**2013 News Archives**

October 12, 2013

Fenton returns to win the 2013 Pink Jacket

The 2013 Mallorca trip was billed as a year of change, with several adjustments to our usual format, including meeting at a different member’s house, flying out on a Saturday rather than Sunday, and new bars and restaurants. One thing that didn’t change however was the success of the trip, and the fun that was enjoyed by all was testament to that. Our usual restaurants continued to offer fantastic food, and the addition of the Goya Viana restaurant proved to be a winner with everyone. Mrs Doyle’s bar became a regular haunt due to its outstanding Guinness and ‘Mini Guinness’ shots, and also the entertainment provided (Much of it by ourselves!).

The golf began at the cleverly laid out Son Quint course, where our most senior member and Society President Jimmy Elliot took the honours with a steady 34 points to don the first pink hat of the week, three points ahead of Paul Fenton in second place. No birdies were recorded, however Neil Butterworth won the day’s Longest Drive competition, whilst Adie Cartwright, Graham Wilson and Jim Wilson all won Nearest The Pin prizes.

Day two saw Adie Cartwright’s 32 points at Puntiro enough to secure a win on a tough but well maintained course, once again beating Paul into second place by a couple of points. Paul’s consistency was enough to give him the overall lead in the main Pink Jacket stakes for the week - a lead which he was not going to give up without a fight. In the minor honours for the day, Quent Cartwright won the Longest Drive, Nearest The Pins were won by Pete Ashworth (2) and Adie, and birdies were scored by Paul, Graham and Adie (2).

Despite never having played the course, Paul’s 29 points was enough to win the third day at the superb Maioris venue, one point ahead of Neil. Paul’s round included one birdie, as did Graham’s and Jim Wilson’s. The Longest Drive was won by Graham, whilst Jim, Quent and Adie (2) took the Nearest The Pin prizes. At this point Paul had now extended his Pink Jacket lead to six points from Adie.

A return to old favourite Poniente on the fourth day saw Neil Butterworth’s 34 points take the honours. Despite Quent putting in his best round of an unusually poor week he remained two points behind Neil in the runner-up spot. Adie won the Longest Drive, with Pete Ashworth, Graham (2) and Jim Wilson all taking Nearest The Pin honours, and birdies being recorded by Quent and also Paul (2), whose touch with the putter was becoming the talk of the week as everything hit the target with incredible accuracy.

By day five, Paul’s Pink Jacket lead had increased to seven points, and despite his handicap reduction, his golden putter led him into his second win of the week, this time at the popular Son Vida course with a tremendous gross round of 79 strokes, giving him 38 points - leaving Graham scratching his head as to how he only managed second place with a hugely impressive 37 points. Neil and Paul won two Nearest The Pins each, with Pete Ashworth pocketing the Longest Drive kitty, and also money from a birdie, along with Graham and Quent.

Going into the final round at the tough but cleverly designed Son Muntaner, Paul had had his handicap further reduced after the previous day’s win, and whilst he was expected to do enough from what was considered an unassailable lead to ensure he won the outright Pink Jacket for the week, it came as a shock when he managed to seal his third win of the week, two points clear of runner-up Quent with 28 points. Quent had the consolation of winning the Longest Drive on the day, with Adie, Jimmy Elliot and Paul all benefitting from the Nearest The Pin fund. Once again, Paul’s putter had been his greatest ally, and on his return to the Thugs Mallorca trip after an absence of six years, he came back with a bang, and completely wiped away the opposition to deservedly take the 2013 title. Of course, Paul’s handicap will be more closely scrutinized for future Thugs events under the circumstances!

All in all, the trip was a fantastic success, to rival any of our previous trips, and whilst we congratulate Paul on his win, each member of the trip should also be congratulated on their own input and contribution to the trip. Every person helped to make it the success it was. Also, it would be remiss not to mention EasyJet who were fantastic both ways (A far cry from the nightmares we have previously encountered using Monarch), the TRH Hotel who once again provided unbelievable value for money, the restaurants - in particular El Ceibo and Diecisiete Grados, Terry’s car hire, who are not only excellent value, but a joy to deal with, and also Mark and Tracy at SimplyMallorcaGolf who always get us the best deals on the courses, and also took the trouble to come out and meet us after our final round this year. Last but not least (And if I’ve forgotten anyone I apologise but there were too many bars and restaurants to mention), we can’t forget a little chubby fella with a big moustache who takes everything in his stride and feeds and ‘waters’ us at all sorts of hours with little more than a suck of his bottom lip and a “Si!”, we have to mention Felipe and his bar for giving us a reason to head back to the hotel every night.

July 28, 2013

Mallorca Update

All details of the 2013 Majorca trip have now been finalised. Many more changes and new ideas have been introduced to the trip, and of course, the event gets ever cheaper. The six courses we play are part of a package offer which also includes cheaper buggy hire. The TRH Hotel is cheaper again than last year’s low price, and car hire, flights and transportation are also lower.

I have now received an email from Monarch which I believe offers enough confirmation that the cheque we currently hold is in respect of flight ZB535 (07/10/2012), and can now be banked. The cheque is made out in Euros which can take up to 28 days to clear. Once costs have been deducted, each member on that flight should receive over £200.

Monarch’s confirmation of the cheque relating to the above mentioned flight now allows us to continue with proceedings to recover compensation for the delay on our 30/09/2012 outbound flight (ZB534). I have received a document advising that the case has been transferred to Oldham County Court for this claim, however no date has been set so far, and I am awaiting the Judge’s Directions before I can give any further information.

July 20, 2013

Monarch and Mallorca update

After much struggle, mainly due to the inefficiencies of Hotmail, the TRH Hotel PalmaNova has now been contacted, and a quote has been accepted for our 2013 mallorca trip. We shall be taking two rooms, each holding four people, which we believe may be a little ‘cosy’ but should not cause problems as the rooms are fitted with four beds and comfortably accommodated four in a room on last year’s trip. The cost per person for the week works out at around £59, which also includes breakfast and no doubt the opportunity to make up a lunch time snack from the breakfast buffet too.

Once again, the overall cost of the trip has been reduced year on year as flight costs, car hire and such drop ever lower, and though it always seems unlikely that the accommodation costs can reduce any further, they continue to amaze us by doing so.

On the Monarch delay claim front, I have received a cheque for 1500 Euros, but with no indication as to which delay the cheque was for. I will not accept the cheque until I have in writing from Monarch which flight it covers as accepting it without confirmation could nullify the further 1500 Euros claim that we are anticipating, as the accompanying letter states ‘Full & final settlement’. Such are Monarchs tactics in avoiding paying compensation, we need to be extremely careful. I’ll keep everyone informed, but at least we are now guaranteed at least 250 Euros per person for last year’s flight nightmare.

July 05, 2013

Neil Butterworth takes the 2013 June Cup honours

With a fantastic run of glorious weather on June Cup day which stretches back to 2006, it was inevitable that once the rainclouds finally paid us a visit they would be looking for some kind of payback. The 2013 event was the moment the weather decided to make up for seven years of sunshine, and hit us with seven years worth of rain in one afternoon. The fact that the High Legh venue withstood the rain is testament to the course, which was in fabulous condition other than a couple of puddles of standing water on the greens during the heaviest of prolonged showers.

Whilst such weather generally makes scoring difficult, conversely the better scores were achieved during the worst of the weather with some excellent tallies being recorded on the back nine. In the end it was those back nine scores that made the difference as Paul Fenton, Neil Butterworth and Leo Stuchbury all carded 37 points overall. Paul’s consistent form however let him down on the last three holes when looking strong and his 15 point countback wasn’t enough as Leo and Neil were only separated by one point with Neil’s solid 22 score on the incoming nine just ousting Leo from the honour of lifting the trophy.

Whilst Neil added the June Cup to his 2008 Majorca Pink Jacket, the other players were boosting their stats in other areas, with Pete Ashworth carding two birdies and Quent Cartwright and Leo Stuchbury scoring one birdie apiece. Ashey also took the Nearest The Pin honour with a tee shot to within 18” of the hole. The final honour went to Graham Wilson, who managed to keep his ball on the fairway at a particularly narrow point to claim the Longest Drive.

Guest player Ethan Shaw had a very steady round taking the weather into account, and produced the best gross score of the day with a respectable 77 which included two birdies.

A further mention must go to the all involved with the club, with thanks for their hospitality and also the fantastic dinner we were served post round. Another successful and memorable day was had by all.

May 20, 2013

High Legh to host the 2013 June Cup

 We remain in Cheshire once again for the 2013 June Cup, where the beautiful High Legh Golf Club hosts the 13th annual event on Friday 28th June. We have twelve members confirmed for the event, which hopefully will be contested in the sunny weather that we have been lucky enough to have enjoyed over the last few years. Since being purchased from administration by a very ambitious businessman, the course has improved on what was already a one of the jewels of Cheshire golf. Once again, we shall be meeting for pre-round bacon rolls and coffee at 11.30, with tee times beginning at 12.30. Quent will shortly be emailing the details of playing order.

A post round two course dinner and presentation will also be at the golf club as per previous June Cups, and transport is currently being sourced. Further details regarding the course are available at http://www.highleghpark.com/

A quick update regarding the situation with our flight delay claim from Monarch. After their refusal to acknowledge our appeal, and failure to supply the information regarding the movements of our aircraft prior to our delay, I have now submitted a legal claim against Monarch on behalf of the six members involved in the OUTBOUND delay to Palma, via HM Courts & Tribunals Service using the Government MCOL site. Unless Monarch change their mind, this will involve myself (And anyone who wishes to watch proceedings) attending a court hearing at Manchester County Court sometime in the next few months. The cost of this submission was £13.50 per person, which is the maximum we would be liable for in the unlikely event that we were to lose the case. Should we win the case, I shall then make it clear to Monarch that we are prepared to go to similar lengths to claim for the delay suffered on our inbound flight that same week, and also the 2009 “Vulcan Bomber” delay. Hopefully, Monarch will offer compensation for these further two without the need to take it to court once they are aware that we are prepared to take legal action again.

I shall keep everyone notified of any developments in the case.

March 11, 2013

Majorca 2013 update

All members who travelled on the 2009 or 2013 Mallorca trips should have received an email regarding compensation claims for the outrageous delays we suffered at the hands of Monarch. Please let Adie know if you have not received the email.

Flights for the 2013 trip are with Easy Jet, and now involve departing and returning on a Saturday rather than our usual Sunday flights.

The details are as follows:

EasyJet Departs Manchester 16.40 28/09/2013 Arrives Palma 20.20

EasyJet Departs Palma 20.55 05/10/2013 Arrives Manchester 22.40