Captains Report

This was the first league match of the year against Worcestershire away at Wharton Park Golf Club. With a couple of players missing due to participation in the Lytham Trophy, we welcomed back Ian Curley (Leek Golf Club) to first team action. Ollie Read after performing well in the trials and friendly matches was given his first start in a league match.

We received a very warm welcome from Wharton, who looked after us superbly all day. The course itself was in good condition, and with the new club house, and driving range the club is well worth a visit.

The match commenced with the usual morning foursomes. Leading the team out, were Ryan Brooks (Whittington) and Jack Gaunt (Drayton Park) who played quite brilliantly and were back in the locker room after only 12 holes securing their point. The second point of the day came from match three where Myles Pearson (Little Aston) and Lewis Pearce (Walsall) were very consistent in winning 2&1. The final three matches on the course were all very close. Jake Walley (Enville) and Matt Downes (Ingestre) colleagues at St Mellian College in Cornwall lost on the last. While Team South Staffs, James Murphy and Tom Hewitt went down two and one.

Representing us in the final match were Ollie Read (Whittington) and Ian Curley (leek). They had done well to hang in the match being 3 down at the turn. However they too were pipped on the last losing one down.

Therefore Staffordshire went to lunch three two down. This was disappointing but we had confidence that we could turn it round after lunch.

Needing a fast start in the afternoon, I put strength up top. I witnessed a birdie barrages from Jack Gaunt and Ryan Brooks out in the top two matches. They both recorded large winning margins, and settled down again very early to watch the rest of the team come in. Lewis Pearce in match three also produced some excellent golf, in halving his match. Two and half points from the first two matches was a dream start.

In the next five matches the points were shared. Matt Downes playing great to defeat the ever green Richard Sadler, and Ollie Read confirming his huge potential with a hard fought one up win. The scores were level with the final two matches out on the course. However it was not to be, as we lost heavily in both the final two matches.

A disappointing loss in the first league game of the season, but some great performances on the day Ryan and Jack are a class above anything else in the Midlands at the moment, Ollie on debut won his singles, and Lewis Pearce contributed 1.5 points out of two. With players to come back we will look to make a strong defence of our title starting in the next match.

Finally I would like to thank, Martin Payne your attendance and wise council means a lot to the players.

Overall result - Staffordshire 6.5, Worcestershire 8.5.

Regards

Martin Crook
1stTeam Captain