

Warwickshire Past Captains V Derbyshire Past Captains @ Sutton Coldfield GC July 5<sup>th</sup>

Sunny Sutton "Hotfield" bade us most Welcome and there were only two minor tribulations prior to starting. Mike Gregory unfortunately had a bout of "Hots and Runs" so rang early to absent himself but once again our stout and sturdy "Manager" John Loynton became a late playing Member. True to form and his busy retirement he had yet another "Jolly" to go to so missed a lovely meal. The other incident involved an unnamed Kenilworth member who had a Royal Flush of wrong date, wrong time and wrong venue! Thankfully the others from the Club contacted him and he managed to get to us and join the last group out. A minor point of interest was the unusual garb of our immediate Past President who used an out of action Kitchen as his weak excuse for not wearing a Society golf shirt. He was "Fined" the traditional bottle of Port but one fears it will never leave the Douro Valley!

The Host club had more representatives than ever ("Encouraged" by our President and "Whipper In??") and this was an encouraging sign. We had 4 Members making their inaugural appearance of the season and it's always nice to see different faces from across our 21 Clubs. If you haven't informed John Loynton (and next year Tony Ranger) of your desire to play then please get in touch as soon as possible.

Sutton's course was remarkable, and it played like a Links course but could not be further from the coast. The Fairways were very playable but most had turned to the yellow of heated days. The ball ran and ran as did the excellent Greens. Members found the experience exhilarating and different. Finding errant shots proved difficult sometimes as the ball had usually run many yards further than anticipated.

Pre prandial drinks were enjoyed both in the comfort of the Snug and on the patio outsides.

Host captain Gez Welcomed us in fine fashion then our Captain JJ called for a moment's solemnity and thought for a former Captain of the Society John Tunnicliffe who had died the previous day. John was Coventry Hearsall's first and only previous Captain of Captains before JJ.

The fine meal commenced with a Prawn and Caesar salad and the Main was Chicken and Ham Pie with appropriate vegetables. These courses were accompanied by some delightful wines which helped us all relax.

Post prandial exhortations went well with some informal "mickey taking" as befits friendly competition.

We managed a 4 – 4 Half and it seemed a fair result .

I trust that The Society will do even better in the next two matches during my enforced absence in foreign parts!

It appeared that our photographer had left his camera in the unfinished kitchen but he played so well we forgave him