

2017 ESC versus BLGS golf challenge

Sunday 3rd September, at Bruntsfield



Result: ESC 4 – BLGS 2

Match Report

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

Edinburgh Sports Club dramatically won (we can't say regained because this is their first time they've ever prevailed) the 'Ladies always allowed trophy' from the depleted Bruntsfield side. In the absence of the Creasey twins, last seen heading for their Arran/Seychelles hideaway, muttering excuses involving builders, dogs and pressure (in any order you like), the young Turks, supported by their usual dodgy handicaps, surprised the aged and less energetic Bruntsfield side.

The top match, between Charlie and Garth for Bruntsfield, against Ross and David started badly. "After waiting on the tee for their opponents (Coutts and Ross) to turn up - only 15 minutes late - the handicaps were hastily agreed" (this according to Charlie). Yes I am sure the combination of Garth and the sartorially inelegant (Charlie R) should have paid more attention. However, it was difficult to keep in shouting distance of the ESC pairing as a few moments later both were 300 yards down the middle of a fairway. A chip onto the green from Ross and two putts plus a claimed shot meant the locals were 1 down to a net birdie. Parity was restored at the next, a par 3, when Ross delivered a 3 putt from nowhere and only David actually knew where he was on that hole. And that was the pattern of the match - comfortably out driven on most holes by the ESC pairing, Bruntsfield were usually playing catch up. The tramp spent most of his time wandering off to the far right after his tee shot fighting the latest outburst of Tourette's while cyborg Garth was his meticulous self. One up, level, one down - there was nothing much in it until the last few holes when putting deserted the Bruntsfield pairing. In this display of shot making brilliance it was good to learn that Couttsy was nursing a big one after attending a wedding while Ross, "I never play golf" was surprised to be playing with left handed clubs for a change. Ouch - wasn't that humiliating. But you know what - at the end of the day it came down to few putts, which is as it should be. The sun was out, the golf was outstanding and it was good to catch up with friends.

The second match, between Michael D F and ESC loan player Gordon against Simon and Fraser was a close affair, some good dovetailing from the latter pairing placing the BLGS duo 3 down after 9 holes, and after a half at the 10th Simon was obviously still not feeling safe and thought this was the time to play his joker, which was to produce four cans of nicely chilled Gordons and tonic. That got them to 4 up with 5 to play but with some talk of what a good story it would be if they won it from there, BLGS fought back to being only 1 down going up 18. Sadly, a regulation par from Fraser was enough to win the hole and the match.

Ken P-B reported that the third match resulted in a thoroughly well-deserved victory by Jack and Gareth for ESC. They were (apparently) both great company and more than generous with giving the elderly their putts. He quipped "Jack and Gareth hit the ball further than I go on holiday and are a joy to watch". Gareth had an eagle on the 540 yard Par 5 4th hole, and Jack, we would never guess you were a 28 handicap and our tennis pro! Hopefully the "Old Folks Home" will let us out again for next year's match (*not if you congratulate your opponents that way Ken*).

The fourth match featured father and son in opposite teams by request. Son Mattie Mckenzie reduced Bruntsfield to a pitch and putt course, taking the gorilla mantle from holidaymaker Chris P-B, who will have problems regaining his mantle should Mattie be selected in future. Heard on course, Khaled to Backer “how does that old git (presumably referring to the match secretary) keep hitting the fairways with his drives”? BLGS prevailed largely due to Mattie refraining from having any sleep overnight, a practice which clearly doesn't affect his performance.

Lovat reported that the match between barflies Borthwick and Harley, and the Brownlee twins was enjoyable and uneventful. At one point the Brownlees (Lovat requested the father & son pairing) were 3 up, but the barflies were not finished and mounted an impressive comeback to reel BLGS back in to one up. However, Tom driving the green at the 8th put them back in their box. In terms of our performance a perfect blend of experience, tactical know how and youthful power did the business ! (so what did you do Lovat?)

Mugged: the enforced absence of the Creasey twins required a hasty graft from the BLGS committee in the form of Nick Lanzl. Nick apparently started out giving the Sproule twins (Vicky and Steve) all sorts of good advice in the first three holes, but finding himself three down on the fourth tee changed his strategy thereafter according to Stevie. Quoted Nick “I feel a bit like a male black widow spider...”

Matches

ESC		BLGS	
Ross McHoul and David Coutts	3/2	Charlie Robertson and Garth Hewson	
Simon Boughton and Fraser Macdonald	2up	Michael Fairweather and Gordon Fruish	
Jack Hardie and Gareth Brown	3/1	Ken Paterson-Brown and Roddy McDonald	
Backer Mckenzie and Khaled Mohamed		Mattie McKenzie and Alastair Allanach	4/2
David Borthwick and Roy Harley		Lovat Brownlee and Tom Brownlee	3/2
Steve Sproule and Vicky Sproule	4/3	Nick Lanzl (BLGS committee member)	

At the post dinner presentation, match Secretary Alastair thanked all participants, but especially late replacement BLGS Committee member Nick Lanzl for the home side.

BLGS generously donated a fourball, which was won by Ross McHoul and David Coutts for being the most surprised winners.

ESC also generously donated a Padel Court session, complete with coaching, and this was won by Tom Brownlee.

Worst dressed player award went to Charlie Robertson, to his evident chagrin... (note the ‘tramp’ reference in his match report).

Nearest the pin on the 12th hole was won by Dave Borthwick.

Worst shot of the day went to Simon Boughton, who, on being reminded of the particular shot, said “I had a much worse one than that, but nobody saw it”.

Vicky Sproule won a bottle of wine for being the best dressed lady.

Several awards were sponsored by Backer Mackenzie

ESC Captain for the day Ken Paterson Brown presented the trophy to ESC Captain Ross McHoul, exchanging short and reasonably congratulatory / consolatory speeches.

Thirteen of the original twenty three then retired to the posh lounge and could still be seen there around 6.30pm, maintaining the match tradition of not wasting valuable drinking time.