

Warwickshire Past Captains V Herefords and Shrops Past Captains @ The Shropshire GC August 6th

The weather continued to be hot and sometimes oppressive as we made our way over to the M54 and on towards Telford. My journey was lit up by the conversation with Keith Lindsay who after several leading Questions and Answers said –“Expletive deleted – you taught me for A level Geography!!” We then reminisced about week long Field Courses in North Wales and the events and laughs thereof. Keith was one of my first A level pupils and a successful one too.

Any references he made during the day or will make as to my demeanour and behaviour as a young thrusting Teacher and Rugby player should all be accepted with handfuls of salt! Don't we all find that “Time mists/twists the Memory??” As we headed North off the M54 my spatial awareness told Keith to overrule the GPS at the second roundabout. To be open and honest the big Brown Sign also confirmed my instincts! The signage clearly worked as Kenilworth's Chairman arrived on time – Congratulations Charles.

The Shropshire Golf Centre rather than Club is appropriately named. We were allocated a distinct suite upstairs which rather hampered some pre match knees and other aching parts. . Soup and sandwiches were served but the absence of chips was noted by several stalwarts of our team. Our Manager's pathetic excuse for absence was reassessed when I explained he wasn't going to New York on his own! We trust that his foray across the Pond enabled him to see the best of “The Big Apple” and that he will return refreshed rather than exhausted.

Team selections were announced by the two Captains and the small but modern Changing Rooms were easily available. One cannot say the same for the First tee en route to which Graham Pielow and I mistakenly followed a member of the opposition on his buggy and nearly arrived in Tesco's. The sight of streams of players heading elsewhere was a distinct clue but we were not late on the Tee and thus not penalised. The fairways were extremely generous and wider than any we've experienced this season (or any other!). A possible explanation is the profusion of Chinese owned factories nearby and thus the venue is clearly most appropriate for Corporate Travellers who cannot play at home. The Course featured 3 loops of 9 and our hosts assured us we were playing by far the better two. “Agricultural” is an overused description in our game but those who played will remember the connotation. Around the Course were several ancient bits of machinery, reminiscent of The Marshall Aid Programme in the late 1940's. I'm sure that “If it ain't broke don't fix it” applied to some of them but I wouldn't want to be within breathing distance if and when they were wound up.

The lies accordingly were somewhat inconsistent and the Greens varied as the afternoon progressed. They were always challenging and a real test of feel and line. All in all the Course provided a genuine challenge under the current conditions and as ever was the same for both teams. The Centre's Past Captains unfortunately have never joined the Society so we were all Guest players. The choice of venue was influenced by a Courtesy Card but apparently from here on in there will be a Green Fee for the Past Captains. It is interesting to note how other Past Captains' Societies recruit members and their policy towards home course selection. In view of our “Members` Clubs Only” policy we continue to provide our visitors quality venues and courses.

The afternoon clearly went very well for some and early handshakes were observed around the course. Of particular note was the victory by David Howe and Keith Lindsay who won by the long abandoned but still referred to "Dog`s Licence!". Only one match was halved and even our Captain played well below his current Handicap – for the first time this season. Graham Pielow as his partner and low handicapper eventually became a tad fed up with the incredulous comments and lack of advice from our hosts who obviously knew the course from previous visits.

We went to table at 6 30 and wine was not always evident. The main course featured Gammon and the dessert Profiteroles and Chocolate sauce. The post match speeches once again were a little one sided and we departed in friendship after Warwickshire had toasted their Hosts in a gracious manner.

Another W, this time by 41/2 – 31/2

Thanks for your support