



First, I would like to express how personally enriching being the NATO Golf Club Captain has been for me starting at the tail end of 2021. Initially, when we found out that Michael Center would be moving to Amman, Jordan and I was first approached about taking his place as the Captain, I was concerned whether I would have the time to do everything that is necessary to ensure that the NGC events were efficiently planned, communicated, and conducted to a high standard. But since assuming my responsibilities, I've found that I enjoy spending my time coordinating golf events for this club, and communicating with the great membership of the NGC.

Moving to my report, 2021 generally was a continuation of the great steps that the Executive Committee put into place in 2020, with some very significant adaptations to how the NGC conducted its golf season.

- **Trophies:** In 2021, we completed the purchase of the new trophies. Some of the "old guard" may remember some of the "quaint" trophies of the past. Based on the donations of several NGC members in 2020 and 2021, we now have a very impressive stable of trophies that the champions can take with them and proudly display in their home or office for the year, in addition to mementos of their victory that they keep. The Putting Champion trophy is the last remaining trophy of the past that ought to be replaced. If someone is interested in donating for this replacement trophy, please let me know.
- **The NATO Cup:** In 2020, the NGC conducted its first season long points race to win The NATO Cup. This has been perhaps the most significant change to the NGC over the past decade, and has had a positive impact on excitement throughout the golfing season. In 2021, the race for the NATO Cup was quite close, and in fact we found ourselves in the position where Michael Center and I were tied for season points at the conclusion of the Closing Cup, and we realized that we did not have a codified tie-breaker established for determining the winner. Through an Executive Committee decision for the tie-breaker, I was awarded the NATO Cup for 2021, but we will codify in advance a tie-breaker process and communicate that to the Club at the AGM and through the website.
- **Schedule:** We have generally continued with the sequencing and scheduling of NGC events with a mix of Trophy competitions and social "friendly" events, with a mix of formats. In my view, the pace of events is about right, and there is no need to make adjustments. For those that are members of other clubs, there aren't too many NGC events that would make it difficult to participate in a majority of them, and for those that aren't members of other clubs, there are enough events to get out on a consistent basis. Of course, I am always open to suggestions of new events, different courses you may wish to play, or publication of non-NGC events through the blog or on the website.

In addition to the continuation of the many impressive things that Michael and the Executive Committee put into place prior to 2021, the NGC also maintained its status against the International Golf Club, but with a very close match ending in a tied score at the end. With a

win necessary to take away the “virtual” NGC/IGC Trophy (no such trophy exists...yet), NGC retains the glory for another year.

Allow me to talk a little bit about some goals for the rest of 2022, and some initiatives that could be in our future for 2023 as well.

- As the President points out in his report, we are without a club secretary at the moment. While vacant, the rest of the Executive Committee has been sharing the burden of those responsibilities. However, one of the aspects that has not been prioritized during this gap is the informal NGC handicapping system put into place in 2020. While the underlying reasons to adopt an informal handicapping system for NGC seems to have somewhat lessened, I will try to re-energize this effort once a new Club Secretary is in place. It will need your support, particularly from those golfers that are not members of other clubs or have Belgian Golf Federation Numbers and the associated handicap management.
- I've been talking with the SHAPE Golf Association leadership as well in order to resume some of the events that we used to do with them in the past. In past years, the NGC faced off against the SGA in a friendly match on a semi-annual or annual basis, and the first priority would be to resume those matches. As an additional initiative, the SGA holds spring and autumn events in competition with the Royal Golf Club du Hainaut, their home course. The SGA Captain has identified that there are normally many more RGCH players than SGA players in those events, and there is an opportunity to open these events to be NATO versus RGCH. More to follow as this develops.

Looking forward to the 2022 calendar year, we have held a number of events so far, and there is a tight race already for the NATO Cup. In the next few months, there are several trophy events with the President's Cup, the Captain's Cup, and the Club Championship. So there are plenty of opportunities for both great competitive golf as well and social engagement as a vibrant golf club.

I would encourage everyone to participate in as many events as possible. Our goal is to fill up every tee time we receive from the various courses, which also gives us a chance to play with many different people throughout the year. New members are joining on a consistent basis, and as I make the groupings for each events, I will make it a priority to pair new members with old members to facilitate the social atmosphere that the NGC has become known for.

Quite simply, I'm very excited for the future of the NATO Golf Club!

Darryl Rupp  
Captain  
NATO Golf Club