

OFGS V Aldeburgh Golf Club

Saturday, 19 September 2020

After a stunning, but gusty Autumn Meeting on the Friday, the troops were readied for part two of the weekend's golfing extravaganza.

The 36 holes the previous day had taken their toll on some of the team members and those who weeks ago had signed up for the match with such exuberance had clearly forgotten the effect it might have on a plus 70 year old body. When the rallying call was made it sadly was a case of cue the excuses! Those who fell by the wayside were given a reluctant pardon, but only if the reasons were either believable and/or colourful. Whichever way you looked at it, it was a clear dereliction of duty.

Thankfully, the cavalry arrived in the form of a man with a little black book. It contained the names of the victims of the greatest miss-selling since PPI. We shall simply call this extortion, golf lessons. With nowhere to turn for extra manpower, this was not a time to question the morals of this man - we simply needed more troops.

Professional golfer and doting father of future star, George, Neil "Jumbo" Jackson, found our saviours. Two local stand-in mercenaries came in the form of College Governor Bill Rimmer and Georgie Bingham (She of Talk and Sky Sports fame).

The OF's had endured a torrid time at the hands of the Aldeburgh team in recent years. That annoying combination of course knowledge and team management ensured that form would favour the home side. With attack minded pairings in our quest for victory, the OF's would have to be "on their game in a big way". The toppling of the Aldeburgh team would need a blend of strength, verve, guts and determination so the plotting team (comprising Messrs Brocks and Schneidau) would have to get to work.

It started off with a few pints of Adnams (as you do in Aldeburgh), French whites from Burgundy and the Languedoc, then onto the reds from Lebanon and Portugal. As the evening wore on, the formula for success had finally been signed off.

It was suddenly the morning of the main event. The OF equivalent of Generals Patton and Montgomery rose to shocking hangovers with dry mouths and thumping heads. Had the hard hours last night been worth it? Only time would tell; this was indeed our D-Day.

As with the previous day, the weather was fabulous with bright sunshine and a testing wind. After the misery of the lockdown in preceding months, it simply didn't matter. This was our first and, sadly, penultimate OF match of the year.

It got off to the best possible start with Suffolk's very own Obi-Wan Kenobi (AKA Clive Cooksey) partnering skipper James Brocks to a very satisfying 2 and 1 victory over Aldeburgh Captain Tim Slingo and Alan Biddlecombe.

It then got even better.

Robin Anderton and Hugh Curle beat Hugh Woolley and Paul Danielson by 2 holes.
Peter Howard-Dobson and Mike Schneidau beat Richard Pallister and Ian Henderson by 1 hole.

Roger Wharton and Kevin Hambling humbled Robin Rowell and John Dunthorne 4 and 3

Aldeburgh triumphed over the OF's in just the one match, Colin Taylor and Antony Dearden beating Bill Rimmer and Georgie Bingham 7 and 5.

This 4-1 victory represented our largest winning margin in all the years that this fixture has been played. It was a great effort from all golfers on both sides to cap off a superb weekend. A fantastic lunch with more beer following the match made the win all the sweeter!

A great thank you for another very memorable day is due to the team at Aldeburgh. The course remains a truly spectacular place to play. If only we didn't have to wait another year to do it all again!

James Brocks