

Bruntsfield versus Edinburgh Sports Club, 29th September 2019

Match result: Bruntsfield (BLGS) 4, ESC 0

The first 2019 fixture having been cancelled, Ross McHoul mustered his ESC troops, and gave them a good talking to about their recent failures in these fixtures. Deaf ears were fallen upon however, and despite several complaints about handicaps, and a variety of self-inflicted injuries, the home team prevailed yet again. Trophy sponsor Des suggested that he could save money by having the trophy pre-engraved for the next few years, but that scurrilous suggestion was rejected by the match committee. Many thanks to rookie Trevor Mitchell for stepping in at short notice.



Andrew Forrest, Mattie McKenzie, Dave Borthwick and Backer McKenzie



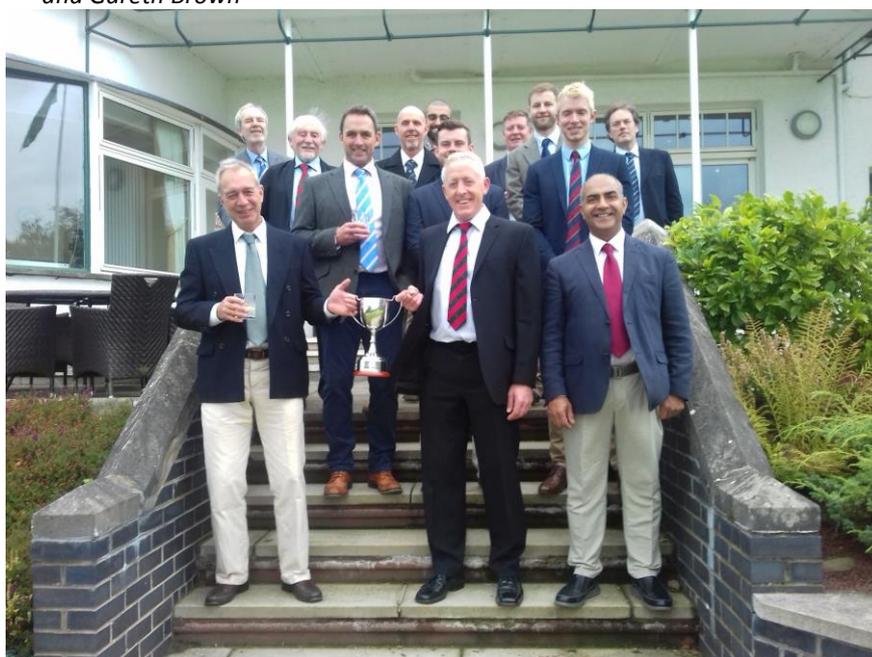
Des Creasey, Ross McHoul, Fraser MacDonald and Ian Spence



Many Alan Murray, Garth Hewison, Colin Stirrat and Gareth Brown



Rookie Trevor Mitchell and Charlie Robertson



Thirteen of the competitors parade for the team photo

Match Results

BLGS		ESC
Backer and Mattie McKenzie	BLGS 5 up	Andrew Forrest and Dave Borthwick
Ian Spence and Des Creasey	BLGS 1 up	Fraser MacDonald and Ross McHoul
Alan Murray and Garth Hewison	BLGS 6 & 5	Colin Stirrat and Gareth Brown
Charlie Robertson	BLGS 3 & 1	Trevor Mitchell
Match Result: BLGS 4 ESC 0		

Match reports

Backer and Mattie versus Andrew and Dave

ESC's Andrew Forest and Dave Borthwick took on the BGLS Father & Son duo, the McKenzies. Dave consistently hit his £20 driver 250 yards, but was no match for Mattie, who was hitting over 300 yards.

But, with great distance comes great scatter, so longer is not always better, said Andrew and Backer who were shorter, but more accurate. (This sounds very like the punchline from the 'There was a young lady from Kew...' limerick ...said Backer and Andy who were shorter but handy... Ed)

Dave, who had been up on periodical retailing duties since 2am, arrived narrowly on time, and played remarkably well. Andrew, who claimed he had only played a few games this year, also showed great composure, and at one point his swing was likened to Colin Montgomerie's!

But, Backer and Mattie, bounced nicely off each other, lead most of the way, and finished 5up.

Alan Murray & Garth Hewison versus Colin Stirrat & Gareth Brown

A mouth-watering prospect on paper, Gareth duly spanked a blistering opener beyond the bunkers at the first and found the dance floor in two, albeit in 3-putt range. With Colin and Alan struggling to point their ball in the right direction after several blows, Garth came through with a solid par that just edged out young Gareth, who, to be fair, had a monster initial putt from the back of a slow green. One up to the good guys. Alan's par 4 at the second was enough to make it 2 and Gareth holed a nervy 3 footer for a half at the third. A par wasn't good enough for the old guys at the 4th with Colin unloading a monster 3rd to the front of the green and two-putting for a solid par, net birdie.

An up and down par from Garth at the par 3 fifth was a cruel way to take the old guys back to 2 up, and they went 3 up after 6. Into the wind, 7 was no easy scoring hole but all 4 players hit the green with Gareth leaving his putt for a 2 in the jaws. The old guys won the 8th to make it 4 up and - with a stroke at the 9th for the youngsters - the match was still 4 at the turn.

Another spirit crushing up and down from the wily South African at the 10th meant that both he and his partner boarded the 11th tee 5up and the pressure mounted on the youngsters further when Alan stiffed his approach to 4 feet at 11. Six up and the calorifically challenged lady was starting to go through the scales... But wait! With a booming drive and second at the 12th - a par net birdie could not be beaten, not even with Garth stiffing a full-swing lob wedge from the edge of the green that barely missed his left nostril on the way up. Pegged back to 5 up, the match headed down the 13th where young master Stirrat put his ball right down the middle... of the 12th fairway. In the end, Murray & Hewison's only dropped shot of the match was enough to finally get the coffin lid down on the 13th green.

Unsatisfied with victory alone, Garth stiffed his 7 iron at the 16th and to all intents and purposes the "nearest the pin" prize was his. Or at least it was until Charley Robertson went inside him by 6 inches... Never mind the quality, Garth certainly felt the width. With young Gareth sending a 270 yard drive into the wind down 17, Murray & Hewison were greatly looking forward to seeing him unload a howitzer downwind at 18... and we were not disappointed. Gareth - resplendent in matching trousers and club head - took his backswing and down the club came... to gouge a 45 degree divot before going under the ball and moving it 4 inches off the tee. A friendly match overall, played in good spirit.

Ian Spence and Des Creasey versus Ross McHoul and Fraser MacDonald

The teams in this match consisted of two of Scotland's finest young athletes for ESC against a young fellow in the prime of life and one geriatric golfer for BLGS. The ESC players consistently drove their balls around 250 -300 yards

off the tee, which was not so clever on the short holes, with the exception of the new 10th hole at which their concern was that even a sand wedge would overshoot the green. Bruntsfield's younger player also struck his drives impressively, keeping in touch with the young lions. The geriatric's performance would have put one in mind of the tale of the hare and the tortoise. The general pattern of the match was one of the Bruntsfield pairing consistently and occasionally forlornly, attempting to stay within sight of the opposition. That was surprisingly, until the sacrificial underdogs clawed their way back in the last few holes. Against all the principles of natural justice and some application of the dark arts gained through many years of sporting endeavour, the geriatric holed a lucky 12 foot putt on the eighteenth green to steal the match for BLS.

Charlie Robertson versus Trevor Mitchell

So the final group was a singles match between rookie but vastly experienced Trevor Mitchell, and Charlie R - the sartorially inelegant omni-shambles. A quick check of the handicap revealed that the aforementioned shambles would be receiving 2 shots - not nearly enough was the early thought. A generous concession on the impossibly difficult first hole generated a half - and then the fun began.... Trevor covered the first few holes in a little over par to go 2 up after 4. A pitch to within a few inches at the 5th pulled one back and a miracle bunker shot at the 6th saved handing it straight back. You needed to be there to appreciate the skill level produced at the 8th - vastly experienced was in a greenside bunker in 2 - while inelegant had decided that the best way to play the hole was by going long and right and was parked in the trees - also in 2. Vastly experienced executed a bunker shot with all of the skill of a man with stone hands wearing iron gloves and knifed his shot into the top off the trees at the back of the green - the bounce was unusually kind for a ball that was possibly leaving the earth's orbit and it settled 4 feet from the hole. Such good fortune is not normally taken well by 'cursed with Tourettes' but pausing between innovative and new profanities a chip shot somehow managed to be played which hit the flag and dropped dead beside the hole - needless to say the tree whisperer sank his putt for a half. A long putt on the 9th saw the match tied at the half way stage - a wonderfully high standard of golf from vastly experienced was matched by some extraordinary recovery shots from inelegant (5 one putts on the front 9). Could the high standard continue? Well obviously not - inelegant's form collapsed on 10 and 11 - the first double bogeys of the day - to quickly go 2 down - and then it happened - inelegant for a brief moment of time discovered he could play golf while vastly experienced's form dipped slightly. A shot within a few feet at the nearest the pin 16th set up the winning birdie putt (and took a prize away from Mr Consistent Garth - just had to mention that) - a 3 in 1 win which only a few holes earlier looked far from likely. A great standard of golf and just a hugely enjoyable match to play in - so thanks to Trevor for stepping in to play at short notice and hopefully see you at the next one.

Prize Winners

(Thanks to Backer and the Dave Borthwick for the prizes)

Nearest the pin at the 16th – Garth (in lieu of Charlie R – only one prize per player)

Natty dresser (Charlie Robertson Trophy) – Charlie Robertson

Best shot – Mattie McKenzie for a humungous drive

Worst shot – Gareth Brown for his four inch tee shot on the 18th (did it pass the Ladies tee?)

Longest Drive at the 18th – Dave Borthwick

Trophy winners – BLS



On the balcony