



David Foley
East Kent Supporter
7m •



The former president of South Africa, FW de Klerk, died last week. He was reviled by both the extreme left and the hard-line right: but for all his sins, he was the man who freed Nelson Mandela from prison. I had the good fortune to meet him in 2009, intrigued beyond measure by how he managed such a fundamental change. I remember him saying: "Our personal success depends on our ability to change our environment to meet our needs". He said that many people pay lip service to change but fail to revise the underlying problems. "They think of brilliant ways of doing the wrong thing better". He added: "It is foolish to be vociferously right at the wrong time". Over lunch, I asked him for any advice for the business community of East Kent. He said that we should never flinch from unpalatable facts but should "confront the in-born fear of radical change". There's a message also for COP26 if ever there was one. He confided that he was an enthusiastic golfer who, like his fellow South African, Gary Player, was finding that his drives from the tee were getting so short that he now felt he could hear the ball land. He is not the only Nobel Laureate to benefit from the handicap system and no doubt, like the rest of us, his good deeds will be measured against his failings.

[#business](#) [#eastkentbusiness](#) [#managingchange](#) [#golf](#) [#handicap](#) [#change](#)



www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6866082176816050176/

15 November 2021