

Area Representative Updates

Your North East Representative John Bruce (76-81) gives an update on the Newcastle Golf and Drinks Event.

Earlier this year, the Merchistonian Club asked if I would be interested in taking over as the North East Merchistonian Club Rep, having thoroughly enjoyed the dinners and golf days in the past, I of course said that I would be delighted to step up. Being your North East rep is an honour and a privilege and I hope I live up to the expectations.

For our first event it was suggested we organise a golf day, with the help of James Angus (81-85), Andrew Taylor (98-03) and the Merchistonian team. James suggested Northumbria Golf Club and we agreed on a date of Friday 13 October. Club President Matthew Gray was actively involved in the teleconference calls, thus ensuring a good Edinburgh crowd could join us on the day.

We kicked off the day with a bacon sandwich and a drink of choice. We formed ourselves into a number of four balls and the experienced golfers followed as a two ball. While I might not have played the best golf of my life, I can assure you I had one of the most entertaining four balls I have ever had the pleasure of playing. I received similar comments from players in the other groups. A few extra arrived for supper and there was lively chat around the dining table, some catching up with old friends and others meeting for the first time talking as though they'd known each other for years.

After our meal, we bundled ourselves into taxis and off we went to meet another group at The Brandling Arms in Gosforth, there was a hearty welcome and greetings, and the night began. I might add that this may have been the first pub, but it certainly wasn't the last. We had an absolutely tremendous afternoon of golf and an excellent social evening.

Thank you to all who came to help make this a great Merchistonian day, thank you to Gill and Louise at the Merchistonian Club for all their help in making sure the event was a success.

We plan to make this an annual event and welcome you along to enjoy the day. I would like to hear from those Merchistonians in the North East; if you would like an annual dinner and quarterly or regular meet ups for a couple of beers. We are going to send out a short survey to Merchistonians in the area and I would be grateful if you could complete this as it would give me an idea of what type of events you are looking for and hopefully I can build a program to accommodate. I look forward to hearing from many of you soon. Once again thank you to the Club President Matt Gray and his team for coming down from Edinburgh, and to all those who came along and made this a very successful first event, there are many more to come.

John N Bruce, North East Merchistonian rep.