

MATCH REPORT

South Kyme Rabbits 3.0 v 3.0 Louth Rabbits

Saturday 28th July 2018 (Home)

This was our first fixture of the season against Louth Rabbits, the return match at Louth being played in a fortnight's time on 11th August. There was a bit of confusion at the commencement of the match as 2 of the Louth players didn't show and as such we had to hold off breakfast and make an adjustment to the last two groups with one Louth player agreeing to play in each group against our pairings.

However, as always, we were treated to a wonderful breakfast by the staff and we then had to make a quick start due to the holdup. The weather was certainly different to that of late and whilst we were fortunate in that it didn't rain, the high winds made up for it!

Group 1: Myself (21) and Joan Cowie (28) played Acting Captain Ian Johnson (19) and Louth Club Captain Elect Eddie Dunking (23).

After a manic start to the day I felt I got off to a good start by parring the 1st, net par on the 2nd and parring the 3rd only to halve each of the three holes! During this time, I was covering for Joan whilst she was recovering from the breakfast!

On the 4th hole Joan decided she was suitably warmed up and promptly won the hole, and following Eddie's long put on the 5th to win the hole, Joan retaliated by winning the 6th!

Alas at this point Ian let loose with a consistent string of accurate chips and putts that contributed in them winning 6 holes on the trot and left us bewildered at how he could do it.

Despite me winning the 13th hole it was too little too late and the Louth pair won the 14th for a 5 and 4 win.

Despite the result we did have a good humoured round and well played Joan with some superb close chips of her own.

Group 2: Neil Jenkinson (14) and Carole Fewings (25) played Alan Dawson (18) and Peter Oatway (25).

This match was heading for what I thought would be the highest scoring round especially with Neil playing with the wind behind him (wedges 150 yards plus!). After the front 9 Neil and Carole were 4 up and shortly after this they went to 6 up!

Miraculously the Louth pair fought back to eventually lose the match on the 18th hole with Neil and Carole winning 1 up. There's nothing like a bit of confidence guys, well done you two.

Group 3: Nick Milburn (17) and Eric Woods (26) played Glen (Bandit) Wray (27) and Mike Ridyard (21).

Nick and Eric had a very closely contested round and had to pull out all the stops with Glen Wray playing below his handicap! Unfortunately their opponents won the 18th to win 1 up, unlucky guys but well played another respectful score.

Group 4: Alan Cowie (20) and Yvonne Prior (29) played Chris Barnes (16) and John Richards (21).

Alan and Yvonne had a very friendly match which was pretty evenly balanced. They were 3 down after 6 but got it back to 1 down after 9 then after a few halves won the 12th to get 1 up. After another bunch of halves they won the 17th to get back to level and unfortunately they lost the 18th to finish 1 down.

They were disappointed not to have managed to halve the hole, which really would have been a good result for our match with it being so well balanced. Unlucky guys but a respectful result.

Group 5: Ian Prior (12) and Graeme Campbell (21) played Keith West (16).

Ian and Graeme playing against Keith, should theoretically have been an easier game than the first four pairs as Keith was playing as a singleton. However, as it transpired it was not going to be that simple. Keith played the first extremely well, with no indication that not having a playing partner was going to affect his play, resulting in the SKGC pair going one down after the first.

A great putt by Ian on the 2nd allowed them to pull back to AS. Ian and Graeme went on to win the 3rd and 4th to give them a bit of a cushion going into the 5th. Keith was having none of it and fought back winning the 5th and halving the 6th. Ian and Graeme won the 7th, but lost the 8th and 9th to be AS at the turn.

After regrouping at the Half-Way House, Ian and Graeme started the back 9 really well taking 10, 11 and 12 to go three up. Keith was down but he most certainly was not out, coming back strongly to halve 13 and 14 and win 15, taking the score back to two up in favour of the SKGC pair. Keith kept up the fight halving 16 and 17, but sadly for Keith, and fortunately for us that's where the game ended with the SKGC pair coming home 2 and 1.

A great days golf with some great banter and encouragement being shared between all players. Keith was a formidable opponent and never stopped fighting to the very end, something that can be difficult to do as a singleton. Ian and Graeme both played well but had to work very hard for their win, well done guys.

Group 6: The last grouping was Acting Vice-Captain Mark Williamson (28) and Lorna Campbell (34) playing Ken Hadden (21).

Mark and Lorna played Ken in the final match. It was unfortunate that Ken was on his own against our team. It was always going to be a tough call for him but Mark and Lorna also found form on the day.

Lorna put us 1 up from the off and then two par's from Mark halved the second and won the third to take us 2 up after 3. Ken pulled one back on the fourth but a net par from Mark had us back to 2 up. Ken conceded the fifth after losing his ball before Lorna halved the next two holes. Another conceded hole on 9 took us to 4 up at the turn.

A net par from Lorna took the 10th and a 12-foot putt from Mark to par the 11th halved the hole. Ken was very gracious despite our good fortune. The 12th was halved before Lorna finished 13 with a nett par to shake hands 6&5.

Well done guys on a good win and Ian and Graeme's match proved it's not always that easy to beat a single player. This result was always going to win the Highest Winning Pairs Kitty, well done.

In Summary

Playing Louth with them having two players short may well have influenced the final result of the match with our pairings winning the last two matches, this left the match A/S at 3.0 – 3.0.

The result aside, we all had a lot of banter with the Louth Team, at breakfast, throughout our rounds and in the bar after the match. In his 'after the match' Captains Speech, Ian mentioned that South Kyme may not have the best course, or the most members but what it has is a community spirit of working together and a 'big heart'. He also thanked me for the hospitality and friendship that we give to visiting teams (for those of you not aware Ian was the Rabbits Captain at Laceby last year).

We had a lot of favourable comments about the course especially given the lack of rain and that we still have a lot of green areas, so well done the greens staff.

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

Last but not least thanks to Acting Vice Captain Mark Williamson for all his help and support during the day. Cheers Mark.

Many Thanks

Andy

Andy Davis

Rabbits Captain