

Warwickshire vs Buckinghamshire at Sutton Coldfield Golf Club

Another match – another downpour; the season ended as it had begun. Various forecasts had been given for the day and a lot of discussion took place on which ones would be correct during the lunch of sandwiches and (copious) chips. Sadly the optimists amongst us who had not brought any rainwear were disappointed and also extremely wet by the end of the afternoon.

Following lunch the usual welcomes were given and Sutton Coldfield Captain Marc Allsop also provided a brief history of the club, telling us of the involvement of Dr Alister MacKenzie in its development history and the successful participation of a young Tommy Fleetwood in one of the amateur competitions. He warned us of the use of the common land on which the course stands by dog walkers and cattle – although recent moves to keep the latter away with modern technology were proving largely successful.

The games began in dry conditions and the shadows in the photo for game 4 show that the sun was trying to get through but by the time game 5 reached the tee clouds had filled the gap through which it had shone briefly. The rain began as gentle showers consistent with some of the forecasts but developed into a steady downpour that lasted until the last group were coming off the course – at which point the sun came out again. Nonetheless lots of good golf was played and lots of enjoyment was had by members of both teams in taking on the challenge presented by one of the countries top courses.

A delicious meal was served to the golfers before the Captains Mike Edwards and John Mannering stood up in turn to give toasts and a brief talk. The course, the hospitality and the catering were highly praised by both captains. Finally the result was announced and John informed us that it was a close match throughout but Warwickshire's last 2 pairs brought in wins to give the home side a 5-3 victory.



Game 1 : Sutton Coldfield Captain Marc Allsop and Mike Edwards with Bucks Captain John Mannering and Brian Rodgers



Game 2 : Ian Phipps and Tim Barnby with David Forrest and Jeremy Hilton



Game 3 : Bob Fletcher and Keith Guild alternating with Martin Bart and Chris Brown



Game 4 : Keith Lindsay and Barry Hallam on the right with Rod Jones and David Liston on the left



Game 5 : David Middleton and Ron Saywell with David Balfour and Paul Graves



Game 6 : Leamington pair Gordon Williamson and David Chamley took on John Pettit and Trevor Murphy



Game 7 : JJ Pritchard and Terry Greenhalgh having the first of many laughs with Peter Harborne and Peter Hill



Game 8 : Tony Ranger and Charles Leggitt flanking Tony Jeffries and Bob Barnes



Modern technology proved to be no match for at least one determined cow who left a few bad lies behind him as he ambled around the course

