

Thursday 29th June 2023

2023 “The Heart of Wales Tour”

Sixteen tourists (same number as last year) headed for the ‘Heart of Wales’ - three days of golf at Kington, Builth and Llandrindod all centred round the Metropole Hotel in Llandrindod Wells.

All 16 players made it to Kington GC - principally because Wingco was chauffeured there by Gary. Hence no deviations to another Kington or Knighton golf course.

Kington’s website boasts that it’s course is the highest in England but all of the climbing is by car up to the clubhouse. This is a blatant lie as the first hole is uphill and it carries on uphill to a defibrillator (powered by a small wind turbine and a solar panel) on the 6th tee box. Those with buggies had an advantage!

The course is a really nice heathland course with ample opportunities to lose balls in the deep bracken and a good few blind drives for the uninitiated to ‘FU’. Gaz had opened a sweep on lost ball totals for the three days of golf and this was an ominous start.

Usually on tour there are early bids for MOTD fame and the start at Kington was no exception. Derek dressed in full Aussie regalia (minus corks in the hat) and riding his trusty chariot charged up the 17th fairway (running alongside the 2nd hole which we were playing) completely oblivious to the four irate members trying to drive off the 17th tee. There was an exchange of opinions - mostly revolving around questions like “wtf are you doing?”, “get off our effin’ fairway”, Degsy continued playing up towards the tee box probably ~~thinking~~ - scratch that - probably not thinking.

The Skipper made a half-hearted attempt at MOTD fame by trying to score his Ryder Cup match (him & Doug vs Derek & Al) as a match play game (doh !!) but was ‘corrected’ in no uncertain terms by Pontiff!

Alec was also in the mood for tour infamy developing the art of creating the most difficult lies for his next shot. The next two photos are but two examples of his expertise which he developed throughout the three day tour



Weather was great most of the time - although deteriorating to drizzle on day 3. But as you can see from the photo above Kington was in great weather and the views were superb.

The 18th hole at Kington (and Llandrindod) is back towards the clubhouse over a large valley making the drive on the 18th an adventure for those who hadn't played here before (ie all of us!).

Here's Skip on the edge of the 18th at Kington showing his appreciation to the TBAGGERS already in the clubhouse. His drive had come to a stop



here having struck a guy's knee whilst sipping a pint (and also enjoying taking the piss out of incoming golfers). Skip apologised and bought the poor guy a pint whereupon all his mates suddenly developed bad knees!

The 18th at Kington also attracted a very loud bloke (Dunny) taking selfies, being photo-bombed by that 'really tough lie golfer' and his mates Palo and Mike.

Although the 18th looked very difficult - the slopes all funnelled the ball in towards the green so

TBAGS had some surprisingly good scores on that hole. The loud bloke however used quite colourful language to describe the course at Kington. Most of us however didn't agree. Skip and Pontiff shared 1st (33 pts each).



The Metropole Hotel was our 'home' for two nights and the dining room the site of the first MOTD round. Thankfully the room was empty on Sunday night. Night 2 we took over the bar as the dining room was full of potentially sensitive ears on Monday. Unlike last year when Denis became MOTD champion, the results were more predictable, Dunny winning

night 1 and Palo edging night 2. However, as the contest was over two night there was definitely evidence of revenge on night 2.



The hotel was good and located just right for the three golf courses. The dinner menu and breakfast buffets had something for everyone. However, because the hotel was full on night 2, there were only limited numbers of single rooms - I think one or two tourists may opt for singles in the future . . .

Builth Wells Golf Course is a parkland course and for our tour was sandwiched in between the two heathland courses - a welcome 'rest' from climbing hills. The course was very enjoyable - the back nine noticeably more interesting than the front (imo). Holes 10 and 16 involved the river at least once and several of us fell foul of the water. Wingco found the course very much to his liking and scored 36 points winning the event scoring on

every hole - well done! Brian came second with 33 points and Palo pushed Dunny out of NTP on the 5th and Mouse picking up NTP on the 11th. With the weather still good and no rush to drive home we were able to have a pint outside and enjoy the surroundings.

Of the three courses - this was the only one with sand bunkers (and even then not many of them). Some of you are probably aware of Stephen dislike of sand bunkers - was there a hidden reason the TBAGS' tour came to the 'Heart of Wales' ??

Llandrindod Wells GC was (I think) the best of three good courses - well I scored well so I would think that wouldn't I. But despite the drizzle it was a very good course - again (like Kington) heathland with a very large valley guarding the 18th. My only complaint was that the Pro Shop could only find four Llandrindod Wells GC ball marker in the whole shop - my apologies to those in the Red team who missed out on this ball marker.

And so to the results . . .

Gary was good enough to run the lost ball sweep - £2 per guess. All in all - 132 balls were lost over the three days. Considering the rough and the blind fairways - not a bad result and Mike guessed 131 to win the sweep, he also won the individual prize for most balls lost (16), Dunny second (15) and the fewest losses - Pontiff (2).

The Reds came out on top of the 'Ryder Cup' competition after a pathetic 1/2 point on day 1, a commendable draw at Builth and a "Miracle at Llandrindod" 6 - 2 result on day 3. Reds had out numbered Blues in the lead-up to the Tour so one or two 'reddish' players, notably Palo were in the Blue ranks - perhaps the faint whiff of sabotage - surely not!

I hope the following results tables are correct. If you think otherwise please write to D.Teggin % PO Box 78A Los Palos Grandes, Caracas, Venezuela.

The 'Ryder Cup' Competition:

Red vs Blue							
Day 1	Red Pairs		Pts	Win	Pts	Blue Pairs	
1	Wingco	Gary	58	Blue	60	Pontiff	Brian
2	Skip	Doug	48	Half	48	Derek	Al
3	Stephen	Jenks	55	Blue	57	Archie	Mouse
4	Mike	Dunny	50	Blue	59	Palo	Alec
			1/2		3 1/2		
Day 2	Red Pairs		Pts	Win	Pts	Blue Pairs	
1	Dunny	Jenks	55	Blue	57	Pontiff	Al
2	Skip	Stephen	61	Red	54	Mouse	Palo
3	Wingco	Gary	64	Red	58	Archie	Brian
4	Mike	Doug	38	Blue	56	Alec	Derek
			2		2		
Day 3		Singles	Pts	Win	Pts	Singles	
1		Dunny	21	Red	18	Derek	
2		Jenks	31	Red	29	Pontiff	
3		Skip	38	Red	25	Alec	
4		Stephen	33	Red	20	Archie	
5		Doug	14	Blue	23	Palo	
6		Mike	18	Blue	32	Mouse	
7		Wingco	19	Red	18	Al	
8		Gary	32	Red	29	Brian	
			6		2		
Result		RED	8 1/2	-	7 1/2	BLUE	

The CC produced three different NTP winners (Mouse, Palo and Skip) and five different cash winners. A rollover meant a sizeable 2's pot going into Kington. It was snaffled by Long Iron and Gaz at Builth. Wingco led the tour at Builth Wells GC - with a superb 36 pts win and a running total of 66. But, despite a fully co-piloted buggy the hills of Llandrindod did for him. Skip had a round to remember at LWGC and crossed the line in front of Brian, Pontiff and Stephen all on 89 points.

The Chairman's Challenge & The 25th Anniversary

Player	Day 1 Kington		Day 2 Builth		Day 3 Llandrindod		Total Tour
	Points	Prizes	Points	Prizes	Points	Prizes	Points
Skip	33	Jt Win	30		38	Win	101
Brian	27		33	R-Up	29		89
Pontiff	33	Jt Win	27		29		89
Stephen	25		31	1x2	33	R-Up	89
Gary	28		28	1x2	32		88
Jenks	30		27		31		88
Mouse	27		27		32	NTP	86
Wingco	30		36	Win	19		85
Ray	30		27	NTP	23		80
Alec	29		25		25		79
Archie	30		25		20		75
Derek	25		31		18		74
Alan	23		30		18		71
Ian	22		28		21		71
Mike	18		22		18		58
Doug	15		16		14		45

A really enjoyable tour. A massive thanks to Stephen for dealing with the difficult job of organising; to Pontiff for being chief scorecard prefect (in exchange for first on the tee!); to Archie for looking after the cards and CC table; to Gary for the lost ball sweep stake. And to all the tourists who provided the golf and the laughs.

Snake Flips

