

Captain's A.G.M. Speech 2025

A retiring Captains Speech traditionally includes many Thank You's and I'm happy to say this will be no exception!

Firstly thank *you* all for attending this evening and I am sure those who are absent have extremely admirable reasons!!

Thank you Roger Kennedy for inviting me to be your Vice-Captain! Here is your 'little Black Book' back. I'll not divulge the secrets it contains!!

The Seniors Section would not operate so smoothly without the special individuals who fulfil important roles on the Committee, so my thanks to all of the Seniors Committee for the work you have done and the support you have given me this year.

It has been a good year for the Section in that we have seen several players 'new' to our ranks; some from within our own Club and also some who have joined us from other Clubs. Almost all those players have contributed regularly to Thursday Roll-Ups, Competitions and Team Matches.

On the subject of Team matches, I am happy to report a positive balance in respect of our results this year, having Won 8, Halved 3 and Lost 5.

I myself partnered with 16 different Senior Section Members and over 30 different Seniors played in at least two matches during the season.

I had no problems with getting enough players for matches and long may that continue, so, a belated welcome to all the new Members to our Seniors Section and also to all players who competed in Team Matches.

Home Matches would not be the same without our Halfway House and my thanks goes to Patsy Deeping and Sue Stamper for their dedication, commitment and superb service in 'manning' the Hallway House on Match days. Presentation of gifts to Patsy & Sue.

My thanks go to Nick & Ali and their staff.

Over the years, in a wide range of Golf Clubs, I have witnessed all manner of bar and catering performance and I can tell you the Service we enjoy at Thorney Lakes (and I do say enjoy) ranks up there with the best.

Our course has, in my opinion, been excellent this year and I have also listened to comments from long-term Members who support this view. So my thanks goes to our Greenkeepers for their service.

In the Professional Shop, Mark and Nick look after us when we need help and support with Competitions and advice and my thanks also go to them.

Moving away from thanking everyone for a moment, I held my Captain's Away Day at Blankney Golf Club (near Lincoln) where I was previously a Member in the 1980's. Many of the 28 Seniors who attended on that day had not played there before and provided me with excellent feedback of the course and the day itself. Paul Rawlings achieving a magnificent 43 points for Div 1, Jonathan Robinson 41 for Div 2 and Roxy Jones 39 for the Ladies prize.

I know that quite a few who played there that day have since returned to Blankney to enjoy the course again.

My Charity Day, in support of North West Anglia Hospitals, and specifically Peterborough Hospitals Breast Cancer Unit

87 players took part in the event comprising 49 Members from Thorney Lakes and 34 visiting players, including 20 from Peterborough Milton and 12 from Old Nene, plus 4 more Izod's from Oundle and Diss Gold Clubs!

The weather treated us kindly with warm sunshine from our Rocket Start at 9am through to the close at 1pm after which came rain! The sun shines on the righteous!!

Players relaxed in the Clubhouse after golf, checked their Raffle Tickets and enjoyed a Ploughman's Lunch whilst the Competition Committee, Gerry Cannings and Jonathan Robinson, ignored their Ploughman's to plough through completed scorecards.

Before the Prize Presentation we held an Auction of 17 Fourball Golf Vouchers donated from Clubs I have played at and with whom I have close associations. The Vouchers ranged from local Clubs to ones on the East Coast, Norfolk, Suffolk and Berkshire and they attracted many bids along with great excitement from those bidding. My thanks go to Graham Hustler, my Auctioneer on the evening. Nick and Ali told me later that the fantastic atmosphere in the Clubhouse was reminiscent of Golf Days how they used to be.

The Auction raised a superb £1600 and my thanks goes to all those who bid and all those who won their Fourballs.

The final act of the afternoon was the Prizegiving and the first prizes for Thorney members went to:

Gents –Graham Hustler 42 points and Ladies – Sue Lenaghan 49 points!

The total Charity Day contribution to my fundraising was an amazing £3411.

During the year I have been out there on the course, in all weathers, collecting balls that other players have lost track of. I would also like to thank Paul Rawlings and Roy Latham who have also, of their own volition, found and given me 'lost' balls. Presentation of gifts to Paul & Roy.

The money I have raised selling those balls via Ebay has enabled me to increase my Charitable fundraising to £5000 and this is the sum going to my Charity this year.

I have doubtless missed someone off the Thank You List and this being the case I apologise but do thank you!

I know you will be in good hands with the incoming Captain because he has done it all before! So I welcome your 2026 Seniors Section Captain, Gerry Cannings.

Andy Izod Seniors Captain 2025