

Warwickshire Past Captains V Buckinghamshire Past Captains @ Buckingham GC July 24th

On my arrival I was immediately informed by the statisticians in our midst (everyone!) that in my absence the previous two matches at Stratford U Avon and Kenilworth had been won! It's always good to know one has been missed.

The unabating heat and sunshine ensured that the course would be parched and the run long. The edge of Chiltern Hills' slopes meant that some tees were more difficult to ascend than others but as nought when one remembers the trek around Chiltern Forest GC in a previous match. The almost insignificant tributary stream with no name facing one's first drive (and on several other Holes), as well as elsewhere the early stages of The Great Ouse River provided even more challenges for the bold team which arrived in good heart. The Notice on the riverbank was most informative to golfers re distances to be sailed but of no use to crew on the water as it faced the Fairway.!

There was a pre match trauma when our Day's Manager John Loynton announced that Jeff Bissendon had unilaterally gone to The Buckinghamshire GC rather than the Club adjacent to the County Town. Jeff's protestations of misinformation fell on very deaf ears and it was pointed out to him that he was in a minority of one – all 15 others were on time and on location. As we are such a friendly band of Past Captains the teasing was delivered in fine fashion but not interminably.

The Club was the Alma Mater of our former President John Butler (of photography fame) and his absence means this Report is not illustrated – a matter I will bring up at our next Council Meeting. John assured members that there was a photograph of him holding a Trophy on display at the Club and apparently it was eventually espied in a rarely used Back Passage!

The Organisers took the eminently sensible decision to use two tees and the arrangement worked very well. The Home Club Captain had "one of those days" and would have been cut had it been a Qualifier. His local knowledge and prowess ensured that JJ and Mike Edwards came second, and far earlier than they had hoped! Nigel Metcalfe and Barry McDonald also found a pair in form and they too came second. Copt Heath's Martin Elliot and Dennis Ellis faired marginally better and rescued a Half. Those who have a mathematical bent/trait will by now appreciate that we won $5\frac{1}{2} - 2\frac{1}{2}$ and we are grateful that such a strong team performed so well.

We went to table at 6 30 as per programme and had a hearty chicken Pie with vegetables followed by Lemon Cheesecake and Ice Cream – an appropriate selection.

The post prandial Reports were delivered with their normal panache but once more we were the Joke Smiths.

All in all another excellent match with old friendships strengthened and new ones forged.