

## 2021 Captain's Report

Well when I became Captain back in 2020 I had no idea that I would end up spending two years as your Captain through what has undoubtedly been the most disruptive period in our lives and certainly in the life of the EPIC Golf Society. However I have to say, that despite all the problems and disruption caused by the Covid Pandemic, it has been an honour and privilege to have been Captain of the EPIC Golf Society.

I would like to thank Neil Meixner for all his efforts. None of our events would run anywhere near as smoothly without his hard work and attention to detail. Especially given the problems of the last two years his planning and attention to detail has meant that we have been able to enjoy as many events as we were able to.

I'd also like to thank Jason Wood for having taken on the role as my Vice Captain. Jason has been a great support, having initially stepped in for me in the Captain v Vice Captain when I was unfortunately unable to attend the Tour in 2019. Last year Jason stepped up as Vice Captain at our Tour in Southport and led his team to a well deserved victory in our closely fought match.

Thank you also to all the other members of the Committee for their continued support. In particular thank you to our President Ken Adams who has worked so hard to help raise so much money for his chosen Charity Rosie's Rainbow Fund and Nick Archer who we rely on so much to keep the finances in order.

It's fair to say that our events list in 2020 was pretty much decimated by both Covid and then torrential rain when we did eventually get out on the course. The planned 2020 Tour to La Baule on the Atlantic Coast of France also unfortunately fell foul of Covid. It is a wonderful location and such a shame that it did not happen. When we eventually did get on the golf course at The Addington the golfing gods decided to open the heavens and the course was closed after 9 holes. A few hardy souls did carry on and finished their round. The rest of us at least enjoyed a nice lunch in the dry.

In 2021 we managed to at least get back out on the course although our events took on a different look where we had to adapt to the varying restrictions with a less formal approach to dinner and awards.

Moor Park 29th April - After a long break from golf it was with great excitement that we got underway in April with a fantastic turnout at Moor Park. It wasn't perfect due to social distancing, but the general feeling was that it was great to be back playing again. Nearest the pins were won by Martyn Howie and Mark Mckenzie-Crooks with Chris White and Nigel Bobroff picking up the Team prize on countback from Neil Blundy and Michael Trott. Neil Blundy won the Spring Cup with an impressive 38 points. Unfortunately, due to restrictions there could be no prize giving on the day.

EPIC v BAGS - Theydon Bois Golf Club - 19 May 21 - On a rather wet and muddy Theydon Bois the two teams played out the traditional annual team event with the BAGS unfortunately holding us off again to win 3.5 v 2.5 on the day. We had chances with my Aiden Mahoney and myself taking an early lead, only to be pegged back by some remarkable golf and help from the local forestry. Steve Davies and Michael Foster narrowly lost out but secured a half. Let's hope next year is our year. Over to you Jason to have a crack and put your name in the annals of history with a first win over our great rivals.

Captains Day - Burhill Golf Club 26 May 21 - For Captains Day this year I had chosen a new course for EPIC. Burhill Golf Club in Surrey which has two championship courses. In May 21 Matthew Jones secured an impressive victory with a closely contested win over second place Robert White. It was agreed to donate the Tourists prize of a new driver to Rosie's Rainbow Trust. The raffle was won by Stewart Kirkwood who had such a great introduction to golf with EPIC he went on to join. The raffle raised £590. Well done Stewart. Steven Barker picked up Nearest the Pin in 2 with John and Suzanne Biscoe winning the Team prize. It's never the done thing for Captain to win on his Captain's Day so it's just as well I came second on countback to a well deserved win by Gavin Tuck.

Finlinson Cup - Ashridge Golf Club - 23rd June 21 - Before the day's prize giving Digby Hebbard was belatedly presented with his Player of the Year Trophy for 2019. Oliver won nearest the pin in 2. There was some real jiggery pockery on the winning team prizes but Matt Jones (not for the first or last time) along with David Kavenagh won the team competition with a mix and match team led by Vice Jason Wood winning the yellow ball comp. I presented Steve Hurworth with the Finlinson Cup, winning with a score of 36 points from Matt Jones.

Southport Tour 2nd - 5th Sept 21 - Due to the ongoing travel restrictions we decided to stay home for this years Tour. However I am delighted to say that those who attended were not disappointed by the venues or indeed the weather

which was particularly good at Hesketh. The Tourists played Royal Birkdale, Formby Hall and Hesketh. Royal Birkdale lived up to expectations and proved to be a real golfing challenge with the winning score of only 33 points by day 1 winner Michael Salmon. John McMenamain and Neil Meixner won the front and back 9s respectively after much countback permutations had been calculated. The Vice's team took an early lead after day 1. There were some disappointing aspects to Formby Hall and it's fair to say we won't be back there but thankfully it didn't detract from a great weekend. Oliver Tobin won day 2 on countback from Ben Hurworth and the Vice's team extended their lead to 6.5 v 3.5 points and the Captain was starting to get a bit nervous with his head to head against the Vice to follow the next day. On the final day the Captains's team finally woke up and led by the Captain securing a small triumph in the head to head with Vice Jason it looked like a comeback could indeed be on. But the Vice team did indeed hold out to win by a single point 10.5 v 9.5. The Claret Jug and green jacket were presented to Ben Hurworth who showed remarkable consistency across the three days to win with a formidable 103 points. Neil Blundy was second with 99 points and the Captain posted a credible 96 points to finish 3rd. Vice Jason presented his entire team with an engraved whisky glass as a memento of their winning weekend. Well done to Jason and his team.

Dyrham Park - 23rd September - Dyrham was a late change from the planned revisit to The Addington but it turned out to be a super day out. Matthew Jones found himself in amongst the winners again, this time in the Team comp. It has become a habit for Matthew whose game seems to have come on leaps and bounds since first joining EPIC. James Barratt picked up the Autumn Cup with a narrow 1 pt win over three other players.

Presidents Cup - Abridge Golf Club - 14th Oct 21 New member Jarlath Rooney won the Presidents Cup on a cold day at Abridge on count back from yours truly!! Michael Salmon and David Wannerton scooped the Team prize

Unfortunately my Captain's term finished much as it started with another cancellation. This time at Letchworth. Although there were challenges, I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as your Captain

Thank you to all of you, members old and new, for supporting EPIC Golf and attending our events. We have a great year to look forward to in 2022. I hope you all enjoy your golf and that you will give our new Captain Justin Woods and the rest of the Committee the support and encouragement I have enjoyed over the last two years. Best wishes and good luck Jason.