

Society of Derbyshire Golf Captains

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Pre-Season Newsletter.

**A new season brings a new Captain
and this year a new President.**



Captain Richard Smith



President Derek Northin.

A message from our new Captain:

On Monday night at the Society's AGM, I had the honour of being appointed your Captain for 2025/2026 in succession to Ken Holland.

I consider this to be the greatest of honours and I am humbled by my appointment. I will endeavour to serve the Society well in the coming year and hope that I can at least match Ken's commitment and sense of fun. Thank you, Ken!

I am also delighted to report that Bill Hibbert (Mickleover GC) will be Vice Captain for the coming year. Of course, Bill will again be organising the end of year intercounty tournament at St Mellion, which always seems to be a great success at this top-quality venue near Plymouth.

As ever, our secretary, Mike Gaunt has organised a full, quality, programme of meetings and matches this year and I would urge you to indicate your availability to any of the events as soon as possible. Some of the venues will prove more popular than others and there may be limits on the numbers. We will manage team selections to ensure fairness and that as many different members have the chance to play during the season, but inevitably there will be disappointments

The first inter county match will be on 6th May against Shropshire and Hereford Captains and will be held at Chevin GC. Our team will be 16 strong.

I am sure there will be many golfing highlights through the coming year, but for me, the one that will stand out will be my Captain's Day at Kedleston Park. I look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible. There will be a good prize table, halfway house refreshments, a quality meal and a great Kedleston Park welcome! A day not to be missed.

Finally, I am looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible.
Have a great golfing year.

Richard Smith
Captain SDGC

President's Epistle

Gentlemen, firstly let me say what huge privilege it is to be elected as your President. It's a great honour for me personally and also my home club, Bakewell.

I've thoroughly enjoyed supporting the Society over several years, playing, both in our own competitions and also the friendly matches we have with other Counties. There is a genuine camaraderie and friendship in the events, and even though the competition might be keen on the course, there is always time for socialising afterwards and that makes it extra special.

You will have seen that we have a very attractive schedule of competitions and matches, many are at some of the most prestigious clubs in Derbyshire, plus some outstanding fixtures at interesting courses outside our county. I hope that you will want to play in as many events as possible and I look forward to meeting many of you during the course of the year.

On that note, I am particularly grateful to Chesterfield Golf Club for agreeing to host my President's Day on Monday 11th August, and I hope that many of you will want to support the event.

We are also blessed with a diligent and knowledgeable Executive Committee, many of whom, like yourselves have been involved in golf clubs and golfing administration for many years, and they bring tremendous expertise to the Society. Congratulations to our new Captain, Richard Smith, and also to all the members of the Executive Committee.

Finally it would be remiss of me not to make mention of our retiring President Mike Whalley, who has taken on the role of President for the last 7 years and has done a fantastic job in furthering the Society both in Derbyshire and also in the other counties which we play.

Derek Northin
President, The Society of Derbyshire Golf Captains
2nd April 2025

The Annual Dinner:

140 Members and special guests attended our 57th Annual Dinner at Chesterfield Football Club on Friday March 31st.



Top Table Officers and Guests.



Members enjoying their meal.

Guest Speaker for the evening was Mark Crossley former Nottingham Forest goalkeeper who kept the audience laughing with his many stories about his favourite Manager Brian Clough.

AGM. The society AGM was held at Kedleston Park Golf Club on Monday March 31st. Special guest for the



evening was Past Captain and former Society Secretary Graham Naylor. Graham was brought to the AGM by a support worker from his care home in Rotherham.

Despite Graham having little to no speech it was obvious from his smiling face that he recognised many of the members.

The photograph shows Graham with Mike Whalley and Ken Holland before the AGM.

The AGM saw Richard Smith appointed as Captain, with Bill Hibbert of Mickleover GC appointed as his Vice Captain.

President Mike Whalley decided that after 7 years as President it was time to step down and the Past Society Captains had agreed to appoint Derek Northin as his successor.

The AGM approved the re-appointment of Mike Gaunt as Secretary and Narinder Chopra as Treasurer.

There were 3 places available on the Executive Committee and as three members had been nominated, they were all elected. These being Bob Roberts (Ormonde Fields) Paul Waring (Buxton & High Peak) and Steve Bradley (Matlock)

There was only one proposition to be considered by those attending the AGM, that being that the Executive Committee proposed that Vice Captains of Golf Clubs should be invited to attend the Annual Dinner. There was much discussion about this at the meeting and in the end the proposition was defeated. It was felt strongly that as the Society was a Captains Society the Annual Dinner should be only open to full members of the Society, those being Captains and Past Captains.

Upcoming fixtures:

Here are the first fixtures of the new season.

May 6th Match v Shropshire & Hereford Captains at Chevin GC £35 per head.

We need a team of 16 players for this match. You can put yourself forward for selection either via the website or by emailing your interest to our secretary Mike Gaunt. secretary@derbyshiregolfcaptains.co.uk

May 13th Match v Manchester Captains Romiley GC Cost to be confirmed.

Again a team of 16 players required for this match.

May 20th Captains Day at Kedleston Park GC. £55 per head.

Single Stableford Competition.

June 2nd Sydney Cartwright Salver at Sickleholme Golf Club £35 per head.

Reminder of our Bank details: The Society of Derbyshire Golf Captains.

Sort code 16-11-31

Account number 11349591

Captain Richard is looking forward to seeing many of you at these fixtures and has promised to accommodate everyone who wishes to play in matches, and they will be selected for as many as possible but at least one match during the season.

Captains Challenge at St Mellion Estate October 6th to 9th 2025.

If you wish to be considered for this match please pay a £50 deposit as soon as possible, the deposit is refundable if you are not selected.

The next Newsletter will be the May Newsletter covering all the events and fixtures of May.