

2010: News from our Captain Dick

VDM NEWSLETTER For December 2010

CAPTAINS NOTES

Well where has the year gone ? Here I am writing the December news letter already having completed a whole year as your Captain. Whatever shall I find to do with my time now? Well I guess it`s obvious - back to the telegraph crossword. It`s been an honour being your Captain and I hope you have all enjoyed the year as much as I have.

Without doubt the highlight of the year for me was the trip to Nuevo Portil in October where we had good weather, splendid hospitality and enjoyable golf on a course that taxed the ability of even the best golfers amongst us. Everything seemed to fall into place and everyone said how much they had enjoyed the venue.

During the year we have unfortunately lost several days play to rain and also the numbers of members playing has dropped by about a third over previous years. I put this in part down to the fact that other clubs have offered such good membership deals that have tempted the younger and stronger players amongst us away. However, I am sure that with time they will return to the fold when they realise what a friendly and sociable club we have. Also, with the new deals that we are being given they make it more attractive to rejoin.

This year has unfortunately seen the resignation of our highly regarded President, Barbara McCloud, who felt that as she was spending less time here and not now playing golf that she should stand down. At the AGM it was considered by the members not to elect a new President and Barbara will be sadly missed. With regard to my charity this year we raised Euros1000 for the Lagoa Bombeiros. They were extremely grateful to receive this and will be in touch when they have decided how they can best use the money.

As you all know Graham Plant has been elected as your Captain for 2011 and I wish him every success and I am sure that you will give him your full support throughout his year in office.

Happy golfing and a Hearty and Prosperous New Year to you all.

Dick.

 Note :

The results of games played during the month are under the button "December" on top of this page, together with my final offering of humour from the one and only Tommy Cooper.

VDM NEWSLETTER FOR NOVEMBER 2010

CAPTAIN`S NOTES

Well another month has passed us by with one or two memorable milestones.

On 5th November which was bright and sunny we held Captain`s Day with the players being split into two divisions depending on handicap and this proved to be very successful. This could well be the format for future events.

On 10th November we held the Club AGM which was attended by 27 members. A letter of resignation was received from our President, Barbara McCloud, who feels that as she will not be able to participate in Club activities very much in the future she should stand down. Her resignation was accepted and it was decided unanimously not to elect a new President.

Graham Plant was elected Captain for 2011 with Dave Cottrell as acting Vice Captain. Handicaps will be dealt with by Lloyd, Tim and Dave. Social activities will be arranged by Dawn and Nellie, and the Website will continue in the very capable hands of Robert.

The Monthly Medal , sponsored by Peter Watts was held on Friday 26th November followed in the evening by a dinner at which Peter and his lady friend entertained us with violin and keyboard music which was very well received.

On 30th November the final of the White Heather was played with Peter Hopwood turning out the winner with 28 putts.

Earlier this month Dawn became our first sky diving great grandmother and raised a handsome sum for our chosen charity, which this year is the Lagoa Bomberios. We were treated to a viewing of a video of the jump and this alone got the pulses racing. She says she would like to do it again, it certainly is not for the faint hearted. Congratulations to Dawn.

Well, I only have a month left as Captain and I cannot believe where the year has gone. Looking back I must say that I have enjoyed being at the helm and thank you all for the assistance you have provided along the way.

Happy golfing, Dick.

Dick.

VDM NEWSLETTER For October 2010

CAPTAINS NOTES

October has been a dry warm month and no club days have been lost to rain.

The numbers of members turning out to play on Tuesdays and Thursdays has been very disappointing and the maximum on any club day during the month was only twenty six unlike this time last year when numbers were regularly in the high thirties. This of course reflects dramatically on the income for buying prizes and money reserved for the chosen charity.

On 1st and 8th October we had the annual Club Championships played as a scratch stroke play competition and the winners were as follows:-

Men`s Gross Club Champion - Jimmy Goodfellow with a score of 118 [nett 110].

Men`s Nett Club Champion - Peter Hopwood with a score of 108 [gross 120].

Ladies Gross Club Champion - Barbara Plant with a score of 139 [nett 119].
Ladies Nett Club Champion - Inga Gebhardt with a score of 118 [gross 140].

The [annual club tour went to Spain](#) this year to a new location at El Portil where we stayed at the Neuvo Portil Hotel & Golf Club. The weather was ideal and the course, which was attached to the hotel, provided a real challenge without being too difficult. I believe that next years tour may well return to the same venue as it proved to be a very popular.

Although we had a very full fixture list this month we did manage to play the Dunvegan and the White Heather competitions as usual but the October Captain`s Trophy has had to be carried over into early November.

On the hospital front I thought it may be a quieter month but Mal fell and broke her left arm during the first round of the club championships, Inga fell in Portimao injuring her face and knee, Tim also had a fall, Lily went back to England to have a new hip and Nellie continues to be under review for her tummy problems. Best wishes and a speedy recovery to each and everyone of them.

The club professional seems to be keeping busy and I am pleased to note that some of our members are continuing to make good use of the facilities he provides. Details of the training sessions he has available are on the notice board including night golf which should prove to be an interesting addition to his activities.

Happy Golfing , Dick.

Stand proud you noble swingers of club and losers of balls!
A recent study found the average golfer walks about 900 miles a year.
Another study found golfers drink on average 22 gallons of alcohol a year.
That means, on average , golfers get about 41 miles to the gallon.
Kind of makes you proud. Makes you feel like a hybrid.

VDM NEWSLETTER For September 2010
CAPTAINS NOTES

Whilst I was away in the UK, during July and August this year, Dave Cottrell and Lloyd Delderfield took charge of proceedings and ran the Summer League. They had about eight stalwart players turning out on club days at a starting time of 8 o`clock to avoid the heat of the day and I am told Kate turned out on each occasion. Many thanks to them for their staunch efforts during this period and the result of the Summer League was a win for Dave Cottrell with a score of 33.5 Pts. Based on the average of a minimum of 5 games played. Well done.

The numbers playing in September remained low until the Monthly Medal on the 24th, sponsored by Roy and Jeanne. 17 players teed off for this event and the results can be seen later in this newsletter together with the results of all other games played during the month.

The weather continued to be hot and dry with no club days lost to rain and I hope this will be the story during the remainder of my Captaincy, which is passing at an alarming rate. Only three months to go but they will be busy ones with the first round of the Club Championships on Friday 1st October and the second round on Friday 8th October, followed by the Club tour to Spain from the 12th to 15th October, Captain`s Day on 5th November, the Annual General Meeting on 10th November and the Christmas Party on 3rd December. I hope you will all make a note of these dates and participate fully in all the events on the Fixture List.

In the next few weeks we should see the return of more members to boost our numbers on club days and enable the playing of some fun games and team events on Tuesdays.

On the hospital front there is nothing to report this month although we do have one or two members waiting in the wings for scans and new knees and hips later in the year. I wish them luck.

I am still on the lookout for our most improved player this year but most members seem to be content to remain on the same old handicap month after month. Come on lets have a serious effort to get our handicaps down before the end of the year.

Happy golfing, Dick.

A Little Humour
“In memory of Tommy Cooper”

1. I went into a shop to buy some camouflage trousers the other day but could not find any.
2. I went into the butchers shop the other day and I bet the butcher Euros 100 that he could not reach the meat off the top shelf. He said, “No, the steaks are too high.”
3. A guy goes to the doctor. “Doc, I`ve got a cricket ball stuck up my bottom.”
“How`s that?”
“Don`t you start”
4. I went to a seafood disco last week and pulled a muscle.
5. My friend drowned in a bowl of muesli. A strong current pulled him in.
6. Two elephants fell of a cliff -----BOOM -----BOOM.

Here is an update YTD JUNE (followed by the June Note):

WHITE HEATHER & DUNVEGAN MONTHLY WINNERS.

NOTE : Monthly winners will be in a play off to decide the annual champion in each event.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>WHITE HEATHER</u>	<u>DUNVEGAN</u>

JANUARY	JIM ORR - 29Putts	-----
FEBUARY	DICK - 25Putts	LLOYD - 36 Pts.
MARCH	BARBARA - 25Putts	TIM - 37 Pts.
APRIL	DICK - 27 PUTTS	JIMMY - 35 Pts.
MAY	PIETER - 28 PUTTS	ROBERT - 35 Pts.
JUNE	DICK - 26 PUTTS	ROSALIND - 34Pts.

CAPTAINS NOTES FOR JUNE 2010

We are now half way through the 2010 season and I wonder where the time has gone. The Club continues to experience a very slack period with playing numbers well down on previous years and one recent outing saw only nine members turning out.

Mal and I are returning to UK for July and August for a break from the summer heat whilst things are so quiet. During this period Lloyd and Dave have agreed to cover for me and they will be arranging the weekly roll-ups and running a summer competition for the few remaining stalwarts who are interested.

This month has seen the welcome return of Jimmy, Dawn, Robert and Nellie from their hospital visits and I wish them all a speedy recovery to full health and playing fitness.

The monthly medal which was sponsored by Mike & Christine Butler was played on 25th June with a 19 players turning out. The game was followed by a brunch in the clubhouse and the event was enjoyed by all.

The condition of the course has greatly improved during the month mainly due the extensive treatment of the greens and aeration of the fairways to allow for the deeper penetration of water to the grass roots. Although we shall experience the fairways turning brown as the temperatures rise because watering will only be carried out every two days as dictated by the Camara.

I wish you all a good summer and look forward to seeing you again in September when hopefully our playing numbers will once again be back to full strength.

Best wishes,

Dick.

VDM NEWS - For May 2010

CAPTAINS NOTES

May proved to be a much better month weatherwise than that experienced so far this year. No games were lost to wet days and things now look set fair for the summer. We have again had an unfortunate ongoing register of hospital visits with Robert having a second operation on the arteries in his neck, Jimmy G having a new hip, Dave C & Geoff have both had knee operations and our Resident Medical Consultant,

Harvey has been kept busy holding clinics to advise on the minor ailments of other club members. My very best wishes go to all for a speedy recovery and I hope to see you back on the course as soon as possible.

As a result of the above, plus many other absentees for various reasons best known to themselves, the numbers playing have been greatly reduced and therefore the income for prizes and charity has got smaller and this will be evident in the annual accounts unless numbers increase quiet dramatically.

During the month the Club has welcomed Jos & Andrea den Hartog as the new professionals from Appelscha in the Nederlands, where they had a golf school for several years. I sincerely hope that all club members will take the opportunity to make the most of these in house teaching professionals. Attached to this newsletter are details of the training sessions that they are making available. (On the site: Click the button "GolfPro" above.)

Happy Golfing, Dick.

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CAPTAINS NOTES FOR APRIL 2010

April has been a much better month weatherwise than the previous three whist I have been Captain with no golf outings being lost to rainy days. Sunshine has prevailed although there has been a persistent cold northerly wind.

The numbers turning up to play on Tuesday and Fridays has been at an all time low for some unknown reason although there has some illness in our ranks.

It was great to Robert, Nellie and Dawn back from their visits to hospital. We wish them all the best and look forward to seeing them regularly on the golf course again in the near future.

During April I tried to vary the roll-up games as much as possible with Yellow Ball, Nassau, Gruesome Twosome, Texas Scramble etc., and hope you all enjoyed the challenge of these various different formats.

Alex Batch has arranged an Annual Charity Golf Game in support of Lar de Criancas Bom Samaritano [Childrens Home] on the 31st May at Pinta. The cost will be 38Euros [including gourse fee, lunch and prizes]. If you are interested in playing please contact Alex on tel. 282 359 565.

The Monthly Medal, which was sponsored by Harvey and Sue Kaufman, was played on Friday 30th April and followed in the evening by a most enjoyable dinner.

Happy Golfing.

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CAPTAINS NOTES - for March 2010

March finally produced some better weather although it is still not what we have been used to in previous years. However, we did not lose any golf days to bad weather. The number of members playing have so far this year been quite low with a maximum being 33 for the Dunvegan on 5th March.

The February Medal, which had to be rescheduled, was played on Tuesday 2nd March. The overall winner was Bill Kelly with an incredible score of nett 49. Our Handicap Secretary has taken great pleasure in adjusting his handicap accordingly.

The Presidents Day Competition was held on Thursday 9th March followed by a dinner on the 10th March sponsored by our President, Barbara McCloud. Our thanks go to Barbara for a great evening which was enjoyed by all. A collection was made for the Presidents Charity and a sum in excess of Euros 800 was raised.

The Club was very well represented at Lennards Hakansson`s funeral at St.Luke`s Church, Gorjoes nr. Sta Barbara de Nexe on 12th March, and Kate has expressed her gratitude to all members for their kindness and condolences.

Both Robert and Nellie have been on the sick list this month, with Robert being hospitalised for surgery. We wish them a speedy recovery and an early return to playing golf again.

A new competition, namely Gruesome/Twosomes, was introduced to the Tuesday roll-up fixture list and whilst it certainly brought the worst out in some players all seemed to enjoy the game so it may well appear again at a later date.

The Monthly Medal was held on 26th March and our thanks go to Bryan & Maggie Mahon who sponsored the event, also to Andrew, Donna and Edwarda for providing an excellent dinner. The winning ladies returned some good scores whilst the men were well beaten coming in 4 shots off the pace.

The condition of the course is an ongoing saga, but we members must do our bit by remembering to always rake the bunkers and repair pitch marks every time we see one. The course irrigation system is being maintained in readiness for the summer so please be aware of holes at the site of some sprinklers. These will be raised in due course to ground level .

The Captains Day has been rescheduled to 27th April in the hope that as many members as possible will attend . The event will have a Caribbean theme with a brunch in the Club House after the game.

Thanks and Happy Golfing.

Captain Dick.

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CAPTAINS NOTES FOR FEBRUARY 2010

The weather during February showed a slight improvement but was reluctant to show us any prolonged periods of sunshine which we now long for. As a result we were very

lucky and only lost two club days to wet weather one of which unfortunately was the monthly medal.

The 2 club and a putter competition surprisingly produced some better results than we normally get with a full bag of clubs, which makes us wonder if we really need to carry so many clubs on normal club days.

February has seen a welcome increase in the number of members playing as the “Snowbirds” return from the colder northern regions of Europe.

A new competition has been organised by Tim and Babs Drew for a group calling themselves the WASPS {the Wednesday after noon strolling players} and a sign up sheet appears on the notice board each week for those interested.

Just a quick reminder that when you are the first on a tee box for our regular games please make sure that the tee markers are correctly aligned and that the ground they are on is firm and as dry as possible. Also please repair any pitch marks on the greens and remember to rake the bunkers.

The annual club tour is currently being sorted out, and this year we are returning to Spain to the Islantilla area, where I know we have been several times before, but it does provide everything we need and avoids too much travelling which I feel can spoil our trip. Anyway I will keep you informed and a deposit of Euros 100 per person will be required by the end of March to secure our booking.

Being the eternal optimist, I am looking forward to a big improvement in the weather and some golf without wet weather clothing. Happy golfing.

Captain Dick.