

London Stationers visit to Abridge

Now not a lot of people know this!

In 1793 Prince Frederick, Duke of York & Albany (Grand Old Duke) marched his men up a very steep hill at Cassel in northern Normandy and of course he brought them down again, and having played Abridge I reckon this is where he practised the manoeuvre!!

Apart from the first couple of holes I cannot remember playing any other hole which did not involve climbing up a steep incline and of course coming down again. That is not to say that the course was poor. Far from it. It was a great test of golf, in good condition (although the greens were a little woolly) and a real pleasure to play.

There was the threat of rain for the day, but thankfully it did not arrive until we had finished our golf and then only when we had completed a further challenge in the form of a great three course meal enjoyed by one and all. Although to be fair Chris Lee, who is undergoing waist line reduction therapy, it did prove a struggle with the last of the roast potatoes and Yorkshire pudding.

For my part the golf was acceptable, but I did play with three true professionals (Graham Knights, Peter Jones and Chris Phillips) who proved that ending up behind numerous trees and bushes did not necessarily mean that you couldn't put together a fairly average score. With many shots being played backwards to get the ball into play when hard against a tree trunk and leaving almost all putts teasingly short it was always going to be a tough ask to get in the thirties.

Although Mr. Knights looked at the halfway stage as though he would be in the running, one point in the first three holes coming back and three lost Pro V's proved too much for his mental state and although outwardly putting on a calm exterior was inwardly suicidal at losing three new balls!!

In the end it was down to Brian Woolford who must have more stamina than us lesser mortals who came in with 36 points closely followed by Richard Johns and Rob Burnell (guest) on 33 points. Warren Evans (still gloating over the Six Nations victory) won nearest the pin and nearest the pin in two showed how testing the course was by remaining unclaimed!

The day was a great success for our new captain, Judith, and thanks must go out to her for picking a really interesting venue and of course to her private secretary (Eric) who carried out his duties with courage and fortitude not complaining or charging for the pleasure of helping 'The Boss'.

In the end a great day was had by all, topped off with a six-minute A.G.M. and Chris Lee kindly volunteering (well sort of!) to take on the duties of Vice-Captain for the coming season.

Shock of the day and a great surprise to all attending (as well as the recipients) was Mr. Stride collecting three of last year's aggregate trophies and Mr. Lee one. Well done boys.

So on to the next venue, Temple Golf Club, Maidenhead on 10th June and hopefully a better turnout!!

David Littlechild

(Now appointed by the Secretary as Official LSGS Historian)