

MATCH REPORT

South Kyme Rabbits 4.0 v 2.0 Kirton Holme Rabbits

Saturday 1st September 2018 (Home)

It is always a pleasure to entertain and play the Kirton Team and we always enjoy the banter with them. As usual, prior to the match we were treated to a wonderful breakfast by Janet and her staff and going out the weather was very kind to us and we had a glorious sunny if not windy day to play.

Group 1: Myself (21) and Nick Milburn (18) played Captain Dave Mason (19) and Terry Slade (22).

Nick and I started guns blazing by winning the 1st, 3rd and 5th holes and halving 3 holes to leave us 3 up after 6 holes! Then we teed off on the 7th and were both cursed from miss hit shots and that allowed Dave and Terry an opening they both took well winning 5 holes between the 7th and 11th to go 2 up.

After cursing and swearing we both gave our 'heads a shake' and I parred the 12th and Nick parred the 13th and 14th to halve the 3 holes respectively. Our breakthrough came on the 15th when our opponents conceded the hole to Nick who would most probably birdied the hole. This left us 1 down and after halving the 16th we both net parred the 17th to ring us back to A/S!

So to the 18th and we were poised on the green with myself on for 3 and Nick and Terry on for 4. My putt went past the hole and left me with a lengthy shot to sink the putt for the hole and the match! I could feel Nick daring me to miss it and lucky for me I didn't! SKGC win 1 up.

Overall Nick and I won 3 holes each, Dave and Terry won 5 between them and we halved the remaining 7 holes so a very close match overall and a riveting finish.

Many thanks to Dave and Terry for a superb game and especially to my partner Nick who was playing with a dodgy knee albeit with his state of the art 'knee support'.

Group 2: Eric Woods (26) and Paul Dudman (30) played Vic Smith (16) and (14).

Although I didn't get a match report from Eric or Paul, it was a milestone birthday for Paul on Saturday and we all hope he had a good day and enjoyed his celebrations thereafter.

Back to their match, given they were playing against handicaps of 14 and 16 respectively and this was only Paul's 2nd match play event I believe they both did incredibly well to contain this match to a 1 – 0 loss. Well done you two on a very closely fought match.

Group 3: Bill Campbell (16) and Mark Harbin (23) played Simon Kelshaw (20) and Keith Shepherd (31).

The 1st started off with little incident as all four of them maintained some friendly if not erratic golf from tee to pin to and to half. Once settled in to the rhythm both Bill and Mark started the momentous climb from level to 3 up by the end of the 5th seeing a glorious chip over the bunker from Bill straight into the hole on the 4th! Pancho Villa Campbell was in the ascendancy.

However, their demise was in the making as they unfortunately bantered with glee to Ian Pears about how well they were doing when suddenly the flood gates opened as Bill and Mark were soon swept away to lose a 3-0 lead to level after 8 holes (sounds familiar guys). In good Watford FC fashion Bill managed to secure the 9th to end 1 up at the halfway house.

Going into the 10th, our brief respite was clearly not going to continue as we all struggled to maintain any kind of form (halfway house syndrome). Our friendly golf on the 1st tee transgressed to the 12th where all bar Keith from Kirton managed to drive out of bounds, some several times. 13 to 16 saw a final resurgence from Kyme establishing a 3-0 lead with some good golf to boot.

With 3&2 secured after 16, we were all able to finally breathe a sigh of relief as this had been a game of errors, interspersed with some good golf and great company throughout. A hard fought win but won in true bandit style. Well played guys.

Group 4: Alan Cowie (20) and Jeff Wright (22) played Paddy Kearns (15) and Dave Beeson (19).

Alan and Jeff were playing two very good players especially Paddy Kearns who I am surprised is not playing below 15!

Despite the opposition Alan and Jeff clearly had a very closely fought match and ended up winning by 1 up. Very well done guys.

Group 5: Ian Piers (15) and Andy Murton (24) played Karl Louth (16) and Mark Forman (23).

Quickly going 2 up, following a flurry of pars and birdies Ian and Andy were both looking strong. Unfortunately, they started both playing badly on the same holes and lost a couple of holes before bringing it back to 1 up at the turn. There were some great putts from Andy and some fighting halves from Ian to make sure we were still in the match but we were definitely making hard work of it.

The back 9 didn't start too well with both of them, yet again, playing badly on the 10th, but then they brought it back on the 11th and 12th after Mark and Kyle went out of bounds. Ian then had a great drive on 13th but couldn't capitalise to make a win before the Kirton pair turned the screw and managed to win the next 3 to pull it back and go one up.

This finally made it clinch putts for both Andy and Ian on the 17th to half the hole and take it down the 18th but unfortunately it wasn't to be and SKGC Rabbits ended up losing 2&1.

It was a great match fought in good spirits which was tight all the way along with some great banter and shots from all players. Well played guys and unlucky.

Group 6: In Dave's words 'the tail end Charlies' grouping was Vice-Captain Dave Burrows (18) and Josef Kirschner (24) playing Colin Graves (19) and Alan Sharman (19).

There were not many shots in this match with DB giving 1 to each of the opposition and 5 to JK (doesn't he usually have a tall furry hat?); old people may have to look that one up, yes I have Dave lol.

Great start for S.K. with a DB par to win the hole; SK+1. Par's from JK and AS halved the second then a great approach shot from CG saw a par win the hole; match AS. Not to be beaten JK's 5 nett 4 par on the 4th saw SK back to +1. Db and CG shared 5's on 5, before a JK par on 6 saw S.K. +2 and gathering pace. Poor drives for all on 7 resulted in a S.K. win with DB scraping a 6 after being in the trees on the left and hitting the conifers at the side of the 8th with his 2nd; S.K. +3.

A great second shot and an equally good putt from JK for par put S.K. +4 after 8. D.B hit a big drive into wind and a PW to make the green in two; however..... he lost the hole and a 'nailed on' win as he could only manage a 6 (4 putts!!!!!! Welcome to my world Dave!).

Refuelled by cake, the 10th was halved with 5's before JK hit a great par on 11 to put S.K. back to +4.

The 12th was halved with 4's after DB and JK both went left and into the conifers; JK hit a great recovery shot from the 'bomb hole over the bank on the left, leaving the opposition in disbelief at a recovery shot

from a buried lie which we were lucky to find. DB parred the 13th but was giving shots to everyone and halved the hole with AS.

DB and AS parred 14 to give S.K. a dormy 4 lead. JK's 7 nett 6 was enough to win the hole and the match on the 15th and everyone shook hands 5&3 win to S.K. Although immaterial S.K went on to win the remaining holes and DB and JK finished 18 with par's to completely frustrate the opposition.

There was plenty of good humoured banter in this match and someone could have made quite a lot of money if there was aa swear box! Well done you two what a result and believe me Colin Graves and Alan Sharman are no pushovers.

In Summary

First of all, this was SKGC Rabbits very first match in which both sides fielded a male player with over 28 handicaps (30 and 31) and it is encouraging that our opponents are beginning to accept the new CONGU handicaps. We will continue to work on the remainder of the teams we play to allow the new handicap system to be used to allow the higher handicap Rabbits players an opportunity to play in Match Play and gain the confidence to do so.

Well done to SKGC Rabbits on a good win of 4 and 2 with some very close matches and narrow wins (3 of the matches were won by 1 up). Vice-Captain Dave Burrows did it again winning the highest winning pairs with Josef Kirschner, well done guys. At this rate next year's Vice-Captain Mark Williamson will be presenting half the prizes to his Captain lol.

As always we all had a lot of banter with the Kirton Team, at breakfast, throughout our rounds and in the bar after the match.

We had a number of positive comments about the condition of the course and the greens, so as always well done to the Greens Staff.

A big thanks to the Janet and the bar staff for a lovely breakfast and to Carole for setting up the Halfway House.

Last but not least thanks to Vice Captain Dave Burrows for all his help and support during the day.

Many Thanks

Andy

Andy Davis

Rabbits Captain