



## Captain's Report for the Year 2018

25 January 2019

### Summary

1. The NATO Golf Club (NGC) held 13 events in 2018, including the Annual General Meeting. This was down one from 2017. Overall participation in these events varied from minimal to moderately successful. This lack of interest was a significant factor in the decision of a potential candidate for the vacant post of Captain to withdraw his name. Three events were cancelled due to a lack of players or, in the case of the match against the SHAPE Golf Association, a lack of an opponent. The highlights of the year were the two away trips, Turkey in March and the President's Cup weekend in the North of France in September, but even these suffered from a lack of participation.
2. If no one steps forward to fill the post of Captain, the number of events your Executive is able to organize will probably need to be severely reduced. We hope that our members will actively support those competitions which are organized.

### Club Activities

3. The season started off with the Celtic Quaich at Pierpont in the middle of January. Ten players came out. The Quaich was won by Jeff DaRin. The last AGM in the old Staff Centre followed later that month, with Wendy Bashnam being elected as our new President, replacing EJ Herold who returned to the USA in June. We had a good turnout, with 17 members and 3 guests. Then in February, at Mont Garni, in very harsh winter conditions, 7 hardy souls competed in the St Valentine Massacre. No one suffered frost bite!
4. For the 16<sup>th</sup> year, the NGC went away to Belek, Turkey. It was a very welcome break from winter in Brussels. As usual, Peter and Christa Riedel did an excellent job organizing the trip and Dick Zandee stepped in to fill the Travelling Captain role. There were only 12 golfers this year. Almost the same number who participated in the first trip in 2003. Back in Brussels, at Kampenhout, EJ organized the Opening Cup, where the Barry Carr Memorial Trophy was up for grabs. We had a good turnout, with 17 golfers competing and Jeff DaRin walked away with the trophy.
5. May saw five teams competing for the Nations Cup, hosted by the 2016 winners, Canada. In a close run thing, Team USA won and will host next year. Due to a lack of players from the HACKERS and NGC, the MUGS were asked to join our match this year. NGC and the MUGS joined together to defeat the HACKERS at Royal Antwerp. It was a wonderful outing on a great course. Sadly, it was the last competition of the long-time HACKERS Captain, Alastair Mackey who passed away at the end of August. June also saw two annual, non-NGC events where NGC members are invited to join – Zottegem Open at Oudenaarde (organized by Luc Vekeman) and the American Defence Industry Forum tournament at Sept Fontaines (organized by Robert Draper).

6. We had hoped to have our Club Championship at Koksijde ter Hille in June, but with only 10 players signing up, we turned it into a Friendly. Then in July, 3 NGC members accepted the invitation from IT Golf United to play at Royal Hainaut. It was a good outing with a very nice group of people. Without a Captain, the Captain's Cup was cancelled.
7. We started the second half of the season with the Tim and Gaby Waugh Open at La Bawette. Great prizes and wonderful company on a challenging course, but unfortunately a poor turn out.
8. The Club's second away trip was the President's Cup in Northern France at the end of September. As a warm up, we played a scramble at Wimereux. It was anything but warm, with howling wind that blew balls off greens. For the Cup itself, at Hardelot Dunes there was much less wind but lots of rain. Robert and Anne-Marie Draper did a wonderful job organizing accommodation, dinning, and a meet and greet, as well as the golf for the 12 players.
9. In October, the delayed Club Championships were held at La Bawette. Jeff DaRin beat the other 12 golfers to become the Club Champion for 2018. It was a super day on our 'Home' course. Later in October, at Pierpont, we held our annual match with the International Golf Club. We had to borrow 2 former NGC members from IGC to make up our team, but after 7 closely fought matches, the score was tied so NGC retains the trophy. Our annual match against SHAPE had to be cancelled as they were not able to field a team on the agreed date in October.
10. The Closing Cup had to be cancelled due to a lack of interest. But we managed to get 14 players out to the Christmas Cracker at Rigenée in December. The rain held off until the last group was in. David Taylor had the best score and gets to keep Golfing Santa for the year.

Rick Froh  
for the Captain