

Report on EGC 'Golf Experience 2019'

While the point had been raised at recent EGC AGMs, we needed a serious initiative to encourage new club members with high handicaps to join competitions and, as it was once put, to be 'mentored' so that they could be more confident on the course and maybe learn a thing or two about the rules of golf, etiquette, club selection/course management etc., in a relaxed and fun atmosphere.

Over a few beers, after a couple of Gladiolen Tuesdays, Wil, Reno, Peter and I decided to see if we could set up something to attract players with handicaps from the 50's down to the 30's. We considered Greensomes but decided on Scrambles for the format. The question was: would new players, i.e. students, be interested and would enough 'experienced' players be prepared to be mentors?

We had a note distributed by Erik to all club members announcing the 'Golf Experience' and we set up a Doodle poll. We would play every second Thursday (5 Thursdays) from May through to July, with shotgun starts at 18:00 and played over nine holes with holes 1,2,8 and 9 closed to other members. We would then have a beer and 'debrief' in ESCAPE afterwards.

The response was more than encouraging. Overall, some twenty one members signed up as 'students' and nine as 'mentors'. Per playing evening, the average attendance was ten students and six mentors.

We didn't take scoring all that seriously. We didn't have losers only winners and it was evident from comments of the mentors, but particularly from the students, that this was a well worthwhile experiment. We all enjoyed playing our part.

It would seem this experiment provided 'proof of concept' and we recommend the idea be carried forward in future, in the hope that this may help to maintain or increase our 'active' membership numbers which is vital to the continuing success of the club.

Brian Taylor.

Signed-up participants:

'Students': Angelika Pöhland, Anneke van den Eijkel, Beatrice Meile, Carla Binedell, Carlo Sarasini, Anna Carmio, Catherine Watson, Charles Aalbers, Claudine Verlinden-Verdier, Daniela Herbst, Dinah Dourlein, Erik van der Wenden, Giuseppe Racca, Helmut Frueholz, Ineke Aalbers, John Sørensen, Lavinia Bailey, Luke Durrant, Marc van der Geer, Marga Harboe Sørensen and Mavis Remmen.

'Mentors': Alex Jeanes, Brian Taylor, Erik van Ginkel, Geraldine Doeswijk Kavanagh, Klaus Ludwig, Mary Gillies, Peter Behrmann, Scott Moon and Vincent Regis.