

### **SUNWORKS 2025 Wednesday League**

We've had one of the driest summers in years. We also had more players than in recent years and Joe Fernandes managed to win the league again.

The conditions:

- May – as usual was windy but dry. The rough again featured and with the breeze that made playing a test of our golfing abilities.
- June – the dry conditions remained with the breeze varying around the compass but nearly always there.
- July – still dry but at least the rough had started to thin out.
- August – only one round and wow – we had nearly 25% of the field beat par! PCC didn't move.
- Scramble – a great afternoon. The young men (now) managed a gross of 56 and a net of 51+. Their high handicapper moved them from what would have been 2<sup>nd</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> place.

Numbers:

Players in the league – 116 with 48 playing 8 or more rounds. The average number playing each week was 53, the largest field was 63 and the smallest was 39 in week 11 where it rained in the morning obviously deterring some players. PCC – this only changed 3 times in the early part of the season otherwise it was always 70.

40 club – 15 this year. Birdie2s – 105 and two eagles - Mark Warren on the 3<sup>rd</sup> in week 4 and Fulton Cheung on the 18<sup>th</sup> in week 12. (Two more eagles were achieved in the Scramble – Richard Gomersall holing his team's 128-yard approach on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and Tommy Jewell driving the 18<sup>th</sup> green and one of his team making the eagle put.) Nearest the Pin – 3 players made two this year, Phil Irvine, Julian Bratley and Andy Falle. The average length was 206 cm and the average handicap was 12. During the 14 league rounds, only 5 were successfully holed for a birdie2.

Who won the most money (as all weekly prizes are in the form of cash in the Pro shop): the top 3 were Joe Fernandes with £150, 4 birdie2 sleeves of balls and 1 draw sleeve of balls. 2<sup>nd</sup> was Steve Davison with £145, 3 birdie2s and 2 draws. 3<sup>rd</sup> was Jimmy Hughes with £100 and one draw.

Birdie2s: 4 times in 2025: Joe Fernandes, Fulton Cheung, David Craig, Tim Allbut and Phil Irvine. 12 players had 3 birdie2s. 12 also had 2 Birdie2s and 25 made one over the season.

Draw: well done lucky Jerry Whitsey whose number was drawn 3 times. 8 players had two draws and 37 had one. At the scramble event, Julian Roffe and Rob Davison identified that they hadn't won anything therefore they received a consolation sleeve of sponsors balls each.

In summary – a great season of dry weather, punishing rough and more players than in the recent past. We can now look forward to playing the league in 2025, subject to the club's Management Committee's approval.

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

The Men's Captain (Matt Hague) was unable to play due to his work commitments. We were graced by 2 ladies, the Lady Captain (Julie Frank) and Ali Eagar. We are sure that we will see more ladies join us however it should be noted that Tuesday is their usual day of golf in the week at the Royal.

Ladies match – we had a loss (2 ½ to 5 ½). This was bound to occur as we have won nearly every match since 2011 (10 wins to 3 from the Ladies). It is therefore good to see them win as it will keep the fixture relevant. It should be noted that we've played the same format – men's card, rounded index plus 3 for each lady with them always receiving shots for several years. There were complaints that they didn't have enough shots, but the result confirms the format. The games: 5 of the 8 made it to the 17<sup>th</sup> hole, one the 16<sup>th</sup> and there were a couple of good wins (this year to the Ladies) which indicates the current format is correct. We look forward to the 2026 match.

Scramble – 23 teams took part with 3 from the Ladies section and one mixed team. The weather was great, and Tony Benest (Head Ranger) took photos of the players out on the course. (Check out Facebook and we're looking at getting them up on our website soon.)

### **Who won the League prizes:**

The **Two silver Candlesticks** (ie the **Combined** for both Individual and Team leagues) went to JOE FERNANDES with 64 points, two clear of the field! Joe was the winner in three of the past 4 years! 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 for the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row!

The **Three Buddha's** (for the **Team League**). Well done STEVE DAVISON in winning this with a whole collection of partners – 22 different players over the 13 weeks that Steve played out of a possible 26 partners. (Note: quite a few players like to "wrongly" play with the same person every week. It doesn't work out for the league prizes.)

**Gross Eclectic** (the **Gallichan Propeller** trophy) to FULTON CHEUNG with a net score of 61. Fulton as mentioned above made an eagle (witnessed in the clubhouse) in week 12 on the 18<sup>th</sup> hole. Fulton is a past winner but it's been a number of years, so nice to see him playing well again.

**Net Eclectic** (the **Silver Salver**) goes to PAUL DEVITT with a net 47, beating ANDY CONOOPS on the back 9 (20 verses Andy's 23).

**Also-ran**, the player who sadly struggled all season – thank you John Pendergast for playing and better luck next year. John has had some good results in the past, hopefully they will return soon.

The Altham-McGill award – for the person who did something that they regret. ALAN HUNT, played, couldn't stay for dinner so drove off with his card in his pocket.

The TEETH. While there was a possible winner of this prestigious trophy, it was not given out. The individual in question has negative opinions on most areas connected with the club. Hopefully someone is listening to him, and improvements can be made to his satisfaction.

The Florida Scramble (aka “step aside”). An amazing result from the young men who have made it their mission to play every year since 2021. Ably captained by the non-playing Island Champion (Sam Quail – injured), they returned a gross 56 (one eagle and 12 birdies, the other 5 holes to par). The team: Tommy Jewell, Adam Hayward, James Draisey and Adam Wallsworth. Their previous best was in 2022 with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place and gross 60.

That concludes 2025. We can now look forward to 2026 which will probably commence on 6<sup>th</sup> May and should consist of 14 rounds, subject to the Management Committee’s decisions.

See you all in 9 months’ time.