Dave Thorne reflects on his year as Captain.

How time flies, I started the year as Vice Captain and then owing to Graham's unfortunate illness took over the Captaincy from May. It then suddenly hit me that Captain's day, mid June, was only 6 weeks away. Talk about a hectic start. I had no Vice, so for the first 2 months, I was sorting out teams, officiating at matches and generally getting my head round what was expected of me!

As it happened, Captain's day went really well and I had fantastic support from both the Committee and Senior Members themselves, providing raffle prizes and donations in aid of my chosen Charity the 'Cornelia de Lange Syndrome Foundation' (raising £630). This will go a little way towards funding research, supporting families with CdLS (like my Grandson Austin) and creating general awareness of the traits of the Syndrome across the medical profession and how to manage the disabilities.

We are a very proactive Seniors Section, which has a myriad of competitions / club matches - 70+ each season. It is only because we are so well run and organised, that in the main everything runs so smoothly. Roll up numbers of 40-50 are now common place and it's great to see so many new members (16 this year). My thanks to Robin and Pete on the Desk: they never let us down, our unsung heroes and to Jim for overseeing the Comps. and entertaining the troops. Thanks also to Mike Taylor for maintaining our web site and for keeping everyone informed of ongoing events.

Mark who took over as Vice in July has been a great support to me with the matches and I wish him well with his Captaincy next year together with Tony Mackay, our new Vice Captain.

We had our annual Seniors / Ladies Texas scramble match in August with a great turnout - 36 golfers. All the Captains / Vice played together, finishing last - oh dear! (see separate report)

For the first time in 7 years, two Seniors, Dave (Haggis) Atkins and myself hit holes in one on the 16th hole; what odds on that happening? Amazing! I've also managed to bring my handicap down from 16 to 13, and won the Division 1, Summer Merit. It doesn't get much better than that!

Our 17 inter club matches (using 34 players) have gone very well, with 11 wins and 6 losses, which included winning the Bedford John Parrott Trophy. Our other matches were The Whittlebury 4 Club challenge (finished 3rd). Their handicaps do seem inflated!! We then hit the jackpot by winning the Bedfordshire 4 Club Cup, a terrific result at their Club (see separate report on page 3). We do however still struggle to get teams. So come on guys, give it a go! If you turn up to play with the Seniors, you can play anywhere!

I've attended the Main Club General Committee meetings which I've found very useful and good to have as a forum for raising any Senior issues we have. There have also been the odd occasions when I've raised issues directly with Zac, and although we haven't always seen eye to eye, there has been give and take on both sides, which has helped to make progress and maintain excellent relations. With the extremely hot weather, we really are indebted to Zac and his team for both maintaining the course to a very high standard. Then there is the professionalism and friendly faces we see in the pro shop with Lee, Carl and Victoria; the groundsmen; and Emmalee, Emma and her staff who produce and serve great meals at our Club matches.

Congratulations to all those who've won competitions this year. It's good to see we have a wide spread of winners across the whole Section. Special mention to Jim Duffield and Paul Campion, who won our Club Championships.(report on page 9).

Well, as my Captain's year draws to a close its been very enjoyable. The support from the Committee has been invaluable and it's been a pleasure to interact with and enjoy the camaraderie of so many Seniors. I recognise that some of the decisions we have taken have not pleased everyone but hopefully they have been made in the best interest of members as a whole.
Finally With my Captain's day, inter club matches and the recent Captain v Vice Captains event, the CdLS charity has benefited to the sum of £909, a fantastic achievement. Many thanks to everyone for their support during the year. It really has been very much appreciated.

The mighty Oak

This magnificent oak tree, adjacent to the practice ground, recently lost one of its lower branches, due mainly to the dry weather we have been having. It dominates the area and is reckoned to be about 100 years old. Because there are about 600 species of oak, it is difficult to say with any certainty, what is its rightful name.

Here are a few facts about the oak:

- Some live to over 1,000 years of age.
- They grow to an average height of 15 to 21 metres (50-70 feet) and can have a spread of as much as 15 metres (50 feet), when fully grown.
- It starts producing acorns from the age of 20 to 50 years.
- One tree can produce more than 2,000 acorns every year.
- The leaves and the acorns are poisonous to cattle, horses, sheep and goats in large amounts, due to the toxic tannic acid and can cause kidney damage and gastroenteritis.
- Oak barrels contribute to the colour, taste and aroma as well as imparting a desirable oaky vanillin flavour to wine, sherry, brandy, Irish whiskey, Scotch whisky and Bourbon whisky.
- The oak is the national tree of England, Wales, the USA, Serbia, Germany, Cyprus, Estonia, France, Moldova, Romania, Jordan, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Bulgaria.
- The Royal Oak is the third most common pub name in Britain.
- And finally, for those who live that long, they can celebrate their 80th wedding anniversary with the Oak symbol.
Pavenham Park GC Seniors win the Bedford Challenge Cup. A great result.

This is an annual competition comprising 4 clubs, the Bedfordshire (who hosted the event), The Bedford, Beds & County and ourselves. The format is a stapleford competition comprising 6 players with the best 4 scores counted from each Club.

Our team was: Dave Thorne & Frank Williams, with our best 4 stapleford scores coming from: Mark Paxton, Jim Duffield, James Hewlett and Dave Stephenson.

Club scores were as follows: The Bedford 117, Beds & County 122, The Bedfordshire 132, Pavenham Park 134 So well done lads! A terrific performance with our best scores coming from Dave S (36 pts), Mark (35pts), Jim Duffield (32) and James Hewlett (31), and yes, it’s another trophy for our cabinet, which is brill.

As a side note, this is only the second time an away team has won this Cup which makes it all the more special !.

Dave Atkins celebrates his hole in one on the 16th.
(Although he wants you to think it was achieved on the 18th!)

Just a coincidence but for two years....

on August Bank Holiday Mondays in 2017 and 2018, the same player has won the roll up!!

This player is Dave (Whizz) Howkins playing off 23 who scored 40pts last year and 39pts this year.

Quite an achievement and a quirky coincidence.

The picture shows him looking very pleased with himself, not about this feat, but giving his Wedding speech at the Butchers’ Arms restaurant, near Banbury.
Graham Follett recalls the variety of jobs he had in his working career and reflects on what has given him the most satisfaction and pleasure.

I was born as a result of the war, on 21 June 1946, 9 months after dad got demobbed. We lived in Ewell, Surrey and my fairly uneventful young childhood changed when I was spotted at the Epsom and Ewell Swimming Club by a scout for the Highgate Diving Club, in the summer of 1956. Highgate was the elite of all diving clubs in the late 50's and early 60's, producing the likes of Brian Phelps, who won bronze at the Rome Olympics in 1960, and many international divers. Brian was about 18 months older than me, but in the same junior squad - a group of about a dozen aspiring Olympic and international divers, but my best was a silver in the Southern Counties in 1960, and a bronze in 1961, although I managed to come 9th in the national junior springboard championships in 1960.

Diving was my life throughout my youth, and I spent every Tuesday and Friday evenings and all day Saturday and many Sunday afternoons training at various pools around London. That meant crossing London by tube to and from north London, often coming home late at night on my own. There was never any concern about safety then!

I gave up diving when I was 17, when I left school and started my first job in Barclays Bank in Ashtead, Surrey. After a year or so, I got fed up with making tea for the manager and went to be a trainee toolmaker. I stayed there for 18 months before realising I wasn't going to be an engineer, so I left and after a couple more dead end jobs I went back into banking, joining the District Bank which was swallowed up into the Nat West a few years later.

By then I'd met Jan whom I was to marry. A few friends and I gate-crashed a party of an acquaintance of one of us. Jan knew him too through a youth club and soon I was a member of Stoneleigh Methodist Youth Club myself. It was a very active club and became our life for about 4 or 5 years. During that time, Jan had gone on to teacher training college in Brighton. A few months after she finished her training, we got married (January 1971) and as I was working in Nat West, Farnborough, we bought a house nearby and settled down to married life. In November 1973, I was promoted and sent to Bedford - quite a shock for a Follett - none of us had lived north of the Thames before! Our first house in Bedfordshire was 42 Molivers Lane, Bromham, and whilst there we joined the Bromham Independent Players, and I found another love of my life: appearing in or stage managing or doing sound or lights for every production for the next 19 years. During that time, I was a panto dame 3 times, the King in King and I, the Maurice Chevalier character in Gigi, the Scarecrow in Wizard of Oz and numerous other bits and pieces. A sad day when the group folded - as many amdram clubs were doing, in 1994.

Meanwhile, our kids had arrived - Ben (1976), Becky (1977) and Jo - Joanna - (1980). With a full family and full 'acting' life (Jan and I and the kids all appeared in various plays, panto and musicals), we had a very happy time. Jan went back to teaching when Jo started school in 1985, but our Bromham home seemed to be getting smaller so we moved to a 4 bed in Farsands, Oakley. Our move meant all change for the kids' schools - Ben and Becky to Lincroft Middle and Jo to Oakley Lower. A happy time for them all. Jan had taken up a new post at Holywell Middle School in Cranfield and I had progressed up the scale and had gained my first (junior) managerial post in the rapidly expanding Central Milton Keynes branch - 35 staff when I joined it in 1982, and 110 when I moved on in 1986. A huge learning experience for all the staff.

In 1986 I was posted to Cranfield University branch (or Institute as it was known then) and at first I thought I was lucky to get such a dodder of a branch. It was small and quiet and perhaps too much so, after about 18 months, I felt there was no challenge and I stirred...
the waters of our regional HR staff, resulting in promotion to junior lending manager at Cauldwell Street branch in Bedford, where I spent 4 years which included the years of the late 80's early 90's recession - a time of enormous stress for many of our customers, with grown men and women coming in to see me, at their wits end and often in tears, with financial problems.

That all lead on to what was my final post, as a joint manager at Bletchley, although, by then, I was very disillusioned with Nat West and the banking industry generally so was happy when I was offered redundancy, with a handsome financial package in 1995. The package meant I could take my time in searching for another job, and 3 months later, a friend who was chair of governors at Lincroft school, said to me: 'The bursar's leaving - do you want the job?' I snapped his hand off and walked into a job paying almost exactly what I had left in the bank. I started on 13 of the happiest working years of my life and wished I'd found such a job years earlier.

Meanwhile at home, Ben had gone through Sharnbrook Upper fairly unscathed and had gained a place at Plymouth Uni. to study Environmental Geology - a subject he had been potty about since, as a 4 year old, he had found his first fossils on Charmouth beach in Dorset. (As an aside, when interviewed for Plymouth Uni, they asked why he wanted to do the course. He replied, 'Because I love rocks!') Becky, too, in 1996, started studying at Central Lancs Uni. in Preston and finding, as part of the degree modules, that event management was her forte (like her mother she was a born organiser!). Jo had excelled in her school life and gained a place studying Comparative American Studies (History, literature and politics of all the Americas) at Warwick.

School life - when you don't have to teach - is great. If you have to teach, as I know from Jan, then be prepared to temper the thrill of being in the school environment and doing what Jan describes as 'a song and dance act in front of 30 kids every day,' with the stress of it all – I mean the admin side. She misses teaching now, but we both enjoy our retirement. For me, it's golf, church (I'm treasurer at Oakley Methodist, and a local - or lay - preacher, although listening to my language at times, you may not think so!), and of course, grand children: Becky - married to Charlie - lives in Somerset and has Sam and Isla. Jo lives in Chelmsford with her partner, Chris, and has Harry and Louis.

Ben now lives in Hamilton, North Island, NZ, with his partner, Jules whom he met at Uni. Still a geologist, still loving rocks he has opted for looking after dogs rather than having kids! As I write this I'm lying on Tamariu beach in the Costa Brava, where we have a house near the Med. We have wonderful times here; I play golf frequently with my friend, John, while Jan goes walking with John's wife Chris.

Oh yes, and as some of you may have heard, it was on the local Par 3 course - 3rd hole, 150 metres - that I got my one and only hole in one!

Sorry you weren't there to have a beer with me!

A guy is sitting in the bar in departures at a busy airport.
A beautiful woman walks in and sits down at the table next to him.
As she is wearing a uniform, he thinks she is probably an off-duty flight attendant, so he decides to chat her up by identifying the airline she flies for, in order to impress.
Leaning across he says the Delta Airlines motto: “We love to fly and it shows.”
The woman stares back at him blankly, so he thinks up another line. Leaning forward again, he whispers the Air France motto: “Winning the hearts of the world.”
Again she gives him a puzzled stare, so he tries again, using the Malaysian Airlines motto: “Going beyond expectations.”
Finally, the woman looks at him sternly and says: “What the hell do you want?”
“Aah!” he says, with a smile on his face. “Ryanair
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<td>Robin Cooper</td>
<td>John Economides</td>
<td>Dave Atkins</td>
<td>Ted Woodward</td>
<td>Ted Woodward</td>
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<td>Glyn Lee</td>
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<td>Autumn Shield</td>
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Division 1 medals:
- Roy Davies (April); Jim Duffield (May); Steve Bland (June); Mick Ryding (July); Steve Bland (August); Michael Taylor (September); David Transfield (October)

Division 2 medals:
- David Mansell (April); Paul Campion (May); Tony Mackay (June); Peter Baker (July); Peter Planterose (August); Peter Julyan (September); Bill Panesar (October)

Bill Letch sent this piece from Paparaumu, Wellington, New Zealand:
“Bit late catching up with the Seniors’ news in InPutt. Just to pay my respects to Francis Toole and Brian Kirkup. Two of the nicest guys you could ever meet.

Best wishes to anybody I knew at the Club.”
There was I, Stan Jones, enjoying coffee after a Monday roll up with John Salter, when he asked if I had any hobbies. So here I am writing about Advanced Driving (cars not golf).

Advanced driving is based on the **principles of the system of car control** used by police and is as detailed in ‘Roadcraft – The Police Driver’s Handbook.’ To maintain Tutor standards we are tested every three years by a current or ex police class 1 driver. Before we go onto driving let’s think about the driver (the person behind the wheel, not the golf club.) **What makes a good driver?**

Advanced drivers have a quiet efficiency in their actions and this derives from:

- Critical and honest self-awareness and understanding of personal characteristics, attitude and behaviour, which are necessary for safe driving.
- Taking action to keep identified risks to a minimum
- Awareness of limitations and those of the vehicle and the road.
- Awareness of the risks inherent in particular road and traffic situations.
- Concentration and good observation.
- Continuously matching the vehicle’s direction and speed to the changing conditions.
- Skilful use of vehicle controls.

**What is the system of car control?** A way of approaching and negotiating hazards that is methodical, safe and leaves nothing to chance. It involves careful observation, early anticipation and planning, and a systematic use of the controls to maintain the vehicle’s stability in all situations.

It keeps actions necessary to a minimum and applies them simply in an order necessary for control.

The system of car control includes the processing of information throughout the four phases which you can see from the diagram. These are position, speed, gear and acceleration. Many drivers approaching or at a hazard are trying to do too many things at once and will often be steering, foot on brake, foot on clutch and changing gear all at the same time. A recipe for errors. The system keeps it simple by taking one action at a time in the order of the system, so reducing the risk.

**How does it work?** On the approach to any hazard, take into account the information already gathered, constantly updating as circumstances change. Then consider: do I need to change position? If so, think about: do I need to signal i.e. will anybody benefit? Think about what speed is needed to negotiate the hazard and how to achieve that, by deceleration, braking or both. At this point, position and speed phases are completed. Only when the speed is appropriate for the hazard can the choice of gear be selected, as until the speed is
right the correct gear cannot be selected. Another phase complete and having got the
position, speed and gear right, the hazard can be negotiated. When clear the acceleration can
be applied within the displayed speed restriction.

**What is a hazard?** Anything which is an actual or potential danger. (On the golf course
this may mean ditches, hedges, bunkers and the like). On the road these will slot into one of
three types of hazard:
- Physical features (e.g. junctions, bends, road surfaces)
- Position or movement of other road users.
- Weather conditions.

Teaching of advanced driving includes how to apply the system of car control for various
types of hazard. When I worked in Milton Keynes, my own challenge was to arrive at the
office without stopping at any of the roundabouts. Not always possible, but often achieved!
Applying observation and the system, will enable smoother and better progress on a journey
and dealing with hazards like roundabouts, in a more efficient manner.

Bends often create problems for some drivers, approaching too fast, particularly younger
drivers. Using the limit point aids the recognition of the speed
needed to negotiate a bend.

We teach how to read the **limit point** and use it to balance the
speed for the bend and progress away from it. Again the system is
used on the approach to any bend to get the right position, speed
and gear. The limit point is the furthest point to which you have an
uninterrupted view of the road surface.

The safe stopping rule is: “Never drive so fast that you cannot stop
safely in the distance you can see to be clear, on your own side of the road”. On fast roads
always remember the two second rule, which is leave a gap of two seconds between you and
the car in front. You may have heard the expression **‘only a fool breaks the two second
rule’** which takes about two seconds to say out aloud.

There are so many aspects of advanced driving that we cover including commentary.
My hobby is, as an Advanced Tutor, teaching advanced driving to members of the public,
who join our Bedford Group of Advanced Drivers, which is affiliated to the Royal Society
for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA). The aim of
RoSPA is to make our roads safer by improving driver
education. A person joining our Group (associate) is
allocated a Tutor. The two will meet at agreed times
convenient to both and the tutoring will be in the associate’s
own car. Sessions normally last around an hour.

Anyone interested in joining can do so by referring to our
web site [www.roada-bedford.org.uk](http://www.roada-bedford.org.uk) printing off the
application form or speak to me. On Tuesday 26th

February we will be running another of our Better Driving Courses which is classroom based
in Bedford and runs for six consecutive Tuesday evenings.
Again, application on the web site.
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<td>3rd</td>
<td>Peter Julyan</td>
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**Jim Duffield (over Gross Champion) & Paul Campion (overall Net Champion)**

**Talk about sour grapes!**

Phil Mickelson (allegedly) says the Ryder Cup was a waste of his time. The American slammed European courses and said: “I’m not going to play tournaments with rough like that any more. It’s a waste of my time. I’m going to play courses that I can play and make a lot of birdies – the golf I like to play.”

*Daily Mail 6th October, 2018*
Mark Paxton shares with us what he calls “his Thai Experience” – particularly with regard to golf.

Many years ago I was working near Marble Arch in the IT department of Olympia, who were manufacturers of office equipment and a lovely young lady from Thailand, who, subsequently became my wife, started work in the same department. Along with most people at the time I had no idea where Thailand was and didn’t realise it had changed its name from Siam. Flights to and from Thailand had to stop 3 times en route in those days so consequently it wasn’t yet a viable tourist destination.

I first met my future wife’s parents when they came to the UK as part of a tour of Europe. I arranged to play golf with my future father-in-law at High Elms, which is a public course near Bromley in Kent, where I played quite often with friends. On arriving at the course he said “where are the caddies?” which was the first of many surprises along the way, as I learnt more about Thai people and Thai golf.

My first experience of playing golf in Thailand was with my brother-in-law who has a regular game with a group of friends every Saturday. Three things were immediately apparent.

Firstly, the general quality of the courses is excellent – many designed by well-known golfing figures including Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer and Nick Faldo.

Secondly, most have very grand club houses with first class facilities – it seems each club tries to outdo their neighbours with bigger and grander structures.

Thirdly, they all have that most wonderful asset – caddies. Caddies are mainly young women who clean your clubs, tell you the distance to the hole, recommend which club you should take, repair pitch marks, give you the line of your putts, rake the bunkers, keep score and giggle a lot. One problem is that their expertise varies quite a lot from course to course and in particular you need to treat early advice on putting with caution, until they have been proved correct.

I also learnt that Thai golfers always want to bet on every hole – generally each player takes their turn to be the dealer, who the other players in the group bet against. There is an agreed nominal starting bet of, say 50p. If one of the players hits a good tee shot they may double the bet to £1. The dealer tees off last and if he hits a good tee shot he may re-double so he could be playing members of the group for £2 each. As each hole is completed, you have to settle all bets before starting the next hole – it can get quite expensive if you are having a bad day – quite strange that there is so much betting in a country where it is illegal!

I am very fortunate that my wife’s family has some excellent connections so there has never been a shortage of people inviting me to join them for golf.

The first was a retired Admiral who took me to the Royal Thai Navy course at Plutalaung, which is near Pattaya. The Thai armed forces have some amazing golfing facilities – there are three really good quality courses at Plutalaung and as you can imagine, when the Admiral appears there is much bowing and scraping. I remember remarking to the Admiral that the caddy I had was quite pretty – he said “if you want to sleep with her I can make all the arrangements” – clearly a man of influence. He is quite a character and always has 3 caddies, one to manage his clubs, one to hold an umbrella over his head to shade him from the sun and one to carry his chair as he likes to sit down between shots.

My wife’s best friend since schooldays is married to an Army General and we often play at the Army golf centre in Bangkok which has two courses. We are always met at the club by his aide-de-camp who takes care of everything including carrying your bags, serving food and drinks, cleaning your golf shoes and laying out your clothes for you while you are having a shower. I played with the General last year and one of the two courses was closed for a competition. There was a queue of around 16 or 17 buggies waiting to tee off – I asked him what time we were due to start and he said “we’re next”. We went straight to the head of the line by passing all the other waiting golfers – thank goodness we both hit good drives.

The army course is one of several where you can play as a group of six. On virtually all of the par 3 holes there is a call-up rule so that once you all reach the green you then wait for the group behind to play their tee shots. If you are still putting out when the following group reaches the green it gets a little crowded as there
can be up to 24 people (including caddies) around the green all watching you standing over a crucial and maybe expensive putt.

Some years ago I organised a golf tour with some friends and arranged a challenge match with some Thai friends at the Army course. The course is built on marshy land and has water filled drainage ditches on both sides of all the holes. On the day of the match there had been torrential rain for several hours and soon the greens and fairways were flooded and the whole course looked like a lake. The Thai guys insisted that we should wait in spite of it looking impossible that we would be able to play. When the rain started to ease, the army turned on some huge pumps and it was like someone had pulled out the plug as the water level went down at an incredible rate. Within 30 minutes we were playing and the water had gone down so rapidly that on several holes there were stranded fish flapping about on the fairway.

To complete the picture of courses owned by the Thai armed forces there are several owned by the Airforce. One of these is at Don Muang, which until 2006 was the main Bangkok airport. Quite incredibly the course is between the two runways and I was always amazed to see golfers playing so near aircraft when travelling in and out the airport. When I was asked one time about where I would like to play, I suggested Don Muang just for the unique experience of playing in such a noisy place in the middle of a very busy airport. The noise levels were quite incredible, particularly at one end of the course where aircraft were taking off as you are only within about 100 yards of the aircraft. Halfway along the course there is a crossing point for aircraft landing on number two runway, so they can get access to the terminal. The crossing is controlled by traffic lights for aircraft and golfers. The first time I crossed at this point there was an El Al jumbo waiting to move and we were standing almost under the wing tips. I couldn’t believe that for all the extreme levels of security that El Al employed across the world, we were so close to a plane full of their passengers and had only gone through a security checkpoint where the guard saw that we had golf clubs in the boot and waved us through – this is Thailand!

In the centre of Bangkok there is a golf course at the Royal Bangkok Sports Club which in the U.K. would be a location equivalent to London’s Green Park. It always seems to me that it is more important for many Thais to be seen at the club rather than actually play golf. Last year I was there with a friend of the family and her son and she had ordered a new set of clubs from Japan which had gold coloured shafts. The clubs were ceremoniously unwrapped next to the first tee and she teed off first and put the ball into a lake at 45 degrees to the right. There was an extra caddie guy with our group wearing just a tee shirt and shorts – he put two sticks on the bank of the lake to mark point of entry and then waded into the lake to find the ball using his bare feet. It seemed a bit extravagant to use someone for that purpose, but by the end of the round I think she had got good value for money and he also found two of my balls.

My favourite place to play golf is Hua Hin which is a town on the coast just over two hours drive from Bangkok. There are 9 or 10 really good quality courses there, the most famous being Black Mountain which has in recent years held tournaments that have featured on Sky Golf Channel. The oldest course in Thailand is Royal Hua Hin and is in many respects like some of the older courses in the U.K. One hazard on the course is the wild monkeys who can be quite aggressive at times – the only thing they are afraid of is the stray dogs, that also live on the course. If the monkeys are a bit too close to the green you are playing, the caddies will wake up the nearest dog and point at the monkeys, who then get chased away to the trees.

Some years ago I was invited to join brother in law and 4 friends to play about an hour from Bangkok. On the way back we stopped at what I naively thought was just a restaurant but turned out to have other activities on offer. On one side of the dining room there were terraced seats with around 100 scantily clad ladies in three sections. The sections each had a price associated with them and the activity on offer was for the chosen young lady to take you into a private bath area and provide whatever service you desired. My brother in law and myself decided to go upstairs and have a traditional Thai massage. Honestly!

It reminds me of last year when we were in Chiang Mai which is in the north of Thailand. A friend and I asked the hotel to arrange for us to play a local course and when we arrived we discovered they referred to caddies as ‘refreshers’. Sadly they had a competition that day so we had to find another course and weren’t able to discover the true meaning of ‘refreshers’.
I’ve been very fortunate to have played golf in several parts of the world but by far the best experiences have been in Thailand: the courses, facilities and caddies are all excellent. Maybe we could hold the next Seniors’ Captain’s day in Bangkok.

Beryl O’Reilly Cup
Monday, 20th August, 2018

Once a year the Seniors get the opportunity to play with the Ladies Section of the Club and a very sociable day it is too. The event is held in honour of past Lady Captain, Beryl O’Reilly. The competition was a mixed 4 ball Texas scramble, with a fantastic turnout of 36 players (9 groups) taking part. All the Captains went out together, Dave and Mark (Vice Captain) with Morag Stewart (Ladies Captain) and Suzie Bishop (Vice Captain). The winning team, who received the Trophy and bottles of wine were, Brian Bolton, Cynthia Pike, JeanFarmborough & Bob Birch (see photo above) and the runners-up were, Sarah Middleton, Sue Bullerwell, Peter Plantrose & Bob Hunt.

Nearest the pin for the Ladies was on the 11th and for the Seniors the 16th. Mind you, that didn't stop a certain John Economides from putting his name down on the Ladies sheet! Is there something you need to tell us, John?

As for the Captains: well as Master Scoreboard shows they finished in the top 10, well 9th actually and last, but whose to know!! Many thanks to everyone who supported this event.

The sun shone throughout the day, £102 was raised for Willen Hospice, and a great day was had by all.

Michael Taylor has contributed this piece about Dawn Ashby

It is with deep regret that we announce the passing of Dawn Ashby. Dawn had a very short battle with cancer of the pancreas and passed away peacefully in the early hours of Monday 5th November. Dawn was much loved at the golf club and had been Lady Captain and Club President. She was a very prominent member of the Seniors’ Section and many of you would have known her, as she used to play with us regularly. She will be dearly missed. On a personal note, I remember Dawn as a very hard-working Lady Captain and I had the privilege of working alongside her as Seniors’ Captain. She was always there to lend a hand and help anyone out no matter what the task. She always worked and played to the best she could but never forgot that golf was a game to be enjoyed, and she certainly did that. Dawn was one of those individuals that only comes along very rarely and we have lost a very caring and talented individual. We will all be thinking of Joe and the family at this sad time.

If you would like to contribute a piece, which you feel might be of interest to InPutt readers, please do not hesitate to let me have it.

I would particularly like to hear from those of you who have a hobby or interest e.g. coins, bell ringing, model making, beer brewing or an event e.g. holiday, visit to a concert, first day at work etc. that you would be prepared to tell others about.

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