

MATCH REPORT

South Kyme Rabbits 1.0 v 6.0 Louth Rabbits

Saturday 11th August 2018 (Away)

Having not played at Louth last year due to the match being cancelled it was a pleasure to play there once more albeit a somewhat changed 1st and 2nd Holes due to the recent housing development.

Thanks to our host and next Year's Rabbits Captain Ian Johnson we were able to take 14 players, and for the first time Louth fielded 4 Ladies in their team. At a time when we thought we might lose this fixture, the future now looks good and I think our next Year's Rabbits Captain Dave Burrows can be confident with this fixture in the calendar next year.

We were all treated to a lovely Full English Breakfast with lashings of coffee and tea and the banter (and trading of insults, me and Ian) started at this point and continued throughout the day.

Group 1: Myself (21) and Bill Campbell (16) played Acting Captain Ian Johnson (19) and Louth Club Captain Elect Eddie Dunkin (23).

It was very difficult to concentrate on the game at times, due to the constant laughter and trading of insults (friendly) throughout the entire round! At one-point Billy Campbell had turned the tables on them and Eddie and Ian were having a pop at each other! I have never laughed so much in a round.

Laughter aside, throughout the majority of the round we were fairly well balanced either side going 1 up and back to all square and it was only in the back 9 that Ian and Eddie began to pull away and ended up 3 and 1 winners.

Notable points were the amount of trees we all hit simultaneously, I held the record with 3 trees followed by a reverse shot behind my original shot! A birdie on one of the Par 3's for Eddie and Ian played like he did at SK well below his handicap.

Thanks to Bill the result would have been a lot higher, we ribbed at Ian throughout the match due to him playing off 19 since joining Louth from Laceby in April and to date he has not played in a single qualifier, Billy called him every Mexican name he could think of.

Group 2: Mark Williamson (25) and Yvonne Prior (29) played Husband and wife team Chris Barnes and Maureen Barnes.

Apparently by some sort of miracle Mark and Yvonne scrambled a half on the first with a nett 6 from Yvonne, they also benefitted from a 3 putt from Maureen here. A nett 5 from both our players took the lead on the second hole and this was maintained with steady holes on three four and five.

A win for Chris on the sixth took it back to all square and a half from Yvonne on seven and Mark on eight kept us there. I am informed that Yvonne's drive on the 8th took off very low, only went about 20 yards or so and launched straight into a molehill! The group then renamed the path nearby as 'Yvonne's Folly'

A Par from Mark on nine put us back to one up at the turn and nett Birdie from Mark on 10 had us two up. Another nett par from Mark on the twelfth had our duo three up. Unfortunately, the rigours of the back nine and the hills then started to take their toll and despite playing well the home pair won the next 5 holes for us to finish 2 down. A thoroughly enjoyable round with a generous and friendly couple on a tough course where local knowledge is very beneficial.

A great effort you two, well done.

Group 3: Alan Cowie (20) and Lorna Campbell (33) played Husband and Wife team Steve Atkinson and Julie Atkinson.

Despite their best efforts Steve and Julie ran out eventual winners by 5 and 4 making best use of local knowledge and despite Lorna like a lot of others having not played at Louth before, well tried both of you.

Group 4: Graeme Campbell (20) and Joan Cowie (28) played Husband and Wife team Keith West (17) and Linda West (16).

The afternoon started well for the SKGC pair, with Joan winning the first and second holes to take us 2 up going into the third. The dogleg left 3rd was a bit of a challenge with Joan losing her pink ball in the trees to the left. Ordinarily you wouldn't think that would be a problem, pink ball green background-no problem, but could we find it, could we heck. Joan played a fantastic second ball from the tee and dropped her next just off the green, both players were back in it, but the course knowledge of the Louth pair ensured a half.

The SKGC pair halved the 4th, but Louth came back to win the 5th, to take us back to 1 up. More great play by Joan on the 6th allowed us to win that hole, SKGC 2 up again. The Louth pairing were down but they certainly weren't out, again local course knowledge prevailed and they proceeded to win the next three holes taking SKGC to 1 down at the turn.

A win by Graeme on the 10th took us back to AS going into the 11th. Again the Louth pair rallied and took the next three holes to go 3 up by the 13th. The SKGC pair managed to halve 14 and 15 but were running out of holes when the Louth pair took the 16th to win the match.

Keith and Linda were formidable opponents, but their relaxed, informative and friendly attitude throughout made the game very enjoyable despite the loss. Well done you two a great effort.

Group 5: Ian Prior (12) and Jeff Wright (22) played Mike Rudyard (21) and Peter Oatway (25).

Ian had to give them 12 and 8 shots respectively, but on yesterday's performance he felt Peter should not have been anything more than 18 and a similar comment would apply to Mike. Despite a strong battle, we lost by 1 hole.

Group 6: Nick Milburn (18) and Nino Vacca (25) played Ian Muchall and Glen (Bandit) Wray (27).

Apparently Nick and Nino had a very good round and despite Nino coming in with a score of -8, they were still beaten by Ian and Glen by 2 up, the latter who has been playing off 27 since the year dot!!

I asked Glen in the bar afterwards to confirm that he had scored 11 Pars in his round despite playing off 27, to which he replied tongue in cheek 'No I only scored 9 Pars!!!'

Group 7: The final match of the afternoon saw Vice-Captain Dave Burrows (18) and Andy Murton (24) playing George Webster and Eileen Ballard.

Terrible Tee shots saw Andy and Dave, right and left of the fairway, although Dave's shot was so bad he hit the tree at 45 degrees to the Tee and ended up on the 2nd Fairway, with both the Louth pair down the middle. First hole was halved on 5's by DB and George.

Hole 2 was halved by AM with a 6 net 5 equalled by George. DB par on 3 won the hole for SK +1. None of the 4 played the 4th well and a 6 from George was the best of the scores, back to A/S. DB Par on 5 and AM par on 6 saw SK +2 and this remained the case with shared holes on 7, 8 & 9 until the turn.

Eileen's par (net birdie) on 10 won the hole, back to +1. 11 was a lucky half for SK. Although AM and Eileen's handicaps were the same a balancing shot on the 12th loomed. Both DB and AM were in the trees again and did not recover on their second shots; Dave was 10 yards

deeper and in 4ft of nettles after 2, dropping for 3 and playing 4 before hitting another tree!! George's 6 won the hole, back to A/S.

Still A/S after 13 with both DB and George paring the hole. AM par net birdie won the hole on the 14th and DB had a Par on the 15th to win both holes; SK +2. AM, DB and George hit bogies on 16 to remain +2 with 2 to play. A half on 17 secured the match with a 2 & 1 win to SK.

Absolutely brilliant round you two and well deserved winners of the Highest (only) Winning Pairs Kitty, and you saved us from a total drubbing!

In Summary

Playing the return match at Louth was very enjoyable, having not played there since 2016. Despite it being a very challenging course with a lot of blind tees everyone enjoyed the day immensely.

The result aside, we all had a lot of banter and laughs with the Louth Team, especially Ian Johnson and Eddie Dunkin, at breakfast, throughout our rounds and in the bar after the match.

Many thanks to everyone that played, to Ian and Eddie for their hospitality and company on the day and to Vice Captain Dave Burrows and VVC Mark Williamson for all their help on the day.

Regards

Andy

Andy Davis

Rabbits Captain