

# Wiltshire Golf Captains v Berkshire Golf Captains

11<sup>th</sup> July 2017

The joys of playing golf at Salisbury and South Wilts in July! The golfing omens were good from the start, with perfect playing conditions for golf; well presented golf course, great weather!! In fact the weather was atrocious and in spite of Kevin Badcock, Salisbury and South Wilts Club Captain stating that our course benefitted by being a micro climate it rained all afternoon, starting pretty much at the time that the first group tee'd off at just before 1300hrs. It was also interesting that the match was played from the white tees which caused no end of positive and supportive discussion in most of the four balls.

Clearly both teams were up for the win, most players arrived early and were spending well at the bar well before lunch. All participated in a light lunch followed by the announcement of the pairings, eager for the first tee off which was slightly earlier than planned to try to beat the weather.

The weather no doubt played a significant part in the day's proceedings but Wiltshire were none the less able to record a 5 to 3 victory over Berkshire, helped in a small part to the last group out, Messer's Lloyd and Hawkins from Berks and Readon-Smith and Knight from Wilts who decided that calling it a day after nine holes was the best option for a ½ and in retrospect, perhaps they were right.

The Wilts Captain David Ruffett partnered by Kevin Badcock led from the front and managed to pull off a fantastic 5 & 4 victory against the Berks pairing of Captain Norman Marlow and David Westlake. The second four ball of John Gillon and Wally Bryson from WGC had a splendid match against Phil Hadfield and Bill Branagh from Berks and were lucky to end up with a half after being three down after three and thinking that they could be shaking hands on the 10th!! Ron East carried Phil Steele for a Wilts win of 3-2 over Berks Paul Masters and Kieth Lawson with Richard Boyland and Robin Szymura proving that WGC were not invincible as they were beaten by Roger Wing and Bob Ellis 2-1. Mike Partridge and Pete Dier continued the Berks winning streak with a comfortable 6-4 victory over Ron Hancock and Gordon Kenneth. At this stage the score was 4-3 to WGC with one match to complete, remember the last match nine hole capitulation. The home team of David Spaven and Trish King confirmed the WGC 5-3 win with a 1 up victory over Berks pairing of Maurice O'Brien and David Wylie, although it did go to the 18th.

Everyone was happy to shower and adjourn to the bar and when the last group had completed their ablutions we were called through for an excellent meal served by Sarah, Vicky and the rest of the 100 Acre team. The closing speeches post coffee were led by Wilshire Captain David Ruffett who then handed over to Norman Marlow who of course told an amazing joke. Norman then went on to give the result and present David with the match trophy.

A great, albeit wet day, was had by all.

Match Secretary

John Gillon