



## OUTGOING CHAIRMANS REPORT – 2023 SEASON

On behalf of your general Management Committee, I am pleased to report another positive year for Knighton Golf Club in all areas of the business. For myself it has been an interesting, and on occasions challenging year and yet I have enjoyed the honour of being your chairman. I would also like to welcome all our new members who have joined this year, increasing our membership over that of the previous year, which is a great achievement in the current economic climate.

The year has had some notable successes, we have managed to access the Welsh government's sports grants funding, something that had eluded the club in recent years. This has allowed for further improvements to the practice areas, equipment and new member initiatives, which no doubt you are aware of. What members may be unaware of are improvements to our IT and internet infrastructure which has been updated to modern standards, which will also deliver ongoing annual running cost savings, and we have finally developed our own club website: <https://knightongolf.co.uk>. The start of the year saw a fantastic response from members working parties, a massive thank you to all those members who got involved, its quite amazing to list some of the enhancements we were able to make, and all these alongside the ongoing upkeep of the course and clubhouse:

- New course Tee markers.
- New energy efficient LED lighting throughout the clubhouse.
- Extension of and re-stoning of the car park.
- New screen cladding to the equipment shed.



- Refurbished and extended patio area.
- Extended external grassed seating/social area.
- Our own website: <https://knightongolf.co.uk/>.
- New natural stone wall to 1<sup>st</sup> competition Tee, along with returfing.
- Stabilising of 1<sup>st</sup> Tee (yellow and Red).
- “New” fairway mower.
- New double net practice facilities, with new base and Astro turf.
- Qualified PGA coaching sessions for ladies and juniors (New2Golf) arranged in partnership with our national organisation (WalesGolf)
- New IT hardware (server and internet).
- New golf swing analyser – hopefully in use for the incoming captains drive-in.
- New commercial turf brushing component.
- Reinstated practice putting area and practice range.

It wasn't all plain sailing, despite increasing course maintenance spending by 10 fold over recent years, your committee experienced some challenges with the management of the course mid-way through the year and had to take positive steps to address these short comings. However, our volunteer course and greens maintenance teams stepped up and have worked wonders through one of the wettest summers in recent years, which in turn placed a lot of demand on those volunteers. How they are able to present the course in the best possible condition is remarkable given the limited resources available to them - many thanks Lenny, Barry, and Kevin and the rest of the team.

During my term in office, I would like to thank both Matt Davies (Club secretary) and Dave Hawkes (Treasurer) for their continued hard work in running the club, balancing the books and keeping the Committee well informed. I would also like to thank my fellow Committee members for their support this year and for their honesty in the discussions and decisions that have been made through the year – not always easy. As many of you know one of our long standing and stalwart members will be standing down from the committee, after 25 years of outstanding service to this golf club. Having held various official roles to include: chairman and treasurer amongst others, Dave will finally be able to concentrate solely on his golf! - your expertise commercial and know-how will be sorely missed – THANKYOU.



A golf club is often measured by the atmosphere people feel when they come in through the front door and that is created by you the membership. The Club Captain Greg Martin, has overseen a busy and successful year and has I think, attended every committee meeting and golf function home and away, – no easy feat – well done Greg. Greg has been ably supported by his Vice Captain Steve Davies, and I wish Steve all the best for his upcoming year as Captain, its going to be a tough act to follow but I'm sure the club is in capable hands with Steve at the helm.

Finally, I would like to thank members for their continued support and input on how the Club can and should improve – another big thank you from me. It is with a feeling of unfinished business and some regret that I find myself unable to continue as your Chairman because of personal commitments, however, hopefully the initiatives commenced this year will contribute to the ongoing success of this wonderful and unique club. My best wishes to your new Chairman Mr Martin Davies in his new role, my continued support will be available whenever needed.

Russell Worton

Immediate Past Chairman Knighton Golf Club