

We held our 2024 meeting at the excellent Sandford Springs complex in Hampshire last week.

This is a picturesque layout of 27 holes which proved testing as the best score on either day was 32 points.

Personally I loved the 9 hole combinations but not all agreed, especially contentious was the 4th on the Lakes - a 140 yard carry over a lake to a 200 yard par-3.

Undoubtedly the greens caused the most head scratching. The surfaces were fine but the slopes and undulations were sometimes perplexing.

Your Secretary amassed only 35 points over the 36 holes but I couldn't blame the course.

This place is understandably very popular (there were 50 buggies available and all were taken) and the pace of play reflected this.

The first round started cold and sunny but soon ominous clouds appeared and the round was played in alternating brief sunny periods and quite heavy showers.

The second day was dry although the speed of play was not greatly improved.

The hotel was well up to 4-star standard and the clubhouse facilities were good, with the breakfast room and food coming in for particular praise.

There were a few organisational hitches but generally the meeting was a success. It was a pleasure to have Eric and Judith Smith amongst us although they were not able to play.

Thanks are due to David Littlechild who organised the outing and any glitches were due to the management, not to him!

At the AGM the following were decided:

Secretary & Treasurer*: Richard Johns. Captain: David Littlechild. Third Committee member: Peter Jones.

It was decided that the Annual Subscription be abolished from January 2025 as the Society still had adequate funds not to require them.

Would everyone please now cancel their Direct Debits/Standing Orders !

*David Stride has retired due to ill health and the need to care for Karen who has just had a cancer operation - our warm wishes go to them. The meeting also sent their good wishes to Liz Morgan as David is still unwell in a care home.

We expect to have another meeting next year which will be over one or two nights at a venue/s to be decided.

With best wishes to all, particularly to those for attending the meeting

Richard Johns