



Braintree Golf Course

Kent v Essex

May 1st. 2024

**A Match Report from
David Collen, Match
Manager**

The golfing Gods were definitely on our side from the very start of this encounter with our old friends from Essex- the Dartford Crossing was running smoothly. Because of this, the players arrived ahead of schedule at

Braintree Golf Club and were left with time for a catch-up chat and plan their tactics for the afternoon matches. Following a light lunch, the pairings for the 12 groups were announced and at 1 o'clock the first match was away and running- Kent being led by the Society's Captain David Skinner and past captain Roger Cruttenden.

Braintree is a tight parkland course and threads its way along tree-lined fairways over a gently rolling landscape. It is situated on land once owned by a wealthy and enthusiastic botanist. Supposedly, he planted in excess of 150 species of trees; many of these mature specimens were found during the course of the match by players from both sides, some with alarming regularity! The course did look immaculate in the afternoon sun and considering that 3 days before it had been waterlogged and closed it was a credit to the club's green staff to get it in such good shape.

However, the biggest issue for the majority, if not all, of the groups was finding the correct formula for ascertaining how many shots players would get for their rounds. Grown men were almost close to tears as they struggled, individually and collectively, to follow the latest WHS method. It was all supposed to be so simple!...or so we thought. However, agreement between the players allowed all groups to be up and running by 2.30p.m.

Travelling in a buggy with the Essex manager Peter Freeman we were able to check on the progress of the various groupings. It also gave an opportunity to admire this impressive course. It was indeed in excellent condition and it was obvious that each tree-lined hole, with the odd pond thrown in and fast greens was providing a challenge to the teams. It was all pretty evenly poised in the matches with barely a point separating the teams. This had the makings of a very tight conclusion and Kent were keen to retain the trophy.

Whilst the majority of the matches were finished before the final hole was reached it took until the 18th. hole to complete several of the matches. Brad Smith and Jeff Barnes secured their win on the last; Peter Morris and Phil Charnley halved theirs on the last having been 4 down with not many to

go; Paul Roberts and Allan Payne were one down going down the last but a half was achieved with a magnificent par from Paul. To a man the team pairings had fought hard for the whole afternoon. After a very enjoyable two- course meal the result was announced with a good 7-5 win to Kent. David Skinner graciously accepted the trophy presented by his opposite number.

My personal thanks go to the staff at Braintree who provided us with a first-class venue and hospitality but more to the team who played so well and retained the trophy.

2024 Kent Captains V London Captains at Shooters Hill.

A Match Report from David Peach, Match Manager,

We had a delightful experience at the Kent Captains vs. London Captains County Match on Thursday 30th May. Golf events like these often offer a great mix of competition, camaraderie, and enjoyment. The mention of a couple of showers suggests the typical unpredictability of weather, but it's good to hear it didn't dampen the spirits. Here are a few points highlighting the experience: The golf course was in excellent condition. The Kent Captains received a warm welcome from the staff at Shooters Hill and the food provided was excellent.



A big thank you to Peter Morris for his invaluable help in organising the day. Gratitude to Chas Stevens from West Kent for stepping in at the last moment, ensuring the event ran smoothly. Personal Highlights: David Peach, achieving a hole in one was an unbelievable and memorable highlight of the day! It was a great win for Kent Captains with a resounding 9.5 to 0.5.



Betchworth Park Golf Club

2024 Match v Surrey

A Report from Harry Dunk, Match Manager.

Our annual battle against Surrey Captains was played on 10 June at the picturesque **Betchworth Park Golf Club**. Set in the rolling hills near Box Hill, the course has undulating fairways through woodland and manicured, fast, and sloping greens. Some of the pin placing were particularly challenging! It was in excellent condition.

We sent a strong, competitive team, ably led by the Captain, Mike Stephens. While most of the games were pretty even matches, the standout team was undoubtedly our Vice Captain, Brad Smith playing with Committee member, Roy Berry who scored a resounding 6&5 win. There were other wins for John Rowe and Richard Lamb, Adrian Foster and Tony Davies, Roger Treadway and

Andy Gee, and Brian Gallagher and Mike O'Hare. Roger Cruttenden and John Martinez, Robert Dicketts and Eric Sneddon both made halves taking the team over the line.

I won't mention those who didn't quite fire on all cylinders, but most notably, yours truly!

A delicious dinner was provided over which the usual friendly banter was apparent from all corners. Notwithstanding the occasional rain shower, what a lovely day we all had.

Result: Kent 6 - Surrey 4.

QUEENS DIAMOND JUBILEE TROPHY COMPETITION

It was Kents turn to host The Queens Diamond Jubilee Trophy contest on 27th June this year. The three teams from Sussex, London, and Kent, consisting of committee members gathered on a fine day at Royal Blackheath Golf Club.

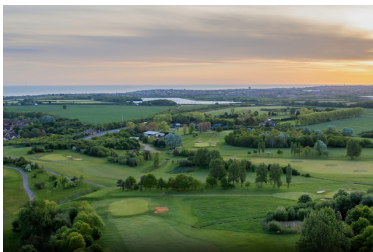


Royal Blackheath GC

A big thank you must go to **Ben Driver, CEO of RBGC** and his staff for their hospitality and professionalism. The course was presented in excellent condition for the

occasion. The catering and bar service were of the highest order. Prior to lunch the teams were afforded a guided tour of the clubs' museum which was much appreciated.

Brad Smith, Kent Vice Captain, shot the best round of the day with 37 pts. The match was played in a very friendly atmosphere with **Kent prevailing on 300pts for the 10 scores that counted, with Sussex second on 296 and London bringing up the rear on 280.** Following an excellent meal, the trophy was presented to Kent's Captain Mike Stephens by Nigel Wates the Captain of the defending Sussex team.



Chestfield GC

Match v Hants.

A report from Match manager, Chris Hill.

On Thursday 4th July 2024 there was a general election, a day which saw a change in the UK government. It was also the day when 12 intrepid golfers from Hampshire took on the might of undefeated Kent. Yes, only teams of 12, so many of the Kent golfers who had wanted to participate were left on the sidelines. A big thank you to all those omitted from the

side from match manager Chris for taking the news in such good spirits.

The day threatened rain and strong winds. Not ideal conditions! As it happens the wind did blow though the rain mainly stayed away. Following the traditional sandwich and chip lunch the match got underway. Captain Mike and Chestfield Captain John led the way for Kent. Battle had commenced. After five and a bit hours all six battles had concluded and the war had been won or lost. However, before the result was announced a few drinks and a hearty meal was enjoyed by all the combatants. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the course which was in super condition and thanks must go to the greens staff at Chestfield along with the catering team for lunch and dinner.

And so to the all important result. Did the mighty Kent retain their winning record. **Well a hard fought 3.5 to 2.5 meant that yes, Kent continue with a 100% winning record for the 2024 season.**

As always a thank you to our Secretary Peter for organising the venue and dining arrangements and of course to the team, without whose support these matches could not take place.

Match v Cambridgeshire

Weds 17th July 2024 played at Bearsted GC, Kent won by 6 games to 4.



Bearsted G C.

The Jubilee Trophy

A report from Match Manager Brad Smith.

The Queens Jubilee Trophy 2024 hosted by London, played at Sudbury Golf Club on 6* August 2024.

This year's event was hosted by the London Captains and played at Sudbury G C near Wembley. A Gem of a course set in the middle of London, with tricky fast greens. Five of the team of eight travelled the day before and played a practice round in bright sunshine and stopped over. Sadly, the next morning the heavens opened, and the course conditions completely changed. but there was some local knowledge picked up.

The format is a team of eight playing individual stableford with the best six scores counting. There are seven Counties represented in the competition.

Our team did great, finishing joint second with 214 points and only missing out by two points to London, fielding three home club team members, they amassed 216 points. Unfortunately, this was our sixth second place in eight years. We seem to just get pipped by the Home Club, as indeed was the case here.

We did have three individual great scores to be proud of, Captain Mike Stephens (Bexleyheath) 40 points, Chris Thomas (St Augustines) 38 points and Paul Roberts (Woodlands Manor) 38 points.

The rest of the team were Brad Smith (Sittingbourne), Stephen Bootes (Sittingbourne), Martin Goodright (Sittingbourne), Gary Snell (St Augustines) and Harry Dunk (Wrotham Heath). A big thank you to our President David Skinner and Secretary Peter Morris for their support on the day and to congratulate the team on their runner up position.

The Queen's Jubilee Trophy



Hosted by the London Golf Captains
Sudbury Golf Club Tuesday 6th August 2024

BEDFORDSHIRE	Pts	ESSEX	Pts	HAMPSHIRE	Pts	KENT	Pts	LONDON	Pts	OXFORDSHIRE	Pts	SUSSEX	Pts
Dave McGarry <i>Captain</i>	27	Kevin Smith <i>Captain</i>	30	Paul Mantell <i>Captain</i>	16	Mike Stephens <i>Captain</i>	40	Clive Marton <i>Captain</i>	34	Terry Killick <i>Captain</i>	30	Nigel Wates <i>Captain</i>	41
David Hawkins	37	Brian Sparks <i>Vice Captain</i>	31	Idris Vernall <i>Vice Captain</i>	27	Bradley Smith <i>Vice Captain</i>	33	John Nugent	39	Peter Walton	31	Kevin Heanen	19
Paul Northcott	33	Richard Higgins	37	Adrian Bell	30	Gary Snell	33	Manix	37	David Haddock	34	Craig Millyard	34
Clive Bassindale	30	Dick Groves	26	Brian Mortimer	30	Paul Roberts	38	Derek Stonestreet	34	Robert Daniels	39	Rasoul Shahilaw	30
Graham Freer	37	Chris Callaway	25	Mark Wade	31	Stephen Bootes	26	Steve McSweeney	33	David Hole	33	Richard Jays	30
John Trott	36	Bob Morris	37	Martin Bennet	32	Martin Goodright	32	David Alder	35	Robert Stroud	28	Andy Lamb	38
David McKears	38	Nigel Pepper	27	George Harris	37	Harry Dunk	27	John Wright	37	Naill Cambell	32	Mick Grimes	28
Paul Canibear	33	Gareth Olney	36	Eddy Edwards	32	Chris Thomas	38	Peter Jones	33	Andrew Quinn	38	Mitch Clark	39
GROSS TOTAL	271		249		235		267		282		265		259
DISCARDED CARDS	27		25		16		26		33		28		19
	30		26		27		27		33		30		28
FINAL TOTAL	214		198		192		214		216		207		212



Wrotham Heath G.C.

Match v Sussex.

Match Report from Brian Gallagher

Monday 12th August 2024. On a very hot and humid afternoon at Wrotham Heath GC, Kent having won the first four games and requiring one and a half to win only managed one half from the final six, therefore resulting in a loss of 5.5 to Sussex and 4.5 to Kent. thereby ending Captain Mikes unbeaten run.

Wrotham Heath was in excellent condition, and the catering, service and hospitality were also excellent.

Great company as always with Sussex and a great day had by all.

We look forward to the return away match next year!

Match v The Society of Lady Captains of Kent Golf Clubs.

21st August 2024 at West Kent G.C.

A Report from Match Manager Roger Cruttenden.

Once again West Kent Golf Club provided the perfect setting for the Annual Match between our Society and the Society of Lady Kent Golf Captains. The emphasis of the day is on enjoyment and so it proved.

For some years now Mixed American Greensome has provided the format. What I hear you say is that? Well, have a look on the internet. It is both enjoyable and popular while ensuring plenty of involvement for all of the players. Put simply it is great fun.

Two teams of 24 a side, one representing the **Ladies (Captained by Marion Sellar)** and the other the **Men (Captained by Mike Stephens)**, went head to head. Without wishing to confuse you 12 of the men played for the lady's team and conversely 12 of the ladies played for the men's team. Yes,

it does sound somewhat confusing but it does work!



Phil Charnley & Pat Skipper



Chris Hazelden & Karen Hubbard

The result:-

The Mens Team 444 points

The Ladies Team 445 points. It really was that close.

Mens Team best pair: Phil Charnley & Pat Skipper

Ladies Team best pair: Chris Hazeleden & Karen Hubbard

Our sincere thanks to everyone at West Kent Golf Club. The greenkeepers for presenting a golf course in superb condition. The administrative staff for setting up the day and ensuring its smooth running. To the bar and catering staff in making sure that we were so very well fed and watered!



Flackwell Heath GC after the torrent

Match v Bucks

Match Report of Buckinghamshire PCs v Kent PCs at Flackwell Heath Golf Club on Thursday 5th September 2004 by **Roy Berry (Match Manager)**.

We all set off to Buckinghamshire early morning hoping we had taken the correct route knowing of road problems and speed limits everywhere around the M25. Fortunately, all team members arrived on time and hoping for a better weather forecast than had been predicted.

The previous few days had been very warm and after a light lunch and a warm greeting from the host Club Captain the team set off on time although there were more long trousers than shorts being worn.

Regrettably an hour after the last match teed off the heavens opened. Within a short time, the greens were flooded, bunkers emptied of sand and paths were washed away. Buggies were exchanged for dinghies as the rain-soaked players trudged back to the clubhouse. A very sad sight.

As there was also thunder and lightening about it was decided to abandon play and everyone had a hot shower and refreshed themselves at the bar.

The caterers were able to bring the meal forward two hours and this was met with approval all round. It was excellent followed by differing speeches as to the outcome of the result but whichever version you choose to accept, the trophy is back in Kent to be contested again next year.

I would like to thank all of the committed team for their efforts on what was a frustrating day but hopefully found, in part, enjoyable.

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