

Warwickshire vs Gloucestershire at Stinchcombe Hill Golf Club

On 16th August the rearranged match with Gloucestershire took place on one of the wooded hills sitting above the Severn Valley just outside Dursley, famed for being the first home of the Warwickshire Match Secretary. The auspices weren't good when on arrival in Dursley the road up the hill to the golf course was found to be blocked with a "Road Closed" notice. Those who chose to ignore the sign fared better than those who followed the diversion sign which seemed to be the only one of its kind, leaving the rules abiding motorists to their own devices and sat-navs. However, those brave enough to navigate the single track road along the top of the hill behind Dursley were rewarded by eventually finding their destination at the golf club. Following a sandwich lunch the games commenced and the visitors found the course to be very enjoyable – most of the time. Wide fairways were welcoming but the long wispy looking grass on either side proved to have shorter but much thicker blades at the base which easily swallowed up an errant golf ball. Fortunately the breezes were gentle so the golfers only had to contend with their own limitations in their attempts to find the shorter grass on the fairways.

The dinner of beef pie etc showed that some chefs still know how to make proper pies with pastry completely surrounding the beef filling and gravy. A tasty apple crumble to follow completed the meal.

Gloucestershire Captain Geoff Lowe led off with the speeches, welcoming the visitors and praising the course and the catering. Acting Warwickshire Captain Ian Phipps responded with echoes of praise for the course and catering and added his thanks for the hospitality of the Gloucestershire Captains. In a rehearsal of what will hopefully occur many times in his future year of captaincy he announced that Warwickshire were the 6 – 2 victors of the match and was delighted to be presented with the trophy by Geoff Lowe.



Game 1 : David Middleton with Acting Captain Ian Phipps led off for the Warwickshire team flanking Gloucestershire Captain Geoff Lowe and Graham Morrice.



Game 2 : Paul Wilkinson partnered Mike Hughes against Gloucestershire President Mike Slatter and Neil Pirie



Game 3 : Harborne pair George Whitehouse and Jeff Woolridge on the right took on Nick Broady and Neil Casling



Game 4 : Gloucestershire match secretary Clive Fluck with Warwickshire match secretary Tony Ranger flanked by their playing partners John Dymock and John Bardsley



Game 5 :Allan Moore with his regular Shirley partner Mike Gregory hoping to add to their long list of victories when they took on Chris Dooley and Alan Millard



Game 6 : Bill Hole and Barry Preece on the left with Jason Scagell and Mark Draper on the right trying to start a trend for vivid colours in their sartorial selection.



Game 7 : Ivor Ford and Rob Stokes took on Jo Betty and Brian Trendell



Game 8 : Charles Leggitt with guest Mike Rossborough flanked by Peter House and Phil Mogg

