

### **Report on the season:**

2026 saw us play 14 rounds and uniquely we ended up with two players at the top of all three tables (individual, team and combined). It took 9 rounds (we count 8 but add extra rounds, if a tie) to separate them in the Individual and Combined and 10 rounds to split them on the Team league. Well done Harry Lloyd who won out over John Pendergast.

How did they do so well? Typically, we see the Individual League winner reduce his playing handicap over the season. Harry started with a 13 and reduced this to 11. John started with 27 and came down to 23.

What else stood out in 2026? The weather; we played 13 of 14 rounds in the dry weather and lost one round (24<sup>th</sup> June) due to the heat where all competitions on the island were cancelled that week. The other notable item was that due to the high pressure over Europe, we typically saw a breeze blowing down the first 4 holes every week. Due to the drought, the rough really didn't feature this year. The bone-dry fairways saw balls run and run.

The final item that was a challenge related to the first month (May) when we trialled a sign in for the last hour (4pm until 5pm). We did this to try and provide certainty for later players. Did it work? There were clearly teething matters. We continued the roll up until 4:30pm but some players that couldn't sign in but wanted to play weren't able to get a game. We also suffered when players suddenly cancelled on the day resulting in their remaining partner either not getting a game or having a fraught time trying to rearrange something.

Why did we do this? The Golf and Membership committee asked that we harmonise with all other competitions at the club which were sign up. As this is a mid-week competition with some players trying to get out of their offices early, we had always run a roll up to allow flexibility. Later in the afternoon players could ring the pro shop to ensure they had partners when they arrived. What will we do in the future? We are actively discussing this feature ahead of the 2027 season and will advise accordingly.

Finally, we concluded the season with our scramble event (step aside) and we witnessed 100 players (25 teams with 7 fairway starts) on another sunny and hot afternoon compete. Within these teams, we had four Ladies and two mixed teams. The winners finished with a gross 64 and a net 54.5 with 6 birdies. The lowest gross team came in 4<sup>th</sup> with a gross 59 and net 56.5 (11 birdies, no eagles).

The Scramble round was finished off with a 95% solar eclipse which everyone enjoyed courtesy of Sunworks (our sponsor) providing eclipse glasses to watch the celestial event. The course and the car park were used to watch it peak at 7:17pm.

## Matches

Only one match this year – vs the Ladies. 8 teams with only one easy win (to the Ladies). The other 7 matches all went to the 18<sup>th</sup> with 3 draws. The final score being 4.5 to 3.5. (Last year, the Ladies won the event with most matches finishing on either the 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> holes.). This suggests that the format (men's card, rounded indexes plus 3 shots to the Ladies, for past parity) actually works!

## Numbers:

We had 128 players join the League this year with an average of 52 playing each week. The largest turnout was the first week with 72 and the smallest being 32 which conflicted with the Football World Cup semi-final. Sadly, England lost their match.

Honours - only one eagle in 2026. Well done Malcolm Berridge in week 2 on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

40 club – 22 players this year, more than usual with the average being 19. Congratulations to Harry and John (above) who managed two. In addition, Andy Conoops also managed it on two weeks.

Birdies on the 7<sup>th</sup> – most years none, occasionally one. This year – 3 – twice from Andy Barker and once from Derek Rhodes. (Maybe these assisted by the down course breeze?)

Birdie2s – 48 players this year winning 73. Uniquely in week 13 – no one managed to get one?! And in week 13 we had 16 birdies with an average over the year of 14.

Highest score – this had to go to Dave Freeman playing with a 12 handicap who shot a gross 73 to score 45 points in week 14.

## League winners:

|                                  |             |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Combined (the Two Candle Sticks) | Harry Lloyd |
| Individual (extra-large trophy)  | Harry Lloyd |
| Team (Three Buddhas)             | Harry Lloyd |

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|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Gross Eclectic (the Propeller) | Andy Barker (61 against an annual average of 60)     |
| Net Eclectic (silver salver)   | John Pendergast (42 against an annual average of 46) |

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| Ladies match (Sparrow trophy) | The Wednesday League |
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## 2027

At a recent meeting with the Captains of both the Mens and Ladies sections, it was confirmed that the club looks forward to the Wednesday League playing in 2027. Sunworks have also confirmed that 2027 will be their 3<sup>rd</sup> year of support for the League.