

# KENT COUNTY GOLF UNION NEWS SHEET

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C.H.Tappin



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**KENT SENIORS BACK ON TOP.**(Tandridge – October 6/8th 2009). Whilst slipping out of contention in the preliminary round of the EGU Southern Counties Foursomes at Royal Cinque Ports in July, and finishing the Southern Section of the South Eastern League in third place, the Seniors bounced back to find the ‘Jewel in the Crown’ by regaining the English Counties Seniors Championship from Cheshire. Over the last four years, the holders had beaten Kent three times, the last by a narrow margin, but after halving the morning foursomes on the final day at Tandridge, Kent took control of the singles to win four of the six games and defeat Cheshire by 5 ½ - 3 ½, the same margin by which they beat Lancashire to take the title in 2007.

**Team:** Andrew Stacey, Chris Hurst, Chris Reynolds, Ricky Moore, Dave Jessup,  
Roger Salmon, Sam Smale, Howard Moxon, and ushered by Nick Allen (Manager).

A great Team performance after two disappointing results

**KENT COLTS.** The Colts had last tasted success in 2003 when, after a clean sheet to win the Southern section of the League, went on to beat Essex by 6 ½ - 5 ½ in the South East League Final. They were stopped by Surrey from making the Final the following year, and since then have never threatened until reaching the League Final this year at Barton-on-Sea on the 18th October. Ironically, Essex were again the opponents, and suffered defeat by the same narrow score-line.

First and early blood went to Essex in the foursomes as Liam Burns & Rob Clark fell 5&3, but wins by Liam Harper & Michael Saunders (3&1), Jon Bell & Dan Byrne (2&1) and Charlie Wilson & Kevin O’Connell (3&2) put Kent ahead to ease the tension.

Opening the singles, Harper’s 2&1 was countered by 3&2 against Clark, but Saunders 4&2 moved Kent on, only to it cancelled as Wilson lost by the same margin. As Burns squeezed a half, Byrne lost at the last to leave Kent in need of another point from the last two games to win. O’Connell duly broke the now mounting tension with a critical 2&1, Bell falling by the same score.

A good note on which Manager Pat Donaghey ends his term of Office.

**KENT DINNER.**(October 16th 2009). For the ninth consecutive year, the County Committee called on the Wildernesse Golf Club to provide the venue and services required for the Annual Dinner, and it was no surprise that they again hit the jackpot with a wholesome meal and an evening enjoyed by a record attendance of 165. In his sixth and final term of Office, Chris Reynolds and Matt Haines were among Kent President Ian Burton’s Guests, and the County Guests included Roy Case, Immediate Past President of the EGU, the Presidents of Sussex, Surrey, Middlesex, Essex, Hampshire and Dorset, Captain of Wildernesse GC., representative from Shepherd Neame and Guest Speaker Ian Irving.

Opening the evening, Roy Case expressed an appreciation of Kent’s valued input to the EGU over many years, naming and thanking those who have and some still are, continuing to assist in fulfilling key roles in the administration of both the EGU and Kent Unions. He said there had been great changes to the golfing scene over the past 10 years, no doubt with more to come, and exemplified the potential merger if the EGU and ELGA. Acknowledging the current financial difficulties confronting all Clubs, he was sure they would respond accordingly. He offered congratulations to those Clubs and players achieving success at County and

National level, awarded Centenary Plates to Bexleyheath, Mid Kent, Sheerness and Walmer & Kingsdown in achieving their Centenaries, wished Kent success in the coming year, and finally on behalf of the Guests thanked the County for its hospitality throughout the day.

In response, Ian Burton gave a brief history of Roy's progress in the EGU from 1984 as Chairman of Selectors for the Boys teams to his Presidency. As Chairman, his influence had guided the Boys Teams to 10 Home Internationals victories, 4 European and 3 World titles, and assisted in the career development of many current professionals. He is a recipient of the Micklem Award.

Turning to Kent, Ian thanked the team managers for their dedication and enthusiasm that had brought honours to the Colts and Seniors, the latter outstanding in twice winning the SE league, the Southern Counties Foursomes four times and this year regaining their title of National champions. He named individuals and their achievements, putting much credit down to the County coaching schemes and organisers from regional to national level. Golf development and Partnership had made great progress in the 2-3 years of its inception with Kent winning two awards.

On behalf of the Committee, Ian expressed a sincere appreciation to the Clubs providing venues for matches together with practice facilities that enable the many events organised throughout the year, and wished all Clubs and their Members good fortune through the coming year.

The 1st December would end his sixth and final year as President and he took this opportunity to thank Past Presidents and Committee members for their guidance and loyalty given over his time in Office. In closing, Ian presented the outstanding trophies and diplomas to Clubs and individuals, Ian Irving ended the evening on a note of quality humour leaving no one disappointed.

**HINGE TROPHY.** (Princes – 17th October 2009) The first of the Qualifying rounds for the Hinge Trophy, traditionally at Princes over the 9-hole Dunes and Himalayas circuits, hosted 43 entries and, as last year, brought a new Junior contender into focus. Sadly however, the Junior entry was significantly below the record 24 of last year. Leading after nine holes at 2 under par 34, Tom Bayliss (Birchwood) and Richard Gremo (Whitstable & Seasalter) were shadowed by Matt Cozens (Littlestone) on 35, with Lee Meakin (Canterbury) and Jordan Godwin (The London Club) holding 36. However, as Bayliss and Gremo slipped out of contention with closing 39's, Cozens moved to the lead adding a second half 34 to total 2 under par 69, followed by Shane Mccaughan (Royal Cinque Ports) and Scott Mutter (Rochester & Cobham), both adding 35's to their 37 openings. A 36 from Godwin kept him in the prizes to oust Mark Haffenden (Langley Park) by one shot, despite a closing 34 and finishing with Bayliss, Gremo and Nick Panting (Rochester & Cobham). Stuart Fullagar was last man in the 25 to go through to Littlestone on the 3rd January 2010.

Liam Sutton (Etchinghill) on 71 had done enough to better Bayliss and Peter Walter (Sundridge Park) on count-back for 4th place.

**Results;** Gross. - M.Cozens 69; S.Mccaughan 72 ( on C/b over S.Mutter and J.Godwin).

Nett - M.Cozens 68; S.Mccaughan 69 (on C/b over R.Gremo); Liam Sutton 71.

**HINGE TROPHY** (Royal Cinque Ports - 15 November 2009) Five Juniors from the 15 entered are included in the top 25 to go through to the Final Qualifier at Lillestone on the 10th January, joining the 5 already through from Princes. In both pre-qualifiers, Juniors headed the field and at Cinque Ports took the first three places in a total field of 44. It was an event with a little more drama than one might have expected.

Matthew Hart (Ashford) headed at the turn with a well played 2 under par 33, pressured by Daniel Byrne (Dartford), Damian Smith (Mid Kent) and, on his home course, Lee Mccaughan, all one shot off. Bunched on 35, Juniors Alex Dixon (Chestfield) and Jack Colegate (Deangate Ridge), Robert Riddell (Royal Cinque Ports), Paul Watkins (Redlibbets), Martin Farbrace (Sene Valley) and Peter Newman. Dropping four shots on the way in for 40 cost Hart the lead as Smith, Riddell and Watkins slipped out of contention with 39's.. Farbrace and Newman moved into the 40's and Mccaughan struck disaster with three double bogeys. Dixon

moved top with 2-under par 34 to be followed by Chart Hills Junior Connor Fletcher closing with the same score after a front 37, whilst Colegate finished to par the course. Byrne's 38 kept him in the prizes. After another good start, 'Trials Regular' Newman lost the pace, dropping 6 shots. With the line drawn at 79, Lloyd Nutley (North Foreland) was last through, whilst Club-mate Junior Billy Thomas at '6's and 7's, kept his card despite a 97.

### **ERIC GREEN TROPHY.**

The Kent Committee has added a further competition to it's 2010 programme.

The format will be a singles Knock-out played off Club handicap for all Individual Members.

A trophy has kindly been offered by the Union's main sponsor Shepherd and Neame to be engraved The Eric Green Trophy in the memory of the enormous support he readily gave to Amateur golf in general, and Kent in particular, for over 50 years.

His enthusiasm was sparked by his Captaincy of Eltham Warren Golf Club in 1957, joining the Kent County Golf Union Committee in 1978 where he was elected President 1983 to 1988, and really took off by his election to the EGU in 1985 where his efforts in key administration deserved recognition by the prestigious Micklem Award.

Eric Died on 30th November 2009 Aged 82.

### **ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING (Knole Park – 1st December 2009).**

Chairing his last ACM after 6 years in Office, it befell County President Ian Burton the sad task to inform the Meeting of the death of Past President Eric Green on the 30th November after a prolonged spell in hospital.

Eric will be sorely missed from his support of Amateur golf generally and the County in particular Ian called for a minute to remember and reflect on Members who had passed away during the year.

In the business of the Meeting, the Treasurer showed the Union's finances for the year ending 30th September 2009 to be in a healthy state. Against a total expenditure of £174,000, income produced a surplus of £19,000 which was transferred to the Special Purposes and General Funds.

However a note of warning; the lower investment income now signalled over 2010 could impact on the County's Fixture programme and expenditure. The Accounts were Approved and copies may be obtained by written request from the County Secretary.

### **Election of Officers.**

Chris Tappin was elected President for 2010, replacing Ian Burton.

Completing his three-year term as County Captain Simon Naylor stood down for Pat Donaghey and would serve on Committee. Co-opted members Allister Raphael and David Watkins were elected onto Committee.

The Meeting was updated on the progress being made of the Incorporation raised at and sanctioned by the last ACM and the Meeting agreed that the matter be pursued.

**Fixtures 2010.** The Kent Committee has presented another stringent programme of events for the new season, being involved in the administration of over 60 fixtures including 21 Inter- County games, two new Championships now making 13, and the usual 4 Individual Members Meetings. Over 50 of the fixtures will be hosted by Kent Clubs in addition to their own commitments that include the County Order of Merit competitions. The new Championships will also recognise the top Club in a Handicap Knock-out and the Individual County Member off handicap.

Langley Park will celebrate its Centenary.

FECW 10/01/2010. (Amended 9th February 2010).