

## Warwickshire vs Devonshire at Olton Golf Club on the 31<sup>st</sup> May

This fixture had an unusual twist as we agreed to go for an early Tee Off to facilitate and ease our opponents` long drive home.

They were fulfilling their bi annual trip of 2 games and had lost heavily to Oxford Past Captains the previous day. The idea of playing 2 Counties on a 2 day trip has been mooted for ourselves and if you think you`d be in favour of such an event – perhaps V Devon and Somerset on consecutive days – then please make your views known to your Council. It would involve a minor reorganisation for one County only.

Thus we assembled for a Bacon Butty and Coffee at 10 30 am with a constant undercurrent of impending thunderstorms which Shefali et al had confidently forecast. Treasurer Ron “The Dosh” Saywell was evident but after taking our monies and Bacon Butty he disappeared to assist with internal changes at Kenilworth GC. We teed off at 11 15am and our resourceful Match Manager John Loynton yet again did wonders and got us a two tee start and played as a last minute replacement. Unfortunately he could only stay a short while after his round as another “Jolly” was on offer.

The course was in excellent condition following the recent storms and showed nothing of the damage of unfortunate nearby courses. The high humidity and temperature led some to believe they were in the Tropics but the absence of local caddies and drinks stations put the lie to such thoughts. The Greens were fast and true and received good shots easily.

The bunkers were a little inconsistent as several bore the scars of flooding and therefore had a hard dark base to play off. The Greens staff had clearly been busy and effective and we were the lucky recipients of the fruits of their labour.

Post match drinks were enjoyed in bright sunlight as we sat on the patio overlooking the Putting Green and course.

Talk of thunderstorms was dismissed and the House Staff brought our meal forward a little which suited everyone. Grace was delivered by Doug Morrison as the club`s representative in the absence of the current Club Captain. It was Doug`s inaugural game with us and he is now “available” for all matches! The meal was of the standard we have come to expect at Olton and with pork as our main element and Sticky Toffee Pudding and Custard as a fine dessert there were many compliments paid to the Chef and Staff.

Captains JJ and Ben delivered mutually gracious exchanges and witticisms and the event wound up with conviviality and renewed friendships.

Two items of note are

- 1) We won the match 4 ½ - 3 ½
- 2) We have been promised photos to be added later to this report – they appear below!







