

GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP THE WELCOMBE, STRATFORD ON AVON 25th -26th July 2010

After a few scares with the difference between the Master's 24 hour clock and British Summer Time, a full complement of golfers mustered somewhere near a first tee at Noon on Sunday 25th July. The venue was



Welcombe, on the outskirts of Stratford-on Avon and the only use for a golf umbrella would have been to double as a parasol. The Sunday was essentially a practice round competing in teams of three, and the casual conversation before the start seemed to be a good natured competition between those making their apologies for a lack of golfing prowess and those ready to question the authenticity of the various claimed handicaps.

Welcombe is quite a hilly course (as in what passes for mountainous in Warwickshire) and various forms of propulsion for people and golf clubs were adopted. But one way or another, golfers of a good and normal standard got round in time for an excellent dinner. The Master, of course and of the Course, presided and, having played with Ruth Rooley and Andrew Cullimore, was able to award his own team the first prize after winning by a well deserved country mile.



The winning Sunday Team, the Master, John Robinson, Ruth Rooley and Andrew Cullimore

The serious individual competition got underway at 10 o'clock on Monday morning and, after the nerves of Sunday, this time the pre-golf conversation was relaxed. The course, which was in pretty good condition, had benefited from early morning attention by the green keepers and many of us paid them the compliment of checking out their work in the numerous bunkers and by getting full value for money on the greens. The prizes, even for those familiar with golf days, were quite complicated and nobody seemed ready to claim the one set aside for 'The Shortest Drive from the 1st (that was me. Ed) and the Master was careful not to insist on a formal presentation. In the real thing, the Lady Winner was Patricia Huffell with 32 points, in a round put together with a determination and volatility that would have delighted a hedge fund manager. The third place in the championship went to Richard Rooley (34 points), John Ferrie came second with 36 and the thoroughly worthy Champion was David Scahill with 40 points.



Club Champion David Scahill

The Master was able to duly present himself with the prizes for Longest Drive and Nearest the Pin.



The Master, John Robinson receiving the prize for the longest drive and nearest to the pin from his wife, the Mistress Doreen. She said he could only have one prize so it was combined

The Swordsman

This was a cracking weekend and exemplified the Company's values: well organised, sociable, tolerant and hugely welcoming to guests and partners alike. Anyone who has ever picked up a golf club would be warmly recommended to try it!

Rob Walmsley

Issue 25

purpose of scent is to attract the bees while they are flying around – a blinding glimpse of the obvious when it is explained so well!



Davidia Involucrata or Handkerchief Tree brought from China to France and hence to Hidcote by a French Missionary and Botanist Abbé Jean Pierre David the Westerner to see the Giant Panda in the wild

HIDCOTE MANOR GARDEN **26th July 2010**

While the intrepid golfers were leaving the hotel to participate in the annual golf competition a party of 5 non-golfing partners with their leader Gillian Nussey boarded a luxury people-carrier for their visit to National Trust garden at Hidcote Manor near Chipping Camden. This is one of England's great gardens and was designed and created by the horticulturist Major Lawrence Johnston (an American) in the 'Arts & Crafts' style. Johnston spent 41 years creating what would become England's most influential 20th century gardens. He began work in 1907 developing a garden out of the fields surrounding the house planting a series of outdoor rooms offering surprises and discoveries at each turn. Each room had its own distinct atmosphere and character with hedges of holly, beech, hornbeam and yew dividing up the rooms. He donated Hidcote Manor Garden to the National Trust and it became their first property acquired specifically for its garden.

After a delightful lunch, it was off to the excellent Garden shop. One Past Master's wife managed to buy a few essential floral additions to her garden and we were then taken on a tour of the Cotswolds returning in time to see the final group of golfers on the 18th hole.



Trophies from Hidcote Garden Shop



Poppies at Hidcote

On our journey round we were fortunate to have our own botanical expert from Kew Gardens, Ruth Cousins. She was able to answer all our questions about flowers, trees and bushes; in fact, we had a group of other visitors to the garden trailing us around listening to her commentary. We were entranced to learn that you can smell the scent of flowers far more strongly a short distance from the bloom rather than putting your nose closer into the flower because the

We should like to thank Gillian, who while not participating in the golf weekend, kindly organised the wonderful day for the non-golfers and used her extensive local knowledge to show the area to us at its best.

Margaret Skinner