



33RD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY 22ND JANUARY 2026

MEN'S CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Mr President, Vice President, Captains, Vice-Captains, fellow Committee Members, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Representing the Club as Men's Captain has been a fantastic experience. I've made many new friends and created some great memories; it has truly been an honour and a privilege to serve the membership.

Captain's Charity

My chosen charity for the year was Prostate Cancer UK. They were selected because of close friends being affected by this disease and my wish to do something meaningful to support their work.

On 28th June, I organised a PSA testing day, with 61 men taking part. The results were shocking:

- 46 Green = no issues identified
- 7 Amber = elevated PSA levels that requires further investigation with GP
- 8 Red = very high PSA levels that needs urgent GP follow-up

That means around one quarter of all those men tested required further checks, a sobering statistic and a powerful reminder of why this event mattered and that all men over the age of 40 should undertake regular PSA tests.

Many thanks to Dave Smallwood for helping organise the event with me, and also Mark Hawkins for his support on the day itself. If there's sufficient demand, I'd very much like to see this event return in 2026.

Carolyn and I set out in early 2025 to deliver a full and varied diary of events, giving every member the chance to get involved during the year, and I think we can say there really was *something for everyone*.

To support our charities, we ran the 150 Club, and increased the subscriptions to 164, with a monthly draw throughout the year. Congratulations to all the winners!

We also introduced Captain's Bunkers on holes 2 and 16, which proved a very effective fundraising tool. Thank you to everyone who found them... and donated so generously afterwards.

League Competitions

So, what else did we get up to this year?

We fielded 3 Men's teams:

- 17/24 Team (Captained by: Francis Mullally) – reached the semi-finals, narrowly losing by just 5 points to Halesowen to progress into the final.
- WHL Team (Captained by: Nick Lake) – despite best efforts, we did not progress from the league stage.
- West Midlands Team (Captained by: Tony Dienn) – reached the quarter-finals of the Davenports Salver.

(The Seniors Men's Captain will report separately on their team performances)

On Course Foundation Visit

From Sunday 25th to Tuesday 27th May, we hosted the On Course Foundation, a charity supporting ex-servicemen and women who use golf to help reintegrate into civilian life.

The group included former Gurkha soldiers, one of whom was an amputee below the knee, truly inspiring to watch him play.

They spent 3 days training at BGC, culminating in a pairs match against the Club, sadly cut short by heavy rain. Despite this, the feedback was overwhelmingly positive, praising the friendliness of our members, the food, service, course, and facilities.

I'm delighted to say they have already rebooked for 2026!

Social events

Off the course, we enjoyed a brilliant Quiz Night on 28th February and a Divot Evening on Wednesday 30th April. Thanks to all who turned out and helped keep the course in top condition.

Our Race Night on Saturday 31st May was a great success, raising over £700 for the Captain's Charities.

Captain's Away Day:

On Friday 11th July, Carolyn and I hosted the Captain's Away Day at The Welcombe Golf Club, Stratford-upon-Avon. Unfortunately, or fortunately, depending on your view, it turned out to be one of the hottest days of the year, with temperatures exceeding 30°C.

Fortunately, all 56 players survived the heat and no one melted, and all returned safely to the clubhouse for a very "welcome" cold drink and a lovely meal to follow.

Someone that shall remain nameless is still having golf buggy driving lessons...

Barrie Claridge

On Monday 14th July, the Club was deeply saddened by the passing of Barrie Claridge.

Barrie was a true gentleman, dry sense of humour, and respected by all. He served as Gentlemen's Club Captain and as Team Captain for both the 17/24 and WHL teams, winning several finals along the way.

As a founder of the 17/24 League, it is a fitting and touching tribute that the league trophy will now bear his name, an honour he would have been immensely proud of.

Night Golf

On Wednesday 17th September, BGC transformed into something resembling a disco ball as 42 golfers took part in an evening of Night Golf.

With perfect September weather, six holes illuminated "like Heathrow's runway," although some players still treated the glowing fairways as *helpful suggestions* rather than instructions!

Men's Club Championship

The 2025 Men's Club Championship was a real nail-biter, finishing with a 2 hole playoff on holes 17 and 18 between Ryan Coy and Matt Parry, both finishing on a gross 147 over 2 days.

After a tense conclusion, Matt Parry emerged victorious and was crowned Men's Club Champion.

Captains' Day

Captains' Day followed on Saturday 16th August, a Las Vegas / Elvis theme.

"Thank you very much!"

We ran a scramble format where "Elvis decided your fate" when selecting drives, alongside sponsored holes, exhibition stalls on the front lawn, and competitions including nearest the pin and putting challenges.

Carolyn and I would like to thank everyone who helped on the day, especially Anne Wakelam and Jude McManus, whose support was invaluable.

Captain's Away Weekend

My Captain's away weekend took place at Puckrup Hall, near Tewkesbury, with 22 members. The objectives were simple: play 2 rounds of excellent golf and drink the bar dry. We only managed one of those...

Day 1 was a Ryder Cup-style event, with Team USA claiming victory.

Day 2 was an individual Stableford, won by David Straw.

Highlights included:

- Gary McCartney scoring the weekend's best round with 42 points. He should have worn a sombrero at dinner that night.
- Deryck Hall winning nearest the pin on the 18th.
- Phil York's longest drive, which nearly required a taxi back from Tewkesbury.

Scratch Cup

2025 also saw the inauguration of the Scratch Cup on Saturday 20th September, open to members with handicaps of 12.4 or lower, all playing off scratch.

The quality of golf was outstanding, with Phil Dyke claiming the title after a superb 3 over par 71, winning by 2 shots.

Phil also deserves special mention for an exceptional season, including victory in the WGU Seniors Matchplay at Wharton Park in August, defeating Darren Henn 3&2 in the final.

Thanks

Now none of this year would have been possible without the support of all the Club Committee Members Team Captains, to whom I extend my sincere thanks.

Along with Gary and John at Midlands Golf.

And I would also like to thank the Proprietors, Mark Laing and all staff from the Centre.

Finally, my heartfelt thanks go to my partner in crime, Carolyn. We have worked quite seamlessly all year and had fun along the way, and I couldn't have done this without her.

Thank you.

Lee Machin
Men's Captain 2025
January 2026