

## **Warwickshire vs Somerset at Clevedon Golf Club**

Summer arrived just in time for the away match against Somerset at the delightful albeit tricky and exhausting Clevedon Golf Club. It was up hill and down dale for the front nine holes – with the emphasis seeming to be on the “up hill”. The back nine began with a few holes on the level along the tops of the cliffs overlooking the estuary until we reached the 14<sup>th</sup> par 3 hole named “The drop”. It was aptly named with the need to make a tricky decision on club selection before launching the ball out over the drop with the hope that it would land somewhere in the vicinity of the green. The path down the hill was reminiscent of the queues at the airport – winding backwards and forwards with dire warnings “steep slope keep to the path” at frequent intervals. It was then back to up hill and down dale again for the remaining 4 holes before the last 2 uphill holes brought us back to the clubhouse and a welcome drink at the bar. A delicious 3 course meal accompanied the lively chatter of those golfers who weren't too exhausted to indulge in the on-going banter. The Captains made brief speeches praising the quality of the course and the catering before Mike Edwards announced the result – a 5-3 victory to the visiting Warwickshire team. Just before the dinner it was noticed that the trophy had not been brought down to Somerset. This is what the presentation would have looked like had the trophy been present.



Game 1 : Mike Edwards and Barry McDonald with Somerset Captain Rob Ford and Clevedon Captain Mike Morfitt



Game 2 : Frank Barton and John Loynton with John Beer and John Rooke



Game 3 : Peter Turle and Martin Elliot with Robert Hardy and Mike How



Game 4 : Allan Moore and Mike Gregory with Mark Moorfoot and Phil Barrett



Game 5 : George Whitehouse and Jeff Woolridge with Keith Wiggins and Jim Skinner



Game 6 : Mike Hughes and Rick Waddington with Rob Fear and Colin Mantle



Game 7 : Mark Draper and Charles Leggitt with Iain Robertson and Phil Slater



Game 8 : Rod Williams and Tony Ranger with Rich Bartin and Rob Hirons



The 8<sup>th</sup> hole – “The Castle” required another launch of the tee shot into an apparent abyss. From the tee nothing could be seen of the landing area. It required a carry of about 160 yards (albeit significantly downhill) to clear the bushes and long grass whereupon the ball would spin off to the left due to the right to left incline. Dire warnings on 2 notices told golfers not to hit the ball too far due to the houses and gardens bordering the course on the left – in fact the notices suggested a club selection with a maximum of 170 yards which put significant pressure on accuracy of length for amateur golfers. Following the tee shot the walk down the path through the trees and subsequent search for the balls which had been hit out of sight slowed progress through this part of the course. When we arrived our preceding group was watching as their preceding group were just leaving the tee. There was plenty of time to enjoy the sunshine, look at the views over the estuary and agonise about which club to hit to minimise the conflicting risks. There was also time to take a photo of the hole, the estuary and the 2 waiting groups of Warwickshire and Somerset Captains.



The 11<sup>th</sup> hole is known as Channel View – the newest Severn Bridge is just visible

