

Warwickshire vs Derbyshire at Erewash Valley Golf Club

Our visit to Derbyshire turned out to be the first day of a heat-wave so we enjoyed a wonderful sunny day on the picturesque Derbyshire course. It proved difficult to find for a few members with the golf club seeming to be anonymous to some of the Sat Navs but eventually we gathered for Sandwiches and Chips in the clubhouse. Sadly some sort of diary mix-up meant we started the match one down as only 14 Warwickshire members arrived. It was another up and down day in terms of geography if not always at the green. Although the first few holes were relatively flat arrival at the renowned Quarry holes began the ascent and descent process for the next 10 holes. The Quarry holes were an interesting challenge with a short par 3 to begin – launching the ball from the tee on top of a cliff to a small green which had bunkers at the front and cliff faces behind it. The second quarry hole also featured a small green surrounded by cliff faces and it was suggested that the best approach might be to hit the ball long and use the rocks to bounce the ball back onto the green. Perhaps this is something to be tried on a future visit? The next several holes were tricky with up slopes and down slopes and some severe side slopes to contend with. It wasn't just the speed of the greens to be concerned with but the speed of the fairway too. If you hit the slope at the wrong angle, the ball just rolled and rolled and rolled across and off the fairway until it found a resting place in the trees or on the adjacent fairway. It was a challenging but very enjoyable course and the company was good. This was reflected by the level of chatter when we finally got back to the clubhouse. A few cold drinks and a tasty meal added to the enjoyment of the day and then it was time for the Captains to make their speeches before we set off for home. President John Loynton stood in as Captain for the day as Mike Edwards was not able to be with us. He thanked our Derbyshire hosts and the host club for their welcome and hospitality. He praised the course and the catering before getting to the announcement of the result of the days matches. It may be that the fact that we began the matches one down served to energise the rest of us as President John was able to say that he could report back to the Captain that we had achieved a 5-3 victory with 4 wins, 2 halves and only 2 losses.

Game 1 : Ian Phipps and John Loynton with Erewash Valley Captain Richard Moulds and Derbyshire Captain Paul Waring



Game 2 : Derbyshire President Mike Whalley, Doug Rawkins, Mike Coxall and David Williams.



Game 3 : Terry Greenhalgh, Derbyshire Secretary Peter McGrath, Ron Saywell and Tony Broadhurst



Game 4 : Dave Laurie and David Raffety flanking Alan Cunningham and Tony Gee



Game 5 : John Bardsley and Alan Griffiths with Rob Woolley and John Delaney



Game 6 : Barry Hallam, Paul Robinson, JJ Pritchard and Narinder Chopra



Game 7 : Richard Parker, Colin Barnard, Tony Ranger and Rob Stokes



The view from the 4th tee with a 90 yard shot and a 20 yard drop.

