

BLGS versus ESC 30th September 2018

Match result: BLGS 3, ESC 1

A second match was held in 2018, possibly to give ESC a further opportunity to recover the Trophy they hadn't won in quite a while. The outcome demonstrates that didn't happen, but a good day was experienced by everyone, and the pitch and putt nature of parts of the venue simply meant that the games finished more quickly than on a conventional layout, allowing the participants to applaud the European Ryder Cup triumph. Many thanks to rookies Alec Davies, Alan Murray and Adrian Richmond for participating.



Rookie Alan Murray, Captain Simon, Ken P-B and the organiser



Ian Spence, Backer McKenzie, Michael DF and Alastair Macintosh



Captain Ken receives the trophy from Simon



The organiser, Dave and Des looking serious in b/w



The fifteen competitors parade for the team photo

Match Results

BLGS

Charlie Robertson All Square
Ken Paterson-Brown/Alastair Allanach All Square
Ian and Alastair Macintosh BLGS 3 & 2
Des and Ali Creasey BLGS 2 Up

ESC

Fraser MacDonald / Adrian Richmond
Simon Boughton/Alan Murray
Backer McKenzie and Michael Fairweather
Alec Davis and Dave Borthwick

Match Result: BLGS 3 ESC 1

Match reports

Charlie Robertson versus Fraser MacDonald/Adrian Richmond - Match All Square

It didn't start well for the BLGS pairing it has to be said, with Garth Hewison calling off at the last minute due to work commitments. On the first tee I asked how do you want to play this? Two against one was the cheery reply – but in the end Adrian and Fraser agreed that we did not need to take into account the handicaps (well that saved me a grand total of 3 shots – not generous but turned out to be important).

Silky smooth swing belonging to “I hardly ever get to play” rookie Adrian started with a birdie at the 8th (our first hole) – could have been a par – we had no idea if we were playing a par 3 or 4 given the set-up of the course. Errant youth Fraser – ‘topped one’ and then went way long with his second. The Shambles that is Charlie R (renamed following his managing to shed the ‘Tramp’ sobriquet) went long right and could not recover. ESC one up. A scrambling par save by the Shambles on the second rescued a half with BLGS both on the green in one failing to convert their advantage.

Then the pattern of the match became established. Errant youth Fraser started to find his game with drives of a prodigious distance splitting the fairway- he wasn't living up to his name! Silky smooth generally lived up to his name – but the ESC pair struggled sometimes around the greens and with their putting. The Shambles was also not living up to his name because he was delivering a remarkably consistent round – the opposition knew it was only a matter of time before the dark mutterings and profanities would start as his game collapsed. BUT a strange thing happened – it didn't, and I managed a halved game against my young opponents

Ken Paterson Brown/Alastair Allanach versus Captain Simon Boughton and Alan Murray - Match All Square

The organiser thought it wise to renew his pairing with the old-crusty, having faced some stern looks and sage advice during the June match, and in the end it proved a good partnership, securing a half against the wiles and skill of deputising Captain Simon Boughton, and Dunbar ingénue and debutante ESC player Alan Murray. Negotiating one's way around the Bruntsfield building site come pitch and putt course came naturally to the organiser, and late winning pars at the short 14th and 16th holes helped stave off what looked like a drubbing. An agreed half on the seriously diminished 18th concluded what had been a well-mannered contest.

Ian and Alastair Macintosh versus Backer McKenzie and Michael Rutherford – Ian and Alastair won 3&2

Ian subsequently confessed that he had experienced one of these rare golfing days when everything went right, then, on being asked to deliver a report produced his usual highly complementary report on everyone except himself.

Backer's calm and friendly demeanour was such that Alistair and I, from time to time, lost the awareness that we were playing a match. His golf was also steady. In retrospect, we assume this was a well-considered tactic and we are relieved that it was unsuccessful.

Michael struck the ball inordinately far, like a proper golfer, but there again, he has quite a low handicap. Fortunately for ourselves, the burdensome duties of parenthood with a young family, ensured that the direction of many of his shots lacked the accuracy of those he played as a single man....Phew!
Appointed as captain of our team, Alastair provided the necessary inspiration, if not the competitive golf in the early stages of the match. Latterly however, in the tradition of “cometh the hour, cometh the man”, he won some critical holes, including the winning one.

Des and Ali versus Alec Davis and Dave Borthwick – Des and Ali won 2 up

A game that looked to be completely one sided managed to go all the way. Early drama on the 2nd came from none of the players, but rather an irate BLSG member who took it extremely personally when Des nearly drove into his back pocket (what ever happened to the old 'good drive, sir' behaviour?). This itself is hard to believe if anyone had seen Des drive on the 1st (topped it 30 yards – luckily there are no ladies tees....), but in his defence they had played their 2nd shots and were near the green!! For the record he thinned his second shot into the trees and took a 7....

So, the game. Alec was wayward on just about every hole, and yet still managed to keep it competitive. Dave was more consistent; driving impressively but putting like a blind man. We got bored of counting the number of putts that 'almost went in' – as Alison said "if that hole had **** on it, you'd not have missed...."

The player of the match was definitely Alison. Driving down the middle every time, short game was ok, and the handling of her putter was fantastic!! Des, much to her annoyance, kept giving puts to the opposition to the point where it was dormie on the 18th.... Hard to believe as BLSG were 5 up at the 12th..... On the 18th she birdied anyway, and BLSG took it by two – hoorah! *(Many thanks to rookie Alec Davies – editor)*

Prize Winners

Nearest the pin at the 7th – Dave Borthwick

Natty dresser prize sponsored by 'Shambles' Robertson – Alastair Mackintosh

Best shot/most improved player – Ian Tiger Spence

Worst shot – Simon Boughton

Best dressed lady – Ali Creasey

Trophy winners – BLSG

(Thanks to Backer and the organiser for the prizes)