



The Engineering Golfing Society

Spring Meeting 2023

Hunstanton Golf Club – 9th and 10th May 2023

Report and Results

Report

The Spring Meeting of the Society was held at Hunstanton on Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th May 2023. This was the 68th consecutive visit to Hunstanton, going back to 1956. Before that, the EGS was at Hunstanton in 1933, 1935, and 1947 – 1954, so this was our 78th visit to Hunstanton.

The weather was not looking good as the meeting approached but for those in the first half of the draw on Tuesday, the weather and wind was perfect. There was a gentle breeze behind for the first 10 holes and as we turned and the storms approached, the wind died altogether. We watched as the black clouds avoided the course and we heard thunder in the distance. Then, as we started the back 9, the wind changed direction to be behind us again with more black clouds passing the course. Those in the second half of the draw were not so lucky and caught the tail of the storm. Complaints were made to the honorary secretary as though I had some sort of responsibility for this! Our flag replaced the union jack that had been flying for the coronation celebrations as “king” Ian started his reign.

This year, 31 members (Rick Kirkman did not play due to illness) were joined by 3 guests on Tuesday and 2 on Wednesday and we were privileged that Richard Chalk the Hunstanton club captain joined us on Tuesday, giving a total of 34 players and 32 on Wednesday as Tony Sales and Esmond Hitchcock only played on Tuesday. The numbers were up from last year’s total of 30.

The course was in excellent condition as usual and was very green compared with last year as a result of the recent wet weather. The Hunstanton captain mentioned the new drainage on the 5th in his speech but after the overnight rain on Tuesday, the large puddles indicated that it may not be working as well as the club hoped. The greens were good and true as ever and not quite as quick especially on Tuesday before they cut them on Wednesday. However, there were definitely no complaints as the fairways were immaculate and the course was presented in far better condition than some of our home courses.

It is now 3 years in a row that one member has found the course to his or her liking and shot an impressive score. This time it was Gavin Lakey who collected both Division 2 trophies 7 points clear of 2nd place.

In Division 1, a round of 80 won David Street the Hopewell Challenge Cup for the best gross score despite starting with a 5 and an 8; Jim Macleod shot 84 and was second on countback, with Andy Salmon third. Sue Wild won the President’s Challenge Cup for the best stableford score in Division 1 with a score of 35 points on countback from Peter French in second place; David Street was third with 34.

In Division 2, Gavin Lakey won the Roy Withers Trophy for the best gross score with a round of 87; Helen Stone was second with 92 and captain Ian Purser third with 94 to match his score and position in 2022. Gavin Lakey’s score was also good enough to win the Wilson Challenge Cup for the best stableford score in this division with an excellent score of 41 points to match Richard Jeffcoate’s score last year. Helen Stone was second with 34 points, and Ian Herrington was third with 31 points.

Sue and Gavin also won the captain’s Prizes for winning the stableford competitions in their respective divisions.

Sue Wild’s score at Hunstanton of 35, combined with her score of 31 at Woking last year, won her the Myddleton Memorial Trophy (for the best aggregate score from Hunstanton this year plus the previous year’s score at Woking) with a combined total of 66, with Peter French second on count back also on 66, and Gavin Lakey third on 65.

Ian Herrington won the Midgley Trophy for the best stableford score plus half age with a score of 73.65. Sue Wild was second with 71.08 and Helen Stone in third with 70.60. However Peter Leach collected the balls in 5th place as a result of the Society rule which means you can only win one prize for the same round of golf. For reference, this does not prevent the same member from winning two trophies for the same round. Peter reflected that you only have to be old in the Society to win some balls!

Richard Chalk won the Guest competition with a good score of 38 points with Matt Herring in second with 29.

The food throughout was excellent, and our decision to choose a cheaper menu made no difference to the standard. The catering staff were all excellent as well, our thanks to them.

We were delighted to be joined for the evening meal by Richard Chalk the Hunstanton captain. Richard welcomed us with a few words before dinner and mentioned that our captain had created a new rule during his round on Tuesday as the thunderstorms threatened. Apparently “Rule 52.3 – In the event that a round gets abandoned, the captain will take all of the prizes.” I think this will have to get discussed at the next AGM and there may be only one vote for the motion. There was mention of the scarlet pimpernel (the Society’s emblem) being found at Hunstanton and that this was the history behind the emblem. Apparently Norman Schunter had carried out some research and was waiting for the Royal and Ancient Golf Club to ratify this. I spent most of my round on Wednesday looking for it in the rough and, on being unsuccessful, considered that may just be a good story to make sure our future at Hunstanton was secure!

The auction almost seemed to be well organised by someone who had read (and understood) the rules. Our thanks to Stephen Dermody and Howard Richings for making it run very smoothly. I don’t have enough space to run through the intricacies of the new style ball sweep. Sufficient to say that only the coronation took more organising and our vice-captain, Dino admits to it still being work in progress.

On Friday, the competition for the Hunter Twiss Cups was well contested as usual, with a close finish. Defending champion Helen Stone retained her trophy, this time with new partner Mitch Bilderbeck with 68 points on countback, with Jim Macleod and Gavin Lakey second and Jon Clackett and Robert Hudson third on 64 points. Esmond was last seen running to the car park with a lot of money in his pocket as leader of the syndicate that owned 2 of these horses.

Please put Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th May 2024 in your diary for next year’s Spring meeting sticking with the Tuesday and Wednesday format which enables us to play in 3 or 4 balls on the Tuesday.

A full list of **Results** follows.

Hopewell Cup – Lowest Gross score (Division 1 – Handicap Index 14.9 and under)

President’s Challenge Cup – Best Stableford score (Division 1 – Handicap Index 14.9 and under)

Name	Society H/Cap	Hopewell Cup		Presidents Challenge Cup	
		Gross	Position	Stableford	Position
Sue Wild	12	88 (44, 28)	7	35 (20)	1
Peter French	14	NR		35 (18)	2
David Street	5	80	1	34	3
Jeff O'Leary	9	85	4	32	4
Stephen Dermody	9	86	5	31	5
Jim Macleod	5	84	2	30 (16)	6
Andy Salmon	6	84	3	30 (13)	7
John Foulsham	15	97 (45)	8	29 (16)	8

Jon Clackett	15	NR		29 (13,8)	9
Peter Leach	8	NR		29 (13, 7)	10
Mitch Bilderbeck	8	88 (44,27)	6	28	11
Norman Schunter	12	NR		27	12
Richard Hayman	15	99	10	25	13
Peter Stevenson	13	NR		24	14
Howard Richings	11	97 (49)	9	22	15

Roy Withers Trophy – Lowest Gross score (Division 2 – Handicap Index 15.0 and over)

Wilson Challenge Cup – Best Stableford score (Division 2 – Handicap Index 15.0 and over)

Name	Society H/Cap	Roy Withers Trophy		Wilson Challenge Cup	
		Gross	Position	Stableford	Position
Gavin Lakey	20	87	1	41	1
Helen Stone	19	92	2	34	2
Ian Herrington	21	NR		31	3
Robert Hudson	23	102	5	29 (17)	4
Ian Purser	14	94	3	29 (14)	5
Dino Nicola	19	NR		28 (14, 11)	6
Richard Axell	20	NR		28 (14, 7)	7
Peter Palthe	18	NR		25 (14)	8
Roy Bowdler	28	NR		25 (13)	9
Esmond Hitchcock	20	NR		25 (11)	10
Richard Fletcher	16	101	4	23 (13)	11
Tony Sales	24	NR		23 (10)	12
Eric Colburn	19	105	6	22 (11, 8, 5)	13
John Newman	23	NR		22 (11, 8, 4)	14
John Wild	15	NR		22 (9)	15
Brian McCartney	22	NR		21	16

Hunter Twiss Cups – Best combined drawn pairs, combined individual Stableford scores

Position	Name	Stableford Score	Name	Stableford Score	Combined Score
1	Mitch Bilderbeck	30	Helen Stone	38	68 (33)
2	Jim Macleod	37	Gavin Lakey	31	68 (32)
3	Jon Clackett	31	Robert Hudson	33	64
4	Peter Stevenson	27	John Wild	36	63

5	John Foulsham	30	Richard Fletcher	31	61
6	David Street	34	Peter Palthe	25	59
7	Sue Wild	29	Ian Herrington	29	58
8	Norman Schunter	23	Ian Purser	34	57 (26)
9	Stephen Dermody	28	Dino Nicola	29	57 (23)
10	Matt Saunders	28	Peter French	27	55 (27, 20)
11	Richard Hayman	30	John Newman	25	55 (27, 18)
12	Jeff O'Leary	27	Richard Axell	27	54
13	Howard Richings	29	Eric Colburn	24	53
14	Peter Leach	29	Roy Bowdler	22	51
15	Andy Salmon	31	Rick Kirkman	18	49
16	John Siddal	21	Brian McCartney	20	41

Myddleton Memorial Trophy – Best aggregate Stableford score from Woking 2022 and Hunstanton 2023

Position	Name	Woking 2022	Hunstanton 2023	Total
1	Sue Wild	31	35 (20)	66
2	Peter French	31	35 (18)	66
3	Gavin Lakey	24	41	65
4	Peter Leach	34	29	63
5	Jeff O'Leary	28	32	60
6	Andy Salmon	30	30	60
7	Dave Street	23	34	57
8	Ian Purser	28	29	57
9	Stephen Dermody	25	31	56
10	Jon Clackett	27	29	56
11	Peter Stevenson	30	24	54
12	Mitch Bilderbeck	25	28	53
13	John Wild	29	22	51
14	Norman Schunter	22	27	49
15	Howard Richings	25	22	47
16	Richard Axell	17	28	45
17	Brian McCartney	22	21	43

Midgley Trophy – Best Stableford score plus half age

Position	Name	Stableford Score	Half Age	Stableford + Half Age
1	Ian Herrington	31	42.65	73.65
2	Sue Wild	35	36.08	71.08
3	Helen Stone	34	36.60	70.60
4	Peter French	35	32.09	67.09
5	Peter Leach	29	37.57	66.57
6	Dino Nicola	28	38.36	66.36
7	Jeff O'Leary	32	34.10	66.10
8	Dave Street	34	31.80	65.80
9	Norman Schunter	27	38.71	65.71
10	Peter Stevenson	24	41.22	65.22
11	Ian Purser	29	36.09	65.09
12	Jon Clackett	29	35.84	64.84
13	Brian McCartney	21	42.51	63.51
14	Stephen Dermody	31	31.83	62.83
15	Mitch Bilderbeck	28	34.75	62.75
16	Esmond Hitchcock	25	37.40	62.40
17	Peter Palthe	25	36.55	61.55
18	Gavin Lakey	41	20.41	61.41
19	Robert Hudson	29	32.32	61.32
20	John Foulsham	29	32.00	61.00
21	Eric Colburn	22	38.15	60.15
22	John Newman	22	38.04	60.04
23	Jim Macleod	30	29.97	59.97
24	Andy Salmon	30	29.68	59.68
25	Howard Richings	22	37.11	59.11
26	John Wild	22	36.90	58.90
27	Roy Bowdler	25	31.65	56.65
28	Richard Fletcher	23	32.69	55.69
29	Tony Sales	23	30.23	53.23
30	Richard Hayman	25	24.16	49.16
31	Richard Axell	28	19.49	47.49

Guests

Position	Name	Handicap	Score
1	Richard Chalk	13	38
2	Matt Herring	14	29
3	John Siddal	15	25