

## Spring Meeting at Handsworth Golf Club 9 May 2019



Members made their way to Handsworth Golf Club for the Spring Meeting under grey skies but dry conditions.

We were greeted to the club by 'Master of Ceremonies' Mike Edwards and that stalwart of WGC and Handsworth GC, Reg Neale.

Luckily Reg was 'on the ball' when he helped one of our members retrieve their WGC blazer. The member had mistakenly gone to Harborne Golf Club and left his blazer in the changing room there. Reg dispatched a taxi to collect the blazer and return it to its rightful owner!

Furthermore, our Captain had left his change of clothing at home, fortunately his 'long suffering' wife re-united him with the clothes and greeted him with a smile!

Many players enjoyed some snacks prior to the game which were washed down with a variety of beverages.

WGC Captain, Rick Waddington, welcomed everyone to the meeting wishing them an enjoyable day. He introduced the Handsworth Captain, Gary Thompson, who said a few words of welcome and then introduced Mike Edwards who gave information about the course and a few 'housekeeping points, to the players.

Sixty or so players started to wind their way to far off tees ready for the klaxon to deliver its mournful sound for the start to the day's endeavours. Many were already in waterproofs just in case it might rain as the clouds seemed to look a little heavy and watery.

The course was well presented with two temporary holes, the 12th and 13th, in play, which did not detract from the attractive course.

We were able to see that a vast amount of work that has been undertaken on the course with the removal of several trees which has given the course a lighter airy feel. Alongside the twelfth fairway some mature trees have been felled to enable the flood plane defences to be undertaken although the contractors and the club have transplanted more trees to form a visual barrier to block out all the earth works, and no doubt prevent a wayward shot.

The new holes look frightening with the twelfth green being encircled by a stream! Whilst the new 13th looks a monster, over the pond in front of the tee along an avenue of trees and almost at right angles up a long hill to the green. What a challenge!

The day was going well until about four holes from 'home', the heavens opened, and the rest of the round was completed in horrible weather. Players were very wet playing those final holes and finally trudged back to their cars and the club house, many looking liked 'drowned rats'

We were called to the table by the Captain for IPC 'JJ' Pritchard to say Grace but before he could, a shout of desperation was heard from the back of the room. "My Rolex, I've lost my Rolex"! The owner of the watch made his way to his table to ponder where his watch could be.

'JJ' continued to say Grace in his usual professional and unflappable manner.

A most enjoyable dinner was provided by the catering staff which was enjoyed by all helped down by lashings of wine.

The loyal toast was proposed by our President David Williamson after which the prizes were presented by Mike Edwards, who had organised to whole event, and the Society President.

- The longest drive was won by Ted mason of Handsworth G C.
- Third prize on count back went to Mike Hughes and George Whitehouse of Harborne G C.
- Second Prize went to Gary Thompson, Handsworth Captain and Mike Edwards also of Handsworth G C.
- First prize of vouchers and the Spring Meeting Salvagers went to Martin Weaver and Mark Ridley of Rugby G C. The winners made their speech thanking the club for a good day.
- Reg Neale donated the golf balls for the 'two's' prize

Captain Rick Waddington endorsed what had been said by the winners and thanked the organiser and the staff of Handsworth Golf Club for a splendid day. Finally, the Society Captain announced that everyone could go home as the Rolex had been found!