

Captain's Report — 2014

Hello Everyone

First, may I request a little patience from everyone as my report is detailed and I do not have an autocue, therefore I will have to read it out.

I begin by suggesting "what an extraordinary year we have had". I say this for a number of reasons; at about this time last year, right through to Feb and March of this year we had all seen the horrendous amount of rain and floods throughout the country. We had all seen the pictures from the newsreels of these floods and people are still suffering from them today.

Inevitably, this had led to many closures of golf courses and the damage to them was ongoing for a few months thereafter. This was no doubt seen at our very 1st meeting at Reigate Hill on the 21st of May, where bunkers and other areas were marked GUR. However, one of our new, younger members, Ravi, overcame the difficulties of the course and was winner of the day. Well done Ravi.

Our 2nd meeting was at the London Club on 4th June where we had our largest turnout of 39 members and 21 guests, totalling 60 players. The course was in excellent condition and the weather was just right, sunny with a mild breeze. One person stood out above all with a blinding round and a score of 40 points. The winner of the day being Bipin S. Well done Bipin. "*Chop him*"

Our 3rd meeting on 2nd of July was at Surrey Downs and there was an issue raised by some members. The facts remain that a few members had played the course earlier during the week as a practice round and probably found the course to be short. They therefore suggested that a vote should take place at breakfast that we should play of the white tees. The vote was carried. Personally I do not think that this

should be allowed to happen because of a number of reasons; (1) that those that had played the practise round wished to play off the white tee's because it suited them (2) we as a society have always played ~~off~~ of the yellow tees; (3) our handicap system of 7/8ths of the full handicap allows us to play from the yellow tees; (4) in the circumstances where a course is far too long or difficult should a vote take place to play off the red or even the junior tee's?

However, this is not a decision for me to make, but for this AGM to decide for future events.

On the day, Hitesh was the winner and it was notable that he had an eagle on one of the holes and therefore 4 points on that particular hole. Well done do Hitesh for an excellent round, but surely we cannot say to a single handicap player "chop him"!!

Our next meeting was at Kingswood on the 6th of August and yet again we had an excellent turnout. At the time of booking the course, they had suggested that they would have the refurbishment of the hotel and clubhouse completed before our event. However this was not the case as we had port cabins as changing rooms, for which they had made a sincere apology. Without doubt the catering arrangements for the evening dinner were probably the best that we have ever had; certainly that was the view of all members and guests who had attended. The credit for that goes to our Secretary, Bipin who had made all the arrangements. Yet again the weather was good and the course in excellent condition, the winner of the day being Janak. Well done Janak.

Our last meeting was at Singing Hills on 3rd Sept, where the 3 contenders, Ravi, Janak and Hitesh, for the Order of Merit played together. A good idea, I think, that the last outing should be played in this manner, though yet again this needs to be decided at the AGM.

Ravi became the over all winner of the OOM. Well done to Ravi for excellent golf throughout the year.

However, despite the hollow tinning of the greens, they were fair, true and responsive. Anup had an excellent round with a score of 38 points, but the winner of the day had a blinder, scoring 40 points, that being Pradeep. Well done Pradeep and here is your trophy which was not given to you on the day, but we do not want a speech from you suggesting that you wish to thank your "mum and dad" etc, but we may say "chop him". Also, I wish to inform you that our adopted son, Barnes Patel Wallis won the guest prize with 39 points playing of 11.

Our 5 meetings, which I have just been through, were very well attended; on average, almost 1/3rd higher than the previous year. This is clearly seen by the accounts, prepared by Rajnibhai, in that the income from golf days in 2013 was £17940, whereas for 2014, this year, it was £27600. I wish to thank each and every one of us, from the committee to all the members, for making my year a great success. Lets us hope that we can continue to grow in all future years. Thank you to all once again.

With regard to the Singles Match Play competition, I can say that it generally went well and within the time scale that we had predicted. In this matter, I particularly wish to thank Bipin for his continuous liaison with myself and vice-versa, for keeping the web-site up to date with the results of the matches, where they were played, or even when they were not played. The final was between Homair and Dilip, with Dilip being the winner. Well done Dilip and here is your trophy.

With the remaining 2 fixtures for the year, that of the 8-way ISCC and the Ryder Cup against Vaprose, I hesitate to say that we were not

successful in either of them, having been demoted to division 2 in the ISCC and a loss against Vaprose. However, I do not wish our society to despair, as I do think that the standard of our golf has improved, if not during this year, then certainly over the last 2 years, whereby many of us are playing 1 to 2 shots less than in previous years.

The overseas trip to LaCala was a great success, but I do wish to make it very clear to all the members that this, as rumour had it, was organised by an inner circle, just because they wanted to go there. I can assure everyone that, this was not the case, but I, personally arranged everything by myself. All members had an e-m to respond for interest to this trip and further it was announced at this AGM last year. However, we had excellent weather for the 4 days; almost everyone was in shorts and tee shirts, even during the evenings. We had a total of 26 players, 22 members and 4 guests and we all enjoyed the hotel facilities and the brilliant golf courses. With regard to the prizes, we did have an unusual situation for the 2nd and 3rd prize winners, in that they were also tied with the 4th and 5th places, and further, for them, we had to have a count back of a count back and a further count back, which I have not come across before. However, in 3rd place was Dilip J; in 2nd place was Karan and the outright winner of all 3 rounds of 36, 34 and 33 points, respectively, was Dilip M. Well done to Dilip to play so well on unknown, almost championship courses. Finally, with regard to the LaCala trip, I wish to thank the 3 pharmacists, Bipin, Dilip and Mukesh for helping with the scoring. I also wish to thank Alkesh and Dilipkumar for helping me with the groupings and making sure that everyone was in their right buggies; you guys did a great job; thank you. And off course Rajnibhai who helped me with the finances and transfer of funds to LaCala.

I now move onto some other issues, the 1st of which is the budget and finances of our society.

It would appear that some members wish to play on courses such as private members clubs, the London Club, Kingswood, Walton Heath, West Byfleet etc. I do not think that nowadays, this is possible. I say this because, if we go back 5 years ago and back to the previous 10 years before that, we could have our golf days, for between £40 - £60, in the same way as we do now. Today's prices for such clubs vary from £80 to £140 for the day and it would be advisable perhaps to play 2 good quality courses, 2 mediocre courses and may be even 1 pay and play course, so as to keep the budget within the £500 limit as otherwise, our subscriptions may have to be higher. However, yet again this is not for me to decide, but for this AGM to do so.

With regard to members it has been noticeable that there appears to be some circles and sectors of members, as opposed to being members of Eli-Kent Golf Society. We all should be proud of being members of this society, as otherwise divisions may occur. This too goes for the founder members, whom I congratulate for bringing this society to its 20^t anniversary. I am sure that not in their wildest dreams could they have imagined that their, friendly society, would have continued for such a long period of time; and not only that, but it has grown from strength to strength. However, it is time for a change, but the founder members do not need to worry, as this society is no longer what they had envisaged; it is now an institution and I am confident that it will go on, not only for the next 20 years, but hopefully for many more years thereafter.

With regard to the committee, I would request that all members should support the decisions made by the committee. They are not necessarily always right, but the committee is elected by the

members and I am sure each of them has the best interest of the society. In any event, if something may not be right, then we cannot have extra ordinary general meetings to correct the issue, neither can we have all matters resolved for the forth coming year decided at this or any other AGMs; as otherwise, there would not be a need for any committee. The committee puts into this society a lot of hard work and time, meeting voluntarily, 3-4 times a year. Additionally, they liaise almost every week, by e-m, time having been taken away from their own personal or business time. May be it is time that there were a few more members in the committee, so that the whole of the membership is represented in the decision making process of the committee. Yet again this is for this AGM to decide, but in any event, I would request what I have suggested above, that members should support their chosen committee.

I began my report, suggesting what an extra ordinary year it has been; not only the rain, but also the greatest cycling race, the Tour de France, which started in Yorkshire, the football World Cup during the summer, India winning their 2nd ever test match at Lords and not to forget the magical 264 runs by Rohit Sharma in a 50 over match, just recently. To top all that we had the Commonwealth Games, in Glasgow, in the United Kingdom and we as Eli-Kent Golf Society moving forward onto our 20th year. Yes, definitely an extra ordinary year.

Finally, I wish to thank the committee for all their hard work and support during this year even though on some occasions we have had harsh words between ourselves and apologies made where necessary. However, we did not advertise this and kept matters between ourselves, as it should be for this society to become even better. My particular thanks go to Rajnibhai for keeping the finances and accounts of the society in order and a very big thank you to Bipin

for the hard work put in by himself for the golf days and all matters throughout the year. *Thank you guys, thank you v. much indeed.*

My best wishes go to Vin, in this next important year, celebrating our 20th anniversary.