



CAPTAINS FINAL REPORT

DECEMBER 2023

Well, what a year this has been for me.

In November 2022 I received a phone call out of the blue from our club Chairperson Colin MacLeod asking if I would consider taking up the post of club captain 2023, this was after five past captains had nominated me as a candidate. After some thought I agreed and took up the post on January 1st. This was a very proud moment for me and my family.

My first decision was to select a suitable vice-captain, it wasn't a difficult one for me, Graham West was an ideal choice, thankfully he was more than happy to accept.

With assistance of members of the Management Committee I set out 4 personal objectives that I wished to achieve during my year as club captain.

1. To hold an SGM to update members on the current situation within the golf club, especially financially.
2. To hold an AGM, one had not been held for two years.
3. To hold a successful captain's golf day for all members.
4. To raise funds for my selected charity, the Clique.

On Tuesday, February 28th an SGM was held in the club house and the following was presented by Colin to members in attendance:

- Presentation of 2023 / 2024 Budget, inc
- Changes to Subscriptions and Green Fees
- Members
- Visitors
- 2020 / 2022 (18 months), Financial Update
- 2022 / 2023 Financial Year-to-date Update

A special mention and massive thank you must go for the hard work done by Sally Lavender assisted by Lainy Hunt and Sheila Jones in preparing and assessing the current financial situation so we could present to members at the SGM.

The AGM was held in the club house on Friday, September 15th the following was presented by Colin to members:

- Audited accounts for 2021/2022
- Accounts presented at the SGM in February, including expenditure for 2022/2023

The contents of the above were approved in a vote of acceptance by the members present.

My captain's day took place on Saturday, July 15th. I arrived at the club at 7am, enroute from home I drove through a torrential rainstorm and thought the day will have to be cancelled but as I entered Barnard Castle the sun came out and it appeared there had been no rain, the roads etc. were dry.

The course looked amazing having been prepared brilliantly by our head green keeper Dave Cuthbertson and his fantastic team. The halfway house was looked after by my grandchildren, serving complimentary snacks and drinks to the 160 members that took part.

The chipping challenge into a child's paddling pool went down well, along with the one-handed putting comp ran by Stephen Hutchinson, with the proceeds donated to Stephen to assist with his expenses in his forthcoming trip to the USA to represent Europe in a Ryder Cup style competition for one armed golfers.

Despite the occasional flash of lightning and thunder storm the day stayed mostly dry.

The golf was followed by prize giving and a race night, where I held an auction of unique racing memorabilia donated by member Steve Charlton and John Neilson. Who will ever forget Johnathan Harle running around as though he was on a horse, whip in hand, shouting encouragement at the screen as his selection romped home?

The whole day and race night were fantastically supported, thanks to all who made it a very special day for me and my family.

The total raised during my tenure for charity was more than £3000, an additional donation was made to Stephen, he was supplied with clothing to wear on his trip displaying the Barnard Castle Golf Club Badge. I have donated £2,952.80p to, the Clique that I am sure will be used to aid local groups in need of financial assistance. Again, a massive thank you to everyone who donated during the year.

I must make mention of Paul Raine (team manager) and his team of players that represent the club in the Teesside Union club matches. I have attended all but one of the matches and witnessed the keenness and dedication of team members in their efforts to win, unfortunately the team was relegated and will play in division three next year, but they have high expectations of quickly returning to division two. Our top points player in the TDU over the season was Ross Murray, well done Ross.

In addition, throughout the year I have attended every 'open' and spoken to hundreds of visitors and all, but one (who had played badly) gave encouraging feedback on the hospitality, organisation but more importantly the condition of the course, many have already booked to return next year. Much of this was down to Craig Hamilton's fantastic organisational skills and Lisa MacLeod's warm welcome as players stepped into the shop.

Unfortunately, I started intrusive therapy in October that has resulted in me not being able to carry out my captain's duties, attend meetings etc. thankfully Graham has stepped up to the plate.

As my year is ending, I would like to say a huge thank you to the following, who have been at my side to advise me and keep me on the right track:

Our President, Sid Lowes, Chairperson Colin MacLeod, Admin Lisa MacLeod, Financial Assistant Sheila Jones, Craig Hamilton, Andrew Hall, Head Green Keeper David Cuthbertson, Cater/Steward Jack Hutchinson, members of the Management Committee and finally my vice-captain Graham West, good luck next year Graham I am sure you will enjoy the ride.

I would also like to congratulate Pauline Connelly and Lainey Hunt on their appointment as Lady Captain and Lady Vice Captain for 2024 and congratulations to our incoming PGA Professional Peter Hartley. I wish you all the very best.

It has been a pleasure and huge honour for me to represent our great club as Captain during 2023. I wish all our members a Happy Christmas and Prosperous 2024.

Geoff WALL