

Bruntsfield Links Golfing Society versus Edinburgh Sports Club, 27th September 2021

After an obligatory one-year moratorium, the match of the year re-commenced. Twenty players contested a fiercely fought contest on the links at Bruntsfield, then an even fiercer contest on the club patio and elsewhere.

BLGS			ESC
Des and Ali Creasey	2 Up		Steve and Vicky Sproule
Alan Murray and Ray Stevenson		AS	Ross McHoul and Scott Thomson
Ken Paterson Brown and Alastair McIntosh		AS	Colin Stirrat and Simon Boughton
Chris Paterson Brown and Alastair Allanach	6&5		Backer and Mattie McKenzie
John Bain and Charles Robertson		3&2	Adrian Richmond and Fraser MacDonald
	3		2

Prizes

Nearest the pin at the 16th	Stevie Sproule
Longest drive at the 18th	Ali deChambeau Creasey
Best team performance	Ross and Scott – twice 3 down, and dormie, yet halved
Worst shot	Des Creasey – one yard drive at the 2nd
The most surprised winners	Alastair and Chris P-B
Least sporting event(s)	1) Fraser – driving through the fourball in front at the 10 th because they were too slow 2) Ken P-B - for suggesting that Ali's longest drive was because the lady's tee was 100 yards forward
Best dressed Ladies	Vicky and Ali
The Dedication award	Alan Murray (Mr Practice balls)
Haute Couture Award	Charlie Robertson
Prix d'Escargot	Ken P-B and Simon B on behalf the third fourball
New course designer	Mattie for plotting a route at least one fairway to the right on many holes
The lonely mutt medal	Adrian Richmond
The David Bailey award	Backer McKenzie
Winners (LAAGD) Trophy	BLGS (received by team captain John Bain from team captain Ross)



Team photo (minus Fraser)



The Mrs and Mistresses



Match 5



Match 4



Match 3



David Bailey admirers



The winning Captain



David Bailey and Ali deChambeau



Diners at large



Charlie with his beanie

Match Reports

Match 1

Des and Ali versus the Sproule Sisters. Sadly, no match report has been extracted from any of the participants. Stevie does have a habit of winning so perhaps he is simply piqued at the new experience, and apparently the other two are still recovering from the après-golf. Hopefully something will turn up in due course...

Match 2

Alan Murray reports

The match of McHoul & Thomson vs Stevenson & Murray was potentially as mouth-watering a prospect as the evening of hard-core drinking that none of us knew lay ahead. Despite some initial moaning from Stevenson about wanting to play off the red tees, this match was moved back to the whites to create the necessary Ryder Cup feel, and Stevenson got us under way with a low-flighted driller down the middle. A solid half at the first before Murray & Stevenson went one up at the second. Despite having played golf for many years, there was much confusion over the handicapping; this was eventually sorted out by the 6th fairway where Murray & Stevenson were one up. This delay was largely down to McHoul and Thomson claiming an inordinate number of strokes, citing not having played more than 4 rounds a year as a supporting reason. Needless to say Stevenson was having none of it and we settled on 8 strokes for the opposition and 13 for the ex-number one Scottish squash player. McHoul generated ball speeds approaching deChambeau levels and on occasion, we had to wait nearly a full minute for the ball to re-enter the Earth's atmosphere. Occasionally on a different fairway. Thomson's address position was a thing of pure beauty whilst Stevenson kept up with the no-leg-action low-flight drillers. The turn was reached with Murray & Stevenson 3 up and coasting. Despite claiming to hear the calorifically-challenged lady going through her scales, any distant opera singing was soon quietened, when Thomson and McHoul battled back to level after the 12th, where young master McHoul's par was quite the thing to behold. The match was on a knife edge down the 13th, with Murray & Stevenson struggling after Thomson hit two corkers to within yards of the green. However, after a third that Stevie Wonder could have played better, Thomson was in for 6. When Murray holed a 20-footer for a 5, as they say on the football terraces - "it all went quiet over there". After a 3 on the short 14th, followed by a win on 15, Murray & Stevenson were back to 3 up, this time door mouse and the opera singer's distance voice could be heard once more. However, getting the coffin lid down on the young pretenders was ultimately to prove no easy task. After Thomson and McHoul getting a ridiculous stroke at 16, it was back to two and when Murray 3-putted for a 5 at 17, it was back to one. Player attention at 18 was diverted to the long drive competition, just as the wind picked up - and none of us duly found the fairway, thus paving the way for Ali deChambeau to win her inaugural long drive contest, which she later said she'd taken from Cramond Road South, with a 3-wood, just to give us all a chance. With Murray and Stevenson making bogeys at the last, young Master McHoul followed up his cracking approach with an easy 2-putts for the win and to halve the match. This was a great battle conducted with the quality banter that you'd expect from Raymond - "Hmmm hmmm hmmm. F*** me Alan, your hair's gone white, whatever you do, don't get a sun tan". "Thanks Raymond, I'm looking forward to seeing your Simon Cowell bleached gnashers next year!"

...and this is how his opponent **Ross** saw the action...

ESC's Scotty Thomson & Ross McHoul took on BLGS Alan Murray and, adopted member for the day, Ray Stevenson.

The ESC pair knew they were up against it with Alans's consistency around the course and Ray's mind games- not quite sure they had ever heard of a golfer being tired from golf after the first tee shot!

After perfect tee shots from Scott & Ross on the first, they were both very surprised but, as expected, it was downhill from there! They found themselves 3 down by the 6th hole after Rays mind games were in full swing by now- "I'm really tired now" as he holed a putt to win the hole. With some uncharacteristic errors from the BLGS pairing, the ESC boys romped back to level the match and were suddenly having thoughts about winning the match.

Unfortunately, this turned out to be delusions of grandeur and after a couple of excellent approach shots & chips, the BLGS pair found themselves dormie 3. The BLGS pair were just too consistent and whilst not hitting the ball as far as the ESC pair, they always hit it in the right direction and onto the correct fairways! Against all the odds Scott & Ross, managing to dovetail spectacularly, sealed an unlikely half with a par at the last after both tee shots had failed to find the fairway.

Colin said... Particularly enjoyed listening to Ross whinge for over two minutes to ensure fairness...before losing. Made it all the more special.

Match 3

Ken Paterson-Brown (our own Peter Alliss)

A match that goes down to the final putt is always great fun. Well done Alastair McIntosh for holing out under extreme pressure and gaining us a halved match. Colin and Simon, a formidable team typified by both hitting 300 yard drives on the 8th as Alastair said they hit the ball further than he goes on holiday! I suspect that once Simon gets into Bruntsfield (next few months) we may need to recruit him onto our team. Looking forward to a rematch next year. Many thanks to Alastair for organising the day and the weather. Sun shines on the righteous and the rest of us. I love the thought that Charlie spent £200 in the Pro Shop and got the haute couture award. He looked a pretty picture in his BLS 'Beanie' in what has now become his annual prize. I've already started on the weights for longest drive next year so Ali Dechambeau gets some competition. PS – I've just advised the organiser that my Dad played golf with Peter Alliss.

Simon's view of the contest...

The psychology started at the first with Ken putting the visitors in to tee off. I wish I could have showed the home team the way, but having told Colin that driving was the strongest part of my game I stood up confidently before topping the ball about 30 yards! Thankfully beyond the ladies' tee as my fellow golfers reminded me of the penalty... Fortunately my partner is a decent golfer and dug us out of a hole with a great second shot leaving us odds on for the hole, but a standard 4 putts and some solid putting from our opponents saw us share the honours. This set the scene for the match, which was a tight encounter throughout. I don't think either side went more than 1 up at any point. The nearest we got to bettering this was on the 17th to finish 2&1, but Ken (nerves of steel) Paterson-Brown sunk a 300-footer to stay the match going into the last. None of us hit the ball remotely as far as Ali on the 18th, but once on the green Alastair used his wand to sink what to any mere mortal would have been an impossible putt to finish all square. Great day great company.

Match 4

Backer said...

The McKenzie father & son team (Backer & Mattie of ESC) were drawn against the power & wisdom of Chris P-B and Alastair Allanach, representing Bruntsfield. Awesome 300+ yard drives were unleashed by both Chris & Mattie, with Chris landing more on the fairway. Arborist Allanach was never near his beloved trees, and always on the centre of the fairways. Backer the Hacker lived up to his name, certainly on the first 9 holes, and settled into a better tempo on the back 9, but unfortunately, he and Mattie ran out of holes. Chris & Alastair won the match on the 12th hole. It was an excellent pairing, and a thoroughly enjoyable experience. Chris was phone-in-pocket anxiously awaiting news of his second impending child. The good news was that Isabella was born on Friday 8th October, weighing in at 8lbs 11oz. Congratulations to Lindsay and Chris.

Match 5

Fraser saw it this way...

Last match to tee off, ushered to go first by my team mate, the anticipation and nerves was just too much for me as I topped my drive 12 yards off the tee. Not a great start. Made worse by Charlie booming one 300 yards straight as an arrow. "Play much Charlie?" I asked: "Yeah I do actually, out every day now that I'm retired" Charlie confidently said, striding down off the tee (almost stepping on my pitiful drive). Adrian and I glanced at each other nervously. This could be a one sided affair. However, we managed hold our own for the first few holes and even managed to win a few on the front 9. You could tell Charlie was getting a bit frustrated about the amount of strokes he was giving up. That's what you get for playing everyday! I managed to hit one of the worst/most dangerous shots of the day (awarded with a lovely prize) on the par 3 10th, a major thin of a sand wedge saw the ball travelling low and at meteor pace straight for the group in front (which included the organiser), and millimetres away from hitting poor Backer who was not taking my previous FORE shouts seriously. Close call and thankfully our professional

photographer came away unharmed but looking rather shocked. Nonetheless, fantastic ESC team strategy on the back 9 meant that they dovetailed their way to a comfortable win in the scheme of things.

John remarkably finished with a sublime run of 4 or 5 pars, he was completely aghast when told it was only an 18 hole event. He was clearly just getting warmed up by the end of the 4-hour round. By this point Adrian, who had told his playing partners at least 15 times that he had a 'pass' from the wife and was leaving the car overnight, was desperate to get to the bar and get stuck into some of the fantastic BLS refreshments. Great match played in good spirit. And John has vowed to do a proper warm up for next year's event.

Epilogue

The organiser thought it prudent to thank the club, given the rowdy nature of the post-prandials...

On behalf of all of the participants in the above match, I would like to thank Rachelle and all her staff for what many described as "an impeccable level of courtesy, service and attentiveness" from the delivery of pre-match bacon rolls through the excellent lunch and refreshments. The visitors also all commented on the conditioning, playability and appearance of the golf course. Many thanks for allowing us to renew this golf fixture.

To which the reply...

Thanks for this note. It is very kind of you to take the time to write. I've cc'd Rachelle by way of sending your kind words onto her.