

SENIORS AGM - New Captains Address

First and foremost I want to thank Russell Orr and members of Elshams' Seniors Section for appointing me as their Captain for 2021 which is a great honour for me. My thanks also to the Seniors Committee members who I've worked with during an 'annus horribilis', a year never to be forgotten for all the wrong reasons! On behalf of all seniors a big thanks to Robin Peak and Ian Carr who have kept us on our toes with a series of Golf Quizzes during the lockdowns followed by numerous Roll-Up competitions once we were allowed back on the course. The one thing that stands out as a huge success in 2020 was the contributions made by the Seniors to the Captains Charity and that at a time when Lindsey Lodge Hospice needed financial support more than ever – the response from the membership to the Christmas charity raffle was truly outstanding. I would like to continue supporting Lindsey Lodge Hospice during 2021 as the Captains Charity in appreciation of the great work they do in supporting the local community especially during these difficult times. They have already promised to provide a Christmas Hamper for the Charity Raffle in December!

I remember Graham Evison in his new Captains address informing us that he had come late to golf in his mid fifties – well I came much later to golf! I retired at the age of 69 and decided to give golf a try. I simply hadn't time to take up golf before retirement because my work involved a lot of overseas travelling in Australasia. I suspect it was a good thing that I started playing at Normanby rather than at Elsham otherwise I would probably have been barred for life! Being uncertain as to whether golf was right for me I shared a colleagues clubs and my attire of jeans was far from acceptable! After some 4 months of this I decided to purchase a set of clubs and join Elsham Golf Club for my 70th birthday. I remember well my first visit to Elsham when I was invited down by a friend who wanted to see how I was performing – on arrival I was politely told that he couldn't take me on the course and at best we could perhaps walk round to the practice area as long as there was no one around to see me – yes, I was still wearing jeans! A quick transformation was clearly a necessity and I believe that I am now suitably attired for golf at Elsham, although Peter Grimes has occasionally questioned me on that subject – a Ralph Lauren polo shirt is marginally acceptable!

This years captain Russell is a hard act to follow based on his 100% record as Seniors captain, played 3 Won 3! I cannot think that such a record has been equalled independent of the number of matches played, however I'm sure we'll do our very best to win as many as possible this year....who knows? Then of course there is the Captains Charity and again Russell has had a fantastic year, far exceeding the previous two years totals raised for charities and it wouldn't surprise me if he raised the most ever by Elshams Seniors. However it is a total (£1940) that can be beaten and we will endeavour to do just that! My thanks to Mike Gibson for accepting the Vice Captains role and I very much look forward to working with him building on the strengths and successes of 2020. I thank you again for providing me with the opportunity to represent you all as your Seniors Captain for 2021. Most important of all however I wish you all a healthy and enjoyable year of golf and I trust that, like myself, you cannot wait to get started again.