

THE OXFORDSHIRE GOLF CAPTAINS



MATCH SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR THE 2021 A.G.M.

The County Matches 2021

Covid-19 seriously impacted upon our early season golfing intentions, and although one of the Cornish matches, together with those against Devon, Dorset and Cambridge, were all inevitably eventually cancelled, the remaining 16 were either re-scheduled or played as planned.

Many long-standing and happy relationships were renewed during the course of the summer and, as they always do, the matches cemented our relationships, not only with our adjoining Counties, but also with our participating golf clubs.

My thanks, as always, go to all of you who represented our group in matches, especially those who make my life so much easier by agreeing to fill in, often at the very last minute, when others unavoidably drop out.

Since 2018 we have sadly lost Magnolia Park and Carswell Golf Clubs and additionally Bicester will soon become a 9 holes course, and therefore not suitable for our matches or events. The good news is that we have added Mapledurham as an OGC member club, which means we currently have 17 remaining golf clubs that provide us with courtesy to play our matches on their courses. This is now a very tight fit for our 16 events and home matches, especially in those years when we additionally host the Queen's Jubilee and the Four Counties trophies.

I know I repeat myself, but the mostly happy relationships we enjoy with each of our clubs must neither be assumed nor jeopardised, and should be nurtured on each visit we make to them.

The end of term match result sheet for 2021 looks like this:

MATCH SUMMARY

(Excludes Queen's Jubilee Trophy and the Four Counties)

	PLAYED	WON	HALVED	LOST	GAMES WON	GAMES LOST
HOME	10	6	3	1	56	37
AWAY	6	3	1	2	29	23
ALL	16	9	4	3	85	60

Our three-match series during the Cornish trip in May was Covid reduced to two matches, both of which we managed to win to bring both trophies home for the first time in a number of years.

Sadly, for our Cornish friends, the return series in Oxfordshire in September resulted in a home whitewash, so both trophies were retained and the year's account stood at 5 matches to zero, something I doubt has ever been achieved before.

This year Berkshire hosted the [Four Counties](#) tournament at the lovely Maidenhead Golf Club, and our five scoring pairs returned a score of 206 points (average 41.2 points) which pleasingly meant we won the trophy from Buckinghamshire on 196, Berkshire on 191 and Gloucestershire on 187.

Chris Spearing and Simon Berry were also in a league of their own, winning the Best Pair trophy with 47 points, four points clear of their nearest pursuers.

The [Queen's Jubilee trophy](#) is an individual stableford event for teams of eight players from seven different Golf Captains' Associations. The seven best scores in each team count towards the final score, and this year the event took place at the prestigious West Kent Golf Club in August. The OGC score of 189 points may have only been good enough for third place, but it was only two points behind Essex on 191.

There was terrific compensation for the team, inasmuch that the trophy for the best individual score was taken by Ray Shaw on 39 points, with his team mate, Chris Spearing, in second place with 37 points.

[The Internal Events](#)

Once again this year all our internal events were well supported by our members and, as always, represented an enjoyable break from County matches and produced some most creditable scores.

The full list of winners is as follows:

Date	Event	Host Golf Club	Winner	Points
22-07-2021	Mixed Greensomes	Drayton Park	Bill Major & Ruth MacKay	44
27-07-2021	Captain's Day	Oxford City	Simon Berry	41
04-08-2021	Spring Meeting	Burford	Mike Cahill	44
11-08-2021	President's Day	Hadden Hill	Pip Wilkinson	41
26-08-2021	Autumn Meeting	Studley Wood	Dave Palmer	44
04-09-2018	Founders' Cup	Feldon Valley	Glyn Hall	40
26-08-2021*	Powell Cup	Studley Wood	Drayton Park	115
Season long **	Hookham Trophy		Simon Berry	84

* the best three scores returned by Captains of the same club playing in the Autumn Meeting.

** the best two aggregated scores returned by an individual Captain at the Spring and Autumn meetings and the Captain's and President's Days.

For more details of these events, please visit our *OGC* website, "Internal Events Report 2021."

The remaining internal event, the [Golden Anniversary Knock-out](#) trophy, had to be cancelled this year, basically because Covid-19 restrictions had reduced the number of our playing weeks, and insufficient time was remaining to play all the rounds necessary to find a winner.

Chris Spearing and Simon Berry, having won the trophy in each of the preceding two years, are hopeful that the competition will be renewed in 2022; let's find someone to give them a game next year!!

[The Captain's Autumn Tour 2021](#)

In September our Captain, Graham Robinson, took a party of 24 fellow Captains to Old Thorns Hotel and Golf Course, for his autumn tour; two games at Old Thorns and one at the nearby Blacknest Golf Club made up the tour.

The 2021 tour Champion, as always based on the team result, was your Treasurer, Chris Spearing, who amassed the best two Stableford scores to total 86 points; Robert Stroud and David Ryan were in second place, a mere one point behind the winner.

[The Cornwall Tours 2022](#)

We have sufficient reservations for 36 travellers for our stay at the Carlyon Bay hotel from Sunday afternoon, 15th May, until Thursday morning 19th May, 2022, during which time we will be playing our matches against the Cornish Captains at the Newquay, Mullion and Carlyon Bay Golf Courses.

The list for next year is already pretty full, but if you are interested in travelling, please let me know. For various reasons, people are always dropping out and, at the very worst, I can note your interest for 2023.

The Cornish Captains will be returning to Oxfordshire for three matches at Hadden Hill, the Wychwood and the Cotswolds Golf Clubs from Monday, 12th to Wednesday, 14th September 2022.

[The Captain's Autumn Tour 2022](#)

Rob Daniels, your Captain Elect for 2022, has chosen the beautiful St Pierre Hotel and Golf Club for his Captain's Autumn Tour, which will take place from Monday, 5th to Wednesday, 7th September, 2022. So far, 30 members have indicated their presence and paid their deposits.

Should you wish to attend, that may still be possible, provided that there are still available hotel spaces. You'll need to be speedy though, so please do get in touch with me at roger.sillence@live.co.uk or 01993 776303 as soon as possible.

The 2022 Golfing Season

Early in the New Year you will all be receiving your 2022 golfing calendar, together with the usual return form, upon which you can denote your interest in our 20 matches and all the internal events, so please keep a wary eye on your inbox.

I urge you to speedily complete and return that document so that your choices can be included in the match selection procedure, which takes place just a few weeks after the circulation.

Some returns are received too late every year, which means that some members' priorities cannot always be catered for. As most of you will know, all the match selections are circulated to everyone involved in the early spring, so please make sure that you're all on board in good time.

On reflection, this was a well-salvaged golfing year, in which we managed to join together for most of our matches and all our events. As always, the fun, the camaraderie and bonhomie were all self-evident to everyone who played; thank you all for your contribution to that and may 2022 be just as memorable and enjoyable for all of us.

Roger

Match Secretary

Oxfordshire Golf Captains

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2nd November, 2021

"Membership of the OGC is the best thing that ever came from being the Captain of a golf club."