

So Long, and Thanks for All the Fish!

A fond farewell from Captain Iain Neale.



The Birdie Crime Correspondent, Billy de'Burglah, caught up with a sheepish Captain at a secret location just off the 11th tee at Ilfracombe Golf Club.

We started the interview by asking him how he thought his Captaincy had gone; and did he had any regrets? "It's been an interesting time for sure; but its probably not been annus horrobilis. Obviously, I'm leaving the incoming Captain and Committee with a couple of challenging issues that remain unresolved but I've no real regrets". When asked to tell us more; he gave one of his trademark ruffle smiles. "I'll not be drawn on the tipping situation, buggy store or that blooming shed. All I can say is that nothing here is life or death and whatever the outcome no children or animals were hurt building the shed!"

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However, with moistened eyes, he did go on to talk (lovingly?) about his relationship with the Club Committee. "I'll definitely miss the fellowship, not to mention cut and thrust of Committee meetings. And nobody should underestimate the contribution made by Club doyens Tony 'Fingers' Woodward and Geoff 'the Governor' Smith. It's my humble opinion that had it not been for Tony and his ruthless pursuit of the missing shilling and Geoff's puggish tenacity this Club would have been in a very different position".

But on the subject of the course he pulled no punches. "When I took over the reins, the course looked like a number of fields on a hillside. But thanks to the skill and determination of Mr Cutter, Greens Committee and myself we now have a signature 4th that we can all be proud. There can't be many holes where you have the choice of where you can loose a ball; in a quarry or a delightful cliff-top garden. I'm really pleased with how the fairways now have definition. With longer grass on fringes the average golfer can while away the minutes hacking away in search of that lost ball. Ready Golf; bring it on!"

When asked what he had planned for the future Iain was less candid. "Obviously I have an important role on Committee as Past Captain.

What I'm looking forward to is playing more golf with less on course interruptions from disgruntled members. But I suppose my greatest challenge will be my new career in amateur dramatics. I feel my Captaincy has given me all the right credentials for the lead role in forthcoming production of *The Scarlet Pimpernel*". And with that Iain left the interview. That's right Iain....always leave them wanting more!

