

2015 County Matches

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8th September 2015 Kent Sharp Shooters end the seasons drought at Shooters Hill G.C. v Bucks 61/2 to 31/2.

Match report from Keith Davey (Chestfield).

The venue for our match against the Buckingham Captains was a delight to play, the course was in top condition although the greens were difficult to read, well that's my excuse any way. The wine at the table washed down an excellent meal so well presented by the caterers. The hospitality of the club Captain Mike Ash, the club professional and the Shooter Hill members who came to my rescue when I was down four players was a god send. My thanks to all that helped out at the last moment. The Buckingham Captains put up a brave fight but they were down to only 19 players so well done to them. We look forward to playing against them again next year.



Photo: Buckinghamshire Captain Doug Ebdon Presents Mike Odd with the winners trophy.

Extract from Shooters Hill G.C. (founded 1903) Website:

Shooters Hill as a place has a long history. The name 'Shooters' is derived from the time archers practised on the site hundreds of years before golf was played, and Shooters Hill provided excellent cover for Highwaymen. Thinking laterally, you could say that the golf course provides a modern day target and there are (it is said) quite a few 'Bandits' in the Club.

20th August 2015 Kent v Cambridgeshire at Barkway Park G.C.



Report from Match Manager Lynn Mercer (Lamberhurst): - "Twenty stalwart members of SKGC made their way to Barkway Park GC to take on their friends from the Cambridgeshire Past Captains Society. The weather was good, the company excellent, the clubhouse quaint. However SKGC's golf lacked a little in quality and the result was rather sad; we lost 9:1. Congratulations to Mike Odd who with Geoff Houghton halved as did match manager Lynn Mercer and partner David Hinton.

In his speech Captain Mike complimented the opposition but cheekily referred to our representatives as "a team of arm wrestlers"!

One consolation for our team was that one of the Cambridge players, Maurice Palmer, had a hole in one and treated everyone in the traditional manner. All in all the long drive there and back was more than offset by the hospitality of our opposition and we thank them for a very nice day both on and off the long & wide fairways of this Vivien Saunders designed golf course.

Photos Top to Btm.

Mike Odd hands the trophy to Cambs Captain Malcolm Roe.

Hole in one specialist, Maurice Palmer joins the dignitaries.

Match Managers, Lynn Mercer (Kent) & Geoff Link (Cambs)

16th April 2015 Match v Essex at Bearsted G.C. Saved by the tail as Kent fight back!

Summer conditions greeted us upon arrival as we received a warm welcome from this friendly Maidstone golf club and many of our team spilled onto the veranda to soak up the sun and ale before the match began.



(L) Match Manager Barry Plumb (Mid Kent) selects a strong tail to counter The early Essex onslaught!



(R) Captain Geoff Houghton greets his Essex counterpart Ackland Madge and welcomes him to Bearsted G.C.

Essex as always fielded a strong team lead by their captain Ackland Madge who luckily had brought two reserves since 2 of their selected team were unable to attend. Many were fooled by the weather, because the previous day had seen temperatures soar, that light clothing selected today was later regretted when the cloud and bitter wind embraced the course and did not depart it. Light sleet tried to dampen spirits but thankfully failed.

After 5 matches we were braced for a whitewash but once again we were found to have strength in numbers as our last five pairings evened up the day with some notable wins. Even the diminutive yet combative Jim Baynes & Cliff Hall (Eltham Warren) performed a giant killing against the formidable Doug Carrington and his Essex partner! We were actually unlucky not to win the day had the Essex match manager Peter Freeman not chipped in for a 2 to halve the 18th and a 1 up game win against our regular duo of David Blackman (Mid Kent) & Mike Odd (Barnehurst) who were 'smoking' on the back nine! As always, the after golf banter and very nice meal & service provided by Bearsted G.C. more than made up for the earlier weather!

Match v Hampshire 11th May 2015. Kent finish runners up as Hants cruise to an 8-2 victory.

Our team headed for South Hampshire and the Southwick Park Golf Club looking forward to a heat wave and did not see a drop of sun all day according to match manager Johnny Johnson (Sene Valley). Nevertheless we received a very warm welcome from Club Captain Tony Fitt who wished us an enjoyable day only to find that we were to be well beaten by 8 games to 2.

Things looked good early on with our Captain Geoff Houghton assisted by Lynn Mercer (Lamberhurst) achieving a 5 & 4 win but only one other Kent pair, John Wilkinson (Sidcup) with partner Dave Wright (Dartford) managed to emulate their success over this nice parkland course. As we usually say at such times, 'it's not the winning but taking part' that matters but as always renewing old friendships and acquaintances coupled with good food and a modest tippie make for an enjoyable day.

It has always been tradition that we lunched 'jacket & tie' when playing this fixture but today became the first time that this was not stipulated and thus we now have all our county match fixtures observing 'jacket & tie' at dinner only.

We thank Hants Captain Robert Gray, his match manager Tony Hoskins and all their team for a very nice time. It should also be noted that our side had to call on 4 last minute replacements and our thanks go to Dave Wright (Dartford) Mike Whitehead (Bearsted) William Albery (Paversham) along with Reg Taylor (West Kent) for turning out at short notice.



Hants Captain Robert Gray greets Kents Geoff Houghton (above)

Club Captain Tony Fitt joins the two County Captains (below)



Tuesday 11th August 2015.

This year's **Queen's Jubilee Trophy Team** put up a sterling effort in defence of our title playing at **Wychwood GC – Oxfordshire**. An excellent team performance which so nearly lifted the Trophy for the second year running but alas we lost by two points to this year's winner **Bedfordshire**.

We amassed a total of 210 points (best 6 scores from 8) which in year's gone past would have given us victory but our score was pipped by **Bedfordshire** who had a great score of 212 points.

This is only the second time **Bedfordshire** has won the Trophy in the 39 years the competition has been running and our congratulations go to them for a fine victory.



Photo (L to R) Peter Gregory (**Lamberhurst**) Gary Snell (**St. Augustine's**) Brad Smith (**Sittingbourne**) Tony Negal (**Sundridge Pk**) Richard Lamb (**Bearsted**) John Grant (**Wrotham Heath**) John Budd (**Mid-Kent**) - Paul Roberts (**Woodlands Manor**)

14th August 2015. **The Ladies Team Strike again.**

For the second year running the **Society of Lady Captains of Kent Golf Clubs** Team look home the salver having beaten the Kent Captains men's team by 22 points. (Ladies scored 414 pts against the men's score of 392pts)

Our annual match against the **Society of Lady Captains of Kent Golf Clubs** took place at our headquarters West Kent GC. A delightful day with good company was well organised by Ian Dunlop who has faultlessly run this event since its inauguration in 2000.

This is a mixed 'American Greensomes' competition with partners drawn and then drawn again to see which team you are selected for. The best 12 scores for each team are added together to find the winners.

Our Captain 'Mike Odd' presented the Salver to the Ladies Captain Valerie Harrison and congratulated her team on their win, somewhat through gritted teeth!!!!



Captain Mike Odd with London Captain David Wild

Club Captain Umesh Sharma joins the two County Captains.



Honours Even at London, 29th May 2015.

Our match was played at **Datchet G.C.** in Berkshire and while it is 'only a Lob Wedge from the centre of Datchet village' it proved difficult for our team to arrive there due to an accident on the M25. Luckily we and London Captains made the appointed tee times!

Despite the dire weather forecasts we only had one shower whilst we were playing - 'what a relief!' Reported match manager David Alldread (**Sundridge Park**). The result was a repeat of last year, a draw, (5-5). So Kent retained the trophy.

This historic golf club, the oldest in Berkshire, treated us really well (including complimentary half way house) and all players appeared to have had an enjoyable day on a very well presented course. We were possibly not treated as well as a previous visitor as described in the clubs excellent and notable 'History' tab on their website testifies.

An extract follows: -

King Edward VII when he was Prince of Wales. His Royal Highness, who was somewhat portly and suffered from shortness of breath, used two caddies. One carried his clubs and the other, George Stevens, carried the chair on which His Royal Highness sat between shots while he got his breath back.

Incidentally, Queen Victoria's grandson Prince Albert played in club competitions and inter club matches when a member prior to WW1. He also took the chair at the AGM and sat on the committee.

After a very enjoyable day, the return car journey proved a lot less fraught!

9th July 2015 Surrey win at West Kent 4 – 6.



(L) County Captains (Ian Snell of Surrey) flank County Presidents (Keith Hunter of Surrey).



(C) Ian Snell delivers the victors speech.



(R) Surreys match manager Kris Dolinski warmly greets his opposing match manager David Skinner (WestKent)

Report from Match manager David Skinner (West Kent): - Wall to wall sunshine and blue skies greeted us at a West Kent course in great condition which all seemed to benefit the Surrey team who were obviously intent on seeing that our win last year in Surrey was reversed on our home turf. However good food and company resulted in a special occasion that ensured a wonderful day was enjoyed by all.

27th August 2015, Sussex at Bognor Regis G.C. Sussex 6 Kent 4.



Report from Match Manager, Gary Snell (St. Augustines): -

Firstly Kent got off to a tremendous start by getting all 20 players at the venue! A special thanks to Michael Whitehead (Bearsted) for taking time off work to grace us with his presence. Unfortunately we did not get off to such a good start on the golf course with our Captain and President being soundly beaten by a formidable pairing of course expert and the BRGC Captain, Simon Watts along with the Sussex Captain, David Wilkins. The rest of the matches were all very close and the final result was a victory to Sussex by 6-4. (my bankers just failed to get the required points to take us to victory, you know who you are!)

Thankfully the weather turned out really nice after a fair bit of rain on the journey into Sussex. Speaking to everyone on the day the comments on the catering the service and the exceptional condition of a very good golf course were very favourable indeed. Our thanks to everyone involved from Sussex for providing a first class day and we are sure that Kent will reciprocate when Sussex visit us at Ashford next year. This was my first game as a match manager and I really enjoyed it, my thanks to my team for their efforts on the day and the comments given to me afterwards, apart that is from Skippy who continued to criticise me all day.



A most enjoyable day was had by all and Kent members may be interested to read the following extract from the Bognor Regis G.C. (founded 1892) Website: -

"The onset of WWII and a difficult period in the club's History. Just 12 holes were open for play to reduce labour costs and generate some income, much of the membership, green staff and employees having enlisted to military service, luckily however, sensitive to the situation the local rules were amended to include: -

"In competitions, during gunfire, or while bombs are falling players may take cover without penalty for causing undue delay, though a player whose stroke is affected by the simultaneous explosion of a bomb or shell, or by machine-gun fire, may play another ball from the same position with a one stroke penalty"

Photos: Top L. Sussex Captain & BRGC Captain join our President & Captain.

Btm L. Manager G. Snell & Secretary with Rod England & Mike Davis (Sussex)

Btm R. W.Albery & Skippy join Peter Snook and David Sinden (Sussex)



