

## THE OXFORDSHIRE GOLF CAPTAINS



### MATCH SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR COMMITTEE MEETING AT TADMARTON HEATH GOLF CLUB ON 16<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2017

#### (1) 2017 CLUB CAPTAINS

Although 6 of our 2017 golf club Captains have now joined our ranks and one has so far declined, the remainder are remarkably quiet. As always, I am anxious about the home Captains' invitations to matches and events, and think now is the time to try and get some on board, especially those with early fixtures at their clubs, ie Henley, Tadmarton Heath and the Springs.

#### (2) 2017 FIXTURES

I have re-confirmed all our 2017 matches, both with the Counties and the Oxfordshire golf clubs who are scheduled to host events during the coming season. Apart from one club who couldn't find our match in their diary and denied all knowledge of it, even after I returned their February 2016 email confirmation, I am delighted to report that they all have the same dates and venues as do we; so far, so good!

The initial response to our "availability" circulation of the calendar was once again very slow but, following a reminder last week-end, I have now received a total of 101 replies, which compares with 97 at the same point last year. So far, my respondents have asked for 573 of the 336 available spaces, so we shouldn't be short of players!

For events, although they don't always do what they say, our members have indicated that the following numbers will be attending our internal events - last year's numbers at this time are shown in brackets;

Spring 60 (62) - President's Day 62 (62) - Mixed 24 (22) - Captain's Day 69 (72) - Autumn 53 (55) - Founders 16 (21)

I'll give a little more time for late-comers to drift in before making the final match selections, and hopefully I should be able to circulate the whole list of teams in the next three to four weeks.

#### (3) 2018 CALENDAR

Having taken Committee advices on venues etc., I have spent some time since the New Year resolving our 2018 inter-County matches and internal events; you will see the fruits of that in the separately circulated 2018 calendar and the only outstanding dates concern some of the "away" events.

Not all these arrangements went smoothly and there was some reticence apparent from two of our golf clubs. It was a reminder to me that our relationship and understanding with quite a few of our clubs is very delicately balanced and could easily be lost; we should be alert to guard against anything being done or said which might imply to our hosts that the courtesies we are offered is being taken too lightly.

#### (4) THE CORNWALL TOUR

It was something of a severe shock to receive a telephone call last October from Jane Tarrant, the joint owner of the Trebarwith Hotel in Newquay, informing me that she and Nigel had sold the hotel for re-development and that it would not re-open as a hotel.

Trying to find suitable accommodation in a strategic position, at a reasonable cost and with sufficient rooms for our large group took some time to resolve. However, I eventually settled for the rather more expensive Carlyon Bay hotel. This made sense, not only because it is the venue of our third match but also because it will also provide free golf for those members not playing in matches; it also negates the need to hire a coach for our return journey to the hotel after the final match.

The appropriate deposits have been paid to Carlyon Bay hotel, where we are staying from Sunday, 7th May until the morning of Thursday 11th May 2017.

The price increase did not seem to impact on our members' enthusiasm to the extent that I had anticipated and everything currently seems to remain on course. The total entourage is the same as in 2015 and 2016, that is to say a full house 35 strong, of whom one is a lady and only one is a non-golfer, although that might be stretching the imagination somewhat looking at the remaining 34!

As usual, a full itinerary, with all the satnav references etc., will be prepared and circulated in plenty of time before our departure date.

#### (5) THE CAPTAIN'S AUTUMN TOUR

The Dartmouth Hotel Golf and Spa is undoubtedly an excellent venue and gets superb reviews; we will be staying in the hotel from Sunday 10th to Thursday 14th September 2017.

However, I was a trifle disappointed with the numbers showing an interest in our first venture under the new branding as "The Captain's Tour." Currently, we do have 20 Captains who will be travelling with us and, because the numbers were less than expected, I trawled through everyone who has either attended our autumn trip since 2012, or whom I thought might be interested, but without success.

I'm still unsure how the misunderstanding arose, but I was under the very clear impression that the price I was quoted covered golf for three days on three different golf courses, and that is how I sold it to our members. This transpired not to be so, but for three days' golf solely on the hotel course. To play two other courses would have involved further costs of around £75 per head. Once this was uncovered, guilt prevailed and I balloted members on their wishes; all but three voted either to stay on the one course or to go along with the majority, so that is what we are doing.

The deposits have been paid and we can still add extra numbers whilst rooms are available, so should you know of anyone who might be interested, please put them in touch with me as soon as possible.

#### (6) SPRING NEWSLETTER

Would Committee please consider if it might be appropriate to draft a Spring Newsletter, perhaps for consumption after the circulation of the match team sheets? If so, I will happily do so in the coming weeks and give you all, prior to publication, the opportunity to make any additions, alterations and deletions that you might consider appropriate.