



Old Fold Toffs v South Herts Vardens



HOME SWEET HOME

All we needed was our own turf under our feet. After starting the season with a defeat at Berkhamsted and then a draw at Welwyn Garden the more familiar surroundings of Old Fold brought us a 5-3 victory in the opening leg of our “Battle of Barnet” clash with South Herts Vardons.

To much relief the fixture was able to go ahead and trolleys were allowed after a weekend when the course was closed following persistent heavy rain

And how appropriate that on their return to our colours **John Baldwin and Dave Gigg**, both of whom answered the call when we found ourselves in danger of not being able to field a 16-strong line-up, came up with the match-winning point by a 3&2 margin.

A dry morning and even some pleasant sunshine saw plenty of fine performances, **Keith Embleton** finishing his round with a total of 45 Stableford points after he and **John Connell** had eased to a 6&5 success.

Donald Galbraith and Mark Garrod triumphed by the same margin, Mark making birdie twos at both the seventh and 10th and Donald proving his usual steady self and making good use of his 10 strokes. The match also witnessed Mark having a senior moment when he made his way to the 12th tee wondering where he had left his bag and clubs, having decided not to bother with a trolley. It was a good few seconds before he discovered that said bag and clubs were on his shoulder.

Our other victorious pair were captain **Richard Stell and Eugene Billeter**. Eugene birdied the long ninth, but there was more mention made after their two-up win about the fact that three of his shots rebounded onto the fairway after hitting trees.

There was still work to be done to secure overall victory, though, and both match organiser **Michael Tryphonides and Greg Kraushar** and then **Byron Davies and Jim McGregor** came from behind to share the honours. Byron and Jim stood two down with four to play, while Michael and Greg took the last hole to square matters up.

Vic Leversha and Roger Moore went down 4&3, while **Tony Blackhurst** knew he was up against it once partner **Richard Pacey** had to pull out after six holes because of dizziness caused by his recent cochlear implant and not any wild celebrations that followed his name coming out of the hat for a free year's subscription.

Our next game is the rearranged game at home to Harpenden on April 12.