

Captain - 1979

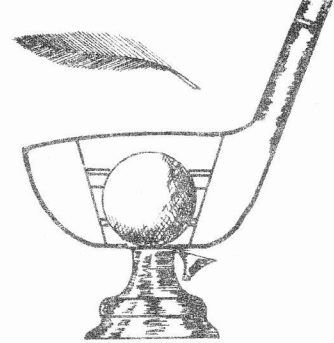
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Treasurer:

A.D. Watkins, 25 Wilverley Crescent, New Malden, Surrey. Tel: 01-942 9837

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LONDON STATIONERS GOLFING SOCIETY

Secretary's Report for 1979

The Spring Meeting was held, for the first time, at Burnham Beeches and 26 members and guests participated. The course was in excellent shape with very fast greens but the weather provided the biggest test. A cold bright morning soon gave way to persistent and heavy snow and hail showers topped off with a spectacular thunderstorm in the afternoon. Despite these rigours everyone safely completed the course and it was a most enjoyable meeting. The Jack Ryman Cup went to Harold Smith (32 pts). Eric Hagger was runner-up with 29. The Guest Prize was won by Mr. Tony Slark (36) with Mr. Bob Adams second with 33. The Greensomes were won by Mr. D. Wimsett & Mr. H. Homer (33) followed by Joe Foley & Bob Adams with 32 pts.

The Annual General Meeting was held in the evening and Alan Eustace took over the captaincy from Geoffrey Young with Jimmy Imray elected as Vice-Captain.

The next meeting was a match against the Midland Stationers at the Church Brampton course, Northampton. This was played in high winds and showers. The greens were undergoing treatment but the course was otherwise in immaculate condition providing a stern test. We were not able to reverse the 1978 result and went down by 3 matches to 2. Our team comprised Messrs Imray, Rouse, Morgan, Rourke, Palmer, Gravestock, Johns, Young, Tollit, N and Tollit, M.

Our weather problems were not yet over as we found out for the Publisher's match on June 13th. Heavy rain for the previous few days made the course unplayable leaving both teams in the clubhouse gloomily contemplating a wasted day. We were extremely fortunate in contacting the Richmond Golf Club Secretary who, with only 30 minutes notice managed to accommodate all 22 of us, somehow producing a snack lunch, two rounds of golf and a Dinner in the evening to save the day. The weather brightened up too. The result of these matches is never taken seriously as we usually supply the opposition with our own members to make up their team. These 'renegades' usually play their best golf in this situation and were largely responsible for the very close result of 8-7 in our favour. We owe a debt to the Richmond Secretary and his staff for the way they rescued what could have been a miserable, golfless day. Those of you who missed playing this lovely course (home of the Stage Golfing Society) will have another opportunity in 1980.

Alan Eustace's home course is Walton Heath and it was to there that a record number of 41 members and guests assembled for Captain's Day. This time the weather was kind: sunny, warm and dry. We were honoured by the presence of the Walton Heath Secretary, Bill McCrea, as a guest of Lionel Scott and he made the most of his course knowledge by winning prizes in both rounds with marvellous scores off a 3 handicap.

Continued ..

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The traditions and grandeur of Walton Heath inspired many and only one point covered 5 contenders for the President's Trophy. Glad to say thanks to the Captain and Derek Watkins the arrangements ran smoothly and I think everyone had a very good day. The President's Trophy went to John A. Young (34 pts) The four runners-up were Harold Smith, Eric Hagger, George Walder and Richard Johns with 33. Guest Prize: W.E. McCrea (36) Runner-up P. Shute (also 36 pts) Afternoon Greensomes: L.R. Scott & W.E. McCrea (39). Runners-up: R. Osborne and G. Sweet (35 pts)

We concluded the season with a further visit to the delightful woodland West Byfleet course and 26 participants had good weather and another enjoyable Annual Dinner in the evening. The John Bond Cup was won by Roy Osborne (38 pts) Runner-up was Derek Watkins (34) Guest Prize: G. Sweet (36) Runners-up: C. Palmer & J. Hackshall (34) The Greensomes were won by D.Rouse/G.A.Young (36) and J.Foley/R.Adams came second with 34 pts.

Roy Osborne also collected the Guildford Trophy for the best aggregate over 3 meetings (24-32-38 = 94) and the Spicer Cup for the best single score of any meeting. Alan Eustace won the Liberty Trophy for the best gross aggregate for the Spring & Autumn meetings with 22-25 = 47.

So concluded another pleasant year and I thank Alan Eustace for maintaining the high standard of Captaincy we sometimes take for granted and also to Derek Watkins for his tireless assistance behind the scenes.

For those who have not yet made a note here are the venues for 1980:

Wednesday 30th April - Burnham Beeches (Slough)

Tuesday 8th July - Richmond (Sudbrook Park)

Wednesday 3rd Sept. - R.A.C. Country Club (Epsom)

I am sorry to report there are no matches this year as both the Midland Stationers and the Publishers are in difficulty and are unable to field a team. This is disappointing but somewhat of a relief as we too sometimes have to scratch around to make up our side. Personally I would favour having a fourth Member's meeting to replace the matches but I would first like to see an increase in the active membership before instituting this.

If you have any thoughts on this, or any other matter, what better time to air them than at the Annual General Meeting at Burnham Beeches?

Look forward to seeing you all then.

Richard Johns