

Match Secretary Report

AGM 24.05.2021

Between June 2nd, 2020 and May 24th, 2021, only 7 competitions were played, down from 13 in the prior year. A total of 6 events had to be cancelled, quite a few on very short notice, which did not make the life of your match secretary any easier.

This delayed the completion of both the match play and the OOM competitions considerably and we could only complete the Match Play competition today.

Altogether, we had about 190 members competing in the monthly fixtures, down from 268 members in the prior year. But where we had only 18 members in the June 2020 event, we had 35 today. Over the year we achieved an average of 30 members per competition (except for KSC, which was limited to 24 players) which is a significant increase compared to last year.

In addition to our members we have seen a significant uptick of guests at our monthly events and we have been oversubscribed for the last two events.

Unfortunately, we often need to limit the number of guests and can only accommodate 9 flights when we have only 38 signups as we very often see late cancellations. Replacing members who cancel on short notice with guests means that we need to redo large parts of the tee sheet as we need to team guests with committee members and do not want to put more than one guest per team.

Having to set up teams in a way that we have one committee member, one guest, accommodate match play matches, ensure that we have different members playing together and balance handicaps for the team competition is closer to alchemy than maths.

In addition, we should not expect committee members present to always have to play with guests but also give them the opportunity to play with as many fellow members as possible.

Over the year, not all committee members managed to play at 4 events, with Covid having a major impact. On the other end, 4 committee members managed to play 6 or more events.

Whilst we had 3 multiple winners last year, nobody won more than one this year. Altogether we had 8 different winners for trophies and prize money, where in September two trophies were awarded. Handicaps for the winners were spread evenly across the field.

Having many guests also meant that we could attract quite a few new members to the society, and with a number of members departing throughout 2021 it will be good to see more new members coming on board.

The 2020 match play competition was concluded only today with _____ coming first and _____ as runner up.

Where Noel had come second in the Order of Merit competition 2019, he managed to win this year, two points ahead of JP and 6 points ahead of Mark Cameron, who unfortunately could not play at the last events of the year.

GolfGenius is now firmly established and has not only made life much easier for the match secretary but hopefully has also added to the fun playing the competitions.

As every year, a special thank you goes to our monthly sponsors such as Snell Golf, GolfAsian and Justin Davies of St James Place.

In addition to our monthly events for 2022 at Fanling, I have also arranged monthly events at KSC for 24 players for the months of January to May and would recommend to do the same from June to December. Should we not see further disruptions we can use these for fun events and team competitions or matches against other societies.

In closing, I would like to say that despite all the cancellations and disruptions I have seen a lot of banter and camaraderie in the society during the past year and I do hope this will continue in the coming years.

I do hope that I was not too harsh in fulfilling my role as match secretary and I would like to thank you for all the support you have given me throughout the year, moral and otherwise.

Lorenz Zimmermann
Match Secretary