

Warwickshire Past Captains V Gloucestershire Past Captains @ Chipping Sodbury June 26th

The M5 was the route for the second week in succession for us "Travelling Athletes". The journey was slightly shorter than last week's but the Sun thankfully lit the way and continued to shine unabated for the whole day. Whilst the days are now closing in there was ample light to return home in an evening's glow.

On arrival there was a touch of consternation as Gloucestershire PCs only had 15 men whilst not for the first time in living memory we had 17!! A clear and obvious solution was suggested by "Tour Manager" John Loynton, who in a fine display of magnanimity and selflessness offered to play for the Opposition. The hoots of derision on this being announced were in good humour and perhaps the call of "Judas" was a tad OTT! Secretly the rest of us assumed that he would subtly knobble his side of the 4 Ball and enable our President David Williamson and Past Captain Graham Pielow a close but guaranteed victory. Such are the ethics of John's Corinthian approach to golf that he got the Half and smiled smugly on his return to the pre prandial drinks.

The match was further enlivened by the return from France of John Butler, "Photographer to The Rich and Famous". Consequently the attached photographs and comments are his – how good it is to get locally sourced copies rather than go scrounging off opponents. The light was such that he had to use filters and a white background anti flash awning for many shots.

The Course was very walkable and well presented. The meandering brook which protected eleven of the Fairways was dry and looked a bit like a shot from "Springwatch" or a declared area of Special Conservation. The lakes were placid but still had water and "The Lady of the Lake's Hand" to pluck and receive errant shots. The Greens were in good condition but marginally slower than those in Warwickshire – perhaps the result of the Southern trade winds off the nearby Bristol Channel?? They posed questions for Captain JJ and his fine partner Bob Fletcher. Consequently this match was won with a memorable putt of "N" feet on the last Hole (it gets longer with each telling!) to the joy of the visitors and the angst of the Home side

The matches were played in a most convivial spirit and there were no horror stories to report. The result actually came down to the final 4 ball where the wily pairing of Mike Gregory and Alan Moore (The Shirley Super Stars) resulted in a win for them and the final Match score of 41/2 – 31/2, a worthy and welcomed win.

Dinner with wine featured Pork and the compulsory Apple Sauce and Scratchings (eaten only by the weak and off diet members!) There were plenty of vegetables to accompany a well prepared and served meal. The piece de resistance was the mixed fruit crumble and custard or cream or even both!

Post Dinner presentations by the respective captains were concise and as ever quite witty, but it appeared that we won this bit too!

As the photos show, there was fun and laughter from start to finish.

We departed as friends together and now look forward to the rematch next year on June 26th 2019 at Ladbrook Park GC – put it in your diary today.





