

## Ravenscroft 2023 Wednesday League

What a summer season it has been. Challenges upon challenges!

At the start of the season, we were unable to dine in the clubhouse. Thankfully the Pembroke Pub is close by, and Sandra (the manageress) very kindly offered us her venue and she did us proud. THANK YOU, SANDRA. This arrangement went on until the end of June albeit we did get to use the clubhouse a couple of times.

Then towards the end of May a fire destroyed a significant and important part of Fort Henry. This resulted in most of the club's greenkeeping machinery being destroyed. Importantly the irrigation system was controlled from the same the location and the green staff had to hand water the greens. The meant that one of our rounds was cancelled, so it was to be 13 instead of 14 rounds.

Thirdly a rather unexpected winter storm blasted through on what might have been our 14<sup>th</sup> (actually 13<sup>th</sup>) week at the start of August. The conditions were awful, winds of 50mph and 5 intrepid leaguers saw a dry window and went for it. Their comments, "one of the most fun rounds of golf as no expectations". That said, Richard managed 36 points! On any other day that would have meant a significant adjustment to his handicap but only 5 cards (their cards) were submitted all day so the WHS algorithm didn't work.

Finally, the first 6 or was it 8 weeks of the season saw a dry north easterly breeze blowing in which meant hardly anyone scored greater than par. Well done Joe in achieving this.

Therefore, we've now played the season and we believe everyone who took part had a great time. We look forward to playing the league in 2024, subject to the club's Management Committee's approval.

### **Notable events during the past season, if not mentioned above.**

The Captain (Howard Cooper) graciously joined us on one evening. Our company was obviously conducive as he shot one of his very best rounds (46 points), he managed a shot better 2 years ago (looking at his playing record on England Golf) otherwise nothing near. Sadly, having achieved this, he has been unable to re-join us due to his other commitments. Hopefully he can come and play with us in 2024 more regularly.

Ladies match – we had a win (9-2). The handicap / shots seem to work in that 2/3rds of the games went to the 18<sup>th</sup> hole. Four of the eleven games were "all square", the rest "1 up" (to the men). In 2022, something similar occurred but the pendulum swung the other way, and the Ladies were the winners. We look forward to the 2024 match.

Scramble – 22 teams took to the course. The weather predictions the weekend before were for 26 degrees and sunshine. As has been the case in 2023, the day was not quite so perfect.

Best 40 club score ever. Well done Paul Rebours achieving a 47 point evening. Since our records began over 12 years ago, we've had a couple of 46 points but never more.

(Posted under NEWS on our website)

Holes in One – none!. Eagles – only one, see below.

So, who won the prizes:

The **Two silver Candlesticks** (ie the **Combined** for both Individual and Team leagues) went to JOE FERNANDES with 63 points, five clear of the field! Joe was the winner in 2022 so he is very keen to see if he can do it again in 2024 (which would be an absolute first). Come on everyone – let's make sure that this doesn't happen?

The extra-large trophy (for the **Individual League**). Yes, JOE FERNANDES achieved this – indeed he has been the leader for most of the season as a result of his consistently good golf in that breeze over the first seven weeks. Joe scored 32 points, six clear of the pack. Commiserations to Richard Summerfield and Anthony Day (both on 26) although Richard obtained more points over 9 rounds.

The **Three Buddha's** (for the **Team League**). Well done JAMIE BREWSTER in winning this with a whole collection of partners. Jamie is a first year Leaguer and we look forward to his future participation with 36 points. Jamie's score was 3 clear of the second place, John Pendergast.

**Gross Eclectic** (the repurposed **Gallichan Propeller** trophy) to PHIL IRVINE with a net score of 61. Phil managed at EAGLE 2 on the 18<sup>th</sup> on week 7 (middle of June). This achievement was the ONLY eagle of 2023. Phil was one shot better than Anthony Day and Joe Fernandes on 62.

**Net Eclectic** (the **Silver Salver**) goes to JAMIE BREWSTER with a net 45, one shot better than Paul Rebours (probably assisted by his astonishing 46 points one evening).

The Altham-McGill award – for the person who did something that they regret. Looking back over the past season, I think this has to go (in his absence) to HOWARD COOPER for his one-off contribution to the league.

The TEETH. This is an award that can only be won once and is awarded to someone who has made the loudest contribution, usually too much talk. Frankly no one has stood out this year save for the extremely loud shirt that MIKE RUSSELL wore to celebrate the longest day. Unpleasant but Sandra and her Pembroke Pub team (and I think the rest of us) felt it was the loudest shirt that evening. Mike also assisted us in some of the evening presentations.

The Scramble (we understand step aside can be called "Florida"). An amazing result from Ben Andre, John Andre, Steve Jones and Josh Ozard with 8 birdies off a handicap of 7.625 resulting in a net 54.375. Second place were Jon Carter, Julian Roffe, John Hughes and Andy Keites with a net 55.125. Third place went to Wayne and Luke Gallichan, Mattie Surton and Chris Morris with a net 57.

That concludes 2023. We look forward to 2024 which will probably commence on 1<sup>st</sup> May, maybe the 8<sup>th</sup> subject to the Management Committee's decisions.

See you all in 9 months' time.