

WGC vs Northamptonshire at Wellingborough Golf Club on May 30th 2019

On a dry but cloudy Thursday we assembled at Wellingborough Golf Club housed in Great Harrowden Hall. This is a site with a lot of history dating from the Middle Ages and a magnificent setting remindful of Druid's Glen in Ireland. Consequently cameras were clicking furiously and there appeared to be more stomachs pulled in than usual, as those pictures accompanying this piece will testify.

In the critical pre lunch period it was a joy to watch a very relaxed John Loynton without any lists or telephone numbers in hand, all being replaced with a pint. However his successor and new Match Manager Tony Ranger was seen counting white polo shirts every few minutes. To his relief his fellow ex Kenilworth Captain Charles Leggitt got to the correct place at the correct time and on the correct day! Lessons from his debut season last year had been well learned. Francis "The Rolex" was present but minus his car - what a Spring Open he had suffered. Eventually however it came to the inevitable phone call and Tony discussed Jim Sinclair's faulty email connection and his resulting lunch in Solihull compared to that which we had received in the upstairs dining room. Thus we were a player down but fired up by Ham slices, chips and two eggs.

Play began on time and Captain Rick was joined by IPC JJ and they were paired against President Eric from Kettering GC and Mike from Whittlebury GC. The golfing Gods had put 4 teachers together so the banter was good and generally more than monosyllabic.

Northants were clearly front loading and Warwickshire had shots but it soon became apparent possibly not enough of them. Our venerable Captain spent some time checking out the 2nd Cut and found it very thick but couldn't resist popping into it with alarming regularity. The well presented course gave us a strongly fought Front 9 where we were down as we approached the turn.

The Half Way House was a nice bonus and all players availed themselves of its hospitality.

Tragedy struck our lead pair when on the 12th, JJ's attempt to cream a fairway wood resulted in a bad trajectory, poor distance and a cry of pain. The Captain strode imperiously on whilst JJ cringed and swallowed Ibuprofen and paracetamol as quickly as he could. It is amazing how a fit lean youngish athlete can be struck down so quickly and severely, and after a slow limp to the Green he declared himself "Hors de Combat" (Do be aware of attempting a 360% swing at any time at our age!) He departed the Course in a very slow manner but Our Captain retained the cudgel and allegedly played better thereafter! However it was to no avail but in fairness at the end of the Round he came to the Bar to see if JJ had the drinks ready!!

The WGC members all appeared to have super matches with some close results. Worthy of further mention were our only winners of the day Messrs Ian Phipps and Ron Saywell whose sterling efforts prevented the dreaded Whitewash! Mike Edwards and Tony Ranger hung in until their last putt which would have given them the Half. Their miss was clearly the fault of the Head Green keeper. Barry McDonald was the Super Solo and in fairness his opponents took it in turns to be his opposition – a suitably sporting gesture from a sporting team.

Dinner was again taken in the delightful Dining Room with superb views over the Putting Green and Park. Each course was of excellent quality and washed down appropriately with some nice wines. The post dinner speeches featured the usual complementary/complimentary elements and the inevitable joke
All in all an excellent day against a worthy set of opponents at an excellent venue. The event finished with Captain Rick presenting the annual Trophy to the Home Team with the corollary that the pain of losing was offset by the joy that he would not have to pay for the necessary inscription.
If as a Past Captain of your Club you haven't made yourself available for any matches this season, please try and do so. Our strength is our depth in Numbers - do be amongst them.

The pain of losing showed on Captain Rick's face as he prepared for the presentation.



He managed to hand over the trophy with his usual good grace.



The first group on the tee – Captain Rick Waddington with his IPC JJ Pritchard with NGC President Eric and Mike



The second group with Match Manager Tony Ranger paired with Mike Edwards

