

OFGS Autumn Meeting

Friday, 18 September 2020

With some trepidation, the annual Autumn Meeting at Aldeburgh Golf Club went ahead. Those 18 members who chose to join in were treated to the course at its magnificent best. This was a year though that would be a year like no other. The usual format would be abandoned in favour of (what we hope to be) a one-off event.

This was the Brocks vs Newton challenge.

Taking the “it’s the prestige and glory and not the winning that counts” approach, no expense **was** spared. The grand prize, as seen in the photo, would be for a princely outlay of £13.50 (including the engraving and VAT). This piece of utter tat was from renowned silversmiths, Timpson’s.

The morning would be a foursomes team match, very similar to the Ryder Cup. This one though, would have to be played to its completion on the 18th hole. There would be no “stuff this, let’s walk off at the 12 hole and go for a pint” lark. There would be no room for any past OF Presidents throwing a club and stomping off in a huff. Vital team points could be won and lost on every match.

We had a cloudless sky, but the gusty winds reminded us that this course, despite its beauty, could and would bite. And bite it did. It both chewed up and spat out the new Society Captain, James Brocks.

Custom dictates the first shot of the day is majestically stroked off the tee by the new skipper. The vision of the perfect 250 yard draw had been played out in the mind a thousand times. The shot was so badly executed that it struggled to pass the ladies’ tee. If it had been thrown underarm it would have travelled further. Even the ever empathetic Peter Howard- Dobson struggled to find the words of comfort for such rubbish!

Mike Schneidau had been told by a “bloke in the pub” that bunkers would provide extra immunity from COVID-19. To that end, he proceeded to visit virtually every one during the 18 holes of golf! He and playing partner Newton were downed by one hole by Brocks and a proper golfer, professional Neil Jackson.

Roger Wharton and well travelled playing partner, Connor O’Leary (making the journey down from St. Andrews), triumphed over James Blyth and Nick Gandy. The margin of three holes had put team Newton well in control.

Society members “oohed and ahned” at the magnificence of Guy Jenkinson’s socks. Being chocolate brown and sky blue numbers, could any OF ever look the part more than this? Even Sir Pat H-D himself would be looking down with envious approval. This was no 6ft 5 inch show-off just looking the part though. With sidekick Clive Cooksey, there was sublime control with the power. They duly put to the sword Messrs Anderton and Lee-Warder. The sluggers had downed the boxers by 4 holes.

Andrew Wright and Hugh Curle first toyed with, and then dismantled Peter Howard-Dobson and Kevin Hambling by 5 holes to bring the competition to a single stroke advantage to team Newton.

It would all go down to the final pairing of Chris Milner-Moore and Richard Sayer. These two veteran war-horses, sporting an assortment of new hips and knees fought to the very end. The skirmish was edged by Sayer by one hole, bringing the competitive part of the day to its end.

Team Newton triumphed by 2 holes.



A very agreeable lunch (with plenty of Adnams, wine and Kummell) was then enjoyed by all.

During lunch, the OFGS members raised a glass to the memory of Michael Spencer. He attended virtually every golfing fixture in the calendar and would have loved to have been here for this one. His passing during the spring had left an enormous void to fill.

The afternoon session was an opportunity to walk off lunch and savour the charms of Aldeburgh (which of course everyone did) with some casual golf, played in various formats.

A huge debt of gratitude goes to David Turnbull, our secretary. Without his excellent skills of negotiation and organisation the day would surely not have gone ahead.

The Aldeburgh Golf Club team, who put on such a great display, ensured there was only one result that really mattered: Golf 1 - Covid 0

James Brocks