

# Royal British Club Golf Society 2022 Newsletter

August Issue  
17<sup>th</sup> August 2022



## Wellness Recommendation for the Newsletter

Time does fly. I clearly took my own wellness recommendation of the last edition too literally and moved into a state of complete stasis only waking up now to realise how late this edition is.

Nevertheless, do get your friendly cuppa by your side for this edition of the Newsletter reporting on the Solóptica Trophy. If you're interested in the Handicap Centre at the end – get an ice pack for your head.

## The Solóptica Trophy

*HOLDER OF THE 2021 TROPHY:*

*Gary Price, Elixzabeth Barker, Derek McIvor, Ian Yarwood*

### A Bit of Background and Colour

This is the fourth year of the Solóptica trophy, which is part of our colourful summer series of matches with a twist. It is a Texas Scramble team match.

#### **Solóptica**

The competition is sponsored by Solóptica, eye care specialists based in Cascais, who offer eye health care services through a specialized optical team using the leading technologies in the optical market.

Solóptica was founded in 1977 by two young entrepreneurs in Cascais where it has resided ever since. They sought to differentiate themselves by bringing together professional optical specialists into the high street alongside the top brands in eyewear available on the market.

This has continued to this day, with an Ophthalmologist doctor, Optometrist and Contactologist offering the specialized services required for the latest eye health care. In addition, Solóptica are official agents of the most representative and prestigious brands in the optical world with exclusive, quality and customizable eye-ware products.

Solóptica has extended opening hours, a technical office that is always available, private parking and assisted access for people with mobility difficulties.

#### **A TEXAS SCRAMBLE TOURNAMENT**

Texas Scramble is a form of team competition in golf. In its purest, simplest form, all members of the team, which is normally made up of 3 or 4 players, tee off. Over the course of the game, each player of a four-ball must record 4 drives; while for a three-ball, each player must record 5 drives.



After all have teed off, the team decides which drive is the best. From there, all members of the team place their golf balls where the chosen drive ended up, with all members playing a second shot from this spot.

From these second shots, one is chosen, and all play a third shot from there - and so on until the ball is holed. Each team returns one score for each hole and the team with the lowest score for the round wins.

## The Tournament



The competition saw 41 registrations for this summer festival match of fun, colour and team cooperation. Sadly, we lost four players from the draw as we approached the tournament date, amongst other things, to the continued presence of Covid 19. But a warm thank-you is owed to Camille who left a kind note on the tee-off table wishing all players a good tee-off and productive game. Thank-you Camille and I hope you have recovered well.

## The Draw

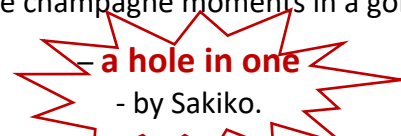
As a result, we had 7 four-balls and 3 three-balls with three generations of the Dawson family coming together as one team and Denys and Auke, for the first time this season, bringing their intricate knowledge of the golf course back into our midst in the same match. 120 years of experience on the course talks a lot.

TEAM	PLAYER	H/C	PLAYER	HC	PLAYER	HC	PLAYER	HC	THC
Team 1	Kate Scheier	18	Philip Docherty	20	John Hughes	26			10.67
Team 2	John Philips	13	Sakiko Takeda	26	Bill Buxton	29			11.33
Team 3	Dhru Thapa	5	Keith Potter	17	André van der Meulen	25	Yolande Macey	32	9.88
Team 4	Peter Readman	13	Gerard Sheridan	23	Denys Stormont	26	Eddie Leitao	29	11.38
Team 5	Ewan Rankin	16	Gavin Trechman	20	Hervé Coiquaud	24	Derek McIvor	29	11.13
Team 6	Alistair Ferguson	11	Brij Goel	16	Ormond Fannon	24	Tom Scheier	31	10.25
Team 7	Rüdiger Wrobel	14	Sally Buxton	21	David Wright	27	Adi Hüttl	29	11.38
Team 8	Ed Robbins	11	Chris Goulding	15	Richard Macey	27	Kjelle Norling	31	10.50
Team 9	Mark Dawson	6	Bruce Dawson	23	Alan Dawson	34	Bruce Dawson (Jr)	34	12.13
XTeam 10	Richard Keech	20	Auke Bos	29	Gillian Goya	35			14.00

## The Results

### The Champagne Performance

We were all part of the match and John and Bill were the live witnesses to one of those rare champagne moments in a golf tournament



What a galactic achievement – well done

(銀河系的な偉業、お見事です)

Sakiko now joins the fabled list of RBCGS Hole -in-One stars, led by Richard Evans with five.

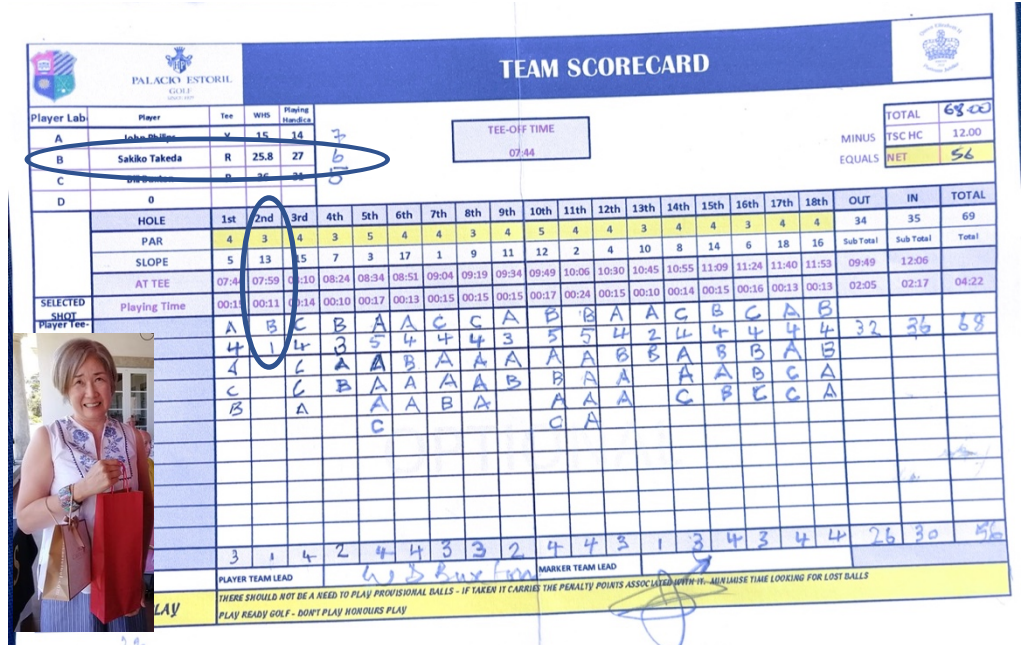


Figure 1- The Hole-in-One Scorecard

... and this is not the only achievement we were able to celebrate with Sakiko over lunch – more to come below.

**Unfinished 2021 Business**

An amazing day for Sakiko. Not only did she bring in a Hole in One during the tournament, but we, the RBCGS were also able to close out a pending award from 2021 – the Silver Plate. In the Rankins Brothers and Sons Trophy and the Dawson Bowl of 2021, Sakiko had brought in the highest combined Stableford score to win the Silver Plate. This was Sakiko’s first outing with the RBCGS after her many travels and Covid this year and a great opportunity for Sally to step back up as Captain and hand over the prize with Mark Dawson. Ewan had given his nod that this was ok with him since he couldn’t join for lunch. Congratulations again Sakiko.

**Podium Prizes**

The Texas Scramble scores for all the teams is shown below. As much as we might look at the results for the answer to the universe, nothing jumps out of the page immediately. The spread of the three-balls is wide; the +/-11 handicappers all came in around the same; 2/3rds of the podium places were occupied by four-balls and 1/3rd by a three-ball which is in line with the draw profile of 2/3rds and 1/3rd.

PLAYER GROSS																						
HOLE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	F	B	T	
PAR	4	3	4	3	5	4	4	3	4	5	4	4	3	4	4	3	4	4	34	35	69	
SLOPE	5	13	15	7	3	17	1	9	11	12	2	4	10	8	14	6	18	16				
DRAW																			SCORES		RESULT	
Team 1	4	3	4	5	5	4	5	3	4	6	5	5	3	5	4	4	4	4	37	40	77	66.33
Team 2	4	1	4	3	5	4	4	4	3	5	5	4	2	4	4	4	4	4	32	36	68	56.67
Team 3	3	3	4	3	5	3	4	3	4	5	5	4	3	5	5	4	4	4	32	39	71	61.13
Team 4	4	3	2	3	6	4	5	4	4	5	5	3	3	4	4	3	4	4	35	35	70	58.63
Team 5	5	3	3	2	5	4	4	4	5	5	4	5	4	4	5	3	3	4	35	37	72	60.88
Team 6	5	3	4	3	5	4	6	3	4	5	4	3	3	4	4	3	4	4	37	34	71	60.75
Team 7	5	3	4	3	5	4	4	3	5	6	4	3	3	4	5	4	4	4	36	37	73	61.63
Team 8	4	3	5	2	6	4	5	4	4	5	4	4	3	4	4	4	3	5	37	36	73	62.50
Team 9	4	3	4	3	5	4	4	2	4	4	4	3	2	5	4	4	4	3	33	33	66	53.88
Team 10	6	4	6	3	6	5	5	4	5	5	5	5	4	6	4	4	4	4	44	41	85	71.00

Figure 2 - Purple-Albatross, Red-Birdie, Green-Par, Blue-Bogey, Brown-Double Bogey

So, let's drill down and look at the Podium winners.

In third place we have Peter Readman, Gerard Sheridan, Eddie Leitão and Denys Stormont coming in with a gross score of 70 and a net with their team handicap of 11.375 of 58.625 points. However as commented on between themselves, the team worked out that they had a collective age of 300 years old – and of course the two wiliest players were in this mix – Eddie and Denys, who watch the rest of us with amusement as we try and hit the longest drive on every hole and wonder why it's in the woods, while they hold a perfect line to the middle of the fairway every shot. Panache and consistency came together well in this four-ball.

In second place came John Philips, Sakiko Takeda and Bill Buxton as a three-ball with a gross of 68 points and a net after subtracting their handicap of 11.33 of 56.67. I guess none of us can imagine the enormous uplift to the team a hole in one makes. Congratulations one more time but not the last to Sakiko. John, Sakiko and Bill certainly kept their focus to the end of the match.

In first place, we see how the Silent Generation, a Boomer and two Gen Zed'ers with their respective views of the world can get together en famille and put in an astonishing 66 gross – 3 under par for the course, which with their collective handicap of 12.13 giving them a 53.88 net winning score. A real chapeau, particularly since Alan and Bruce Jr have not played since last years Solóptica Trophy. From the reconnaissance work done, it seems that Alan's putting skills exceed Tom Watsons in assertiveness, direction and an ability to sink the ball. I'm sure the team was also highly motivated by Bruce Sr's socks. A hearty congratulations to the Dawson generations for building on last years podium to move into the gold medal position.

### ***The Individual Prizes***

Given the team nature of this event, 6 individual prizes were on offer to reward the tee-off skills of all players. These were:

1. Nearest the Pin – Ladies – Hole 2
2. Nearest the Pin – Men off Red Tees – Hole 13
3. Nearest the Pin – Men off Yellow – Hole 13
4. Longest Drive –Ladies – Hole 11
5. Longest Drive – Men off Red - Hole 11
6. Longest Drive – Men off Yellow – Hole 11

And to the winners:

1. Nearest the Pin – Ladies – Sakiko Takeda with a HOLE IN ONE – amazing
2. Nearest the Pin – Men off Red Tees – Bruce Dawson Sr
3. Nearest the Pin – Men off Yellow John Philips who was 5 cm shy of a Hole in One
4. Longest Drive –Ladies – Katie Scheier
5. Longest Drive – Men off Red – Bruce Dawson
6. Longest Drive – Men off Yellow – Dhru Thapa by 5 yards from Mark Dawson

### ***Commendations***

As you will have noted, Auke played a solid 18 holes and Denys had a stellar game in a four-ball team with Eddie, Peter Readman and Gerard, with a total age of 300 as declared by themselves over lunch. Eddie has not been out of the

trophies since he recused himself from golf because of Covid back in April. He claims that lightning never strikes twice. Since when! It strikes 265 times a year in Catatumbo in Venezuela – so Eddie must have gone over there and chatted to the shamans on what is needed for lightning (podium positions) to keep on striking and to book his his podium positions for the rest of the year.

Chapeau gentlemen!

## **Lunch**

After the competition, we all packed onto the veranda for a lunch Coentro soup, salads and brochettes with a spectacular Panacotta for dessert. Unfortunately, Pedro Guerreiro of Solóptica could not join us this year. But he had moved mountains before going on holiday to bring together the all necessary and invaluable drinking bottle for our summer outings as a gift to all. We so often go out in hot weather without enough water – and Pedro answered our forgetfulness with a bottle to remember. Once again, we are enormously grateful for his support

## **Thanks, and Tributes**

I thank Tom Scheier enormously again for all the photos he takes at these events and once again for this tournament

Our thanks are owed to all those who lost a golf ball or three and to Brenda for collecting payment as well as for collecting the scorecards.

Thanks also to Rui for holding the bar together as we all feted Sakiko for her Hole in One and indeed for bringing out the bottle of champagne.

Thanks are owed to Mario at the restaurant and his team who opened the restaurant for our match, when normally they would have been closed for the August holiday – and in addition for pulling together an informal and generous spread.

## **The Handicap Centre**

For some, I'm about to embark upon an OMG No moment or a Why now moment or any other such other moment as you might use at home. For me it typically comes in French - Mais Non – Pourquoi!

I thought I'd share a little insight on: how the draw was made; how the collective handicaps were made; and offer food for thought for our future Texas Scrambles on how they could be made 🤔. My thanks to Phil Docherty who brought this up after the competition.

## **The Draw**

How was the draw done? Below I illustrate the process, excluding the special requests that were made.

### ***Step1***

Once the registration closed, the playing handicaps of all players were calculated, and all players were sorted in ascending order of handicap as follows in this example:

PLAYER	PLAYING HC
Dhru Thapa	6
Mark Dawson	7
Alistair Ferguson	12
Ed Robbins	12
Peter Readman	14
John Philips	14
Rüdiger Wrobel	15
Chris Goulding	16
Ewan Rankin	17
Kate Scheier	18
Keith Potter	18
Richard Keech	21
Philip Docherty	21
Gavin Trechman	21
Sally Buxton	22
Paul GUÉRAULT	22

### Step 2

The list of players was then split into four and placed alongside each other as shown and an average handicap calculated:

PLAYER	PHC	PLAYER	PHC	PLAYER	PHC	PLAYER	PHC	AV HC
Dhru Thapa	6	Peter Readman	14	Ewan Rankin	17	Philip Docherty	21	14.5
Mark Dawson	7	John Philips	14	Kate Scheier	18	Gavin Trechman	21	15
Alistair Ferguson	12	Rüdiger Wrobel	15	Keith Potter	18	Sally Buxton	22	16.8
Ed Robbins	12	Chris Goulding	16	Richard Keech	21	Paul GUÉRAULT	22	17.8

The last column is the average team handicap of a potential tee-off group.

### Step 3

To reduce the spread in the average handicap of a potential tee-off group, the order of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> column of players was inverted as shown here:

PLAYER	PHC	PLAYER	PHC	PLAYER	PHC	PLAYER	PHC	AV HC
Dhru Thapa	6	Chris Goulding	16	Ewan Rankin	17	Sally Buxton	22	15.3
Mark Dawson	7	Rüdiger Wrobel	15	Kate Scheier	18	Paul GUÉRAULT	22	15.5
Alistair Ferguson	12	Peter Readman	14	Keith Potter	18	Philip Docherty	21	16.3
Ed Robbins	12	John Philips	14	Richard Keech	21	Gavin Trechman	21	17

The resulting spread in the average team handicap of a potential tee-off group is reduced as shown above.

### Step 4

There are three commonly used methods out there in the ether to calculate the team playing handicap. These are:

Method 1. The sum of the team handicaps / 10

Method 2. The sum of the team handicap / 8

Method 3. Applying a factor of 0.25 to the lowest handicap player, 0.2 to the next lowest handicap player, 0.15 to the third lowest handicap player and 0.1 to the highest handicap player and adding the results.

This gives the following results to our example:

PLAYER	PHC	PLAYER	PHC	PLAYER	PHC	PLAYER	PHC	M 1	M 2	M 3
Dhru Thapa	6	Chris Goulding	16	Ewan Rankin	17	Sally Buxton	22	6.1	7.63	9.45
Mark Dawson	7	Rüdiger Wrobel	15	Kate Scheier	18	Paul GUÉRAULT	22	6.2	7.75	9.65
Alistair Ferguson	12	Peter Readman	14	Keith Potter	18	Philip Docherty	21	6.5	8.13	10.6
Ed Robbins	12	John Philips	14	Richard Keech	21	Gavin Trechman	21	6.8	8.5	11.1

As I mentioned in the registration and draw, I used Method 2 for a four ball as currently used by the Estoril Golf Club in their draws. However, given the move to WHS handicaps, the WHS trending method is to use Method 3. 🤔

### Step 5

We had a few three-balls in the Scramble – how was this accommodated. Again, there are two methods:

Method 1. The sum of the three ball handicaps/6 which is used alongside both Method 1 and Method 2 for a fourball team

Method 2. Applying a factor of 0.3 to the lowest handicap player, 0.2 to the next lowest handicap player, 0.1 to the highest handicap player and adding the results.

If Paul and Gavin dropped out, this would give a competition handicap profiles as follows:

PLAYER	PH C	PLAYER	PHC	PLAYER	PHC	PLAYER	PHC	AV HC	M 1	M 2	M 3
Dhru Thapa	6	Chris Goulding	16	Ewan Rankin	17	Sally Buxton	22	15.3	6.1	7.63	9.45
Mark Dawson	7	Rüdiger Wrobel	15	Kate Scheier	18			13.3	6.67	6.67	6.9
Alistair Ferguson	12	Peter Readman	14	Keith Potter	18	Philip Docherty	21	16.3	6.5	8.13	10.6
Ed Robbins	12	John Philips	14	Richard Keech	21			15.7	7.83	7.83	8.5

As an observation, the loss of a player under all methods see the three-ball lose handicap benefits compared to the fourball. It does also seem that the Estoril Golf Club Method 2 provides additional benefit to the fourball over the tree ball as does the trending WHS Method 3. 🤔 Perhaps the more traditional Method 1 would service our game better in the future.

When applying all these methods to our tournament, between Method 1 and 2, positions 2 and 3 switch and 5 & 6 switch. Between Methods 2 and 3 there are no position changes.

I invite comment and experiences from elsewhere for discussion for next years Solóptica Trophy.

# The Soloptica Photo Gallery

## *The Tee-offs*



## *The 2021 Silver Plate*





***The Individualists***



***The Podium Winners***



## *Lunch*



## **Club and Calendar News**

Our next competition is the EY Trophy. The Registration Form is already out so dig into your emails and sign up.

We have had a change of date for the TRISOC competition, which will now be played on the 26<sup>th</sup> October after a request from PINGS. The TRISOC competition is between TAGUS, PINGS and RBCGS. Both Camille and I are already on manoeuvres to retain our players.

The Putting competition has taken a big leap forward with all Second-round matches played taking us into the last 8. But looking at the contestants, there is going to be some spectator specials – so keep your eyes out on the putting green at Estoril We also have Steve Deighton already through to the quarter finals.

I have not managed to follow up with Gordon, yet the two-session masterclass called “Pitching and Slopes Masterclass”: how to pitch and pitch off a slope to the green.

**We have a significant change for the Rankin Brothers and Sons Trophy. We will play this competition at the Lisbon Sports Club on the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022.** Ewan needed a date change, but Estoril could not easily accommodate so I approached Lisbon Sports Club for 14 tee-offs and lunch, which we have. For your reference, the green fees and lunch for members will be €55.00 and €65.00 for guests

Have a great month!

*Richard Keech*

&

*Håkan Karlen*

*2022 Captain*

*2022 Vice Captain*

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