**Mallorca 2014**

**October 10, 2014**

Mallorca 2014 it must be said, seemed slightly strange with the absence of previously ever present member Graham Wilson. With Graham’s unpredictability in the Balearics, the daily results, and even final outcome could have been very different. It was also noted that last year’s runaway winner Paul Fenton was not there to defend his title, and there is no doubt that Paul’s consistency would certainly have challenged some of the results. What Graham and Paul’s absence did not change however, was the success of the trip. As always, those present bounced off each other perfectly to provide excellent company, and a great number of laughs.

After a somewhat heavy opening night’s drinking, we began our golf at the tricky Bendinat, where the sun shone for the first 14 holes, before a heavy shower interrupted proceedings, causing us to take shelter for some 25 minutes until it eased off enough for us to complete the round. Despite the rain, previous night’s drinking, and narrow fairways, some very reasonable scores were posted, with the opening honours belonging to Neil Butterworth, who just edged out Quent Cartwright on a 35 point card play-off.

A couple of the minor honours that were won, were done so in slightly fortunate ways; Jim Wilson claimed a Nearest the Pin after thinning his shot way past the green, only for his ball to cross a cart path, hit a wall on the other side, and bounce back to within 10ft of the pin. Equally fortunate was Adie Cartwright’s lash out of heavy bushes toward an unseen green, which somehow found the hole for a birdie. Adie and Quent also won a Nearest the Pin prize each.

Day two was played out in fabulous sunshine at Son Muntaner, where Quent was once again involved in a card play-off, this time as the victor, as he and Jimmy Elliott both amassed 30 points. To cap his win, Quent added to his prize fund by taking the Longest Drive, a Nearest the Pin win, and also a birdie.

Despite a handicap reduction, Quent took his second win of the week at a very busy (And slow) Son Vida, where his 32 points was just enough to take the honours from Adie and Pete Ashworth, both on 31 points. Once again Quent took the Longest Drive prize, and also carded what was to be the last of only three birdies achieved by the whole group all week. Peter Ashworth, Neil butterworth and Ken Shadford all recorded Nearest the Pin honours.

The sun continued to shine at Santa Ponsa, where traditionally the winning score is often quite low. Today was no exception, as Adie Cartwright’s 29 points was just enough to see off Jimmy Elliott and Peter Ashworth’s 28 point challenge, on a course that appeared to be in the best condition it has been in for quite some time. Jim Wilson recorded the only Nearest the Pin of the day, whilst Ken Shadford took the Longest Drive accolades.

Son Quint won’t be forgotten in a hurry. For thirteen holes the weather was beautiful and touching around 75 degrees, when suddenly the heavens opened and a huge deluge of rain and hailstone stopped play for almost an hour. Being at the furthest point from the clubhouse, and more importantly, not wishing to abandon the round, we sat the storm out until the sun beamed down again and the floods miraculously drained away almost immediately. It was Adie Cartwright who handled the break and subsequent soft greens best, scoring well enough over the last four holes to amass 34 points in total, comfortably beating Jimmy Elliott into yet another runner up spot on 30 points. Ken Shadford achieved the only Nearest the Pin prize of the day, whilst Quent once again stamped his authority on the Longest Drive.

The final round at Maioris saw Jim Wilson get his game together after some previous disappointments, and his 27 points was enough to push Ken Shadford into second place by the narrow margin of a card play-off. Quent however, was the most successful member on the day, as he won his fourth Longest Drive prize, carded the only Nearest the Pin of the day, and hauled back a substantial deficit in the Pink Jacket stakes to lift the Claret Jug ahead of Neil Butterworth and by a two point margin. Prior to the final round there had been little to separate Adie, Ken and Neil, with Quent some way further back.

Though we encountered a couple of heavy showers over the week, they were fairly brief, and were a far cry than the terrible weather we were anticipating from the forecasts. In fact, generally the weather was excellent, and if anything, the rain cooled the hot days pleasantly whilst the nights remained dry, and allowed us to dine al fresco, and enjoy some great nights out. Once again, we introduced three new restaurants to our schedule, and although we didn’t have a bad meal all week, it is likely that of the new eateries, only Meson Son Caliu will remain a serious consideration in future.

The favoured and regular restaurants were as fantastic as ever, particularly so Diecisiete Grados in Palma, and a great time was had by all. Once again, the trip has become cheaper as our friends at TRH Hoteles, Terry’s Car Hire and Simply Mallorca Golf continue to offer us unbelievable rates, and we should also offer tongue-in-cheek thanks to Monarch Airlines, whose rare compensation payouts for two horrendous delays in 2012, which were dragged through two court hearings, meant that the majority of our party had most of their holiday paid for.



**Jimmy 'El Presidente' Elliott makes it 3 June Cups**

**July 05, 2014**

For the second year in a row the rain fell on our June Cup competition, and whilst a few of the participants struggled, our most senior member Jimmy Elliott calmly played through it, traversing tee to fairway, and fairway to green with methodical ease. By the 18th, Jimmy had amassed a creditable level par 36 points, a full 5 points ahead of nearest rivals Derek Ashford, who carded the best gross score, and Graham Wilson.

Whilst the rain may have made things a little more difficult for some, it certainly didn’t spoil what was a lovely course at Chorlton-cum-Hardy, and still allowed birdies from Derek Ashford, Graham Wilson, Adie Cartwright and Quent Cartwright. In the Longest Drive competition efforts from Adie Cartwright and Leo Stuchbury couldn’t be split, and so it was agreed they would share the honour.

Once again, the decision to stay for an evening meal proved worthwhile, and the food provided by the club was excellent, with the beer flowing freely enough to produce some thoroughly entertaining conversation! In general, the facilities offered, and overall experience were considered excellent value by all, and the rain wasn’t allowed to sour another fantastic June Cup.

Congratulations to Jimmy on what is now his third June Cup success.

