

CAPTAIN V PRESIDENT 2019

A day earlier would have been sunshine, a day later rain, so the mild, calm and largely cloudy conditions on Wednesday 23rd October were a perfect compromise for the twentieth holding of the team contest between Peter's team of ex-Captains and Terry's set of "Others".

Fuelled and fortified by the full English breakfast in the clubhouse five fourballs set off from 10.30, playing betterball Stableford. Several players commented on the excellent lush condition of the course, looking splendid after the recent rains and with the trees bordering the far side of the course starting to turn to their Autumn colours. All round by 3.40, fortunately the week before the clocks go back.

Numbers were up to 21 for convivial drinks and dinner, as Ivan had travelled down for the meal, and all were treated to roast beef – rare and tender – or one of the kitchen's renowned pies. Firstly, the twos were awarded their prizes: Ken, Peter and Tony being the recipients – Ken at the tough 2nd, Peter at the 11th cannoning off a rake in a bunker to within four feet, and Tony at 17 "going up a club" and almost holing out, leaving a tap-in (which he was made to take, of course).

The scores were gradually revealed at dinner in the breaks between courses. Mike H and Gordon gave Terry some hope with a meagre 29 for Peter's team but Mark and Martyn were one short of that. With Rick and Ken posting an excellent 39 heading David R and Dennis by three the interim advantage to the Captain was four points. Despite this Ken might have been a little disappointed as he had started as he had played on Captain's Day at Temple, with birdie 3, par, birdie 2.

After dessert the second table came close to settling the issue. Mike B and Brian totalled 37 to 32 from Bill and Ian, then Dave T and Paul had another good round with 38, six ahead of Anil and Martin. It only remained to see if Terry and Phil could claw back the full 15-point deficit from Peter and Tony despite those two twos. Inevitably not, but they did post the only positive result for the President's team with 42 against 37, winning a sleeve of balls each for the best score of the day. Final result Captain 180, President 170, duly presented with Terry having held the trophy again for his annual three minutes.

Sleeves of balls also went to NTP in 1 at the 7th Paul Staples, NTP in 2 at the 14th Mike Houghton and, an innovation, there was an NTP in 3 at the downhill par 5 9th. Despite many opportunities, including Gordon, Terry and Tony all off the green by inches, none of the twenty could achieve this. The closest was almost certainly Tony and, as he then holed the putt for a birdie, he was given the balls. Unique balls, these, as the Srixon Z-stars had been printed with "IBM Club BGS" and "Royal Winchester", commemorating a great day. There are some left for next year!

Val had been expected to play but selflessly offered to withdraw to let the rest of us play in fourballs rather than a mixed-up set of groupings, and a vote of thanks was expressed to her (though we did miss her company). The event was a day late for Malcolm who was due to have an operation, and clashed with travel arrangements for a few more, and best wishes were expressed for his quick recuperation. A shame not to see stalwarts such as Roy, Dave McC and Rona and Peter, all sending regrets.

As ever the players in this fixture thoroughly enjoyed a great event at a very fair price thanks to both the Club and the Treasurer. A welcome round-off to our evening was a phone call to the bar from Malcolm, back home and uncomfortable, but still keen as ever to know the result and feedback on the day. He hopes to play the Winter Warmer.

FULL RESULTS

Terry Wall & Phil Billin 42 v Peter Norris & Tony Ransley 37

Bill Quain & Ian Stoker 32 v Mike Bell & Brian Woodham 37

Mark Kenyon & Martyn Glastonbury 28 v Mike Houghton & Gordon Whickman 29

David Robertson & Dennis Ollington 36 v Rick Jones & Ken Crookes 39

Anil Shah & Martin Smith 32 v Dave Tulloch & Paul Staples 38

NTP 1 Paul Staples

NTP 2 Mike Houghton

NTP 3 Tony Ransley

TWOS

Ken Crookes, Peter Norris, Tony Ransley

CAPTAIN V PRESIDENT TROPHY

Captain Peter Norris 180; President Terry Wall 170