Welcome from the Captain

Captains’ Drive In – what a daunting thought. All the members lined up on the left. Make sure I don’t slice the tee shot, water at 200 yards, perhaps I’ll just reach that, trees in my eye line but most of all just hit the ball and please go beyond the Ladies tee. Just some of the thoughts I had when I stood on the tee considering my drive. The Vice-Captain put the tee peg in, luckily I noticed it was too low and remembered to reposition it and then I thought right, just swing smoothly and hit it. In the end the drive was respectable and I am sure I would have cleared the Greet if only one more tree had been cut down!

The competition afterwards was a blur, although I believe that all members enjoyed it and congratulations to all of the winners. Then came the crunch, my first Presentation as Captain. Luckily, I had my fellow Captains there for support who assisted me admirably and my thanks are due to them.

Finally, to all of you, the members, who provided me with great support during the day and even laughed at my jokes during the Presentation. All in all a good start to my year and I only made one mistake, which I realised as I noticed Sheila striding towards me when I thought I’d finished!!!

Thank you all for your support and I would like to say how I am very much looking forward to my Captaincy year.

The Vice-Captain leading our new Captain to the tee....
Hello from Pat …

The drive in was a lovely day and the weather was very kind to us this year. I was overwhelmed by all the cards and good wishes I received and thankfully, I did manage to find the fairway and not put my ball on to the racecourse or into a bush as could have been the case. However, surrounded by so many friends, I was not worried. I must say congratulations to Teresa for winning the car parking space although she will now have to take her driving test!!

I am looking forward to the year ahead. The camaraderie in our ladies section is fantastic and it is so good to see so many ladies turning up on a Wednesday morning, rain or shine, for fun on the golf course or even just coffee and a sandwich.

I hope that this year will be as enjoyable for everyone as in previous years and I will do my best to make this happen. We have a lot to look forward to and thankfully, we have started to see the start of Spring.

Walking the Guard of Honour

I wish good golfing to everyone. Previous Lady Captains have all managed to reduce their handicaps - I am not holding my breath but am ever hopeful!!

Goodbye from Ann…. 

My Captaincy year seems to have passed by so quickly and I cannot believe it has ended. I have thoroughly enjoyed the experience and it exceeded all of my expectations.

I think most of it went well, some bits could have been better but as you witnessed, I am a bag of nerves when standing of front of an audience and tend to get flustered and forget what I should be saying! Anyway, I got used to everyone laughing at my mess ups! I would like to say well done to our Ladies champion, Lisa Anthoney, who is a great ambassador for the club. She plays for most of the teams and she is a real joy to play with. Unfortunately, she has recently suffered an injury but we hope to see her back on the course before too long. I would also like to say well done to all of the trophy winners and it was great to see the honours being shared out amongst so many members.

Welcome to the new lady members who have joined us this year but alas, as we all know, we also lost one of our lovely ladies far too soon.

Hopefully everyone has enjoyed the year as much as I have. Thanks to everyone for your kindness and support. I wish Pat, Mike and Tony a good golfing year and hopefully I can try and concentrate on improving my own game. It has been a pleasure to have served as Lady Captain. Ann
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE GOLF CAPTAINS’ SOCIETY

NGCS is an active society of current and former Captains of Golf Clubs throughout the County. This year, John Rushby, our Captain during the 2002-2003 season, has the honour of being Captain of NGCS. We wish John all the very best for an enjoyable year and are looking forward to hosting the Captain’s meeting at Southwell on 26th May 2016. Here’s John pictured with a number of his fellow past Captains, together with Mike.
**GREENS REPORT**

It has been a busy winter working on the course and as always, it has been made more challenging by the wet weather.

One of our major projects has been the work on expanding and returfing the 10th tee. We have also just completed work on extending the ladies tee on the 12th hole. Additional work has included the enhanced practice facilities with work having taken place on the practice net as well as a new practice bunker. We are waiting for the turf ‘to take’ before filling it with sand as there would be a risk of the grass becoming burnt by the sand if it is not fully established.

We have also completed work on many of the pathways on the course by installing roadstone which has helped on those areas which suffered during periods of heavy rain. The funding for this came from proceeds from the 100+ Club and we do appreciate those members who are supporting this initiative.

During spring, the course maintenance programme has been in full swing. The greens have been hollow-cored, scarified, verti-drained, top-dressed, over sown and fertilised. I would like to say a huge THANK YOU to the many members who have helped in many ways, particularly with the hollow-coring. The greens teams, which were established last year, were a great help throughout the year and we are hopeful that these will continue in the coming season.

As the warm weather has arrived, we are now busy with cutting and spraying for weeds and pests. However, I am delighted to say that the racecourse has made a significant investment in a new mower for the rough which we hope will be delivered within the next few weeks and which will certainly make maintenance easier.

New irrigation pumps are also due to be delivered and all of this will hopefully enable us to present you with a course in tiptop condition in the months ahead.

Matt Hartley
FACTS AND FIGURES – (Most of this research comes from American golf courses and universities including one which analysed over 40,460 rounds and most of which were 3 or 4 ball games.)

- 3 million golfers quit golf every year citing slow play as one of the major factors.
- The research defined slow play as any round that takes more than 4 hours. Fast play is around 3½ hours.
- It takes about 1 hour to “play” 18 holes of golf – the other 2½ to 4½ is “logistical positioning”.
- The slowest group dictates the pace for everybody else.
- The average round of golf in the USA is 4hrs 17mins but the average time for the first group out is 3hrs 46mins.

READY GOLF

1. If you are waiting to hit a long shot onto a green that you can potentially reach, let the shorter hitter go first.
2. If you have the ‘Honour’ on the tee, be ready to play.
3. Play your own ball before looking for a lost ball.
4. It’s not a case of manners or tradition, it’s just a change of culture and in fact being more considerate for those playing with you or behind.
5. Common courtesy is the staple of the game - observe it in your pace of play.
6. The Assistant Rules Secretary of the R & A has recently been quoted as saying ‘everybody is affected by slow play which has become a major problem in the modern game’.
7. St Andrews has stamped 3hrs 57mins on each practice ball to get the message across.

Thanks to Graham Coulson for providing us with the above.
How long have you been playing golf? I never lifted a golf club until I was fifty as I was, too busy working. I was told to slow down as I was working most weekends so my American boss told me to take up golf – a big mistake!

When did you join the club and had you been a member of any other clubs before Southwell? I had never been a member of any other clubs. A chance conversation led to me coming along to Southwell. I was made to feel very welcome and joined in 1997 when Nick Bingham and Wendy Scruby were Captains.

Favourite holiday destination? It has to be Australia and New Zealand as my Daughter and her family live in Sydney and whilst we are there we normally have a trip over to New Zealand also.

Favourite food and drink? Perhaps the most difficult question. I love all kinds of food and love cooking but probably my favourite to eat and to cook is Asian cuisine, mainly with Chinese influences.

What is your favourite hole on the course? Only one contender, the seventh which would grace any course, anywhere. We are very lucky to have such an iconic hole on our course remembered and commented on, without exception, by all who visit.

Away from Southwell, what is the best course you have played on, either in the UK or abroad? I have played many courses around the world in my short golfing life but probably the best would be Kauri Cliffs in New Zealand. Once ranked in the top 100 in the world, it is built on a stunning rugged coastline with fairways running on the top of peninsulas with greens at the end of each. It has a par three from one peninsula to the other with a carry of 200 yards cliff top to cliff top with nothing but the raging sea 100 feet below - now that is a daunting tee shot!

Tell us about your most memorable round of golf. I once received a corporate invitation to play Golf de Saint-Cloud in Paris. We received five star treatment from chauffeur collection at the airport to private chefs cooking at the club and dinner at La Maurice - the best restaurant in Paris. I was even luckier because I made the same trip the following year.

If you could choose your dream 4-ball, which playing partners would you choose to play alongside? Perhaps a little bit of a cop out but I have played many rounds with many different professionals and some celebrities so I have no ambition would be with any have met through also others I have playing inter club or NGCS not just one fourball. I have many there. My truthful answer combination of the friends I golf here at Southwell and met through golf whilst matches, so unfortunately people I admire through history and would have liked to have met, Nelson Mandela, Brian Clough, George Best and many others but it would be a very quiet round as they are all long gone now!!
We are just a few weeks into my captaincy year and I have already had a few highs and a few lows. The Seniors have played a number of inter club matches and I am pleased to say that we have won more than we have lost!! Many of the matches have been close affairs with Neil Robertson and Rex Williams being undefeated so far.

Winners in the Eclectics have included Norman Rossiter and Paul Smith, with Brian Watson and David Parker enjoying success in their divisions in Stableford competitions. Particularly pleasing has been the very good turnouts we have had in the competitions and it has been great to see a good number of new members taking part.

The golfing season is now in full swing with some good competitions coming up so please keep an eye on the notice boards, put your names down and get involved.

I am looking forward to The Seniors Open in May. I hope it is as big a success as it was last year and I would like to say thanks to Bob Mitchell for all his hard work in organising this event.

We are all now beginning to see the improvements being made to the course, some of which are being funded by the 100+ club. I am sure that if you haven't got a number already, Ian Pollard will be only too pleased to set one up for you. At the time of writing, 90 numbers have been allocated so 10 more is well within reach.

Finally, may I say a big thank you to all members and guests who came to the club to support Pat, Mike & me on our Captains’ Drive-In. It was a fantastic experience for me and one I'll never forget. Thanks for all the good luck cards and for all of your best wishes.

Take care and take it easy.
Tony Anthoney, Senior Captain

Thank You from Paul Hallam

How time has flown! My captaincy year is now over and I would like to thank those people that have helped me throughout the season.

Firstly my Vice-Captain Tony Anthoney who I am sure will make an excellent Seniors Captain this year.

Members of the Seniors Committee, who have always been there for advice and help whilst also organising inter club matches, Seniors Open, Charity Day and the general running of the seniors section.

Bernie and the team for providing excellent food and service throughout the year, Bernie’s food always attracts favourable comments from visiting teams.

Matt and his team who have worked extremely hard improving the course over the last couple of years with visiting teams commenting on the pace of improvements.

My fellow Captains, Brian and Ann, I think we made a good team.

Our professional, Jasen Barker.

Supporters of the 100+ Club, contributions are providing funding towards ongoing course improvements.

The ladies section provided starters, gardeners and all the work in the clubhouse, particularly at Christmas.

And last but not least you the members, it has been both an honour and a pleasure being your captain over the past year.

We reinstated the Seniors Captain’s Charity Day in June. This was attended by 68 players and raised £530 for my chosen charity, Maggie’s at Nottingham City Hospital.

The Seniors Section enjoyed a wide variety of competitions during the year, from regular medals and Stablefords, fun and mixed competitions and of course board trophy events. All 10 board competitions were completed in the year and including pairs competitions, produced 11 different winners!

Finally in closing I would like to wish Tony Anthoney my best wishes for his year and hope he enjoys it as much as I have.

Paul Hallam
The Captains’ Farewell Evening held on 1st April was a hugely enjoyable occasion and a great way to celebrate the end of the Captaincy years of Brian, Ann and Paul. As everyone knows, our chosen charity was the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association and Zeb became a much loved addition to our club. We are delighted to have raised £5,000 during the year and many thanks to all of you who found water so regularly on the 7th hole! Pictured is Brian presenting a cheque to Gillian Bignell and Jeanette Stevens from the charity.

We would like to thank Brian, Ann and Paul for the ‘superhuman’ efforts they made throughout their Captaincy years. They each brought their own style and their contributions were greatly appreciated by the membership.

After the Presentation, everyone enjoyed an excellent racing evening and this was due to a tremendous effort made by Steve Martin, ably supported by Liz, whose planning and organisation was outstanding. Perhaps one of the evening’s highlights was hearing Steve suddenly turning into Peter O’Sullevan by providing commentary during the races! The last race proved to be a hugely successful fundraiser with bidding taking place for each ‘thoroughbred’ (!) and many thanks to Kev Walker for his generous donation, although there is a feeling that this may have been fuelled by many samples from Bernie’s collection! All in all, a great evening and once again, thanks to Steve and Liz for their efforts and of course, not forgetting Sue Nickless and Marj Foster for their hard work as always.
Golf Club Constitution

At the Club AGM held in March, it was intended to present the amended Constitution for Members to vote on. However, some Members expressed concern at some of the wording contained within the Constitution and questioned its legality/validity. In light of this, the decision was taken for this to be reviewed again rather than take a vote at the time. The only changes made to the document were replacing the EGU (English Golf Union) with England Golf and changing the name of the Owners. We contacted England Golf who confirmed to us in writing that:

"There is no requirement for Clubs to inform us of changes in constitution. It goes without saying that we simply advise that any changes are made in accordance with the laws of England and Wales".

However, England Golf did say it would be willing to review the Constitution and we therefore sent the revised document to Tom Yates, the Compliance Officer at England Golf. His response is shown below:

Sheila,

I apologise for the delay in coming back to you. We recruited an in-house solicitor into the Compliance department here at England Golf last week, and I wanted her to cast a glance over your Club’s constitution as well as my own review.

I confirm that we as a department are happy with your revised constitution, and particularly praise the disciplinary procedures you have included as well as incorporating those of England Golf. We receive many enquiries where it is unclear whether Clubs need to abide by England Golf procedures in this regard, which often causes the disciplinary process to be lengthy and muddled.

Kind regards,

Tom

We also consulted with the Nottinghamshire Union of Golf Clubs which advised us that there “were no legal formalities”. It simply asked us to send our amended constitution to the NUGC and it would retain the document on file.

Therefore, it is not anticipated that there needs to be any further changes to the Constitution and it is hoped Members will vote for its acceptance at the 2017 AGM.
We are pleased to announce that the club will be launching a new website in the coming weeks. This will contain a number of new features which we hope the members will enjoy.