

NATO GOLF CLUB

1989 – 2014



Celebrating 25 Years



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NATO GOLF CLUB HISTORY 1989 – 2014

The NATO GOLF CLUB (NGC) was founded in 1989-1990 by Barry Carr as President, Sybil Beaton as Secretary, and Mal Parry Davies as Treasurer. While not officially a member of the Committee, Brigitte LeBlanc-Horton played a key role in the early days coordinating with sponsors, the golf courses, and the NATO Cultural and Sports Committee.

The NGC formed as a group of keen golfers from NATO Headquarters, and over the years expanded to include the wider NATO community, active and retired, in Belgium and The Hague, and well as those who maintain memberships from their home countries. The original concept saw the NGC playing monthly on local Belgian courses, benefitting from the planning, organisation and discounted green fees negotiated by the International Golf Club of Belgium (IGC). This arrangement continued until 1997 and then slowly changed as the NGC attracted more members and became increasingly autonomous.



Founding Members – Sybil, Barry, Janie&Mal, Brigitte



Jerez, Spain 1999



Portugal

In 1996 the Club Committee decided to organise an annual trip for club members in addition to monthly fixtures. The first trip was to the Algarve in southern Portugal in March 1997, followed in subsequent years by trips to Cascais, Portugal on three occasions in 1998, 2001 and 2002. Trips were also made to Spain near Cadiz in 1999 and to the Malaga area in 2000. There was no trip organised in 2003 but some members made a preliminary reconnaissance to Belek, Turkey.



Estoril, Portugal 1997

The early trips were extremely popular but were difficult to organise as flights, car hire, tee-times, hotels and restaurants all had to be booked and coordinated, while trying to preserve a group atmosphere. Navigation was a challenge in the pre-mobile phone and GPS days! The complications of organising start lists for these trips on a daily basis and the necessity to liaise with the clubs to confirm bookings led to the recognition that the Club needed a Captain. The first Captain was Barry Horton.

It is from these early trips that the NATO Golf Club began to develop a real identity, despite poor weather and other difficulties that arose from the complicated arrangements. Group identity and cohesion was however helped by the fact that members played some of the most beautiful golf courses in Spain and Portugal, many of which are now no longer open to the public. The name of NATO did open doors and normally members received excellent treatment from the hotels, courses and restaurants.



Winter golf prep



Terrace at Nobilis

It is evident that although NGC members enjoyed these early annual Away Weeks, once the venue changed to Belek, Turkey in 2003, there was no looking back. In the all-inclusive Robinson Nobilis hotel and golf complex, arranged by Peter Riedel, the weather was no longer a factor; the “home” course was a short walk from the hotel; we dined in style onsite at our group-reserved tables; there was evening entertainment; and of course the golfing was superb. The annual Away Week in Turkey became the most successful Club event and fostered a greater degree of Club identity among participating members. The initial trip and competitions took place over seven days but after a few years it was soon extended to ten. The successful format of formal golfing days interspersed with rest days, for those who did not wish to play every day was adopted, as were the nightly meeting and dining arrangements. A gala dinner and prize giving was held after the end of formal competition.



ING Competition 2011

Peter Riedel's selection of the Robinson Club Nobilis in Belek was inspired, and after 11 years the club has never considered alternatives. Equally the role of the Captain became a major factor in the success of these trips as the planning and liaison with the Nobilis Golf Director was an ongoing activity throughout the year to ensure the Club received convenient tee times on the best courses. Rainer Fahs continues to be the major contributor in this aspect of the success of the trip.



Belek Group 2007

In addition to the Annual week long trips, for a number of years the Club organized weekend trips in the Autumn each year to courses in the Ardennes, Germany and the North coast of France. Initially these were very popular but gradually the enthusiasm waned and they became an irregular activity, relying on the will of a club member (usually the Captain) to take on the organisation. This tradition was re-started in 2010 when Rick Froh organized his President's Cup over a weekend in late August in Lille at the Sart and Brigode courses. For the next three years, it was held on the two exceptional courses of Bondues. Unfortunately, for a number of reasons, the Wales Summit among them, the 2014 event was limited to a day competition near Brussels.

Although the Away trips have been the highlight of the NGC over its 25-year history, the rest of the golfing year's monthly weekend competitions were "the bread and butter" of the club's activities. The Club attracted wide support from within NATO HQ and NATO's other organizations, such as its Agencies. These competitions have been held all over Belgium and the list below shows the range and variety of the courses which more than



Belek Group 2014



President's Cup Lille 2011



Old Guard - Tim, Peter, Rainer

tested the golfing skills of the club members. Annual matches were held against SHAPE and IGC with varying degrees of success. There were many sponsors of competitions through the years. The NATO HQ branch of the Bank Brussels Lambert (BBL) sponsored competitions in the early years, and its successor, ING sponsored the Club's 25th Anniversary Completion in Oudenaarde. It was however the competitions sponsored by the club members which were always popular - The Polder Cup sponsored by Dick Zandee for 15 years, The Bugs Bunny, sponsored by Frank Powers and later John and Tomris Briggs for 20 years, The Quaich with Sybil Beaton as sponsor until 2010, and the Canada Cup, sponsored by Canadian members since 2010 after four years sponsoring the St Valentine Massacre. There were many other individual sponsors through the years, as well as Nations sponsoring in the year following their success at the Nations' Cup! Together with regular Club sponsored events such as Opening, Closing, Captain's and President's Cups, these member-sponsored events have fostered Club spirit and over the years have illustrated the commitment of the members to the Club.



Belek Group 2012



*Tim,
Patricia,
Peter,
Naomi*



Yellow Ball winners & Presidential Technicolour Dreamcoats



Secretary Janis & President Rick

The members of the NGC Committee over the past 25 years are listed on the back cover.

The following list may not be all-inclusive but gives an idea of the variety of courses played over the past 25 years, in addition to those played in Portugal, Spain and Turkey.

BELGIUM

Anderlecht, Bercuit, Bossenstein, Brabantse, Cleydael, Damme, Durbuy, Falnuée, Gomze, Henri Chapelle, Hulencourt, Kampenhout, Keerbergen, Kempense, La Bawette, La Bruyère, La Tournette, L'Empereur, Limburg, Louvain-La-Neuve, Millennium, Mont Garni, Olen, Oudenaarde, Palingbeek, Pierpont, Ravenstein, Rigenée, Rougemont, Royal Ardennes, Royal Latem, Royal Hainnaut, Royal Waterloo, Sept Fontaines, Spiegelven, Ternesse, Waremgem, Winge, 5 Nations

FRANCE

Bondues, Brigode, Du Sart (Lille), Belle Dune, Champ de Bataille, Harderlot, La Mer Le Touquet Preisch

GERMANY : *various*

LUXEMBOURG : *Clervaux, Kikuoka*

NETHERLANDS : *Goes*

Many thanks to Tim Waugh for this Club History, and to Roger Fielding, Rainer Fahs, Sybil Beaton, Brigitte Leblanc-Horton, Mal Parry-Davies and Barry Carr for their input. Rick Froh led and edited the effort, Janis Dobson collated words and pictures into brochure format, and Alain Klein got it printed by the NATO Graphics Section. Photos courtesy Paul Ballinger, Janis & Ron Dobson, Edde & Werner Egge, Rick Froh, and Brigitte LeBlanc-Horton.



Captain EJ and winner David



Rick, Paul, Claus, Kay



Ron, John, Kay, Tim (again!)



Werner, Peter, Tomris, Fritz



Danish sponsors (and winners!)



Rainer, Gaby, Roger, Hans



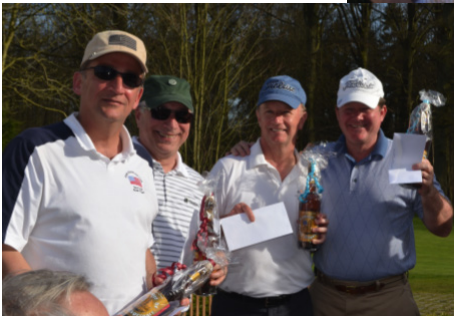
Dick, Marc, Brigitte, Rick



Neil, Irene, Edde, Bob



Nations' Cup Sponsors!



Team USA

NATO GOLF CLUB

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS 1989 – 2014

PRESIDENTS:

BARRY CARR - 1990 -1994
TIM WAUGH - 1994 -1998
ROGER MARTIN - 1998 - 2003
TIM WAUGH- 2003 - 2008
ROGER FIELDING - 2008 to 2010
RICK FROH - 2010 - PRESENT

CAPTAINS:

BARRY HORTON -1994 -1998
JOHN BRIGGS – 1998- 2000
RAINER FAHS- 2000 - 2011
EJ HEROLD – 2011 - PRESENT

TREASURERS:

MAL PARRY DAVIES
PAUL MCMILLAN
ALAN COLVILLE
BOB JENKINS 2009 - 2011
ALAIN KLEIN 2012 - PRESENT

SECRETARIES:

SYBIL BEATON – 1989 - 2010
JANIS DOBSON – 2010 – PRESENT

PROPERTY/LOGO ITEMS MANAGER

SHEILA WHITBY
ANN MORRISON
ALAIN KLEIN

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