

# Society of Derbyshire Golf Captains

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## October 2025 Newsletter.

With the Seasons events now concluded we hope everyone who took part enjoyed them. We are especially delighted that this year we have had more players entering competitions and matches than in the previous three years, so a big thank you to everyone who took part.

### Lottery Update.

The third Lottery Draw took place on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October at Matlock Golf Club (We plan to move the draw to different golf clubs during the year.) The Draw at Matlock Golf Club was carried out by Stephen Gosney and the first ball drawn from the velvet bag was number 72 held by Derek Brazil of Horsley Estate Golf Club Derek won £300, the second ball drawn out was number 56 held by Peter Freeman of Bakewell Golf Club who won £100, the third ball drawn out was number 14 held by our Vice Captain Bill Hibbert who won £50.

Thanks to all those who took part, if anyone would like to take part, we do currently have 4 numbers available, please get in touch with the Secretary Mike Gaunt.

The next draw will take place at Mickleover Golf Club on Friday November 28<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. All are welcome to attend.

### Captain's words:

Dear Members,

It will soon be bonfire night and all the scheduled 2025 Society matches and competitions have now been played.

The final 2 fixtures, played in October, came and went with no perceivable hitches thanks to Mike. As a captain yourself you will know that your year in office was over before you knew it.

The Captains Challenge, played at St Mellion, was yet another success for next years captain, Bill Hibbert. Bill, who takes over from me in April 2026, is anticipating that there will be a few more counties taking part. I have to say that this was my second time at St. Mellion and because of the decent weather I became a firm fan of both courses, which were displaying the early stages of Autumn. I can recommend the trip and if you are interested I would urge you to let Mike know as soon as possible. We finished third out of 5 which was a creditable performance given the amount of 'refreshment' consumed after day 1 when we were placed first. Dorset were the overall winners.



This photograph shows our St Mellion team.

**Our final Society event** was The Millennium Trophy, played at Rufford Park. I was delighted that we filled our allocation of tee times with 44 members taking part. I had the pleasure of presenting the trophy to the winner Paul Simms. I took even more pleasure for winning a voucher myself after many months of playing indifferent golf.



This photo shows Captain Richard presenting the Millennium Salver to Paul Simms (Ormonde Fields Golf Club)

It was not only extremely pleasing to have a full house at Rufford Park but it brought the number of different members turning out during 2025 to 112, which we believe is a record turnout. The committee will be continuing their efforts in the future to keep promoting the Society and to make the society more popular and successful.

The 2026 fixtures have now been all but finalised with some exciting journeys in prospect to - Oswestry, Glen Gorse, Dudley, Sprowston Manor, Tankersley. How could you not take advantage of these value for money golfing days.

This will be my last regular newsletter article until March, although I may well pop up periodically. My last official task will be to address you at the AGM in late April. I will

save my final words until then but in the meantime thanks for being a great bunch of Captains. In 2026 your golf club will have a new captain and I would urge you to have a word with the new captain and encourage him to get involved in the society. Being a golf club captain will open many golfing doors for them and enable them to meet so many great people.

Richard

## 2026 Calendar:

|  |                               |  |
|--|-------------------------------|--|
| Annual Dinner  | Chesterfield Football Club    | Friday March 20 <sup>th</sup>              |
| Annual General Meeting   | Kedleston Park Golf Club      | Monday April 20 <sup>th</sup>              |
| Shropshire & Hereford Captains                                 | Oswestry Golf Club            | Thursday May 7 <sup>th</sup>               |
| Manchester Captains  | Chesterfield Golf Club        | Thursday May 14 <sup>th</sup>              |
| Captains Day   | Mickleover Golf Club          | Friday May 29 <sup>th</sup>                |
| Captain v Vice Captain is now incorporated into Captain's Day. |                               |  |
| Sydney Cartwright Salver                                       | Tankersley Park Golf Club     | Tuesday June 9 <sup>th</sup> .             |
| 4 Counties Competition   | Glen Gorse Golf Club          | Tuesday June 16 <sup>th</sup>              |
| Warwickshire Captains  | Buxton & High Peak Golf Club  | Thursday July 9 <sup>th</sup>              |
| Worcestershire Captains  | Dudley Golf Club              | Thursday July 16 <sup>th</sup>             |
| 3 Counties Competition   | Mickleover Golf Club          | Tuesday August 4 <sup>th</sup>             |
| President's Day  | Matlock Golf Club             | Tuesday August 11 <sup>th</sup>            |
| Derbyshire Lady Captains                                       | Stanedge Golf Club            | Tuesday September 1 <sup>st</sup>          |
| Founders Trophy  | Delta Hotels Breadsall Priory | Tuesday September 8 <sup>th</sup>          |
| Norfolk Captains   | Sprowston Manor Golf Club     | Tuesday September 15 <sup>th</sup>         |
| Captains Challenge   | St Mellion Estate.            | October 6 <sup>th</sup> to 8 <sup>th</sup> |
| Millenium Salver   | Lingdale Golf Club            | Thursday October 15 <sup>th</sup>          |

If you wish to be selected for the Captains Challenge 2026 please let the Secretary know ASAP.

The number of different players entering competitions or matches during the 2025 season was 112 and a further 25 members who had played during the 2024 season did not play, we hope to see them again in 2026.

We wish to thank every member who has attended one or more of our events this year, with special thanks to John Meehan (Kedleston Park Golf Club) Phil Major (Cavendish Golf Club) Jeff Sedwell (Delta Breadsall Priory) Ian McKay (Matlock Golf Club) John Lawrence (Alfreton Golf Club) Neil Elks (Chesterfield Golf Club) John McGough (Bakewell Golf Club) and Nigel Cullen (Chevin Golf Club) who entered several events as well as being Club Captain this year. To all other 2025 Captains we hope to see you at one of our events in 2026.

## President's Epistle

Gentlemen

Our Executive Committee Meetings have been dominated this year by looking at the Society's costs and expenses, and trying to find ways to reduce them and balance the books. I was interested when looking back recently at the Minutes of an Executive Committee Meeting in 2019, to see what 'freebies' the Society allowed at that time and there were quite a number. Among other things, it included complimentary golf for our Captain, President, Secretary and Treasurer at all our matches and competitions, other than Captain's Day when all competitors have to pay.

As from 1st July of this year, the Executive Committee took the decision to completely abolish complimentary golf, so your Captain, President, Secretary, and Treasurer now pay for golf events as you do. It was different back in 2019, as the Society was usually given 'courtesy of the course' at most of our events, whereas now we are having to pay green fees as determined by the clubs, as well as facing substantially increased costs for food. I am pleased to be able to report that our events since July this year have pretty well broken even, so we are not having to delve into our reserves to balance the books. We have also looked carefully at reciprocal arrangements with other Societies. In the past we have traditionally invited Officers from other Societies to our Annual Dinner and our officers are invited back to their dinner or golf days. We have reduced these invitations and cut down on the number of events which our officers attend.

So, it's good to be able to report that we are in a stronger financial position and we will strive to maintain this for the future.

Derek Northin  
October 2025

Mike Gaunt Secretary. Society website is: [www.sdgco.co.uk](http://www.sdgco.co.uk)