

Match vs Oxfordshire at Felden Valley Golf Club on 11th July

A reduced number of members from Warwickshire Golf Captains met at Felden Valley for the 2019 fixture with Oxfordshire Captains. The teams had been reduced to 16 from the usual 20 prior to the match and sadly a late injury further reduced the number of Warwickshire participants to 15 but fortunately the Oxfordshire squad managed to find a surplus player to even the numbers on the day.

The Clubhouse was found to be very smart and modern following significant investment from the new owner.

Coffee on arrival was followed by bacon sandwiches and chips for lunch.

The Felden Valley captain welcomed the players to the club. He warned them not to bother looking for a ball if it went in the rough – just play another – which proved to be a very apt warning.

The match secretaries announced the teams and, with a two tee start, the players were soon out on the fairways.

Felden Valley proved to be a tricky course for those who don't know it. A number of the holes needed a good tee shot into the right place on the fairway to allow for successful navigation of the hole. Sadly the innocent visitors from Warwickshire were not apprised of that until they found themselves in the wrong place on the fairway. Or in the rough. Or in the trees. Speaking of players finding themselves in the rough – that is about all they would find. If a playing partner was also in the rough they probably wouldn't find him unless you could hear him rustling the grass as he walked.

The first match did not last the distance and an early result occurring at a convenient location close to the clubhouse led to an agreement to call it a day. The fact that England were playing (in fact out-playing) Australia in the Cricket World Cup semi final might have contributed to this decision.

The two tee start meant that all the golfers were soon back at the clubhouse enjoying some liquid refreshment in the late afternoon sun on the balcony.

The match meal in the very smart dining area was followed by the match speeches from Oxfordshire captain Chris Spearing and Warwickshire acting captain Ron Saywell. Ron's speech was short and succinct – congratulating Rod Williams and Ivor Ford for being the only Warwickshire pair to earn a point. The match result was 7-1 to Oxfordshire.

Oxfordshire Captain Chris Spearing welcoming the visitors

Warwickshire Captain Ron Saywell searching the room for a winning pair before announcing the result



Lunch : Bacon Sandwiches and Chips



Ian Phipps on the balcony with one of his opponents



Captains Team : Enjoying the sunshine after the cricket finished



David Chamley and Bob Fletcher



Gary Thompson and David Williams



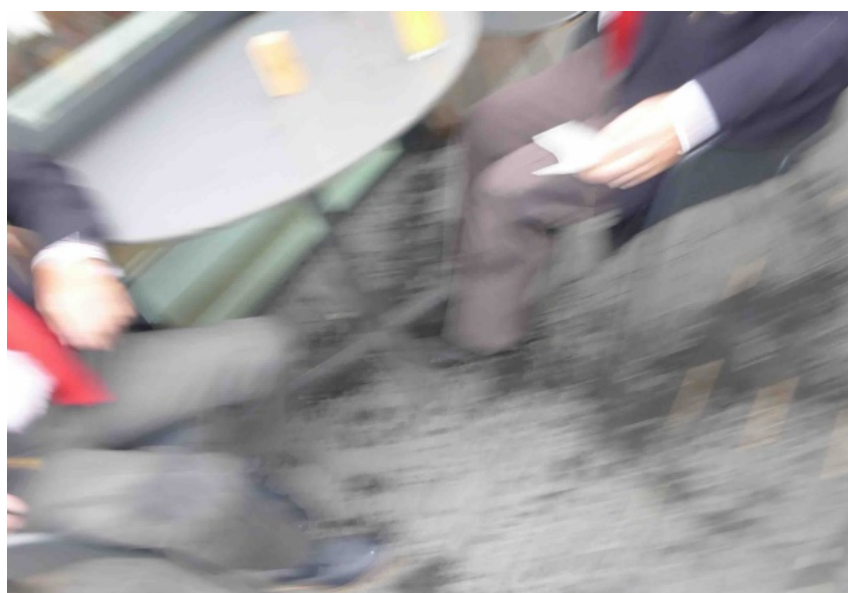
David Dedicoat and Doug Rawlings



Ivor Ford and Rod Williams - Warwickshires only winners



Evading the flying beer



David Williams still smiling after a second shower with partner Francis Prentice



Barry Pegler and friend watching the cricket highlights



Patently (?) waiting for dinner

