

Warwickshire vs Gloucestershire at Forest Hills Golf Club

Chance brought together 2 longstanding friends and golfing rivals at club level – this time as captains of the 2 county sides playing the match today. Mike Edwards and Dereck Buttler have battled it out over the years at matches between Handsworth and Broadway Golf Clubs. At this inter county match they faced each other again at Forest Hills. Despite Dereck having the home club captain as his partner with all the wealth of experience and local knowledge that brings the game was very tight with both sides taking the lead at various points as the match progressed. When it went back to all square on the 17th green friendship and respect got the better of rivalry and a half was agreed.

Overall this was a match that definitely proved to be a game of two halves – at least as far as the weather was concerned. All boded well as we sat in the club house or on the veranda overlooking the 18th green before the match with sunshine, blue skies and a few fluffy clouds. Lunch was enjoyed, new acquaintances were met after the running order was announced and play got under way.

The sun shone down on the lead pair as far as the 8th hole and then the fluffy white clouds turned grey and ganged up on the sunshine until it was completely blotted out. As the 9th tee was reached a colder wind warned us of what was to come – and come it did when hail rattled down on us as the 9th green was approached. Wet weather clothing and umbrellas made a swift appearance. The hail-storm abated and turned to rain - which seemed to ease off a little on the 10th but then steady rain set in which lasted for the next 3 or 4 hours. It was still falling as the last group – the soggiest of all – played the 18th green and it was still going when we were eating dinner.

Despite the rain the course proved to be interesting and enjoyable and a challenging test of golf over and up and down the hills and between the trees of the Forest of Dean.

Unfortunately the rain must have affected the visiting Warwickshire players more than the home team as, when the result was announced, a win for Gloucestershire by 5 ½ to 2 ½ was declared.

Thanks are due to the trusty Barry Pegler who was a late addition to the team and also to even later additions Geoff Lowe and guest Bill Davies who kindly joined us for this match at JJ's invitation.

Game 1 : Gloucestershire Captain Dereck Buttler and Forest Hills Captain Mike Morfitt with Warwickshire Captain Mike Edwards and Tony Ranger



Game 2 : Jez Williams and Rod Williams took on Gloucestershire President Rex Parry and Paddy Crowley



Game 3 : Warwickshire President John Loynton partnered by Andy Holloway took on Geoff Lowe and Andrew Glen



Game 4 : Barry Pegler and JJ Pritchard went boy girl boy girl with Gloucestershire pair Joe Betty and Jim Ford for the pre-match photo



Game 5 : Allan Moore and Mike Gregory mixed it with Clive Fluck and John Dymock



Game 6 : David Williams and Ivor Ford were matched with Phil Payne and Ian McKay



Game 7 : Paul Brindley made his match debut playing with Bob Fletcher against Mike Slatter and Brian Trendell



Game 8 : Geoff Lowe played with guest Bill Davies against Barry Klein and Dave Matthews

