

Match vs Bedfordshire at Aylesbury Vale Golf Club

17 July

The Warwickshire team gathered at Aylesbury Vale Golf Club just outside the picturesque town of Stewkley for the match against Bedfordshire. The long drive to the club was followed by a long walk to the clubhouse. The car park was full and only spaces at the furthest point were available. You could have put a par 5 in the distance we had to walk – with a short par 3 as well if your design was efficient.

Nonetheless the Warwickshire players were made very welcome in the bar and were very quickly presented with plates of ham, egg and chips for their lunch. It was a rolling lunch – as soon as the first groups had finished the plates were whisked away and they too were whisked away to make room for another group to eat. The bar room meal area was several orders of magnitude smaller than the car park.

Welcomes were made, pairs were announced and on the dot of 1 o'clock the first match got underway.

Although Aylesbury Vale was a beautiful parkland course it was playing links style on the day. The ball just ran and ran. It was very flattering to the golfers who could hit a mid iron two hundred yards - easily if they managed to achieve a bit of a thin to help the ball on its way.

The rough beyond the mown rough was particularly troublesome. A seemingly good shot could easily run out of fairway and then run out of mown grass and soon found itself surrounded by nature in the raw.

Despite the challenges of the golf – there's always something new - hitting the ball too far and too often was a new one to me – but despite that it proved to be a very enjoyable course to play.

We were blessed with sunshine through the afternoon with a gentle breeze to cool us down at times but as we finished there were heavy spots of rain appearing so the golfing part of the day ended just in time.

Drinks in the bar were followed by a delicious meal of steak pie, spuds and veg followed by a dessert of profiteroles with chocolate sauce.

Bedfordshire were led on the day by their current Vice Captain Mike Davies who made his "virgin" captain's speech welcoming the visitors, thanking the club and the clubhouse staff and praising the course. Acting Captain for Warwickshire was Graham Pielow who made his far from virgin speech in his usual eloquent and witty manner. Sadly he had to announce that the result was 6 : 4 to Bedfordshire.

A familiar sight on the course



Could this be my ball



The two acting captains having a chat



Delighted with the dessert







