

Incoming Senior Captain's Speech

Thank you Andy. May I start by saying how honoured and privileged you are to have me as captain again! No. That's not right.

What I meant was that I am both honoured and privileged to be senior captain for a second time bloody AI and speech writing!! That Musk fellow has a lot to answer for here.

Firstly, can I thank Andy for all his hard work over the past year. His efforts to raise money for his chosen charity have been prodigious; his success rate in matches is excellent and his powers of persuasion with some of our members to get them to play on Thursdays realising that it is fun as well as being of a high standard. As a result, our numbers have increased this last year and on that point, I would like to thank the powers that be at Tydd St Giles Golf club for cocking up their course so well last winter that several of their players have now joined us and not just in the seniors. Not only have they joined us, but they have fitted in tremendously well.

So now on behalf of the section I would like to present Andy with this XL token of our thanks.

My philosophy to golf remains the same as the last time I was captain – and it is summed up in one word that begins with FU! I can say this here because Squirrel is on holiday and so he will not shout out the wrong word. Obviously, the word is FUN.

Golf must be fun, even when not playing quite so well and Thorney Seniors seem to be able to enjoy their round in nearly all circumstances. Long may it continue- the Thorney Factor lives on.

I am hoping that all our roll ups will be fun and to help I am introducing some new style games and some twists to old formats. How can this be? Simples. As a trial we have moved all our home games to a Monday. This has left us with 7 Thursdays where all members can play and therefore more team games etc can be played. This change should not affect the Monday roll up unduly as matches will not start until 9.00am and the 19th hole will be open from 7.45 on those Mondays so not just coffee can be purchased before the start of the roll up should they so desire.

On the question of matches I hope as many of you as can, will put your name down to play. I particularly want to reward those who support Thursday roll ups and give as many people as I can the chance to play. Perhaps put your name down for 2 at first – one home and one away?

There will be times when members get annoyed with something -a shame but realistic. If this happens to you then please let me know. Do not stew, do not mutter with others but come to me and I will do all I can either to fix the problem or to reassure you.

I am looking forward to working with next year's committee and especially with Tony who was gullible enough – NO BLOODY AI again – GOOD enough accept my request to be my vice captain.

That's enough from me except for my chosen charity for 2026. When I was last captain, I chose Prostate Cancer as one of my cousins had recently died from it. I did not wish to repeat this worthy charity but find a new one and I racked my brains. When I mentioned this dilemma to my wife, she looked at me as if I was mad. 'Who is your best and longest friend at the golf club?' she said. Problem sorted and my charity which I know you will all support will be Alzheimer's UK.

Thank you.