

# 2018 BLGS versus ESC Grand Match

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June



## Matches

ESC		BLGS	
Dave Borthwick & Ray Stevenson	All square	Drew Mackenzie and Mark Hallam	All square
Ross McHoul & Colin Dick		Backer McKenzie and Mattie McKenzie	5&3
Scott Thomson & Simon Boughton	All square	Ian Spence and Garth Hewison	All square
Fraser Macdonald & Andrew Chapman	One up	Chris Paterson-Brown and Michael D Fairweather	
Gareth Brown & Andrew Forrest		Ken Paterson-Brown and Alastair Allanach	One up
Steve Sproule + a.n.other		Des and Ali Creasey	5&3

## Result: BLGS 4 - ESC 2

### Match Reports

Reporting courtesy of the Golf Digest-ive and Hello Edinburgh reporters.

#### Match 1

Match 2 paired ESC stalwarts Dave 'Paperboy' Borthwick and Ray Stevenson against Drew Mackenzie and BLGC ringer Mark Hallam. The first tee proved challenging for Drew with a drive that may have struggled to reach the ladies tee if such a thing had existed at BGC. This started a pattern of disappointment from the home team which culminated in the duo standing on the 8th tee four down. Ray at this stage was as metronomic as the clicking of his hip during his backswing.

Things took a more positive turn for BLGC at this point with Drew's driver head parting company with its shaft thereby robbing the ESC team of one of their most potent weapons. The BLGC duo ground out a turnaround over the next few holes to bring them firmly back into contention by the 14th. The pattern of club destruction continued at this point with the head of Mark's 9 iron travelling further than his ball, leading to ESC opening up a gap that they felt should see them home. However BLGC dug in again and the game went down the last all square. The door looked ajar for Drew and Mark as they approached the green in good shape but a 70 foot putt from the fairway stone dead from Ray left the game petering out in a hard fought draw. Shot of the day was perhaps any of Dave's drives, however never was the line "drive for show...." more clearly apt than on this occasion.

#### Match 2

Scratch golfer Colin and squash ace Ross took on the Father & Son dapper duo, Backer & Mattie.

For the first two hours, Colin could be heard muttering 'I'm level par and we're 2 down"! Ross, although erratic and emotional, played some heroic golf shots, including a text book chip onto the 8th hole, and sinking the 20 foot putt.

But, it was Colin's gargantuan drive at the 17th that even Dustin Johnson would have been proud of. Backer estimated it was 385 yards (*that's about the distance from the Granary Bar to the Padel courts - Editor*)

Mattie, the other big hitter and party animal, duelled with Colin for longest drives, but it was Mattie's eagle on the 15th which was his shot of the day (Colin was hugely impressed), leaving Backer and Mattie the 5 and 3 for winners for BLGS.

#### Match 3

The utmost friendliness and courtesy was exercised during the tie, with neither team seeming to mind too much whether holes were won and lost as it see-sawed about constantly....until the last hole (the 9th in this instance), when Captain Garth, a proper golfer, realising that Ian had a stroke, took command and ordered me what to do. I of course obeyed, playing each shot accordingly, resulting in us not losing. A tied match seemed entirely appropriate for this happy group. (*The organising committee is planning to investigate this curiously happy conduct – editor*)

#### Match 4

*Fraser MacDonald wrote this in true Dashiell Hammett style; pithy, trenchant, terse, and first-person.*

0900 hours: destiny: Mark Chapman (Chappers) and I (Fraser) were very nervous/hungover at the prospect of playing against the two biggest hitters in the room: Chris PB and Micky Fairweather (*what about Mattie? – editor*). Breakfast rumours were rife; Michael was increasing his handicap from 7 to 12 for the occasion, and on hearing this Chappers almost choked on his bacon roll...

Sports Club had a great start however, one up after one quickly turned into one down after two as the big hitting duo began to warm up, both hitting monster drives and solid irons to take the lead.

Chappers hit some impressive looking duck snap boomerang shank hooks off the tee, all of which he blamed on his strenuous 72 hole charity golf event which took place five days previously. However the dynamic Brunters duo failed to take advantage and by hole the Sports Club team were just one down with three to play, but feeling positive at the thought of a post-match pint.

Remarkably Chappers got ESC back to even-stevens by the 18th tee with some excellent iron play. Unfortunately CPB and Mike hit nervy tee shots which enabled us to get closer to the pin with our second shots. I was left with a 20ft birdie putt to win the hole and match after 2 pars from the Bruntsfield duo. Against the odds I managed to hole the only putt of my round in excess of two feet, and won us the match. A very passionate/awkward celebratory ESC embrace ended what was a great battle against the Bruntsfield Giants.

*Chris P-B additionally wrote 'After a very tight affair and Michael and myself 1up through 16 holes, Chappers walked off 9 with a nett Birdie to bring the match to all square walking down the last (we started on the 11<sup>th</sup>). With Michael and myself in the hole with pars, Fraser stepped up and drained a 20 foot downhill putt which broke twice to win the match with a birdie. There were jubilant scenes from our opponents, reminiscent of the 1999 Ryder Cup (Brookline) antics when the USA WAGS ran all over the green, with cheering which could be heard all over the course.*

## **Match 5**

Alastair A, acting as a replacement for Ken P-B's usual surly, unresponsive, false-handicap challenging partner, provided Ken with a useful foil. Ken offered fulsome praise for the organiser (who was apparently three over after 12), and reflectively observed that the day was really due to a combination of fabulous weather, decent beef carvery, a few special golf shots and the correct post-match celebratory combination of Pimms and Bucks Fizz delivered via the LAAGD Trophy. Bruntsfield Links did us proud, with fast running greens, receptive new water hazards, and the post-match celebration was enhanced with an assortment of sought after prizes. It should be pointed out that the Bruntsfield duo only prevailed on the 18<sup>th</sup>, Ken P-B (winning the long drive competition) then knocking his second shot stiff to snuff out the potential comeback kids.

## **Match 6**

Before we started, and on paper, the match was leaning towards Sports Club (even with Vicky missing). Steve is known to be a bit of a legend on the course (read as 'bandit') and after the first tee shots it was clear the game was going to be tough.... for Des.

With Steve and Ali gracefully driving down the centre of every fairway, Des insisted on an agricultural approach, preferring the long rough/trees/sand/OOB/neighbouring fairways/etc. (he hit 3 trees in his first 3 shots at the second). However, due to some great golf from Ali, BLGS found themselves 5 up after 7. With Steve leaving a half-dozen putts an inch from the hole this lead remained for a few more holes. Then, out of the blue, Steve rallied, no longer were putts missing – it was like Vicky was channelling her inner putting-self to him; ESC dragged it back to a lead of only 3 with 6 to go; the 'what if you lost it from here' scenario was discussed at length by Steve (sporting gent that he is).

Everyone went into a bunker on the short 14<sup>th</sup> and Des (remember him, he was also in this group) managed to get down in 2 and put BLGS dormie 4... Then, it all got a bit too much for Steve, and ESC fell on the 15<sup>th</sup>, with BLGS taking the match 5 and 3. Finally, for the record, all of us missed the new water feature on the 16<sup>th</sup>, but also the green.....

*It was reported that Steve was constantly checking his iPhone for the Sky News report of the progress of the Ladies Final at Ratho – which of course Vicky WON (Editor)*

## **Prizes**

1. Nearest the pin on the new 16<sup>th</sup> – Mattie McKenzie (Raymond actually won but didn't stay for lunch so forfeited the prize - Rule 17b)
2. Longest drive on the fairway (the 18<sup>th</sup>) – Ken Paterson-Brown (wise old fox, length isn't everything)
3. Most balls in the pond – Mark Chapman
4. Worst shot – Simon Boughton (second year running)
5. Long drive competition – wasn't held but would have been awarded to Colin Dick, taking over the gorilla award from Mattie and Chris P-B.
6. Best/worst dressed player (Charlie Robertson trophy) Backer McKenzie – best dressed, and sported the prize (a cap) for the rest of the day
7. Most surprised winners – not awarded individually, but the BLGS team will graciously accept this prize
8. Best lady player – Ali Creasey
9. LAAGD Trophy donated and maintained by Des Creasey – accepted by Ken P-B on behalf of BLGS winning team

Charlie Robertson sent his best wishes for the tournament, regretting that he was unable to defend his Givenchy-Balmain sponsored 'best/worst dressed golfer' award.

Thanks to Backer for prizes, and Des for donating, engraving and polishing the Trophy