

Highs and Lows:

After a missing year due to COVID-19, we were able to play again albeit we decided not to hold presentations at the end of every evening. As a result, the dynamics of the days switched from people playing later to a number trying to get off in the first group (2:30). As a result, those that came down early often had to wait at least an hour to tee off.

Quite a bit had changed since 2019. Our sponsor in 2019 withdrew from the island so there was no more coming from there. We specifically did not go looking for a sponsor at the start of 2021 as there remained a distinct possibility that the Coronavirus would stop all competitive golf again (as per 2020). Thankfully, one of our members stepped forward at the last opportunity and agreed to sponsor the league. THANK YOU, RAVENSCROFT. We have asked if they can help us next year and await a reply, see later – they have agreed to support us again in 2022.

Secondly, the World Handicap Index came into play and our games were effectively the first real opportunity for players to get to grips with the changes.

Anyway, the 2021 season teed off on Wednesday 5th May (probably the earliest date ever) with one of our largest ever starting field (77 players). We had three fields in the low 40s, a couple due to either rain or the threat of the same and a couple due to our games conflicting with important EURO [football] games. In the end the average turnout was 55, slightly down on years before covid but we're satisfied with the numbers.

CSS: with the WHS rules, this stayed at par 70 every evening. That said looking at previous years, we expect the CSS would have stayed at 70 if not gone down a few times.

40 club – usually we have between 15 and 23 new members of this challenging target. This year – 37! What's happened? Is it the fact that the WHS has (a) moved most players handicaps up a little and (b) they can get to stay on a slightly higher handicap than normal. Who knows but it will be interesting to see what happens in future years?

Hole in One: – no holes in one in the regular evenings but Jimmy Hughes' managed it with an amazing "first shot" in the Texas Scramble on the 2nd hole. Since our records began (2011), this is the first HIO on the 2nd hole.

Eagles - on Par 4s (2) and par 5s (3) is way above normal where we have historically only seen a couple all season. What's happened?

Starting and finishing: we've continued the arrangement where we can with the Rangers permission tee off from 2:30pm. While this alleviates the pressure on the late starters and the resulting kitchen effort., this wasn't the problem this year (see above).

Dining – as mentioned, given the COVID scenario, we elected to allow players to play, dine and go. This meant that the clubhouse never had more than half the field sitting inside together. Hopefully next season we can get back to the past situation and have a presentation at the end of the evening. Interestingly, half have said the like the current arrangement and the other half have said they prefer the old format. Anyway, as a result we were always gone by 9:30pm.

Facebook, we've published weekly photos of the winners (individual, team and nearest the pin). This is our only Social Media outlet so we urge all members to have a look.

As always, the website has recorded all of our efforts and we hope that you have had a chance to see what we've produced. Thanks specifically to Chris Cole for his efforts here. The main thing is that it answers any potential criticisms that we hear. For instance, too many Social, Junior or Category 1 players. The answer: there's been no significant change since we started recording this information in 2011. The big difference as to the numbers is the Category 3 players of the club. These have doubled in the 8 years. Finally, we've seen fewer Social members this and no Juniors.

2021 – Ravenscroft WEDNESDAY LEAGUE

Players: we had 116 players take part in the League this year. The average was 55 per round with a high of 77 playing on week 1. Week 1 saw the lowest turnout (42).

Money winners: with the prospect of no sponsor, we elected this year to offer vouchers for both individual and team efforts. Individuals continued winning 1st £40, 2nd £25, 3rd £15. For the team, 1st was £15 each, 2nd was £10 each and 3rd was £5 each. Over the year 76 players won some cash with another 21 receiving a sleeve of balls either through Birdie2s or the draw. There were three players that won more than £100 each! These three plus a few more will win more from the season's prizes.

Team winners: 70 players had a 1st, 2nd or 3rd place

Individual winners: 30 players received a voucher. See later for the major season winners or go to our archives to see the table.

Holes in One: NONE in the regular league weeks. The last one was made by Charles Canham on 8th hole on week 13, 2019. This was the first one in four years, and the previous one was in week 1, 2015 by Barry Phillips on the 8th.

Birdie2s: this year saw 61 players (2019: 64) collect 104 (2019: 113) Birdie2 sleeves of balls. This is actually one of the lowest in years. Well done Fulton Cheung who managed to get a Birdie2 on every par 3.

Nearest the Pin: 14 weeks and only 13 winners (despite the flag being in position on the 16th in week 5, no one's name was recorded anywhere. However, congratulations need to go to Mark Sumner and John Turner who both achieved a nearest the pin on two evenings. Closest: Julian Bratley on the 8th in week 3 with 52 cm and of course Julian made the Birdie2. Longest distance: John Turner at nearly 4 ½ metres on the 2nd hole (week 12) and yes, John missed the Birdie2.

Bingo Bob (Wall's Balls): well, there was no bingo this year, it was left to excel to randomly choose 4 numbers. 45 (2019 41) players won this year with Nigel Simpson winning 3 times. Thanks previously must go to Bob Denison (as draw master) and we look forward to using his services in 2022.

League Prizes:

A few years ago we replaced the glass decanters and mugs with Pro Shop merchandise on the final evening. We have now have five principal trophies:

- the Combined Prize for the person winning the most points across both the Individual and Team Leagues is recognized by a very nice pair of mounted silver CANDLE STICKS (donated several years ago by Terry Ruane).
- We have an Individual trophy, the GALLICHAN PROPELLER for the most Individual League points being a mounted boat propeller recognizing the efforts that Bob Gallichan put in for the years 2005 – 2015 when he reestablished and ran the League.
- In addition, we have a Team Trophy, the THREE BUDDHAS, reflecting the teams of 3 that play each week, for the person who accumulated the most points in the Team League.
- New for 2021, the lowest GROSS Eclectic score across the season – the GOLF DECANTER,
- The lowest NETT Eclectic across the season wins the silver SALVER.

We therefore have a trophy to go with the Pro Shop merchandise for all the major League season prizes.

Please note that the golf related prizes that can be exchanged, if need be, in the Pro Shop (thanks to James for his help). [[* below denotes a Pro shop prize](#)] In addition, and as in the past, no one can win two Pro Shop prizes.

Combined (the "Candle Sticks"):

1st: Richard Summerfield with 63 points (29 Individual [1st =], 34 Team [2nd=]) *

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Individual (the “Gallichan Propeller”):

- 1st : Vince McAviney with 34 points *
- 2nd =: Nigel Simpson with 29 points but 32 points over 9 rounds *
- 2nd = : Richard Summerfield with 29 points but 31 points over 9 rounds
- 2nd = John Pendergast also with 29 points but 30 points over 9 rounds
- 5th : Fulton Cheung with 28 points

Team (the “Three Buddhas”):

- 1st =: Richard Summerfield with 34 points but 38 points over 9 rounds
- 1st = Ian Black also with 34 points but 37 points over 9 rounds *
- 3rd : Nigel Simpson with 31 points
- 4th: Rupert Cuddon-Large with 30 points
- 5th: Kevin Mundy (2nd year in this position) with 29 points

Eclectic GROSS (the “Golf Decanter”):

Fulton Cheung with a net 59, one shot worse than his score in 2019
Looking back at the records for the past 8 years, 59 has been the winning score every year save for 2019.

Eclectic NETT (the “Silver Salver”):

John Pendergast with a net 44 and 19 on the back 9 *
Well done Rupert who also had a 44 but 21 shots on the back 9

The TEETH:

This individual has kindly offered us a few words - David Craig. (David, you have a lot to live up to as you are taking over from David Blake who sadly passed away in 2020.)

The ALTHAM / MCGLYNN:

We always wonder who can claim this venerable prize. Well, there was one clear winner this year. Mark Wanless.
Why? In week 11, Mark played a Lehmann match in the morning – which he won. It was his vacation time, so he decided to play in the afternoon with his friends. He shot 40 points tying 1st place but losing out on countback. Sadly, he had played the course in the wrong order and had to be disqualified from the Wednesday League competition.

Texas:

25 teams with 98 players this year (including 7 teams of Ladies) with a great afternoon to play golf. (94 dining)

Variable but pleasant afternoon out on the links. We think everyone enjoyed the competition.

The winners were:

- 1st : Andy Falle, Richard Summerfield, Nick Cushion and David Craig; net: 57.5
- 2nd : Paul Devitt, Jerry Whitsey, John Pendergast and Rob Davison; net: 58.25 (32 back 9)
- 3rd : Julio Moniz, Mike De Figueiredo, Tim Allbut and Derek De La Haye; net: 58.25 (33 back 9)
- *: Tommy Jewell, Sam Quail, Adam Hayward, James Draisey; team handicap 1.5; Gross: 62!

Support:

Thanks to the Pro Shop staff, the Rangers and house staff (front and back) for their assistance this year in helping to make the league the success that it is.

Sponsorship:

Thanks to Ravenscroft (through Nigel Smith) for their generous support of the League this year and it was confirmed at the Texas & Prize Giving evening by Hayden Taylor that they will be supporting us again in 2022.

Matches: Ladies

On one of the most beautiful summer afternoons this year, 24 players from each side took to the course. Given that the WL have won this event every year since 2010, save for 2017, the ladies were keen to get another win.

This year with the onset of WHS and there being no rules for mixed matches, we decided to play off the WHS Handicap Index (as published) rounded. We gave the Ladies 3 parity shots (as in the past albeit they difference is now 2 shots). We did not take the 90% matchplay condition. In giving the Ladies the extra parity shot, we were mindful that if we had been using either playing or course handicaps, their higher Handicap indexes would have possible received an extra shot. Therefore, we gave with one to compensate the other and reduce the difficulty in trying to work out everything from stroke tables etc.

As in past competitions, the majority of matches were extremely close (within a couple of holes). Yes, there were and continue to be a few matches where one person plays well below their index (handicap). This was the case this year with two going to the Ladies and two going to the WL.

In the end, the WL were at 6 matches to 5 when the last pairing were finishing on the 18th. They all walked onto the green “all square”. There was a 4’ put to halve but this was just missed. As a result, the WL achieved 7 points to the Ladies 5 points.

The match and the dining afterwards was enjoyed by all (great menu selection, Sally).

Match - Juniors - to follow

Juniors: another great afternoon. This is always a tough match to win given that we’re in the middle of the summer and Junior handicaps are coming down rapidly. Four matches, two of the WL teams were routed (5 & 4), one of the Men’s pairings won 2 & 1 even giving 12 shots to each of the Juniors. Therefore it all came down to the last match on the course. The WL represented by Sam and Tommy (with category 1 handicaps) against two very competitive girls. This was tough. Leaving the 17th green, the WL pairing were “1 up”. One of the girls had a shot on the 18th and she was given her put to make Par. OK, men, we need a birdie to stay 1 up and win this match (half the event). Sam, oooh, just missed his birdie put. OK, Tommy, it’s all on your shoulders. 15’ – and he sank the birdie put!!!!. Therefore an honour draw – 2 matches each. Well done WL and excellent golf from the Juniors.

Spring Tour:

Bob Bowden the organiser is trying to arrange a tour for next year (late April 2022) to the southwest of London. This is a great trip and if anyone wishes to take part, then please get in touch with Bob. Sadly, the trips in 2020 and 2021 did not materialise due to the pandemic.

2022:

So that concludes 2021.

We hope to play the League again next year – this is subject to (a) the ongoing Covid-19 story, and (b) approval by the Management Committee of the Royal Jersey Golf Club. If we are granted approval, we expect to start on either Wednesday 4th May or Wednesday the 11th of May.

Any ideas to make this more fun, please let us know. As usual, we would like to hold a 3 club competition as done a number of years ago early in 2022, subject to the consent of the club’s Management Committee.

Chris and John

12th August 2021 (updated 23rd August)