

Mens' Section Club AGM Captain's Report 2020

I would like to start by thanking you all for your support, patience and understanding in the most challenging year for us all that I'm sure we will never forget. During this year it has been an honour to be the mens' section captain; it has been both enjoyable and rewarding to look back and see what we have achieved in a year which has been like no other.

Committee

I have been extremely fortunate to have had the support of a strong committee, who have had to deal with a number of issues that Covid 19 has created. Using past experience and a great deal of out of the box thinking(!), I believe we have managed to deliver the best experience possible despite all the disruption we have encountered. The strength of the committee will provide great experience and stability for future years.

Competitions

I am very proud of the new Club 18-49 (for those of us still under 50!) to run in conjunction with the well-established 50+ and there has been great enthusiasm and support for this.

Participation in all competitions has been extremely high and I'm delighted to say we have completed all board competitions with the exception of the Cup Winners and a Consolation Cup which had to be cancelled due to the weather along with the Scratch Order of Merit. Unfortunately, we have also had a last-minute cancellation on the Mark Smith Boxing Day Scramble because of Tier 4 restrictions.

I want to say a massive "Thank You" to Les Ward and Steve Hunt who have both put a tremendous amount of hard work and time into ensuring the transition from How Did I Do to IG in both learning the new system and then implementing it into the mens' section and providing support. I also need to say a big "Thank You" to Dave Watson (50+) and Steve Batchelor (Club 18-49) for their hard work and smooth running of both competitions.

We are now averaging over 100 players in our weekend competitions which is a credit to you all.

IG

If you think back to this time last year, we were popping our £3 into a Tupperware tub, ticking our names when we paid, completing score cards by hand with a pencil, entering scores on what can only be described as temperamental screens, then putting them in a wooden box, if you were lucky enough to find a space!

Jump forward to December 2020 and we are now entering competitions online, scoring on the IG app, paying on the IG app and getting all the results online. I'm delighted to see how well we have all embraced the changes and are now fully IG competent and this is saving a huge amount of work behind the scenes.

WHS

This is the biggest change to the handicap system in 50 years! it's been a learning curve for us all but I'm sure over the coming months it will become clear how the new system works which will be beneficial to us all. The IG app now gives us all the information we need to enter and compete in competitions along with all our playing statistics at a glance on our phone or website and I'm sure more stats will become available over the coming months.

Matt L'Affineur has done a fantastic job collating all the information and working with Richard Harris from the senior section ensuring a smooth transition from our current handicap system to the new WHS. He has also looked after all the new members ensuring they have a playing handicap along-side looking after all the member's handicaps. Thanks Matt.

Communications

In the mission statement written for Vice Captain in 2018 my key focus was communication and I hope I have fulfilled this with weekly emails and regular updates. The aim of keeping us together as a section so that you are always up to date with current issues as well as celebrating weekend winners and highlighting future events has been my driver.

Les, Steve, Dave and Steve have also done a fantastic job of keeping us all up to date with up and coming, competitions and events along with monthly 50+ and 18-49 results.

Website

Andy Ward has worked wonders on the mens' section website www.chesfielddowns.co.uk

The website has all the latest news, competition updates, committee meeting minutes and much more.

As you can imagine keeping the site up to date is quite some job and I would like to thank Andy for all his hard work. If you haven't bookmarked it as a favourite now's the time to add it.

Finance

Steve McMullen has done a sterling job looking after the books for 2020 - thank you Steve. I'm pleased to say the mens' section accounts are looking good, as you can see via the link below our full set of accounts is available.

[/uploads/chesfielddownloads/File/Mens section financial report.pdf](/uploads/chesfielddownloads/File/Mens%20section%20financial%20report.pdf)

Charity Day

This year's donation shows what a fantastic mens' section we have and I'm so proud of you all and the generosity that you have shown. We were very limited on time to organise my Charity Day, just a few weeks not the months of planning we have in normal times, but you all put your hands in your pockets to support Mind in Mid Herts. As well as playing on the day you were also bidding on the Charity Auction and for those of you that couldn't make it on the day many gave me cash or transferred money. To raise over £6,000 was truly magical and again I would like to thank you all.

Honours Boards

These were a great new addition which the Club Company instigated and I'm sure you will agree that they look great. I have to say a special thank you to Mark Smith who spent hours going through all the detail of previous winners ensuring they were all correct and up to date and I'm delighted to say the 2020 winners will be added early next year which will be a great achievement.

Ryder Cup

This was certainly something I never dreamed would take place, but we managed to make it happen with many thanks to Paul Peterson the Goodfellas Captain. Paul helped organise the weekend at very short notice and what a great weekend it was. The weather on Saturday was shocking but we carried on regardless and by Sunday Singles the result was very tight, but we ended the day wishing congratulations to the Goodfellas who won the Ryder Cup. The competition was played in a great spirit, enjoyed by all and we all celebrated a great weekend.

Scratch Team, CBL, Foxes

Unfortunately, due to Covid all team competitions were cancelled but I'm sure the competitions will get going again eventually and we will come back stronger in 2021

Captain's Trip

Probably my biggest disappointment was not being able to go away with you boys on my Captain's Trip. I had spent a lot of time searching for venues with two courses but most importantly I had secured a balcony that overlooked the 18th Green at Forest of Arden with its own private bar which I'm sure would have been a FAB weekend – we can but imagine!!

Richard has booked The Vale for his Captains Trip in 2021 and I'm sure we will all have a great time there.

Still work to be done

We still have work to do on a fully joined up process for new members. We have a group within the committee that is working hard to ensure that all new members have all the information regarding competitions, mid-week, 50+, 18-49 so they can join the mens' section should they wish to.

We are also working hard to update the Rules of Competition as IG and Covid have changed the way we work and this needs to be reflected in the Mens' section new constitution.

Thank You

I started this report with "Proud" and I will finish it with "Proud" as I truly believe that we have overcome everything that has been put in front of us this year and become a better section. Covid 19 has had a different impact on each one of us and all of us; we have all had different experiences but together we have become better and stronger and I would like to thank you all once again for you smiles, laughter and support.

Thanks to Richard Deeks for his support this year as Vice Captain. I would like to take this opportunity to wish him all the best for 2021. I'm sure with the support of Vice Captain Phil Tovey and the committee, the Mens' section will go from strength to strength.

Last but not least Barry has been a great support throughout a difficult time, and I would like to thank Barry and all of his team both on the course and in the bars for looking after us all in 2020.

Paul Taylor