



Frinton G.C. In the fore & distant horizon

Match Report: Essex v Kent.

At Frinton Golf Club, Thursday, 7th. May 2022 a report from David Collen

The Kent team were treated to some excellent pre- and post-match hospitality from the host club. A truly excellent late breakfast brunch was laid on before the teams took to the course. It would appear that one or two of the Kent team (myself included) had decided to have a cheeky mid-morning snack and coffee en route to the venue, but it did not deter us from fully partaking in the copious breakfast opportunities put before us. So, with a full set of bellies (possibly too full in some cases) we approached the tees with high hopes of victory.

The course rambled behind the sea wall protection. The long line of multi-coloured (and expensive) beach huts on the eastern horizon were resplendent in the early afternoon dappled sun. The clouds did look ominous to the north and west but we had been forewarned by a departing elderly member in the car park that we would have a good afternoon with regards to the weather- 'the wind was in the right direction'- and he was proved correct. However, the sea breeze did, at times, prove tricky to all players.

The generous hospitality shown by Frinton towards both teams pre-game was soon replaced with the management of their teasing and testing links course. The undulating fairways provided an interesting and often totally unpredictable bounce; Add to that, the odd hidden ditch and water hazard together with well-placed protective bunkers and unforgiving rough. The large greens also added to the fun and games.

The afternoon saw some fiercely contested matches; some going 'down the last' and even to the final putt. A little bit of friendly banter permeated a couple of the early games (supposedly based upon years of long-lasting friendly rivalry). There were, I believe, old scores to be settled. Unfortunately, the end result was a 6-4 victory for the host county. Local knowledge may have prevailed and

given the Essex team the edge on the day. All in all, it was a very enjoyable day and over an excellent evening meal the conversation flew and new rivalries and friendships were formed.

I have to express a huge thanks to my Essex counterpart Peter Freeman for his expert organisation on the day. His buggy driving may not have been the best but I lived to tell the tale- just! As you can see from the photo he was ecstatic at retaining the trophy. Also, a huge thank you has to be given to Frinton Golf Club for their outstanding welcome and hospitality, excellent food and kind and thoughtful staff



The Captain with Essex Captain, Peter Freeman.



New Team Colours?

Lastly, my thanks to all the Kent team members, some of whom had made long journeys to represent the Society. A few had made plans to stay overnight which, on hindsight, might have been a good option, although it was noted that their visit to the local Weatherspoons had proved 'interesting'!

Dave Collen (Team Manager)

P.S. There was some interesting and lively debate about the proposed new playing strips for both sides. As far as I understand the jury is still out in both camps.



Sheerness Golf Club

Match v London.

A report from Mike Stephens.

Match v London at Sheerness Golf Club, Thursday 26th May 2022.

Match manager Mick Streatfield was unable to attend as he was holidaying in Italy. A short report follows from his deputy on the day.

As for the day, everything went

smoothly. The course was interesting (I found a lot of the hidden ditches and lost a number of balls). The catering was good and the weather was slightly windy but, no rain!! The Captain led from the front in a tense battle with **John Nugent, London Captain**, finally succumbing on the 17th hole. However, whilst most of the matches were close, the Kent team came through. A special thanks to a number of "Kent /

London” members who helped the London team make up their numbers. Although people say it is the taking part who believes that? Kent won the day 6½ to 3½. A big thank you to those who played and well done.



Winning Ladies Pair flank the two Captains.

Match v London Ladies Past Captains.

A report from Brad Smith, Match Manager.

On Monday 30th May we had a one off Friendly against the London Ladies at Sundridge Park, West Course.

The Course was fantastic with the greens running fast and true and a great day was had by all.

We were 20 a side and a matchplay format was agreed playing four ball better ball.

The Ladies were the victors winning 6 1/2 to 3 1/2.

The Best Ladies Team were Judith Houghton and Kate Samways with 45 points better ball.

The Best Gentlemen's Team were Eric Sneddon and Harry Dunk with 42 points



Gents Winners Harry Dunk and Eric Sneddon with their prize

A big thank you to Janet Alldread, the Ladies Captain, for organising the event.



Match Manager, Mike Muro

Match v Surrey.

A report from Match Manager Mike Muro.

Reigate Hill Golf Club. , 6th June 2022

In my final match as Match Manager, I was fortunate to field a very strong side in the away match at Reigate Hill Golf Club against the Surrey Captains. Having won the previous 2 matches against Surrey, normally one of our stronger opponents, we had high hopes for the day.

Reigate Hill Golf Club proved to be a challenging test of golf with slick greens and undulating fairways. But we had a cunning plan to send out our strongest pairings first and last and then the more steady players in the middle order.

Although the day started dry the heavens opened up half way into the match but, thankfully, we finished in bright sunshine. All the matches went virtually to the last, with our biggest margin win being 3 & 2, our worst loss was 3 & 2; most of the matches went to the 18th. Unfortunately, as with all best laid cunning plans, it didn't quite come to fruition and although Kent won 3 matches, halved 2 and lost 5, **Surrey won the match 6-4.**



The Captain with Surrey Captain, Eddie Wheeler.

Both teams had a very enjoyable evening with good food and wine. The Surrey Captain, Eddie Wheeler, was most complimentary about the way the matches were played and Lynn Mercer, our Kent Captain, was gracious in defeat.



Queen's Diamond Jubilee Triangular Match
played at Sudbury Golf Club on 22nd June 2022
Played off 95% Course Handicap - Stableford - Best Ten Scores to count



1st	LONDON	Pts	KENT	Pts	SUSSEX	Pts	
1.00	John Nugent - Captain	29	Lynn Mercer - Captain	23	Joe Angella - Captain	24	
1.08	John Godwin - Vice Captain	29	David Skinner - Vice Captain	29	Ian Potter - Vice Captain	21	
1.16	David Alldread	33	Peter Morris - Secretary	33	Mark Terry - Committee	28	
1.24	Clive Morton	29	Peter Skipper	24	Keith Talbot	27	
1.32	Henri Henriques	31	Michael Stephens	29	Richard Jays	25	
1.40	David Morrison	26	Paul Roberts	30	Nigel Wates	35	
1.48	David Wild	28	David Collen	27	Andy Plowright	28	
1.56	David Snare	23	Harry Dunk	27	Russell Shahilow	27	
2.04	Dick McDaniell	27	Roy Berry	23	Peter Ward (b)	29	
2.12	Rod Staples	36	Chris Hill	31	Ian Wood	29	
2.20	Drew Neill	36	Roger Cruttenden	30	Brian Street	25	
2.28	Peter Hughes	28	William Albury	28	Norman Milburn (b)	28	
GROSS TOTAL		355	GROSS TOTAL		334	GROSS TOTAL	
DISCARDED CARDS		49	DISCARDED CARDS		46	DISCARDED CARDS	
FINAL TOTAL		306	FINAL TOTAL		288	FINAL TOTAL	



Gillingham G.C.

Match v Hampshire.

A report from Graham Hudson.

On Thursday 30th June our team led by Lynn Mercer enjoyed the annual match against the Hampshire & IoW Captains and this year we were at home at Gillingham GC.

In decent weather our team was unable to exploit home advantage and lost 6 matches to 4, largely due to the 'tail' failing to wag! However, a good time was had by all and we were looked after very well by Gillingham, including a welcome by their Captain Robert Spinks who is planning to join our Society.

We are looking forward to the return fixture in 2023 which we understand will be at Petersfield GC



The Substitute Trophy Presentation.

Match v Cambridgeshire.

A Match Report from Nigel Digweed

This year's match with the Cambridge Area Golf Captains was held at Tenterden Golf Club, in heart of the Kent countryside on the 13th July.

Unfortunately, due to other commitments their Captain Phil Auden, was unable to join us for the day, but in his absence the teams were warmly welcomed by the Clubs President.

Prior to lunch, our Captain, Lynn Mercer extended a warm welcome to the Cambridge Captain Mark Jones and his team.

On an extremely warm day, with very little breeze and the temperature touching 28°C the teams finally ventured out to do battle. Though there was a slight reluctance by a few of the players, who felt it might be wiser to sit for the afternoon in a shaded area on the patio, accompanied by a cold beer or two.

The course, though suffering from the continued dry weather was a test for all. Some

players benefited from the very hard ground conditions, and the additional yardage achieved. However, when looking around at some of the other groups, I did get the feeling that maybe some were playing for the shade rather than the fairways. All the greens were in good condition with some rather tricky pin positions.

As you would expect the matches were played in a great spirit, with the majority of the matches being very close. Whilst collecting the results I was treated to tales of what might have been. All the missed chances and putts.

The match result hinged on the outcome of the final game, with this game being halved, it meant honours were even and the match being halved. Kent 5 - Cambridge 5.

This meant Cambridge had retained the trophy for another year, which was handy since they had forgotten to bring the trophy!

Our Captain, Lynn Mercer, passed on both teams thanks to the catering and bar staff for taking care of all our needs, especially the most appreciated delivery of cold bottled water to the players during their games. He also extended thanks to the green staff for the course's presentation.

As no trophy was present both Captains shook hands and reflected on what had been another very enjoyable, though tiring day.

The Jubilee Trophy.

Romford G.C. Essex 2nd August 2022

The consensus was that it was very enjoyable day, Romford GC were excellent hosts, and the course was in great condition. All results shown below.

Match Manager Brad Smith.

The Queen's Silver Jubilee Trophy 2022
 Hosted by **ESSEX GOLF CLUB CAPTAINS** at Romford GC on 2nd August 2022

BEDFORDSHIRE	Pts	ESSEX	Pts	HAMPSHIRE	Pts	KENT	Pts	LONDON	Pts	OXFORDSHIRE	Pts	SUSSEX	Pts
S. BRADSHAW	27	S. HAZELL	33	G. HARRIS	32	B. SMITH	38	J. NUGENT	36	R. DANIELS	31	J. ANGELLA	32
P. BURGESS	34	R. HIGGINS	37	M. BENNETT	37	G. SNELL	33	R. BATES	37	K. HENLEY	29	R. SHAHILOW	34
P. FARROW	31	D. GROVES	36	B. MORTIMER	35	R. LAMB	31	R. STAPLES	35	K. BOWKER	30	C. MILLYARD	32
D. McGARRY	31	P. SMITH	35	A. LEECH	36	P. ROBERTS	31	K. FITZGERALD	36	A. GRAY	27	T. VANHINSBERGH	31
D. McKEARS	34	P. HAWKINS	30	M. KELLY	30	S. BOOTES	36	G. SKINNER	36	K. MCINTYRE	36	A. LAMB	33
D. PRICE	41	B. SPARKES	38	E. EDWARDS	24	P. GREGORY	39	R. PEARSON	28	G. ROBINSON	35	G. DYCKES	37
L. TUCKER	33	M. BOARDMAN	35	A. PETERS	29	E. SNEDDON	29	C. MORTON	31	R. STROUD	38	M. GRIMES	42
S. WHITNEY	36	N. POPPER	44	P. CHILD	29	S. MANSFIELD	31	D. McDANIELL	36	J. URBAN	38	N. WATES	40
GROSS TOTAL	267		288		252		268		275		264		281
DISCARDED CARDS	27		30		24		29		28		27		31
	31		33		29		31		31		29		32
FINAL TOTAL	209		225		199		208		216		208		218



Captains Lynn Mercer and Kathie Maberly

Match v Lady Captains of Kent Golf Clubs.

Following last year's temporary absence, the Annual Match with the Society of Lady Captains of Kent Golf Clubs returned to our spiritual home at West Kent Golf Club. 18th August.

This ever-popular fixture attracted two teams of 24 made up in equal parts of a man and a lady in teams titled, 'The Ladies' Team' and the 'Men's Team'.

To the uninitiated the format of the day, mixed American Greensomes, can appear rather complex. However, with thought and application it is simple – well almost! Unlike foursomes, this format allows each player to hit the ball at least twice on every hole, and on occasions, many more times!! It is a fun game where the emphasis is on enjoyment and feedback from the players clearly showed its popularity with many already looking forward to next year's fixture.

As ever, despite the drought conditions, the course was presented in superb

condition; a true testimony to the head green-keeper and his team. The service in the bar and dining room were first class and reminded us all, if any were needed, of just how fortunate we are to enjoy such facilities.



*Individual Winners, Brad Smith and Helen Albery
join The Captains*

And the result?

Well this year the Ladies' Team, very ably lead by Kathie Maberly, came out winners. The scoring, in general, was good. Special mention must be made of the pairing of **Brad Smith and Helen Albery** who scored an outstanding 49 points. There is a competitive edge to the match, but as was mentioned over and over again on the day, the emphasis is on enjoyment. Long may that continue.



*Runners Up David Collen and
Susan Skinner*

My thanks to Kathie for all her support and guidance in the lead up to the match and to Mike Odd for manning the desk, fielding a multitude of questions and supervising dining arrangements. Finally, to all the players – a big thank you – your continued support is invaluable!

Roger Cruttenden

Match v Sussex 25th August 2022.

at Walmer and Kingsdown G. C. a report from Paul Roberts,

On the day the drought in the South East broke, we splashed and aquaplaned our way to Walmer and Kingsdown. Many of our own courses, both in Sussex and Kent, were closed that morning due to the torrential rain and thunderstorms. On arrival the weather forecast was bleak, but with a lot of silent prayer from all, somehow it stayed dry all day.

We received a great welcome from the Club, who couldn't do enough for us. The teams were welcomed by both our **Captain Lynn Mercer** and the **current Captain of Walmer & Kingsdown, Jim Herron**. Fortified by coffee and a very good lunch, our team was led out by Captain Lynn and Jim and that local knowledge proved very useful. The course was very dry but played well though you did need to know where to put the ball, especially off the tee, and the greens were good. Lynn and Jim set the standard for the day winning their match 2up.

Overall we had a very successful day and **Captain Lynn basked in the glory of beating Sussex 7.5 to 2.5**. With a very good meal and plenty of wine a good evening was had by all (at least all from Kent!).

My thanks go to all who turned out for the Kent team, many of which had travelled a long way in appalling conditions to represent the society.

Match v Buckinghamshire

at Whiteleaf GC. 7th September 2022

Match Manager Peter Morris.

Unfortunately we were shorthanded due to dropouts and eventually played with 12 men. The 9-hole course at Whiteleaf was challenging, as was the journey there! The course and food were excellent but unfortunately, we succumbed to a **3.5 to 2.5** defeat.

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