



DMVGA CAPTAIN – 2024

BOB SMALL – TAVISTOCK GOLF CLUB

Bob Small is no newcomer to the workings of the DMVGA – in fact, far from it. Bob joined the Association in 2012 and, in 2013, was playing in the match against Cornwall at Tavistock partnering the then Secretary Bob Keating. In an unguarded moment Bob (Small) mentioned that he had substantial experience of organising events and people, having worked in Event Management for many years, which also involved golf events both in the UK and abroad. Bob (Keating) was blessed with an elephantine like memory and some months later, as he was suddenly having to move to the home counties, had cause to contact Bob (Small) to ask if he might consider taking on the role of Secretary of the DMVGA. Bob (Small) was somewhat taken aback by the request as he had absolutely no knowledge of the inner workings of the Association, having not even been a Rep, but was persuaded to attend the next Committee meeting where it appeared that the matter was a done deal! So it was that Bob became Secretary of the DMVGA at the AGM in 2013. It was a daunting prospect but with the substantial help from the previous Secretary and Committee members the task was soon underway. The Treasurer at that time was your new President David Bromage; David was particularly helpful and they worked closely together for a number of years.

Bob was born in Worcestershire where he learned and practiced his golf at Blackwell GC, a hidden gem of a course near Bromsgrove, where his father Jack was a member playing off a 4 handicap. Bob was educated at Bromsgrove School where he excelled in sport and other non-academic pastimes such as the CCF; his academic studies were less than excellent and where, perhaps, he idled to much of his time away thinking of how he might supplant Peter May and Colin Cowdrey as England's leading run makers or follow Roger Bannister and Derek Ibbotson in breaking the 4-minute mile. Alas, mere pipe dreams!

Having no real direction in life when he finished his schooling, Bob joined the Metropolitan Police in January 1967; he very quickly realised this was not going to be a career for him but, with no other direction in mind, he stayed where he was. This was at a time however when, in any of the services, sporting ability was encouraged; Bob's ability as an athlete was soon spotted and it didn't take too long before he was put on 'light duties' or indeed struck off duty altogether to prepare for upcoming competitions. Bob represented the Metropolitan Police, the National Police, Middlesex County and



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Southern Counties in 800m and 1,500m. It was his involvement in sport that brought about his decision in 1974 to leave the police but not before he had twice been highly commended by the Commissioner of Police for bravery and devotion for duty and was also commended for bravery by the judge at the Old Bailey. Bob then moved into Sports Centre Management working in Hillingdon and Enfield for 10 years being a founder member of the Association of Recreation Managers and in 1975 Bob married Valerie with whom he had two children, James and Bethany.

Bob's next move, in 1984, was to join a London sports promotion agency working with governing bodies of sport handling the sponsorship of national and international televised sporting events including golf, athletics, swimming and rugby; this was a very interesting and enjoyable period of his life, rubbing shoulders with great sports men and women and the media. This was followed by a not unusual tour of other London agencies before starting his own company, Posh Pig Promotions Ltd, in 1995; concentrating on sales promotion through trade shows, road shows, exhibitions, conferences and hospitality using sport as a vehicle wherever possible. In 2001 Bob and his new wife Tracy moved to North Bovey in Devon with their company still occupying a good deal of their time. In 2002 their daughter Georgia was born.

Since 1984 Bob had stopped competitive running and taken up cricket, first with Stanmore and then Elstree. The move to Devon in 2001 saw Bob call a day on his cricketing activities and take up golf by joining The Manor Golf Club, Moretonhampstead - subsequently renamed Bovey Castle by Peter de Savary. Bob played in the Dartmoor League and the Palairret for Bovey Castle before transferring to Tavistock where he remains to the present day. Starting running again in 2014, Bob qualified to run for England in the 70-74 age group in the half marathon against the other home countries. He has just qualified again, this time in the 75-79 age group and will be competing for England in a half marathon in Manchester next May.

When he became the DMVGA secretary Bob's first task was to rescue the following year's away match with Kent which was in danger of falling into disrepair. This was achieved and the fixture is now one of the highlights of the year with continuing camaraderie and friendship as a most important factor. During Bob's 5-year stint as Secretary much changed. IT became more and more important; the DMVGA website was developed; banking arrangements began to be carried out on-line; GDPR was embraced, and the Winter Series was introduced. One of the most important



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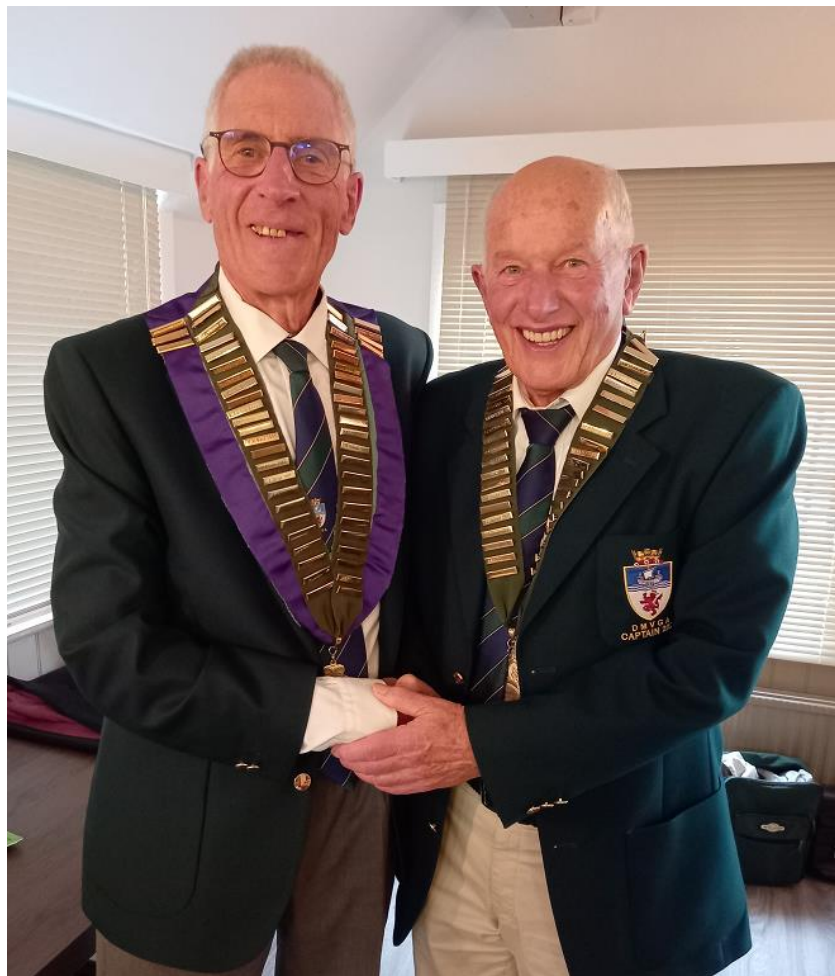
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developments has been the gradual 'decentralisation' of tasks from the Secretary (who used to do everything other than the Treasurer's tasks) to a wider spread of tasks to other committee members. Following his 5-year spell as secretary of the DMVGA, Bob became the first President to hold the post for 3 years which he accepted as a great honour.

Now, as Captain, Bob looks forward to his year in office with the hope that golf for the Association's members will continue to be offered at quality venues around the county at affordable prices. Bob said 'It's a singular honour to have become the Association's 54th Captain and to follow in the footsteps of so many of my illustrious predecessors – I'll endeavour to live up to their high standards! As the season progresses I look forward to meeting as many of our members as possible at the varying events.'



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DMVGA Captain Bob Small 2023/24 (Left) with outgoing Captain David Bromage (Right).