

Terry Riddett: Reflections on his work with Hampshire Golf

Summary:

Terry was a huge part of Hampshire Golf as Finance Director, Head of Referees and involvement in the safeguarding and development of the County. His dedication and effort were unmatched, but it will be his support, decency and most of all friendship that we all remember and cherish the most.

It's a very sad day that we lose such a good man and our thoughts are with his wife Elizabeth, son Nat, daughter Rosanna and the rest of his family at this difficult time.

Terry as Chief Referee of Hampshire Golf – by his fellow referees

Terry was a force of nature in Hampshire Golf and in golf refereeing, respected, trusted and held in the greatest of affection by those of us who had the pleasure and the privilege of knowing him.

Terry was a true expert, with an encyclopaedic knowledge of the rules of golf but he was much more than a rules expert. Terry recognised that knowing the rules was only one facet of being a good referee and, as our Chief Referee, he was passionate about driving us all to do our very best when interacting with players. Above all he wanted us to genuinely help players understand the rules and to do all we possibly could to try to help prevent players from being penalised.

Terry refereed at club, county and national level, covering both amateur and professional events. To all of us referees in Hampshire Golf he was a mentor and colleague but most of all he was our friend. It was a delight to spend a day on the golf course with Terry, watching him in action, full of energy, dealing with problems, helping players, and always having time for a joke over the radio and a chat about how we had done at the close of play. Terry always had your back, he would never criticise and always support positively. We never heard Terry speak ill of anyone and no one ever had a bad word to say about Terry – he was genuinely liked and respected by everyone who knew him.

Terry's energy and work ethic was astonishing. Living on the Isle of Wight, each Hampshire event meant an alarm call in the very early hours of the morning, to get the ferry to the mainland and then drive to the venue, to lead the 7:15 am referees' meeting. Terry would come armed with packs of information and kit for us: timing matrices, start sheets, local rules, radios and notes about the course. He always preferred to referee on foot, rucksack on back, clipboard in hand and stopwatch and monocular around his neck, as keen and enthusiastic at the end of a long day as he was at the start.

None of us can come to terms with the loss of our friend and colleague. We are in total shock and miss him terribly. Terry was a one-off and is an impossible act to follow but we will do our best, collectively, to continue his work and serve his memory.

Personal Reminiscences from Terry's refereeing colleagues

Denise Campbell (Royal Jersey GC): *"Terry and I met back in 2011 when the Island Games were being held in the Isle of Wight. Terry was running the golf tournament (he was not a referee at that*

time) and Di Stock asked me to referee. It was a massive learning curve on how to run and referee a tournament of this size. Terry and I spent hours figuring out how to get all the players round. After that, we kept in touch and when he came to Jersey for the Island Games there, he asked if I would join the Hampshire referees.

Terry always made our refereeing enjoyable. He had the ability to make you believe that you were an integral and valued part of the team. He also teased me unmercifully, me eating his lunch at Liphook has never been allowed to be forgotten! It was why we all work together so well.

Personally, I shall miss him on so many levels. He was always there if I needed to verify a ruling, and equally there to share a funny story."

Charles Gordon (Blackmoor GC): "I first met Terry at an England Golf County Rules School at Basingstoke Golf Club in the autumn of 2011 and we both passed the exam in November 2011 to qualify as EGU County Referees.

It was from the summer of 2012 that we started to have qualified referees at County Championships. The programme then expanded rapidly to include the Selborne Salver, Hampshire Hog, Delhi Cup, County Sevens Finals and the use of radios.

Terry quickly became a very good referee and friend and we had regular discussions about rulings and rule changes. He was also very good at attending all the events in spite of the extra complications caused by having to travel from the Isle of Wight and trying to rely on the ferries.

As all our referees will know, he always insisted on walking and was very reluctant to accept any lift on a buggy especially down the 18th at Hockley!

Through his and Tony Child's efforts we gradually got travelling expenses for all refereeing events, a full complement of good quality radios and experience at refereeing at South East Group and National competitions and some events outside the County.

Like many I've lost a very good friend with whom you could easily discuss matters and have friendly disagreements without falling out."

David Lambe (Brokenhurst Manor GC): "My first introduction to Terry was at The Delhi Cup At Hockley in about 2016. I had inquired about refereeing for Hampshire and had been asked to turn up to 'find out what it involved' with no expectation at that point of actually refereeing. Before I knew it I was given a Hampshire cap and told to follow the first few groups! After a while Terry ambled up the fairway and introduced himself to me, gave me a few pointers and told me 'Any probs mate just call me'. He was prepared to trust a 'newby'. From that day on Terry was my 'go to' person. No rules query was too stupid and always answered in a very positive way. I cannot recall any instance when he criticised or putdown a fellow referee.

Terry was a 'player's referee'. He didn't turn up to 'enforce' the rules but to make sure every player received fair treatment within the rules. He was approachable, good humoured, very knowledgeable and scrupulously fair. If necessary he would patiently calm a stressed player and explain exactly why he was making a ruling. He was genuinely liked, trusted and respected. He is going to be missed."

Stuart Mitchell (Brokenhurst manor GC): "Terry was completely respected and trusted and held in the greatest of affection. I also think of his insistence on fair and equal treatment for all players.

My first meeting with Terry was being drafted in at quite short notice for the County 7's finals at Petersfield – my first introduction to the Hampshire referees. We did a lot of squeegeeing the greens together to try and get the morning session finished, and then his quiet assurance and support as my

afternoon match went in to extra holes to decide the trophy. I will always remember his silhouette looking back from his spotting position on the right hand side of the fairway - feet apart and with monocular raised to his eye ready to track the tee shots."

Matt Williams (Hayling GC): *"I first met Terry many years ago at a very wet Hampshire Junior Championships. It was my first refereeing experience and I was nervous. I was told to go and join Terry on the back 9. Terry welcomed me enthusiastically and explained that we were going to a 'problem' hole. We arrived to find large areas of Ground Under Repair, left and right of the fairway, and water in front of the green. I watched Terry in action and was in awe. Terry was totally in his element, enthusiastically offering help to the young players that encountered these 'hazards', not just telling them what they had to do but genuinely trying to impart rules knowledge and understanding as he did so. I stayed there with him for an hour or so as we measured out nearest points of relief from the Ground under Repair with his 30 metre chalk-line string. I must have done OK as, after about an hour, he said, well I think you have it all covered, I'll leave you to it, just give me a call on the radio if you need a hand. That first meeting sums up Terry – always ready to trust, support and lend a hand. I am privileged to have known him and to call him my friend."*

From Neil Dawson – County First Team Captain

Well, what can I say about Terry, Terry was truly one of the nicest men I have ever had the pleasure of meeting and working with.

I first met Terry in approx. 2013 when I started as the Colts manager, ever since then I have built such a fun relationship with Terry.

Terry and I used to share a couple of jokes, one was when I used to play in county events, Terry always used to appear on the back nine, the first thing he would always say is, yep I'm here to find your ball (and he did many times), second is, no you won't get any favourable rulings

Second was in his role as Finance Director, especially around the budget time when I was always asking for extra money for kit, I'd always get back "go one then, as it's you"

On a serious note, Terry was a very special person to me as well as a very special person for Hampshire Golf and, his commitment to everything he did was immense.

I miss you mate, sleep well xxx

From Wayne Matthews: Former manager of the Juniors; resident on the Isle of Wight

I first met Terry Riddett over 13 years ago when my son Nick was starting to play golf and got involved in the Isle of Wight Golf Union Juniors.

Terry was a colossus in Island Golf and in Hampshire, he had so much passion and energy for all things golf, particularly the juniors. He gave up so much of his time selflessly, in fact I could never work out how he had the time to work and to be with his family whom he adored. He would do anything for anyone, often without being asked.

If you wanted to know anything regards golf Terry was your man, his knowledge was second to none and his advice was always composed, considered, objective, and always fair.

Over the following years we got to work closely together in Island Golf and Hampshire.

Junior golfer numbers over the years have been declining on the Island, Terry's great passion was junior golf and was instrumental in creating a new initiative to increase participation and provide the platform for the juniors to be the best that they wanted to be, including:

- *Training instructors to introduce Tri Golf to children including introducing at some schools.*
- *Creation of the Junior Development Tour to bring together golfers across the Island to play competitions.*
- *Free coaching sessions for junior golfers of all abilities.*
- *Special coaching for elite players on the Island linking into the Hampshire County Program.*
- *The Junior Match-play trophy.*
- *The Junior Winter Tour.*
- *Putting on golf taster days at Freshwater Leisure Centre and Newport Town Centre to promote golf to those that maybe had not considered it before.*

When the Isle of Wight Golf Union Junior Section was struggling for volunteers, Terry stepped in to make sure that it continued.

He was a huge part of the Hampshire Golf organisation bringing the Island and the mainland closer together, including:

- *Obtaining the Safe Golf certification for Hampshire golf, ensuring that organisers were DBS checked and fully trained.*
- *Presentation evenings to bring together Hampshire County and golf clubs to promote and develop junior golf across the Island.*
- *Provide input and guidance on how to set-up the junior program.*
- *Provide the budget to improve the junior coaching programs, including ensuring that the islands (Isle of Wight and Channel Islands) are looked after.*

He helped countless junior golfers including my son Nick who holds Terry very close to his heart.

Over the 13 years we had some great adventures together and will remember fondly spending evenings coming up with new ideas to promote and develop junior golf on the Island and Hampshire, competition days on the Island working together just knowing what we had to do, and attending Hampshire meetings on the mainland and always seeming to miss the ferry and finding a pub for a drink.

Terry was a very dear friend. In life, you do not meet many people like Terry, someone who touches your heart through being themselves. He was a selfless, hardworking, honest, composed person who brought people together and had time for everyone, all with a great sense of humour. Above all, a devoted family man, his deep sense of pride in his family always shone through. We send our love to Elizabeth, Nat, Rossana and all Terry's family at this very difficult time.

Terry will be sadly missed by so many in the golfing and wider world, miss you mate x.

The following picture of Terry was taken in 2018 when he accepted the Team Championship Trophy on behalf of Shanklin and Sandown Golf Club.



As you will no doubt gather from the words and comments included in this document – Terry was hugely appreciated by Hampshire Golf – and will be missed dreadfully by all who knew him.

Alan Drayton

President – Hampshire Golf 2019