October 17th 2011

If we thought the 2010 Majorca trip was a huge success, we could never have imagined how fantastic a week we were to have in 2011. The changes we made proved extremely popular, and will no doubt feature in future decisions as to how we fill our already packed schedule. The trip to El Toro’s Snooker Cafe on Monday night though planned, was further endorsed when we visited earlier in the day to view its fantastic menu of fish, meats and speciality mussels. Having taken our post-round drink overlooking the pretty Port Adriano, the restaurant was only a stone throw away. We were far from disappointed when we returned that evening.

Son Rapinya’s Restaurante Pretoria on Wednesday night was another new addition which offered huge portions of authentic Mallorcan dishes at extremely reasonable prices. It was agreed that the food was particularly good, especially the snails and the fried lamb with garlic, and the stroll down to a couple of different bars made the evening a very worthwhile experience.

Of course, it is the golf that should take centre stage on the trip, and by no means did it fade into the background. There were some very good scores on mostly excellent courses, beginning with a close fought battle at Santa Ponsa. Quent Cartwright, fresh from leading his home club Werneth to their greatest achievement the morning before, followed up with a fine 34 point tally, which was enough to edge out Jimmy Elliott by just one point, to continue his celebrations.

Tuesday introduced us to a new course in the shape of the superbly laid out, and perfectly manicured Maioris. Despite not knowing the layout, Adie Cartwright managed to card 32 points, which was enough to put Quent in the bridesmaid position this time, again by a single point. Features abound on this course, and it is clear that by carefully managing one’s game, some very decent scores could be posted next time we play here.

Our third round took us to the slightly easier and popular Son Quint, where Neil Butterworth achieved his second win in our three annual visits to the course. This time however, the margin was a little tighter, as Neil’s 35 points only managed to ensure victory via a card play-off from Quent who, despite taking a handicap cut for his earlier victory put in an impressive performance in trying to oust Neil from his reign at the course. In fact, Quent did his best to take the limelight from Neil’s great performance by taking all the minor prizes of two birdies, two nearest the pins, the nearest the pin with second shot and the longest drive! The Arabella team have done a fantastic job with this course, and despite its youth, the course plays like the maturest of tracks.

Adie’s cut in handicap should have put a fourth day victory out of reach, though Bendinat has always been a good hunting ground for him, in spite of the track’s tough reputation. This time the void between first place and runner up was considerably greater, as Adie put in his best round of golf for some time to record 36 points, with Pete Ashworth’s second commendable 32 points in as many days pushing him into the silver medal spot. Bendinat has always been quite popular, though this year it was much less than perfect, with a few poor teeing grounds and a couple of disappointing greens.

Son Muntaner saw Ashey take his second runner-up spot in a row after Jimmy Elliott put in a very steady 30 points to win by just the one point again on a much improved course from the one we played there last year. Though far from perfect, much work had been done which allowed for a fairer test of golf in which Jimmy thoroughly deserved to take the spoils.

Going into the last round, the overall Pink Jacket scores had Adie in an almost unassailable lead on a very tidy Puntiro course at which he has won at twice in three years. As Graham Wilson carded his best round of the week with a fantastic 35 points, and Quent was battling Ashey for second place, Adie’s 11 point Pink Jacket lead was being whittled down after making a slow start whilst Quent was scoring steadily in second place. At the 18th though, it was Asheys’ 29 points that took second place for the round, and Quent’s similar 29 points that gave him second place overall for the week as Adie just about managed to keep his nose in front by a couple of points to take the title of Mallorca 2011 Champion.

Graham’s claim that he completed the week without farting once during a round was accepted last year as an amazing feat. However, his similar claim this year has been dismissed as ridiculous by those who know how extremely unlikely an event this was.

Once again, the whole week was brilliant from start to finish, and the more we change our routine the better it seems to become. We now have the choice of some fantastic restaurants, great golf courses, plus better and cheaper drinking establishments. Our options have never been greater, and future trips will benefit hugely from this.

August 27th 2011

With only a few days left to the 2011 Mallorca competition, the final details are being put together for the event. All flights, courses, VIP lounge and car hire have been booked, and an itinerary will be available from Quent shortly. In the meantime, here are some brief details;

As usual, Monarch flight ZB534 will depart Manchester on 2/10/2011 at 14.55, with our return flight ZB535 scheduled to leave Palma at 19.25 on 10/10/2011. The VIP lounge has been booked for our outbound journey from 12 noon. On arrival at Palma, our hire cars will be ready to collect immediately thanks to Terry’s Car Hire, who have also offered us a cheaper price than last year, plus free upgrade to Estate Cars.

Our stay in Majorca will once again be at the TRH Hotel Palma Nova, where breakfast is included, and the courses to be played are (In no particular order) Puntiro, Son Muntaner, Son Quint, Bendinat, Santa Ponsa and for the first time, Maioris. Again, Quent will update us with the exact schedule.

It is planned that we will eat out at El Ceibo once this year, as well as Bar Meson, Poonam Indian, Hang Zhou V Chinese Buffet, and Diecisiete Grados. We will also be visiting the Son Rapinya area to experience more typical non tourist Mallorquin bars and a local restaurant - possibly The Pretoria, and the trip to Portals Nous will likely be replaced by a trip to the small resort of EL Toro where we will hopefully find a good restaurant.

It is with regret that I announce via the sad news from Ashey, that Bobby’s Bar in Magaluf is no longer, and has been turned into an unofficial ‘Hooters’ Bar. Bobby’s was much enjoyed by Thugs, with its excellent Guinness and Baileys shots, a chance to sit outside and watch Magaluf pass by, and the occasional hour or so inside listening to house band ‘The Raggle Taggle Gypsies’. We can only hope we find somewhere similar for our Guinness breaks.

June 27th 2011

For the tenth anniversary of our June Cup competition we really wanted something special to remember. Somewhere grand but not pretentious, somewhere with a tough yet fair course, somewhere we'd be looked after as guests in the same manner members would be treated. And if we could just ask that the weather stayed fine, then we would have all the elements that make up a perfect day's golfing. Mottram Hall provided all this, and more, and whilst they couldn't claim credit for the weather, which once again favoured us as it appears to every year, the De Vere chain that own the course should be more than satisfied that they provide a first class experience and superb facilities at this Cheshire venue.

At just over 7000 yards, the course was always going to be a tough test for the mid to high handicappers, and the anticipated lower Stableford scores posted on the day attest to this. However, a very commendable 33 points sealed victory for Quent Cartwright, by a comfortable margin of three points from Derek Ashford, who just edged Jim Wilson out of runner-up spot on a card play-off. In the category of minor honours, Neil Butterworth did enough to ensure he won the Nearest-the-pin competition at the 158 yard third hole, and Quent Cartwright beat Derek Ashford's strike to the middle of the 18th fairway by around nine feet to win the Longest Drive competition. Unusually, though there were many birdie opportunities, none were converted, yet nobody went home disappointed with any part of the round - in fact, everyone considered the course to be superb in both planning and condition.

As the last group finished the 18th hole, the rain decided it could hold off no more, once again having afforded us a dry round, as has now been the case for the last nine years' June Cup events. This did mean however, that the planned post round Barbecue Dinner would have to be eaten inside the clubhouse rather than outside, though that took nothing away from the fact that the meal was fantastically tasty and plentiful, with a number of choices of perfectly cooked meats served with crisp salads and washed down with cold beers served at the table by very attentive and helpful staff.

As we left the course at 10pm to continue our evening, all our members agreed that future June Cups should follow a similar format, and where possible obtain a deal which included a Barbecue Dinner, most likely at one of the other De Vere courses within reach of us here in the North West.

June 18th 2011

The 10th anniversary of our June Cup competition will be celebrated in style at the beautiful De Vere Mottram Hall Golf Club on June 24th. Bacon sandwiches on arrival, plus a Barbecue Dinner at the venue will be included, with the intention of staying for post-round drinks until 10pm. Mini coach travel has also been arranged, and members are asked to meet at Werneth Golf Club at 12 noon.

The dress code at the course allows for smart jeans plus a collared shirt and shoes rather than the original plan of jacket and tie, and it is expected that we will have the choice of any (Or all) of the club’s three bars. We cannot, however, control the weather, so we can only hope to get the fabulous sunshine that we have been fortunate to have witnessed over the last few years’ events.

Buggies have been reserved for those who wish to use them, and start times are posted on the Competitions page for your info.

May 5th 2011

Firstly, apologies for the lack of updates over the last few weeks. This is due to all the website files being lost, and the whole site having to be rewritten in its entirety. It was never a clever idea to have the files on a laptop anyway, so now the files and software are on a desktop pc (And backed up!), everything should be much more straightforward in future.

Congratulations to Quent who has now begun his year as captain of his home club Werneth, and already appears to be throwing himself wholeheartedly into the role, as indeed he does as secretary of our own THUGS society. QC is the third of our members to have the honour of Club Captain.

Not a great deal of news on the Majorca 2011 front, other than flights being booked, and the TRH Hotel being booked direct at a further discount (We’ll be going for free soon, the rate the costs are coming down). You will no doubt recall that Arabella Golf have also offered us free golf at Son Muntaner as a gesture of goodwill following the poor condition of some greens last year. Flights are exactly the same times as previous years, and pre-flight drinks and snacks will be served in the Executive Lounge.

The June Cup this year will be held at Mottram Hall, and as it is the 10th such event, we shall be arranging transport plus Bacon sandwich on arrival and Dinner after the round. Attendees are reminded that a jacket and tie will be required. More news on the June Cup will be posted here when available.