

OXFORDSHIRE GOLF CAPTAINS



NEWSLETTER NUMBER ELEVEN

WINTER/SPRING 2021

THE CAPTAIN'S GREETING

Dear Captains,

What a year we have had, nobody could have imagined last March what we were in for! Our thoughts go to all the family and friends of all the Captains we have lost in 2020 due to Covid-19; they will all be sadly missed.

Like everyone else I am looking forward to start playing golf again in 2021. Roger has pulled together a great fixture list so let's hope we can soon kick off the year. I am looking forward to playing with as many of you as possible, but if not, at least getting together and sharing a beer at one of the social events throughout the year.

Keep safe, see you all soon.

Graham

Graham Robinson.
Captain 2020/21

MATCH SECRETARY'S NOTES

With thanks to the Army, the NHS folks and the many thousands of volunteers, the vaccination programme seems to be progressing at a pace hardly imagined possible a few weeks ago. Largely because of this, currently there is genuine optimism that we might be returning to some form of normality in the coming months.

Doubtless problems will emerge, especially in the early weeks of our playing season. Because of this, and feeling that our Spring Meeting at Burford in April, might be precariously timed, I have taken the precautionary step of booking a back-up date in May, in case we have to postpone the original.

I have attached the full, and updated, 2021 golfing calendar to the rear of this Newsletter. Apart from the provisional Spring Meeting date, there are also a couple of date changes that you might need to note for your own personal diaries.

To avoid any possibility of future confusion, please delete/destroy earlier copies of the 2021 golfing calendar.

1. THE WINTER LUNCH

Unfortunately, it is just about certain that the lunch will have to be cancelled. The earliest cessation of lock-down, and even then, only partial, seems to be mid-March and, even if internal gatherings were to be permitted, most golf clubs (including the Wychwood) have, in one way or another, laid off all their catering staff.

It may be appropriate for you to assume that the lunch will be cancelled, unless you hear again from us to the contrary.

2. THE CORNWALL TOUR 2021

Obviously, this trip will depend totally on the stage we've reached in fighting the pandemic, but it would be foolish to plan nothing, and then find in May that we could have gone ahead. If further cancellation becomes necessary, nothing is lost, other than my administrative time.

Therefore, arrangements for the Cornwall tour in May are in full swing. We have 34 Captains committed to the trip, from Sunday 16th to Thursday, 20th May, and all the reserved hotel rooms have been taken up. However, if we are quick, the hotel is holding a few more rooms in case we have any late-comers.

The three matches in May will be played on the golf courses at Looe, St Austell and Carlyon Bay, so should you know of anyone who might like to travel with us, please put them in touch with me.

The results between our two Counties over the past 51 years have been remarkably close; -

	<i>Matches Played</i>	<i>Matches Won</i>	<i>Matches Halved</i>	<i>Matches Lost</i>	<i>Games</i>	
					<i>Won</i>	<i>Lost</i>
<i>Cornwall - Away</i>	93	15	6	72	408	613
<i>- Home</i>	93	71	7	15	623	372
<i>- Total</i>	186	86	13	87	1031	985

3. AVAILABILITY RETURNS FOR COUNTY MATCHES AND EVENTS

I'm guessing it is because doubts and fears surrounding Covid-19 still linger, that this year's number of availability returns is considerably lower than in previous years?

We will have to begin the team selection process in the coming weeks, therefore, if you haven't already done so, please now get your returns back to me now, as a matter of some urgency, at roger.sillence@live.co.uk.

I think it will be a question of taking one small step at a time, certainly into the early part of the summer, so please put aside any reservations you have now, make your selections and return the form to me as soon as you are able. It will be much easier, especially for me, if you drop out later, than to try and fit you in at the last minute!

Another incentive might be that nearly all of our active members are in credit from last year, not only for matches, events and the knock-out trophy, but also (for those involved) for the Cornish and Captain's tours; so, it will cost you nothing now to get involved!

4. OGC INTERNAL EVENTS

Spread between the five fixtures (Captain's and President's Days, and the Spring, Autumn and Mixed Greensomes events), your availability returns are already predicting that we will have more than 225 entries. All of these days will entail visits to great golf courses, in superb company (?) so let's just hope this wretched pandemic permits us to play!

You will all be receiving the usual invitations to participate much nearer to the dates of these events,

5. THE PAIRS KNOCK-OUT

This newest of all our events, until last year's Covid-19 interruption, had quickly become a roaring success in a very short space of time, with the numbers of entrants increasing year-on-year.

We really do hope to run the event again this season, but think that it would be prudent to wait to see what happens when courses are re-opened, and then make a decision at that point.

One obstacle that is very likely to affect all our golf, at least initially this year, is that clubs, understandably, may well be wishing to protect their members' playing rights on their re-opening; readers will recall that most clubs did not admit visitors upon re-opening last year after the previous lock-down.

Our thinking is that we would only want to undertake the competition if everyone who wants to play, has the opportunity to do so.

Your Committee will make the decision, whether or not to play the knock-out, when the picture becomes clearer and you will, of course, be kept informed.

6. THE CAPTAIN'S TOUR - Monday 6th to Wednesday, 8th September 2021

This year we plan to visit Tracy Park Golf and Country Hotel, Wick, Near Bath, which is a luxury country house and a delightful place to stay, boasting two lovely and challenging golf courses, and surrounded by amazing views; should you be interested, please have a look at their website at <https://www.tracypark.co.uk/>.

It is smaller than the average hotel/golf complex, only sleeping around 60 visitors and, currently, we have 30 Captains attending. I was told, earlier this week that, provided we don't wait too long, they may be able to find accommodation for a few more. I promise you it is tremendous value that you should not miss!

7. OXFORDSHIRE GOLF CAPTAINS' GOLFING CLOTHING

Should you have any kit requirement, our in-house entrepreneur, Glyn Hall, will be delighted to meet your needs on the very best of competitive terms, he claims. You can reach Glyn on ogcclothing20@gmail.com and the contents of his emporium can be viewed at <https://www.oxfordshiregolfcaptains.co.uk/clothing>

8. THE OGC 2022 GOLFING CALENDAR

I am plodding through the administrative arrangements for our 32 matches and events for next year's golfing calendar and, although there is still some long way to go, it already looks to hold much promise for yet another superb golfing year.

*Stay safe and (soon) best golfing always,
Roger*

*Roger Sillence
Match Secretary
Oxfordshire Golf Captains*

11th February, 2021

"Membership of the OGC is the best thing that ever came from being the Captain of a golf club."

Please see the following page for the 2021 OGC Golfing Calendar



<i>Date</i>	<i>Fixture / Event</i>	<i>Venue</i>
March		
Thur 11 th	Winter Lunch	TBA - Covid-19 permitting
April		
Wed 14 th	SPRING MEETING	Burford
Wed 28 th	Somerset	Weston-Super-Mare
May		
Tues 4 th	Worcestershire	Tadmorton Heath
Wed 12 th	Cambridgeshire	St Neots
Mon 17 th	Cornwall	Looe
Tues 18 th	Cornwall	St Austell
Wed 19 th	Cornwall	Carlyon Bay
Wed 26 th <i>Provisional date, only to be used if 14-04-21 has to be cancelled.</i>	SPRING MEETING	Burford
June		
Tues 1 st	Sussex	Badgemore Park
Tues 8 th } Mini-	Dorset	Bulbury Woods
Wed 9 th } Tour	Devon	Thurleston
Wed 16 th	PRESIDENT'S DAY	Hadden Hill
Mon 21 st	Berkshire	Calcot Park
Tues 29 th <i>Date change from 30-06-21</i>	Oxfordshire Ladies (H)	Kirtlington
July		
Tues 6 th	Warwickshire	North Oxford
Tues 13 th	Gloucestershire	The Wychwood
Thurs 15 th	FOUR COUNTIES	Maidenhead
Thur 22 nd	MIXED GREENSOMES	Drayton Park
Tues 27 th <i>Date change from 10-08-21</i>	CAPTAIN'S DAY	Oxford City
Thur 29 th	London	Ashford Manor
August		
Thur 5 th	Hampshire	Weybrook Park
Tues 10 th	Was Captain's Day	
Fri 13 th	QUEEN'S JUBILEE	West Kent
Mon 16 th	Buckinghamshire	Henley
Thur 19 th	Wiltshire	Bicester
Thur 26 th	AUTUMN MEETING	Studley Wood
September		
Thur 2 nd	* FOUNDERS' CUP	Feldon Valley
Mon 6 th to Wed 8 th	Captain's Autumn Tour	Tracy Park
Mon 13 th	Cornwall	The Springs
Tues 14 th	Cornwall	Oxfordshire
Wed 15 th	Cornwall #Dinner	Cotswolds
November		
Wed 3 rd	Committee Dinner	Oxford City
December		
Wed 1 st	AGM & Dinner	Drayton Park

* Entry restricted to current and past Captains and Presidents of OGC and specified committee members