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|  | **2005 Archives**Dec 23rd 2005 The flights have been booked for 2006 (Details of which have been e-mailed to all people concerned). To recap, we are flying with jet2 at a return cost of £82 pp. but we will not enjoy the benefits of the free airport lounge this year as the RBS do not deal with budget airlines. However, I have looked into the possibilities of paying for the lounge, and have been quoted a price of £16.95 pp for this privilege. Whilst this seems good value we need to consider that Jet2 are a voucher ticket airline similar to Easyjet, which means that you receive a boarding voucher on check-in and then join the rush when the gate opens to bag the best seat. Obviously we would be unable to do this if we are knocking back the ale in the lounge, though it may be possible to reserve seats at a cost - I will look at the options before booking the lounge.Oct 15th 2005 A superb weeks golf saw Quent Cartwright lift this year’s Claret Jug in Majorca. QC won a record three out of six days with a victory at his favourite course - Real Bendinat, another win to retain his Son Termens title, and the completion of his hat trick at Son Vida. Derek Ashford took second with some very consistent golf - including a final day win at Santa Ponça but always looked like being bridesmaid.                            Paul Fenton also returned home with three titles- A win on the first day at Son Antem was followed later in the week by another victory at Poniente, which was then capped when he was awarded the ‘Tired Ted’ award for 2005. His ability to sleep is now almost legendary. |

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|  | Jimmy Elliott will get all his luggage and himself in this. |

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|  | Sept 20th 2005 As they did last year, Cotton Traders have failed us regarding shirts. We have now been forced to change our choice of colour to ‘Grape’ due to CT not having the required sizes in other colours. To be honest the colour is quite a good one and should prove popular anyway. Embroidery is currently in progress.    Our tickets have arrived for the flight, accommodation and airport lounge, but the cheap tickets for the train are proving difficult to obtain. It is now looking very much like we will have to pay £18 for a ticket or book the minibus both ways.                                                                                                      Quent has managed to get a good deal on car hire for the week - after visiting the local Citroen dealer to check whether the cars offered are suitable he has ordered Berlingos (as pictured below) which will save us over £60.                    |

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|  | Thomsons have sent us a standard reply stating terms and conditions regarding our complaint and don’t appear to realise how much their unsympathetic attitude is likely to cost them. We are still awaiting a final response from the RBS enquiry into our complaint.    |

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|  | Sept 5th 2005 Thanks to a bit of leg work by Jim Wilson we have decided to delay booking the train to Birmingham until Sept 18th when Virgin Trains are likely to have their special offers on, and our journey is likely to be amongst the offers. JW was advised by a lady in the information office at Crewe station that this would almost certainly be the case. The current price is £18.50 whilst the offer price would be only £7.50.        The shirts this year will be Cotton Traders ‘Fresco’ colour as chosen by majority vote.                          Ashey has forwarded a website address ([www.ehic.org.uk](http://www.ehic.org.uk)) where you can apply for the new free European health insurance card which replaces the E111 form (recommended). |

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|  | Sept 3rd 2005 The matchplay Challenge Knockout was won by A.Cartwright with P.Fenton taking runner-up. |

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|  | http://thugsgolf.co.uk/assets/images/a_TaylorMade-Hats-1.jpg |

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|  | Here is an idea for this year’s Thugs kit. When I first saw it I immediately thought how smart it looked. I am sure it would look great on us at Son Vida etc. as it seems to look fine on these people. The shorts look a little flared though. |

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|  | July 29th 2005 As you may already be aware Thomsons / Britannia have cancelled the flight that we originally booked for our Majorca week. Thomsons regularly stress that holidays must be booked early to avoid disappointment yet leave it to the last minute to inform us that they have ruined our holiday. Thomsons idea of a gesture of goodwill is to offer us our money back (No good to us at this late stage) or exactly the same flight times but from Birmingham Airport. Under the terms and conditions of the Holiday agreement Thomsons say they do not have to compensate us for the extra 90 miles travel as they are offering us a similar package at the same price!                                                                The travel brokers seem unwilling to fight our case for us despite the fact that many thousands of pounds have gone their way over the last few years so I have asked the Royal Bank of Scotland to intervene on our behalf as it was they who used the brokers (RCI Travel) as a middle man. RBS have agreed to fight for some recompense for us but say that it will take at least 28 days to process our complaint though they are quite confident that they have enough clout to sway decisions our way. In the meantime, RBS have suggested that we accept the Birmingham offer as there is little alternative and hope for a result regarding compensation.                                                                                                              On a more positive note, Jet2 start a service to Palma from December and have flight times that suit us perfectly for our 2006 Majorca week. I have already had a quote for next year of £95pp return and suggest that we seriously consider this instead of lining Thomsons pockets any further.                            Travel itineraries for this year will be sent out by Quent as usual as soon as they are finalised, and I will keep you informed of developments regarding our compensation claim. |

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|  | JUNE 25th 2005 Towneley Golf Club at Burnley was the venue for the 2005 June cup. With earlier rain and severe weather warnings, the event looked like being a washout - True to form the forecasters got it totally wrong, and from the second hole it was virtually sunshine all the way.The course was in fantastic condition, particularly so for a municipal track - although a couple of yardages given were highly dubious. The whole setup at Towneley seems excellent, and they deserve credit for their club and course management.                                                                                                                        Every player got their first drive away well, and it seemed initially that it was going to be a close run competition, but by the time all the second shots had been played two or three players were going to have a tough afternoon. One or two memorable shots followed, none more so than Derek Ashford’s eagle two at the 15th - The first ever eagle in THUGS competition. Two birdies were claimed by Graham Wilson, one by Quent Cartwright, and Dave Anforth scored his first ever competition birdie to the delight of his fellow members.                                                                                                           Jimmy Elliott won the nearest the pin prize on a very tight green, and Derek justified buying his new driver by thumping it up the middle to win the longest drive competition. A fabulous afternoon for Derek was sealed with a marvellous 40 points to win the competition outright and give him his second June cup victory - he will now go to Majorca in October as Pink Jacket holder, June Cup winner and reigning Tired Ted. He will no doubt lose a sizeable chunk of his handicap when it is recalculated, effectively seeing off his chances of retaining the Pink Jacket unless he produces a series of rounds of the quality of this one.   Congratulations to Derek, and thanks to everyone for a 100% member turnout (plus guests) on a course more than worthy of hosting the June Cup. |