

Firesport UK Golf Section 2023 summary

I write this as my first report for the golf section, I succeeded Matt Thompson who stepped down from his role. Matt served for 7 years as secretary.

Myself and 2 new committee members (Grant Morrow & Lee Digweed) have joined as assistant secretaries, and I would like to thank them for this and all their hard work. Along with existing members Mick Topping and Kevin Grace. I would also like to thank our previous Chair, Huw Jakeway for all his support with Firesport Golf.

DCFO Mathew Walker has taken over from Huw and is our new Chairperson, Mat has been a part of the section for many years as a player, event organiser and assisted others with events, we welcome Mat into his new role.

2023 golf season was a very successful year, numbers have maintained and even increased in majority of our events.

We have 7 National Events, starting in May and concluding in October, our first event was the National Pairs, this was held at St Pierre, South Wales, 120 players competed over 3 days, in traditional rain/sun/rain. Excellent start to the golfing season, played in good spirit and some excellent golf. Thank you to our main sponsors MSA products.

Our second event of the year was our main event of the year (The Sheriffs Cup) this was played at Fulford Heath GC, Birmingham hosted by West Midlands FRS). 152 players played over 3 days in gorgeous sunshine. Massive thank you to our main sponsor PBI products, congratulations to Essex who won the event.

The Retired FF Event went ahead with nearly 100 players, playing over 2 days, this is a fantastic event for the retired players to keep in contact with former colleagues and friends. I would like to thank the Event Organiser Stuart Wolfe from Leicestershire FRS.

Our next event was the 4 nations, this was played in Scotland, hosted by Scotland FRS, this event was played over 3 days, 40 players playing for their nation.

England came out as winners, winning by the slightest of margins 1 shot, congratulations to England, a massive thank you to Andy for organising this fantastic event.

We then moved on to the FF Charity Cup, played at McDonald Portal in Cheshire, hosted by Cheshire FRS, played over 3 days, hosted my committee member Kevin Grace. This was a magnificent event, there is no handicap limit for this event, allowing everyone to enter no matter of handicap. This is a competitive but friendly event, raising money for our charity. We raised £5500. Congratulations to all the organisers and players who attended the event. Cheshire FRS we the winners of this event, congratulations to them.

In September we saw the National Singles event played in Scarborough North Yorkshire, hosted by Bob Goodman for NYFRS. 80 players entered the event and enjoyed their time at this great venue.

The event was played over 3 days with mixed weather, the weather was tough on day 3 but this did not stop the event from going ahead. We would like to thank our main sponsor FireAngel.

Chris Briggs from Nottinghamshire FRS was the winner of both the Gross and Nett trophy.

The last event of the year was England v Scotland played at Monifieth in Scotland, this event was played over 2 days, same as a lot of the events played in mixed but mostly wet weather.

This was won by Scotland FRS, the first time they had won for 10 years, well done to Scotland. We would also like to thank Elite Electrics for supporting this event.

To run our events efficiently and cost-effectively for our members we have, in the past, had to rely on financial support and sponsorship from outside organisations. These have been very generous and well received however, with financial restrictions and new ways of working, some of the organisations we have relied on in the past have had to withdraw their support for the golf section. This has meant that we are now having to rely on our player levy to build up funds so that it can be attractive to our members to play in our events and also attract others to join the golf section. Golf is not a cheap sport to participate in, so to keep our events going we are ever mindful of our financial position, costing strategies for each event and making it attractive for new players to join the section.

Our attendance numbers last year were up from previous years which is reassuring, we promote our section through our website, Facebook and other social media. We are always pursuing new partners to assist us and grateful for the support of the national FireSport section.

I would like to thank everyone for the help and support in organising the golf section, and to everyone who has played and made these event the success they are.

I would also like to thank Firesport for their continued support to the golf section.

Many thanks

Neil Spratt

FSUK Golf Section Secretary