

MATCH REPORT
South Kyme Rabbits 2.0 v 5.0 Gedney Hill Rabbits
16th June 2018 (Away)

On arrival we were offered plentiful coffees and then started the day with an enjoyable Full English Breakfast.

The day started a bit dull and windy but then the sun came out and we had a lovely sunny day.

Group 1: Myself (21) and Mark Williamson (27) played Captain Mo Parling (22) and Greg Walsh (22), and for once I had to give everyone shots!

During the week, whilst making the final arrangements for the match with Mo, he informed me that he wanted revenge for Bill and I beating him at home and that him and Greg were unbeaten as partners in match play! Bad move Mo, I thrive on a challenge, game on!

They took an early lead on the first hole and Mark retaliated with a 4/3 win on the 2nd to immediately bring it back to A/S. I then parred the 3rd to halve the hole and they parred the 4th to go one up again. Mark and I then unleashed wins on the next 4 holes with me parring the 5th, Mark parring and me birdying the 6th, again I parred the 7th and Mark net parring the 8th, I then halved the 9th with a par to make it 3 up for us at the turn.

A little bit of complacency took over on the 10th and 11th when Gedney parred both holes leaving us 1 up! Mark and I both parred the 12th to take up back to 2 up. I then halved the 13th and Mark halved the 14th and then the 15th loomed (where's Ian Pears when you need him) 650 yards' home advantage took the hole with a net par followed by a par on the 16th which brought it back to A/S!

On the 17th Mark played a blinder with a net par to bring us back to 1 up with 1 to go. So to the 18th, after Mark lost his ball I was left with a 150-yard iron shot to the green and sent it 5 yards past the pin, meanwhile Mo was 6 feet from the pin in 2 and 2 putted it for a par, my 3rd shot left me a 4-5 feet putt to halve the hole and win the match, no pressure then! Mo blocked the hole with his foot and Greg said the gentlemanly thing would be to concede the hole for a halved match. Yeah right or words to that effect... off. Miraculously I sunk the putt to whoops from Mark and I.

It was a very close fought game and had it not been for the fact that Mark and I both played well we would not have won by 1 up.

Group 2: Josh Martin (8) and Elvis Costello (20) played Barry Stanford (18) and Tom Penning (22).

A great battle between two groups of players playing well however understanding of the course told in the end.

Elvis and Josh barely put a foot wrong only to find themselves 3 down. They did get it back to 1 down, but lost 3 on the bounce on the back 9, and then on the 15th tee found themselves 4 down.

It was on the 15th that their solid tee game deserted them. Elvis, after hitting Out of Bounds decided to go even further Out of Bounds by hooking one over the car park! No idea where it ended up (I thought you said you were on holiday tomorrow Elvis). Josh then pushed one right into the trees where they thought they would find it easily, but alas they never found the ball. Since Tom and Barry were in play they did the honourable thing and decided to concede the match for a 5 and 4 loss.

Despite the result they had a great match with Tom and Barry and in Josh's words were great lads to lose to!! This was always going to be a tall order with Josh having to give so many shots away. Well played guys.

Group 3: Bill Campbell (16) and John Pearce (18) played Postman Andy Brereton (15) and Dave Sayer (27).

Bill and John lost the first 3 holes to 2 birdies and a par with both Andy and Dave both taking turns to turn the screw until they got their game going with a par, but then only managed to half the hole! Then apparently John got his leg over a tree and the enjoyment sent his next shot straight into the hole (Bill's words Carole not mine)! Billy complained that if his balls or putts would only have dropped then more birdies would have gone their way (too much information)!

So they had to bide their time and chip away at the Gedney pair, John chipped in again for a birdie and Billy missed birdies again, ensuring par but halving the holes. Then he came good until the bad putting hit again on the 17th and he could only par the hole and he wouldn't talk about the last hole!!

Between the 4 of them there was only one single bogie to either win or half a hole and John and Bill tried hard and each having had good spells but found themselves eventual losers by 2 down.

Bill thanked me after the game for inviting him to take part in the South Holland Mexican Open where even his handicap was seriously questioned by El Andy and El Dave of the Bandit Capital of the County.

Group 4: Nino Vacca (24) and Tom Siswick (20) played Neil Sargeant (22) and Pete Orbine (21).

Whilst I have not had a match report from Nino and Tom, knowing the way Neil Sargeant plays especially on his home course so to speak, for Nino and Tom to come in A/S with only 4 additional shots for Nino, that was an excellent result so well done guys.

Group 5: Our newest Rabbit Joe Robinson Davidson (19) and Kimberley Williamson (23) played with Steve Coe (13) and Dave (Bandit) Roberts (27).

I forewarned Joe of the ability (and handicaps) of our opponents and told him no pressure just enjoy yourselves!

After going 1 down after the first hole, Kim then won the next 2 holes, followed by Joe halving the 4th and 5th to keep them 1 up. Kim then parred the 6th to take them 2 up.

After this the Gedney pairing decided they better wake up and won the next 3 holes in succession. Leaving us 1 down. Joe then won the 10th to bring it back to A/S.

Again the Gedney pair retaliated by winning the 11th and 12th holes and Joe then won the 13th and halved the 14th and 15th, Gedney then won the 16th which meant it was Dormy 2 for Gedney and guess what... some brilliant golf from Kimberley who won both the 17th and 18th. Fantastic A/S result you two, what a spirited match they both played and what a debut for Joe R-D.

Oh and by the way Kim your entry into the RAF needs to be put on hold, lol.

Group 6: Andy Murton (26) and Neil Jenkinson (14) played Adrian Bishop (21) and Ralph Rogosa (28 - Yea Right!).

Again I have not had a match report from Andy and Neil, but firstly I would like to thank Neil who despite having had surgery the day before still came and played for us, very much appreciated.

The Gedney pairing between them had 19 shots compared to Andy's 11 with Neil giving all the shots away. Despite that they put up a significant fight to keep the loss to 2 down so they had clearly held the Gedney team for most of the match, well done guys.

Group 7: Vice-Captain Dave Burrows (18) and Paul Simmonds (13) played Chris Blakey (17) and Chris Hills (25) and as with Neil before I would like to thank Paul Simmonds for playing for us at short notice, again it is much appreciated. The similarities with the previous group was that Gedney had 15 shots to Dave's 5, so this was always going to be very tough.

Chris B won the first with a Par, which was a sign of things to come.

A Bogey by Paul on the second looked good until Chris H found his ball under a hedge, dropped out, hit it on the green and sank the putt to equal Paul's 5 as unfortunately for SK Chris had a shot.....

With the exception of the 4th which Dave won, and the 8th which Paul won, the remaining holes played (up to hole 13), were won or halved by Gedney with 2 Bogeys, 6 birdies or net birdies and the remainder Pars'. Even Paul's Birdie on the 7th was Halved by Chris H; and that wasn't a shot hole!

Unfortunately, SK Rabbits were not out played, they were out handicapped and which resulted in a 6 and 5 loss for out pairing.

Summary

We always knew this was going to be a difficult challenge for the Rabbits and has been for every other club going there, so well done all a good team effort and especially to Mark, Nino, Tom, Joe and Kim for given us some win/halves.

This is another course where it will be interesting to see what the Course Sloping Index grades it as, and how our handicap adjustments are affected.

The results aside, we all had a lot of banter and laughs on and off the course and mostly enjoyed our rounds (despite a lot of the results). A big thanks to our South Kyme Team and to Gedney's Captain Mo Parling and his team for their hospitality (breakfast & coffees) and company (sorry for breaking your unbeaten run Mo! Mark says no we're not!) and to Vice Captain Dave Burrows for all his help and support on the day.

I also took along some of our rescheduled Rabbits AM AM Forms for Saturday 22nd September and Gedney are hoping to bring along up to 4 Teams for our event as they have nothing on.

Many Thanks

Andy

Andy Davis
Rabbits Captain