



## The Chairman's Challenge, Sunday 22 October 2023

The Chairman's Challenge, inaugurated in 1995, is one of the more unusual competitions in the EGC calendar. The playing format is a four-ball, better-ball, Stableford competition. Two 'foxes' go out in front of the pack of 'hounds' to set a new par for the course which the following hounds chase.

This year we were really lucky to have good weather on the ESTEC course, a reasonable temperature, sunshine, some blue sky and a little wind. The course was pretty wet in the usual places following heavy rain in the preceding days.

The 'foxes' were Brian and Helma as last year. Against the course par of 58 strokes, their better-ball Stableford score was 44 meaning the 'new' par for the course was set at 50 strokes. With the new par, the foxes Stableford score would be 36 by definition. With a very fast putt from the edge of the green which might have broken the flag stick, Helma rifled-in a birdie which, given her playing handicap on the hole of two strokes, reduced the par for the foxes ultimate hole 1 to 1.

Hole out	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
New par	1	3	4	2	3	3	3	3	3	25
Hole in	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
New par	3	5	2	4	2	3	2	2	2	25

We had 23 players sign up to play and Klaus Ludwig, metaphorically, drew the short straw and played with the foxes and to keep score.

The 'hounds' followed, not knowing the new par until it was announced when they got back to ESCAPE to catch-up with the 'foxes'. As usual there was then a prolonged head-scratching session as the hounds calculated their new Stableford scores over various snacks, beer and wine. Our thanks to Nelly, back behind the bar in ESCAPE, so that last week's chaos with the food was not repeated.

The hounds chased harder this year and it was good to see the father and son pair of Willem and new member Sander Borst overtaking the foxes by three points to win the competition.

In second place, catching the foxes at the last gasp with a better back nine score, were Gijs Tan and Reno Harboe Sorensen.

The foxes marginally escaped Clare Bingham and Joe Pereira who had a worse back six.

Sander and Willem	39	
Gijs and Reno	36	bb9
Brian and Helma	36	bb6
Clare and Joe	36	
Garry and Piet	35	
Geoff and Robert	34	
Jan and Wil	31	bb9
Francis and Marga	31	bb9
Geraldine and Henk	31	
Alan and Valerie	30	
Igancio and Rafael	29	



The foxes and the winning hounds

Our thanks to Wil for the photo and for collecting the cash for the food and drinks and to Willem and Sander for the winners round. Prizes of EGC bag towels for the winners and balls for the runners-up were sponsored by the club.