

MATCH REPORT

South Kyme Rabbits 3.5 v 2.5 Sleaford C Team

26th May 2018 (Home)

This was a first fixture for recent Rabbits Teams against Sleaford C Team who only fielded 5 players of Rabbits 'handicaps' the other 7 being lower than 16. As always, prior to the match we were treated to a wonderful breakfast by Janet and her staff and once again the weather was very kind to us and we had a glorious sunny but windy day to play.

Group 1: Myself (21) and Helen Kirschner (32) played Captain Al Pearson (20) and Richard Brown (23) and whilst myself and the Sleaford guys were evenly matched, Helen had 12 shots over us and wow did she use them to good effect.

We started our round by going 1 down at the first hole and Helen then parred the second to make it A/S and that was the theme throughout the whole match with the lead changing either way never more than by 1 shot. In the Front 9 Helen won 2 and halved 2 holes whilst I won 1 and halved 1 and our partners won 3 and halved 3 so A/S at the turn.

This stayed the same until the 14th when Helen and I both had a blond moment where we each put 2 balls in the water! Grimacing we conceded the hole before we left the mound which made us 1 down so we agreed to give our heads a shake and buck up our ideas! Our break came on the 16th where I parred the hole to get us back to A/S and then Helen let them have it in the last two holes with a 5/4 win on the 17th followed by an outstanding Gross Birdie on the 18th giving us the 2 up win. This meant that in the Back 9 Helen won 3 holes and halved 2 and I won 1 and halved 1 what a performance by Helen.

A big thanks to my playing partners (especially Helen) for a very enjoyable and memorable round.

Group 2: Andy Murton and Nick Milburn played Jim Congreve (10) and Jon Harris (13) which proved to be a very close game against two low handicappers both of whom drove 300 yards!

After halving the first 3 holes Andy and Nick eventually took a hole lead and retaining it until 9th when Jim birdied from the bunker to make it All Square,

Following the Halfway House, where Helen's cake unbalanced their driving Andy and Nick were gifted two holes' courtesy of ponds and out of bounds. The Sleaford pairing then clawed one back on the 14th but

our boys managed to match them on next holes taking the 17th to conclude a 2 and 1 win for SK Rabbits.

Both pairings had a great match, good company and generous with gimme's and some excellent golf. Well done guys for a superb round and a win.

Group 3: Bill Campbell (16) and Josef Kirschner (25) played Gavin Hudson (18).

Through the front 9 Bill and Josef were leading most of the way even though Billy Campbell messed up, would you believe it he forgot he had a shot! Lol and lost the hole. That's what happens the first time you get a shot in a long time! (He owned up to this before Josef told me).

In the back 9 Sleaford really played well and both players were playing under their handicaps for the 9 holes as well as getting the rub of the green and really kind bounces (anything else to add to that list Bill)!

Despite Bill and Josef going down 4 and 3 (could have been 3 and 2 if Bill had used his shot, lol.) they had a lot of fun and banter and enjoyed their round. Well tried guys.

Group 4: Josh Martin (8) and Kimberley Williamson (24) played George Parr (16) and Lee Porterfield (11). Apparently it was a fairly uneventful front 9 with a lot of missed opportunities from both Wee Josh and Kimberley, in fact they almost went 3 down through 8 only for Kim to scramble a nett 3 to half the hole.

The 9th hole was the turning point in the match with Kimberley scoring a nett par to take it to 1 down at the turn.

The 13th was basically lost by our opponents as George decided to play the wrong ball and Lee picking up his marker giving Josh a tap in par as he forgot he had a shot (we'll take that thankyou). Whilst this was happening George had taken it upon himself to find Josh's ball no less than 4 times on the back 9 when he started hitting some wild shots. His yellow Titleist is still with him thanks to George.

After a half on 14 Josh and Kim never looked back finally winning the 17th for the 3-1 win and in the money to boot!

According to Josh Kim's driving kept them in the game (we all know how she can Drive!) and by letting her use her shots she used to full effect.

Well done Guys on a superb win.

Group 5: Alan Cowie (20) and Graeme Campbell (22) played Bill Gault (11) and Ollie Whyatt (11) and what a great game they had against two class players.

It was nip and tuck all the way around for Alan and Graeme, after going 1 down at the first they managed to claw that back to A/S at the second and it stayed that way until the 4th when a great putt from Alan pushed them 1 up. At the 6th their opponents pulled it back to A/S and that's how it stayed until the 9th when a nice putt from the edge of the green by Graeme gave us a 1 shot advantage going into the back nine. They managed to hold onto that one point until the 14th when a fantastic 2 by Ollie pulled it back to A/S.

That's how it remained until the Sleaford boys won the 17th putting us behind for the first time in the game. All down to 18....Ollie and Bill found themselves in the trees, but with skill befitting 11 handicappers, easily managed to extract themselves. Graeme hit a good tee shot, followed by a fantastic 2nd which ran all the way to the edge of the apron, a chip on left him about a foot putt...our opponent finished on a Par, but Graeme finished on a 4 to give us the hole and a tie. Great play throughout by Alan steered us to a draw, which was so nearly a win!

However, this gutsy performance by Alan and Graeme proved to be pivotal as it ensured that SKGC Rabbits won the match overall, well done guys.

Group 6: The last grouping was Acting Vice-Captain Mark Williamson (27) and Yvonne Prior (32) playing Bryan Smith (16) and Mark Kierstan (13) and this proved to be a difficult match against two low handicappers.

Mark and Yvonne had a nice friendly match with Mark Kierstan and Bryan Smith but they struggled to compete with them. Bryan in particular played outstandingly, hit his drives a mile and was on the scorecard for 17 of the 18 holes. They were 3 down after 10, won the 11th and 12th to get back to 1 down, then lost the 15th and 16th. The Sleaford Team finished with a gross 81 which speaks for itself!

Well done Mark and Yvonne for battling as well as you could, but Sleaford ran out winners at 3 and 2.

In Summary

Playing Sleaford's with so many low handicappers was always going to be a difficult challenge for our Rabbits and I was not expecting us to win, but won we did thanks to some gritty and gutsy performances and a superb overall team effort.

I mentioned in the match report against Gedney that I had found their secret weapon in that they placed a wager on their opponents by all putting in £2 per head in a Kitty and the highest scoring pairing took the booty, well this is exactly what we did and the winners were Josh and Kimberley with a 3 and 1 win, well done guys.

The result aside, we all had a lot of banter with the Sleaford Team, at breakfast, throughout our rounds and in the bar after the match and it was a pleasure to be in their company, this is what match play is all about.

We had a lot of favourable comments about the course and the greens are looking in good condition, so well done the greens staff.

A big thanks to Janet and her staff for a lovely breakfast and to Helen for organising the Halfway House (and Josef for his support), the Sleaford Team were really impressed with this and are looking to emulate this in our return match at Sleaford in July.

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