

FOUR COUNTIES

Twelve brave men set forth from Wiltshire on Thursday 23 June to do battle with competitors from Berkshire, Dorset and Somerset over the rolling parkland of Reading Golf Club.

The day always threatened thunderstorms but, although slightly damp at times in the very humid atmosphere, we all emerged dry at the end of our rounds.

Wiltshire was defending the trophy won last year at Upavon Golf Club and Captain John led the team off with a cracking drive down the first.

Alas, it was not to be. Although there was little wind to contend with, the course was playing much longer than usual due to lushness of the grass and the softness of the fairways after all the recent rain. As a result, the scoring overall was lower than usual for the Four Counties format.

Excuses, excuses, I hear you say. But a valiant effort was made with Wiltshire finishing only six points behind the winners, Dorset, who scored a total of 199pts from the five counting pairs of better ball stableford.

For those who have not played Reading G C, when you sit in the clubhouse overlooking the first and eighteenth fairways, it is deceptive as both holes look pretty straightforward – relatively wide and flat tree-lined fairways, and so indeed it continues for the first few holes. And, then it changes character with much more undulating holes, some doglegs and some blind teeshots. It does make you think and it is well worth a visit.

The Four Counties match is always played in a wonderful spirit between the players, many of whom know each other well from previous encounters and long may that camaraderie continue.

The day was rounded off by a lovely and appetising meal before everyone departed (many rushing to vote in the EU Referendum before the polls closed).

My thanks to all for representing Wiltshire, and we look forward to regaining the trophy in 2017 which will be hosted by Dorset.

Jim Murdoch
Match Secretary