



Year Book

Reports 2024

&

Fixture List 2025

PRESIDENT

Michael Winarick

COMMITTEE

Captain: Nigel Howcutt

Vice-Captain: David Amey

Membership Secretary: David Hill

Fixtures Secretary: Jolyon Culbertson

Treasurer: Alan Wilkinson

ADDRESSES

Nigel Howcutt: 2 Church Close, Aldeburgh, Suffolk, IP15 5DY

Tel: 07967 226789; nihowcutt@googlemail.com

David Amey: 4 Loxwood Farm Place, Loxwood, West Sussex, RH14

ORF: Tel: 07786 233 922; david@dnamarketing.co.uk

David Hill: 1 Denmark Road, Wimbledon, London, SW19 4PG

Tel: 07957 137446; david@jessaka.com

Jolyon Culbertson: September Lodge, Old Haslemere Rd, Haslemere

GU27 2NN. Tel 01428 644141 or 07961 587888; jcchk@me.com.

Alan Wilkinson: Penstock House, Bracken Close, Wonersh, GU5

0QS. Tel: 01483 892382 or 07949 081517; a168w@hotmail.com

THE SOCIETY'S REPRESENTATIVE IN SCOTLAND

Alastair Bryce: Tel: 07717 411378; alastair.bryce@gmail.com

THE SOCIETY'S REPRESENTATIVE IN HONGKONG

Tim Linton: lintonfamily@netvigator.com

Website: chinagolfingsociety.com

CAPTAIN'S REPORT

My year as Captain started with a fun meeting at Reigate Heath to welcome in the Chinese Year of the Dragon. Organised in absentia by John Warbey, we enjoyed a dry, sunny 9 holes followed by a Chinese 'banquet'. Thanks to the donation of a very fine malt whisky retailing at £450, we raised an amazing £806 in the raffle for my nominated charity, Strathcarron Hospice. This wonderful organisation was supporting Michael Williams in his battle with terminal cancer and it was a great pleasure to accompany him to present the cheque. The rest of the CGS season was busy, varied and successful. I missed only one of the 27 rounds played (as it clashed with the bicentenary celebrations of the Royal Perth Golfing Society) and can report that it has been a most enjoyable experience. In statistical terms, 88 different players participated compared with 85 in the previous year when 3 more rounds were played. This is a positive trend. Of the 9 matches we played against clubs and societies, we won 5, lost 3 and halved one. Of particular note was our 13 th victory against Royal St Georges in 40 years of competition and our first victory since 2018. We also beat Malaya and Calcutta Golfing Societies in our matches at Piltdown and Blackmoor respectively and retained the Hodder Cup at Cuddington. We were less successful in the Quadrangular at Sandy Lodge, coming 3rd, but took some satisfaction in knowing that if all scores were counted (instead of the best 6) we would have won convincingly!

Our 4 tours (Suffolk, North-South, South Links and French) were all very sociable but not uneventful. In Suffolk, the Aldeburgh GC chef was taken ill at short notice so our tour dinner had to be cancelled but thanks to the swift actions of Nigel Howcutt, we had a worthy (and rather alcoholic) second evening at the Lighthouse Restaurant. In the South Links tour, we achieved our best ever result (2nd) in the Texas Scramble Open at Littlestone. The lunch and hospitality at Rye, as usual, were first class although having to play the Composite Course was disappointing and something Mike Winarick is

trying to address for future years. It was a disappointment that only 12 members made it to the French tour and unfortunate that through illness and unscheduled board meetings, we were reduced to 10 players on the 2 days at the excellent Le Touquet courses. Stormy weather then caused the golf at Wimereux to be cancelled. Let's hope for better luck next year on what is an excellent and very sociable outing.

The North-South Tour was held over the Dundonald, Glasgow Gailes and Western Gailes Links in Ayrshire, all superb courses. Competition among the 24 members for the Shanghai Jars and Kennedy Plates at Dundonald, and for the Nan Bei Jang Trophy was fierce but I am delighted to report that the North retained the bragging rights. One novel innovation was the hickory putting competition organised by Stephen Hagenbuch using Ken Forrest's extensive hickory putter collection. This year, the Society commissioned a new silver trophy as a tribute to the late Michael Williams, who co-founded the North-South tour, and it was with great pleasure that I awarded it to Ken Forrest for his immense contribution to this event and his generosity over the past 6 years. John Mungall who has taken over the duties of the North Match Manager, has a very hard act to follow.

Aside from golf, much has been happening in the Society. The Management Committee has met 6 times and has been addressing various governance, financial and structural issues. Members were surveyed on the proposal to introduce an annual subscription which will be decided at the AGM. Shortcomings in the website have been identified but only partially resolved. Plans to thank host clubs, refine the membership and introduce recruitment policies have also been discussed. Adapting to changing circumstances has been the focus but evolution not revolution has been the strategy. None of the above would have happened without a great deal of effort from many willing volunteers. Match and tour managers are indispensable and on behalf of all Society members, I thank them for their endeavours. I must also pay tribute to members of my Management Committee for their support, ideas and tolerance in what has been a busy year. I have been very ably supported by my Vice Captain, Nigel

Howcutt, whom I am certain will make an excellent Captain. My sincere thanks must go to those leaving the Committee, Immediate Past Captain, Mike Tibbatts, for his wise counsel and infectious enthusiasm and to Membership Secretary, David Glennie, for his patience and dedication in dealing with so many diverse and tricky issues. I am delighted to report that David Hill has agreed to take on the role of Membership Secretary in addition to his Kit Master duties. Our President, Mike Thornhill, has also decided to stand down and, on behalf of the Society and recent Captains, I would like to thank him for his wisdom and guidance over the past 9 years.

I am pleased to report that we have recruited 7 new members but sadly, we have lost Desmond Prior, Robert Lo and Michael Williams, a gentleman whose cheerful and stoic attitude to his deteriorating condition exemplified the high standards he set during his life.

In conclusion, I believe that it has been a very good year for the Society, which is managing to retain its core values whilst adapting to some necessary changes. For me personally, it has been a memorable and fulfilling year and I thank you all for your support and friendship.

I look forward to continuing my involvement in the coming years, albeit from the back benches.

TOURS 2024

THE SUFFOLK TOUR 06-08 MAY

There was a bumper turnout of 20 players for this year's tour based at Aldeburgh. The weather was benign with blue skies and after recent rain the courses were in great condition.

On Monday 6th May we played 9 holes on the Forest Course at Woodbridge. This was a Better Ball Stableford won by David Hill, Colin Peebles and Huw Jenkins ably supported by a hidden pro. Together they scored 42 points which was 2 ahead of the 4 ball of Nigel Howcutt, Alan Richards, David Glennie and Darryl Dawson. Nearest the pin was won by Colin Peebles. A successful dinner followed at the Lighthouse Restaurant in Aldeburgh.

On Tuesday 7th May we played a foursomes match against AGC which CGS won 6 to 4. Plans had been made for a post match dinner for both teams at AGC club house but it was not to be. The Head Chef was taken ill and ended up in hospital meaning we had to quickly organize an alternative. Nigel Howcutt managed to get the CGS team into the Lighthouse Restaurant at short notice and a very convivial evening followed.

On Wednesday morning we had an early shot gun start for the Aldeburgh Stableford. Eight pairs took part. The winner with a magnificent 40 points was Nigel Lovett-Turner, second was Ken Forrest on 34 and third was Dominic Boyle with 32. Nearest the pin on the 17th was won by David Hill and Terry Smith won nearest pin on the 4th. We were unable to present Nigel with the Trophy, as it was won last year by Robert Lo, sadly now deceased. We hope to restore the Trophy to the Society. This was Mark Waller's last season as Match Manager and Clyde Camburn has kindly volunteered to take over for next year.

THE SOUTH LINKS TOUR 05-07 AUGUST

After one of the wettest summers in memory, it was with some relief that 15 China Golfers arrived on the South Coast in glorious sunshine. Certainly, it would have been perfect had all 16 arrived but 'one' failed to read the instructions. To the Captain's chagrin it was one of his Team for the Texas Scramble that was absent. However, through our excellent contacts at Littlestone, Oliver Connolly shortly appeared from the Pro shop to join us, a 'ringer' if ever there was one!

The Scramble is a fun event – more than 40 teams of 4 and during the round every team member must contribute 4 tee shots. Pars and birdies are essential in any bid for prizes. The Captain's team came storming home with a net 52 which secured second place overall in the competition. It was the best result CGS have ever achieved so

congratulations to Colin, David Duncan, David Amey, and young Oliver. Moral of the story....always trust the local Pro shop! The Flackley Ash, as always, provided an excellent overnight stay and the weather remained kind as a party of 12 headed to Rye for a foursome match against the Club, whilst 4 members returned to Littlestone for a four ball stableford competition with two balls in each group to count. Ross Logan, having recently taken over as Match Manager for the Rye Fixture, recruited a strong team who played over the Composite Course and triumphed 4 -2 over China, before repairing to the Clubhouse for a quite exceptional lunch. The Littlestone team came in with a creditable 80 stableford points. As usual Keys had to be returned to Flackley and unpaid bills settled (!), before leaving for The Blazing Donkey Hotel, near the village of Ham, close by to Sandwich. As the name implies this converted stable made for an unusual but extremely pleasant overnight stay in preference to the Bell whose prices had far outstripped its value. Somehow the weather remained kind and Royal St George's greeted us in bright sunshine and a gentle (a local term for not too strong) wind for our fortieth outing on the famous championship links. James Proudlock has become our 'go to' Match Manager and his excellent arrangements, including finding the Guy Pritchard/Roy Davies trophy, made for yet another wonderful day's golf. What is more the result was, perhaps appropriately, 6-2 in favour of China! We shall be presenting the Club with a silver plaque and table for their new 'snack' bar shortly to mark the occasion of the 40th match. My heartfelt thanks go to Ross and James for their hard and excellent work, as we all agreed a Match Managers task is never easy!

THE FRENCH TOUR 18-21 SEPTEMBER

The French Tour is very much the end of season gathering of likeminded members, where the focus is on good golf, good food, good wine, and camaraderie.

It all started well, gathering in the evening at the bar at the Bristol Hotel, our base for the next 3 nights. Then off to Restaurant du

Marche, a great favourite of our outgoing president Michael Thornhill. The next morning, the golf organiser General Winarick sadly was suffering from a bad mussel, and declared himself unfit to face anything, and certainly not 18 holes at La Foret. Alastair Bryce also had an on-line board meeting, so the remaining 10 combatants gathered at Le Foret. Winners of the two better ball stableford were David Hill and David Glennie. In view of the reduced participants, it was decided that the Leckie Cup would be held over until Wimeraux. Dinner that 2nd evening saw us gathering at Jean's Cafe, another favourite from previous years.

Sadly, the next morning, another casualty of a doubtful mussel (or something) saw your tour manager also feeling that he could not face anything, let alone the tricky La Mer course. The General was also still suffering, and with Mr Bryce still engaged on zoom calls, it was left to the 9 remaining combatants to play. This, again, rather played havoc with the scheduled play, leaving us without declared winners. The final dinner took place at Perard Tradition, the society's favourite fish restaurant.

On our last morning all 12 players set off for Wimeraux to play this testing course for the Leckie Cup. Well, that was the plan but this course is very much open to the elements, and open it proved, with the wind howling and the rain pouring down. The secretary kindly offered all the players a free round next year, but David Hill and David Duncan decided to be brave and set off from the 1st tee. However, their initial rush of enthusiasm wilted in the face of driving wind and rain and they were forced to give up after 5 holes - so no Leckie Cup was awarded this year but prizes were still handed out, these being extremely valuable plastic wine glasses and wine stoppers, procured by the organiser in Le Touquet. No play for the majority enabled an earlier train time back to Folkestone but to add to the tales of woe, those returning to south east England got stuck in a 3 hour traffic jam on the M25. In spite of all this, so far 15 members have signed up for the tour next year! In closing, my sincere thanks to Michael Winarick for organising the play on each day - hopefully he can be persuaded to repeat this onerous task next year.

MEETINGS & MATCHES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

CHINESE NEW YEAR MEETING AT REIGATE HEATH GC 23 FEBRUARY

CGS Welcomed in the New Year of the Dragon on Friday, 23rd February 2024. 21 members (7 x three balls) elected to play golf and all bar one carried their clubs after the express request from Reigate Heath GC management due to a very wet course. A further 3 CGS members came to lunch, making a total of 24 members participating overall. CGS raised £806.50 for the Captain's Charity (the Strathcarron Hospice which is providing advice to past Captain - Michael Williams).

The winners of the day were Rob Curry, Steven Drury and Huw Jenkins with a very respectable 39 points over 9 holes (best 2 out of 3 to count). The wooden spoon winners know who they were, and they received a prize much better than a wooden spoon! The best dressed in Chinese attire was David Amey and the nearest the pin was won by Nick Millar. The draw for the aged and valuable whisky was won by Patrick Alan. Ken Forrest and Colin Peebles (Society Captain, who travelled down from Glasgow to attend this meeting and then returned to Glasgow after golf and lunch - a round trip in excess of 900 miles) managed to sell all the whisky they brought with them, allowing their car to travel homeward very much quicker. The Chinese feast was remarkable. We were entertained by Stephen Drury with two songs from the George Formby collection; both tunes and words were entirely appropriate; it was a wonderful start to a great lunch. The one important absentee, John Warbey, was sadly missed. John assures us all he will be back at the helm for this most important but hugely fun fixture in 2025. This will be held on the 14th February 2025 and who knows what arrangements CGS will come up with to celebrate this most important date and for CGS to welcome in the Year of the Snake.

MATCH vs LIPHOOK GC 25 MARCH

A team of 16 gathered at Liphook Golf Club in wet and windy conditions on Monday morning, the 25th March. Soon however, the clouds parted, the wind eased, and by the time the first match teed off it was dry and relatively calm, and it stayed that way for the remainder of the day. The Captain, Colin Peebles, led the way in a very close match which was finally won with the final putt on the last green. Others' fortunes were somewhat mixed with all matches going to at least the 16th Green and three to the 17th and three to the 18th. In the end the match was evenly shared, a creditable and fair result.

The course, as usual at Liphook, was presented in excellent condition with fast greens and running fairways. Given the extent of the inclement weather over the past 5 months this was no mean feat. A first-rate roast lunch was enjoyed by all concerned and following the toasts The CGS presented the Club with a bottle of the Societies' Year of the Dragon Malt Whisky.

It has been agreed with the Club that the next fixture will be on Monday 24th March 2025.

MATCH vs WEST SURREY GC on 11 APRIL

The third annual fixture against West Surrey was played on the 11th April. At stake was the much-prized Chengdu Trophy and seven teams competed on a very pleasant spring afternoon. Unfortunately, the West Surrey team, populated by past and future captains, took full advantage of their local knowledge and won by 5.5 to 1.5. The overall result as not entirely representative of the individual matches many of which were quite closely contested. The golf was played in excellent spirit (despite one member of the opposition fielding 15 clubs in their bag) and a great time was had by all. We hope for a better result but an equally enjoyable match next year.

SCOTTISH SPRING MEETING AT CRAIGIELAW GC 17 APRIL

11 Members gathered in sunny, but cool and blustery conditions at Craigiellaw GC for the Society's first Scottish meeting of the new season. Ominous showers were visible over the Firth of Forth but these blew through rapidly and our golfers were largely spared. In common with the rest of the country, East Lothian has seen an unusually wet winter. However the course was presented in good condition bar the odd patch of casual water. The greens ran true and fair, but were consistently challenging with few flat surfaces and some punitive run-offs. This combined with the stiff breeze made scoring tricky and was reflected in the overall results.

The Old Tom Morris Trophy was won by Alastair Bryce with 34 points, edging out Society Captain Colin Peebles on the 18th green. Patrick Elsmie took the prize for nearest the pin on the 17th hole. The company enjoyed coffee and bacon rolls before the round and a meal on completion, served by welcoming staff, whose efforts were duly acknowledged by the Captain. He welcomed Vice-Captain Nigel Howcutt who had travelled from Suffolk for the event and thanked Members for their participation.

MATCH vs MALAYA GS 15 MAY

The annual match against Malaya GS was held at Piltdown GC for the Roy Davies Trophy. Members arrived in time for coffee and a Full English Breakfast and then 6 teams of two from each Society tee'd off between 11a.m and noon using a new format - St. Andrews Greensomes. The weather was kind to us and the course, now fully recovered from the 'wet season' preceding, was presented in fine condition. Play was most enjoyable, with evenly matched teams. Eventually the results came in with China retaining the trophy 3 ½ to 2 1/2. This trophy was presented by Roy Davies back in the mists of last century when he was a member of both Societies, providing a competition and social event in Sussex mainly for those returning on long leave from the Far East. His memory lives on.

THE NORTH vs SOUTH MATCH & MEETING 10-12 JUNE

It was with a heavy heart society members convened at Gales hotel Ayrshire for the 23rd playing of the North v South Match for the Nan Bei Jiang Trophy. Michael Williams joint founder of the match and meeting in 2001 with Iain Menzies sadly passed away the previous week, and initial sadness turned to reflective thoughts and laughter as fond memories of Michael were shared amongst the group through the course of the four days. A fine three course dinner was enjoyed by members on the Sunday evening at our host hotel and the pairings for the first day fourballs over the fine Glasgow Gales links next to our hotel were shared across the two long tables. Good weather greeted the party on the Monday morning as the 23 players made their way to the first tee. A singles match between the two match managers led the group off accompanied by guest for the day Philip "Mouldy" Mould last year's North hero from their away win at Stoke by Nayland. A close match followed with South manager Simon Sheppard edging out his Northern counterpart Ken Forrest on the last green. A tied match in game two was followed by three comfortable North wins, including a win for South based new member Peter Wintle in partnership with David Duncan for the North. In the anchor match, a comfortable win for the South pairing of Alan Wilkinson and Terry Smith against the North young(ish) guard of Wilson Barrie and John Mungall. Three and half points to two and a half points in favour of the North overnight.

Day two took the group 5 minutes along the road to the excellent new links course at Dundonald in pursuit of the individual Shanghai Jars. The group had a preview of the links the previous evening as we dined at Dundonald's new clubhouse which afforded fine views across the links to Arran and Ailsa Craig beyond. Dundonald proved to be a tough test for the 24 golfers taking part as one would expect for a course due to host Open championship final qualifying in early July. For the South last year's winner Tony Clement -Brown finished third on 30 pts pipped on a better last nine by Society vice captain

Nigel Howcutt. South winner on the day with 31 pts was new kit man David Hill, playing particularly well with 18 points on the very demanding back nine. For the North, runner up was Robin Paton with a fine 32 pts edging out Stephen Hagenbuch on 31pts – winner with a best of the day score was Drew Lamont on 33 pts. Kennedy plate winners on the blind draw were Alan Wilkinson and Robin Paton on 60 pts beating Andrew Christie and David Hill on countback.

Evening meal on the Tuesday was at the Troon based Lochgreen House Hotel , where an excellent meal was followed by a draw for the following days singles series over the renowned Western Gales Links. The draw as always threw together an interesting series of matches not least of all the match up between former Hong Kong legal partners Peter Wintle and Andrew Christie. Fine weather again greeted the party for a 10.40 start at Western. In the lead off match John Lang edged out Ross Logan on the final green and Wilson Barrie took his revenge from the first day's defeat at the hands of Terry Thumper Smith, with a fine display of big hitting on the way to a dog licence win. Switching sides for the singles Peter Wintle won the legal match up and this was followed by wins from Tony CB and Alan Wilkinson. The North however proved too strong on familiar links territory and took the singles series by 7.5 matches to 4.5 matches, giving a final score of North 11points to the South's 7 points.

Prior to prizegiving dinner in the historical ecclesiastical style clubhouse at Glasgow Gales – Glasgow club member Stephen Hagenbuch set up a crossover links style putting test on the Gales putting green, and appropriate hickory shafted putters were carefully selected for all 24 participants. Stephen himself was asked to putt with an 1895 Andrew Forgan long nose putter, whilst Ipswich Town fan vice-captain Nigel Howcutt reluctantly accepted a 1919 RG Pilch of Norwich putter! Noted Taylor Swift fan Andrew Christie performed well on 2 over with his J H Taylor blade putter, but joint winners proved to be both Northern golfers in the form of Captain Colin Peebles and past captain David Duncan , both posting a score of +1. Dare we mention that David brought his own hickory

putter to Gales, stealing a march on the broom handle boys who had a fruitless search through the bag for a hickory long enough to meet their dancefloor demands. An excellent prizegiving dinner followed with various prizes dished out to the aforementioned winners from Captain Colin Peebles and in addition two very popular nearest the pin winners over Western Gales in the shape of Mike Tibbatts on the 12th and Wilson Barrie on the 15th. South Captain Simon Sheppard thanked the North for their hospitality and as tradition dictates announced next year's host location - former Ryder Cup venue Lindrick in Yorkshire. The evening concluded very much as the week started with thoughts of Michael and Captain Colin presenting the recently commissioned Michael Williams Silver Quaich to Ken Forrest for his work in succeeding Michael in 2017 as North Manager in the series of matches that followed.

LIPHOOK GC MEETING 10 JULY

The Meeting at Liphook Golf Club was a great success. After a wet start to the week, the sun came out and 17 of us started, should have been 18, but Ken Forrest having flown south for the mini tour that morning found BA had lost all his kit and clubs, so he drove back to Glasgow in his pre-booked hire car! The course was in excellent condition, although the greens were a bit two paced after the rain. Nearest the Pin at the 8th was Brendon McDonagh and on the 12th Andrew Long. In the main competition for the Reynolds Bowl, the Runner up was Ken Reid with 33 points and the winner, with a very classy 36 points, was Patrick Allen. Colin Peebles, our Captain, presented the prizes. I have completed a most enjoyable tour of duty running this event and am handing over to Ken Reid for next year, when the date is Wednesday 9th July 2025.

MATCH VS CALCUTTA GS – THE HARDWICK TROPHY

The annual match against Calcutta GS was played at Blackmoor GC with China defending the trophy won the previous year. The format was 4BBB off the course handicap playing from the yellow tees from around 1230 having had an excellent sandwich and chips light lunch. The course was in great shape and the weather obliged with plenty of sunshine.

Some excellent performances on both sides concluded with China retaining the trophy 5 matches to two. We were unlucky to have two late drop-outs due to ill health so 2 teams had to play triangular 3 ball which tested the calculations somewhat!

After the match we enjoyed a 'golfers one course supper' . The format starting at 1230 was welcomed by all and we hope to repeat next year. During the prize ceremony Capt. Colin Peebles explained that The Hardwick Trophy was presented by "Joe the Pro" Hardwick for this annual match since Joe was the club pro at both Royal Calcutta GC and Royal Hong Kong GC for twenty years. He passed away in late 2023. Members present recalled his memory fondly. Calcutta were an engaging team as ever and we look forward to the challenge again next year.

JOINT SOCIETIES MEETING AT CUDDINGTON GC 20 JULY

Four pairs from each of Calcutta, Malaya, Kenya, Latin America and China Golfing Societies met on a very hot sunny day at Cuddington GC, a par 70 parkland course in South London. The aggregate of the best 3 better ball stableford scores from each society would win the Hodder Cup, which had first been played for in 1976. China won in 2023 so the pressure was on to retain the cup, which had not been done since 2006-07. Our first pair of Jeremy Sherwood and Mark Lloyd-Williams got us off to a great start with 44 pts, which was matched by Dominic Boyle and in-form Patrick Allen. Captain Colin Peebles and Huw Jenkins added 42 points to give a team total of 130 pts but news that the Calcutta Captain Phil

Cooper had scored 47 pts dented our confidence slightly. However, we need not have worried and the Hodder Cup was retained by 5 pts from Malaya GS, with Calcutta GS one point behind.

An excellent day from a golfing and social point of view, managed by David Hill, who generously stood aside to let others play.

QUADRANGULAR TROPHY MEETING SANDY LODGE GC 22 AUGUST

This year's Quadrangular Trophy event was held on Thursday, 22nd August at Sandy Lodge Golf Club. A team stableford competition, it is played against the East India, Oriental and Reform Clubs : each field teams of eight with the best six to count towards a team total.

On a blustery day that threatened rain throughout and made scoring difficult, the course - a 1910 Harry Vardon "inland links"- was in good condition. The greens, as always, were both quick and subtle producing more three-puts than some of us have recorded all summer. China's overall aggregate score (228) put us comfortably out in front, with Richard Gomersall's 35 points, the stand-out performance: however, after the discounting of our two weakest scores, we were left in third place (181) behind the Oriental Club (182) and the winners, East India Club (185). Interestingly, our two discarded scores were well in excess of the discards from the other three teams : in other words, our two poorest scores simply weren't bad enough (!) to secure the win.

We have dominated this competition since its inception and, in the gracious words of the Captain, we "should have done better but we mustn't hogg the trophy!" We will, I am sure, regain it at next year's event, scheduled for Thursday 14th August 2024. This is always a good day out. The course is challenging and Sandy Lodge look after us very well and I would encourage members who have not played this event before to sign up for next year's outing.

SCOTTISH SUMMER MEETING AT LADYBANK GC 29 AUGUST

19 CGS golfers, including new and returning members, were welcomed by the Captain to Ladybank GC on Thursday 29 August for the Society's Scottish Summer Meeting. The course was presented in very good condition and was a thoroughly enjoyable heathland experience in mostly fine weather, with some of the narrower fairways occasioning play from attractive but punitive heather. Winner of the Fanlingers' Quich with an impressive 45 points was Jim Mailer, well ahead of Peter Reed whose 41 point total was also a fine achievement, and the Captain finished in 3rd place (on a countback from Chris Underwood) with 36 points. A Fanlingers' memento in the form of an ashtray dating to 1952 was presented to Scott Hutchison for securing nearest to the pin on the 8th hole. We will look to have it mounted on a base for future events.

Crowded August schedules saw us at Ladybank on a busy day, and we were unable to have a meal after the match, opting instead for a "soup & sandwiches" lunch before play. Although this was known in advance and reflected in the fee for the day, it was not universally popular and is to be avoided for future events as far as possible.

MEETING AT THE NEVILL GC 12 SEPTEMBER

15 Players enjoyed another very good day at the Nevill Golf Club. The weather was good and the course in excellent condition with some very testing greens which provided an excellent challenge. As the CGS Captain was unable to attend due to a prior commitment, the Vice Captain led us out to compete for the Jack Martin Cup. Patrick Allen playing off a handicap of 12 had an exceptional game, scoring 41 points and was a clear winner from Dominic Boyle (last years winner) who returned a creditable total of 34 points. The Jack Martin Cup together with 2 wine glasses and 3 balls was duly presented to Patrick with Dominic receiving a Tumbler and 3 balls. 3 balls each were also presented to Andrew Long and Peter Elliott for the best front and back nines respectively.

After lunch the Vice Captain reminded members of the importance of attending the AGM either in person or on zoom, and he also gave a brief history of the Jack Martin cup which was first presented in 1959 to mark the contribution of one of the founder members of the CGS.

MEETINGS IN HONG KONG

The annual meeting was held on 7th November in glorious sunshine and temperature in the mid 20's. Derek Lam won with 41 points, while 6 golfers tied for second with 37. Runner up had to be determined by countback going to Ken Anderson. Handicaps ranged from 6 to 24 and there was a range of prizes for nearest the pin, long drive, best front nine/back nine.

MATCH RESULTS 2024

Liphook	Halved 4 - 4
West Surrey	Lost 5.5 - 1.5
Aldeburgh	Won 6 - 4
Malaya GS	Won 3.5 - 2.5
Calcutta GS	Won 5 - 2
Rye GC	Lost 4 - 2
Royal St George's GC	Won 6 - 2
Piltdown GC	Halved 3 - 3
XL Club	Lost 4 - 2

NOTE FOR MEMBERS

Please note that Match Managers will acknowledge applications for their events and advise when and by what method payment should be made. This may differ from fixture to fixture

NOTE FOR MATCH MANAGERS

Match Managers are requested to agree a date for the following year, which should be a comparable date to the current year, on the day of their fixture. This will avoid a fixtures clash in future. The Fixtures Secretary should be informed as soon as possible

FIXTURES AND MEETINGS FOR 2025

Thu 13 Feb - Chinese New Year at Reigate Heath GC– RH2 8QR

1000; 9 Holes Stableford golf followed by a Chinese banquet
John Warbey: Tel: 07775 535718; Email: jwarbey@mail.com

Mon 24 Mar - Match v Liphook GC - GU30 7EH

08.30 for 09.00; Greensomes; Simon Sheppard – Tel: 01730 818284
Email: slsheppard@btinternet.com

Thu 17 Apr – Spring Meeting, Scotland at Irvine GC, KA12 8SN

1000 Coffee and rolls. 1100 Stableford
Alastair Bryce - Tel: 07717 411378 Email: alastair.bryce@gmail.com

Thu 24 Apr - Match v West Surrey GC – GU8 5AF

1200 brunch. Four Ball Betterball.
Davor Pisk - Tel: 07754 027019 Email: davor.pisk@btinternet.com

THE SUFFOLK TOUR

Mon 05 May - Woodbridge Golf Club – IP12 2PF

1230 sandwich lunch - 9 hole Team Stableford

Tue 06 May - Match v Aldeburgh GC – IP15 5PE

09.00 for 09.30 – Foursomes

Wed 07 May - Meeting at Aldeburgh GC – IP15 5PE

12.00 sandwich lunch - Stableford
Clyde Camburn - Tel: 07787 578063

Wed 14 May - Match v Malaya GS at Piltdown - TN22 3XB

0830 for 0900 Greensomes
Jolyon Culbertson Tel: 07961 587888; 01428 644141
Jcchk@me.com

THE SCOTTISH TOUR

Mon 26 May - Murcar GC - AB23 8BD

Tue 27 May – Cruden Bay GC - AB42 0NN

Wed 28 May – Newmachar GC - AB21 7UU

Alastair Bryce - Tel: 07717 411378 Email: alastair.bryce@gmail.com

THE NORTH vs SOUTH MATCH & MEETING

Mon 09 Jun – Lindrick GC – S81 8BH

4 Ball Betterball match

Tue 10 Jun – Worksop GC – S80 2SQ

Shanghai Jars & Kennedy Plates - Stableford

Wed 11 Jun – Lindrick GC – S81 8BH

Singles matches

North Manager – John Mungall – Email: jrmungall@gmail.com

South Manager – Simon Sheppard Tel: 01730 818284;

Email: slsheppard@btinternet.com

Wed 09 Jul - Meeting at Liphook G C - GU30 7EH

12.30 (sandwiches) for 1400 Stableford

Kenneth Reid – Tel: 07549 880927 Email: kjrhk56@gmail.com

Thu 10 Jul - Match v Calcutta GS at Blackmoor GC - GU35 9EH

11.30 (sandwich lunch) for 12.30

Jolyon Culbertson – Tel: 07961 587888 Email: jcchk@me.com

Thu 17 Jul Meeting of Societies at Cuddington GC, - SM7 1RD

Teams of 8, Betterball Stableford

David Hill - Tel: 07957 137446 Email: david@jessaka.com

THE SOUTH LINKS TOUR

Mon 04 Aug - Texas Scramble at Littlestone GC's - TN28 8RB

First group 1230. Lunch from 1200.

Tue 05 Aug - Match v Rye GC - TN31 7QS

08.15 for 08.45 – Foursomes

Wed 06 Aug - Match v Royal St George's GC – CT13 9PB

08.30 for 09.00 – Foursomes

Michael Winarick – Tel: 01428 724038 Email: mjwinarick@gmail.com

(Please note that at Royal St George's certain handicap restrictions may apply. In addition, any member who would just like to play in the Texas Scramble at Littlestone is most welcome to apply).

Thu 14 Aug Quadrangular Match with East India, Oriental & Reform Clubs at Sandy Lodge GC, London HA6 2JD.

1100 (bacon rolls) for 1200; dinner (jacket and tie). 8 Player teams.

Steve Troop – Tel: 07780 661709 Email: stevetroop@mac.co

Thu 21 Aug Summer Meeting, Scotland at Glenberrie GC, FK5 4SJ

13.15 (soup and sandwich lunch before the round)

Alastair Bryce - Tel: 07717 411378 Email: alastair.bryce@gmail.com

Wed 27 Aug Match v Piltdown GC - TN22 3XB

08.30 for 09.15am 18 holes Greensomes

Mike Taylor - Tel: 01892 663795 Email: danese@hotmai.com

FRENCH TOUR

Mon 23 Sep – travel to Le Touquet, The Bristol Hotel

Tues 24 Sep – meeting at La Belle Dunes GC

Wed 25 Sep – meeting at La Mer GC Le Touquet

Thu 26 Sep – meeting at Wimereux GC and

John Warbey - Tel: 07775 535718 Email: jwarbey@mail.com

Thu 25 Sep - Meeting at Nevill GC, R. Tunbridge Wells - TN2 5JW
08.15 for 0900 (bacon rolls included) - 18 holes Stableford plus lunch
Mike Taylor - Tel: 01892 663795 Email: daneside@hotmail.com

Mon 06 Oct – Blackmoor GC Society Challenge – GU35 9EH
Team of 4;
Jolyon Culbertson Tel: 01428 644141 Jcchk@me.com

Thu 16 Oct - Match v XL Club at West Surrey GC – GU8 5AF
08.30 for 09.00 4 Ball Betterball.
Dominic Boyle - Tel: 07770 476508 Email: dominicboyle@sky.com

MEETING IN HONG KONG – mid November 2025 (date to be confirmed) at HKGC FANLING Tim Linton – Tel (00852) 9026 0820;
Email: lintonfamily@netvigator.com

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024

The meeting was held at the In and Out Club on Monday, 4th November 2024 in the Astor Room. The Captain, Colin Peebles was in the chair and the President, Michael Thornhill, was in attendance.

The following members were present: David Amey, Nic Bentley, Dominic Boyle, Michael Brown, Alastair Bryce, Jim Conybeare, Chris Coulcher, Bob Couldrey, Jolyon Culbertson, Darryl Dawson, Nigel Denby, Stephen Drury, David Duncan, Nigel Howcutt, Duncan Howarth, Huw Jenkins, James Lawson, Chris Leek, John McAnally, Ian Menzies, John Naish, Colin Peebles, Alan Richards, Peter Sledmere, Mike Tibbatts, Michael Thornhill, Steve Troop, Jeff Turner, Michael Winarick and David Glennie.

Attending via Zoom: Richard Bennett, Peter Elliot, Scott Hutchinson, Nigel Lovett-Turner, Mark Rhys, Jim Thomas, John Warbey and Alan Wilkinson.

Apologies for Absence: Sandy Flockhart, Brian Robertson, Robert Bray, John Lang, John Bone, Andrew Williams, Guy Woodford, Bruce Walker, Nicolas Hurst, Walter Caldwell, David Hill and John Mungall.

Chairman's Opening Remarks: The Chairman thanked Mike Tibbatts for managing the event and in particular, for his considerable efforts to ensure a full turnout in person as well as a good number participating on Zoom. He explained that the reason for holding the AGM at a different time and place from previous years was due to unforeseen changes in the fixture list. Furthermore, there is a governance issue as currently the AGM is held before the end of the CGS Year and is not aligned with the CGS financial year. The Captain advised that this would be considered by the Management Committee before the end of 2024 and a venue and date for the 2025 AGM agreed. The Captain invited members to email him with any views on this issue by 30 Nov 24.

Approval of the Minutes of the AGM held on 28th September 2023

Approval of the Minutes of the 2023 AGM were proposed by Jim Conybeare and seconded by Steve Troop and unanimously agreed.

Captain's Review of the Year

The Captain's Report had been circulated prior to the meeting and appears under Captain's Report at the beginning of this Year Book.

He added the following points:

-Only 88 out of a total of 282 members played in CGS fixtures this year. Whilst this is better than 2023, we still need to encourage greater participation.

-The membership is mainly male retirees largely located in the south of England and in Scotland. We should consider developing a strategy to identify and involve members from the Midlands and North of England

-It is important to maintain high standards at all times to differentiate the Society from ordinary groups of golfers. CGS kit should be worn at all matches, meetings and "on tour". Jackets and CGS ties should be the norm for dining.

-The Captain thanked the office bearers, match managers and all members who had supported him during the year.

Adoption of the Accounts for the Year ending 31 August 24.

The Accounts had been circulated prior to the meeting and are attached to these Minutes.

The increase in prize expenditure was queried. David Duncan, the Auditor, advised it was a combination of expenses from the previous year not accounted for, plus new expenses from the Hadley Wood event. It was also noted that the table presented to Royal St.

George's GC had not yet been invoiced. This would result in the £575 operating profit shown turning into a minimum of £175 operating loss for the year. This was accepted by the meeting.

The value of the clothing stock was queried. It was explained that this was because CGS has to buy in reasonable quantities when placing orders for new clothing. The stock is reducing as planned via sales.

The Accounts were then adopted unanimously.

Membership Secretary's Report

The Membership Secretary's Report had been circulated prior to the meeting. The responsibility for Website management has been transferred to the Auditor / Yearbook editor for convenience as he has a source of website expertise in the family. The Report was approved.

Fixture Secretary's Report

The Fixture Secretary's Report had been circulated prior to the meeting. There were no comments or questions. The Report was approved.

Election of the CGS Captain for 2025

Vice-Captain Nigel Howcutt was proposed by the Captain, seconded by Jim Conybeare and accepted unanimously by members.

Election of the CGS Vice-Captain for 2025

David Amey was proposed by the Vice-Captain, seconded by the Captain and accepted unanimously by members.

Subscription Proposal

The paper and proposal to introduce a £25 annual subscription had been circulated prior to the meeting. The proposal followed much consultation with Members and discussion in the Management Committee. A survey of 282 of CGS's membership elicited 153 responses (54%) of which 126 (82% of those who had replied) supported the proposal to raise an annual subscription.

The minor differences in the expenditure figures shown in Paragraph 3 of the Paper and the Annual Accounts were due to timing differences and are not considered material to the proposal.

The Captain highlighted some views of the Management Committee as follows:

- That the Society needs more financial resilience in order to develop and thrive. The present ad hoc arrangements prevent proper budgeting, planning and expansion.
- That costs are unfairly borne by active members, thus discouraging participation.

-That the proposal to raise an annual subscription does not constitute a breach of contract in respect of the one-off fee currently made to join the Society as all members will still have access to the website, which includes membership details, fixtures list, match reports with photographs as well as the Year Book.

-That the risk of accumulating unnecessary funds will be mitigated by the policy being reviewed annually at the AGM.

The Captain then fielded a wide range of questions on the on the Proposal. It was suggested that retaining tour fees whilst dispensing with match and meeting fees might be seen as unfair. It was agreed that the Management Committee would have the discretion to adjust match, meeting and tour fees during the year.

The following Proposal was put to a vote:

-That an annual subscription of £25/member is levied on all active members from 2025. This subscription is to be paid by standing order by 31 January.

-That match and meeting fees will be discontinued but tour fees will remain subject to the discretion of the Management Committee.

-That Members opting not to pay the annual subscription will be designated 'inactive' and not be entitled to play in society golf events, vote at the AGM or receive a hard copy of the Year Book. They will continue to have access to the Members Section of the Society website (including the Year Book) and may change their status at any time by paying the annual subscription. Any surplus funds accumulated would be used for: General administration including Yearbook production; Prizes; Improving the website for management, member recruitment and marketing; Subsidising matches and meetings to encourage greater participation; Contingencies, such as hosting special events and making presentations to reciprocating clubs.

-That the need for and amount of the annual subscription would be reviewed annually at the AGM

Fifty-one (51) members, including Proxy votes received by the Secretary before the meeting, were cast in favour. Seven members dissented. **The proposal was therefore approved.**

The next AGM (date, time and venue to be decided by the Committee before the end of 2024) would also be asked to approve a budget for income and expenditure for the ensuing year.

Election of the Membership Secretary

David Hill was proposed as the new Membership Secretary. There was a unanimous vote in favour.

Change of the President

The Captain informed the meeting that the President, Michael Thornhill, had indicated his wish to stand down. On behalf of the Society and particularly the past Captains, he thanked President Mike for taking such an active role in CGS fixtures, and for his guidance and wise counsel since 2015. He also thanked him for his generosity in providing the wine for the AGM lunch. The President proposed Michael Winarick, as his successor (see note below). This proposal was unanimously approved and Michael Winarick was elected President of CGS with effect from 1 January 2025.

Closing Remarks

The Captain again thanked Mike Tibbatts for organising the event, and both members present and those Zooming for supporting it. He reminded members to pass on their views on the AGM timing and venue by 30 Nov.

CLUB MEMBERSHIP

Joined in 2024

Brian Parker, Huw Jenkins, Alan Wragg, Malcolm Ross, Ian Falconer, John Weeks, Kieran Hale

Resigned in 2024

Paul Tagg, Bob Martin, Martin Gardiner, Philip Curry, Chris Bonsall

Deceased in 2024

Desmond Pryor, Robert Lo, Michael Williams

A NOTE FROM THE RETIRING PRESIDENT

Gentlemen, Fellow Members of the China Golfing Society; it has been my very great pleasure and honour to serve as your President for the past several years. I do believe that the President should participate as far as possible in the Society's affairs and functions, but sadly with the passage of time I am finding it more and more difficult to join in the excellent meetings and matches which are the lifeblood of the Society and I have accordingly decided that it is time for me to step down as President. At the AGM, I was very pleased to nominate as my successor a gentleman most highly qualified for the position, namely Michael Winarick, and I mentioned his sterling work as GCS Captain in 2008; his excellent organising of the South Links Tour which is still ongoing; his editing of the CGS Yearbook for a number of years and his generous time devoted to charitable causes. I am very pleased to say that Michael has accepted my nomination, and that the Meeting unanimously and enthusiastically accepted my proposal, so I am delighted to announce that Michael has been appointed the new President of the CGS.

I would also like to thank Colin Peebles, our Captain in 2024, for the terrific amount of work that he has done throughout his very successful year of captaincy. Following in Mike Tibbatts's footsteps he has attended almost every one of the Society's meetings and matches throughout the year and has covered many hundreds of miles to do so. The society is much indebted to Colin for his leadership. I wish him many happy memories of his year as Captain. Thanks also to Nigel Howcutt, our Vice-Captain, for his support throughout the year; I wish him a happy and successful year as Captain in 2025; and finally thanks also to all our officials, match managers and all who have given their time and effort to ensure that our Society continues to be such a successful and happy place to be.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT as at 31 AUGUST 2024

Income	2024	2023
Match fees	1725	880
Scottish Match fees	775	595
New Membership Fees	180	165
Profit on Kit sales	325	548
Donation	619	133
Totals	3754	2336

Expenditure

Website Expenses	1368	386
Yearbook	475	704
Prizes presented	973	568
Admin/Engraving	83	162
Whisky	80	-
MW Quaich	200	-
Totals	1820	1140

Operating Surplus **575** **516**

Net Assets

Stock of Clothing	4097	4845
Stock of Prizes / Balls	1185	1960
Bank Account	4782	3476
Debtors	1760	1572
Creditors	0	(604)
Totals	11824	11249

Represented by:

General Fund

Opening balance	11249
Operating profit	575
Balance C/Forward	11824

Note from Hon. Auditor (DS Duncan)

I have reviewed the above accounts as prepared by the Treasurer and have verified where possible the key numbers in the accounts. I have not conducted a full audit but based on the checks that I have made, I believe that the accounts are an accurate reflection of the CGS financial position as at 31 Aug 24.

Notes on the Accounts for the Year ending 31 August 2024

- 1) **Match Fees:** Following the decision last year to increase match fees in events where prizes are awarded, our match fee receipts increased from £1475 to £2500
- 2) **Membership Fees:** Ten new members joined the society during the year. Two paid £30 and eight paid the increased Membership fee of £50
- 3) **Profit on Sale of kit:** This was lower due to less kit sold.
- 4) **Donations:** Three items accounted for this figure: £150 from Peter Wintle as a contribution to the North/South Tour; £150 similarly from Nigel Howcutt; £319 sent from Alastair Bryce in respect of a surplus from an event over-budgeted in Scotland a few years ago
- 5) **Website expenses:** These were up considerably this year following necessary enhancements
- 6) **Year Book:** David Duncan has taken over responsibilities for producing the Year Book and has achieved some economies in doing so.
- 7) **Prizes presented:** Considerable increases are noted. Partly as a result of the additional event at Hadley Wood (£110) and additional costs for the prizes for the French Tour. If the figure shown for last year might possibly have been understated, the figure for this year is correct.
- 8) **Admin expenses:** These were inflated last year mainly as a result of the cost of a meeting over lunch with our website service provider. The figure for this year is the norm and mainly represents engraving and postage costs.
- 9) **Whisky:** We donated bottles of our Year of the Dragon malt whisky to two of the clubs against whom we have matches.
- 10) **MW Quaich:** The Society decided to purchase a quaich in memory of past Captain Michael Williams who did so much for the Society. In particular (with Ian Menzies) he established the annual North South Tour.
- 11) **Debtors:** Three items comprise this amount. £500 as a deposit for next year's North South Tour; £540 as a deposit for this year's AGM at the In and Out Club in November; £720 as a deposit for a Scottish event next year

PRESIDENTS

1935-1936	J O P Bland
1936-1937	C A McLellan
1937-1938	Sir Peter Grain
1938-1939	C W Beswick
1947-1948	C W Beswick
1948-1949	G Hogg
1974-1979	E M P Williams
1979-1993	L Goldman
1994-2005	H B Neve
2005-2008	D S Goldie
2009-2014	A G S McCallum
2014-2015	D R Davies
2015-2024	M J E Thornhill
2025 -	M J Winarick OBE

PAST CAPTAINS

1951	Sir John Masson	1990	W Watson
1952	RMJ Martin	1991	DGR Hunt
1953	FO Reynolds	1992	PE Hammond
1954	PH Cobb	1993	DW Pryor
1955	EMP Williams	1994	KG Rice
1956	CR Rice	1995	Sir John Roxburgh
1957	RB Gotch	1996	CR Joynt
1958	ES Barraclough	1997	DR Davies
1959	WG Rigden	1998	WMA King
1960	CC King	2000	DR Sadler Hall
1961	TR Chassels	2001	J R Locking
1962	RK Valentine	2002	AGS Mc Callum
1963	DB Peat	2003	MGH Edwards
1964	AV Pettitt	2004	J H Howarth
1965	EC Hubbard	2005	GW Edie
1966	L Goldman	2006	WH Glover/RH Morris
1967	AHK Cobb	2007	JP Thomas
1968	JA Burnett	2008	MJ Winarick OBE
1969	HJ Murray Cook	2009	HJ Conybeare
1970	TGC Knight	2010	CM Picken
1971	JA Blackwood	2011	MA Raper
1972	HFB Gardener	2012	CJF Leek
1973	HG Banham	2013	C Coulcher
1974	GHW Churchill	2014	N Lovett-Turner
1975	NP Fox	2015	NJ Reeves
1976	HWE Heath	2016	M Williams
1977	IF Aucutt	2017	A Wilkinson
1978	EG Smith-Wright	2018	J Warbey
1979	EH Sainsbury	2019	P Sledmere
1980	LC Banks	2020/1	SL Sheppard
1981	GG Aitkenhead	2022	DS Duncan
1982	RA Kennedy	2023	M Tibbatts
1983	PS Ingham	2024	C McF Peebles MBE
1984	JL Kennedy	2025	NI Howcutt
1985	DS Goldie		
1986	REH King		
1987/8	HB Neve		