dress code. The meals for all matches at Studley are either smart/casual or playing clothes affairs. 43 Seniors participated in at least one of these matches; they are good fun and played in a friendly and sporting fashion and I commend them to everyone.

I am pleased to say the Tuesday and Thursday Roll Ups have continued to be popular with an average attendance of 29.4, much in line with previous years. We introduced a new "Bonus Ball Game", which has largely taken the place of the much feared "Yellow Ball Game", however we did manage to sneak in one yellow ball game this year! In line with previous agreements we scheduled in 33 Qualifier Games during the months of April to October and played 32 of them.

It has been a busy and full year for the Seniors, many of us supported the Club with help during the Euro Tour visit to Studley Wood in June. We practised and prepared ourselves for the introduction of the New Rules of Golf. We raised £1,156.25 for the Club Charity, Sobel House, at our Seniors Charity Day. We enjoyed two excellent residential golf tours and two Away Days, organised by Peter Nicholls. A successful Match (albeit we lost the trophy), against the Ladies Section, organised by Martin Wilkinson. We survived the Beast from the East and battled through the following hot dry summer, enjoying some excellent golf on a fabulous course with wonderfully fast and true greens. The envy of most of the teams that visited us.

I am very grateful for the warm support of Ken, Baljit, Paul Fitzgerald, Steve Davies, Tom, Iveta, Adam, Ian and all the staff at the Club.

My sincere thanks to you all for your support and especially those who helped occasionally with the Roll Ups when the committee were otherwise engaged; Ed, Bernie, Roy and Pat. To Trevor Hansson for his help with the Winter League results sheet. To Bill Taunton who stood in as Match Day Captain and all the other past Captains who did a stint as the Ghosts of Christmas Past at our Christmas Lunch. A chance for Bill to tell his Mersey Ferry joke twice in one year!

Finally, Bob Clarke came across a couple of interesting facts whilst he was running the handicap review this year; The most improved player in the Seniors Section in 2018 was Ben Pritchard, who reduced his handicap by 21.5%, from 27 to 21.2. Proving that you can teach an old dog new tricks!

However, the most active player in the Section was Steve Willingham, who played an amazing 48 qualifiers in 2018! Hats Off and well done to them both.

I thank Bob Clarke for all his support and sound advice and wish him every success with his year as the Seniors' Captain.

Steve Atkins
2018 Seniors' Captain
5th March 2019