

South East Tour
October 27th/28th 2021

October 27th 2021 – Walton Heath Golf Club

Though we were moving steadily into Autumn, we were fortunate to have fine albeit breezy weather when we arrived at Walton Heath Golf Club.

Following coffee on arrival, many members took the opportunity to spend some time in the James Braid Museum to refresh their memory on the incredible achievements during the great man's lifetime.

A healthy turnout of members meant that that we had the problem (albeit a nice problem) of accommodating all the members who had signed up to play for the day. Members had travelled from far and wide for this match with special mention to Len Bunton along with Barbara and David Grounds, who had travelled from Gleneagles and St. Andrews respectively.

Walton Heath Golf Club, had agreed to a match of 8 pairs a side but were kind enough to accommodate our over subscription of a further pair, so that everyone was able to enjoy this fine course.

As to the match itself, the Society acquitted itself very well and while beaten, could hold their heads high following a 5-3 defeat.

Following the match, participants enjoyed the company of their respective playing partners along with being shown more golfing memorabilia which was on display within the historic clubhouse.

An excellent dinner followed and both Captains in their speeches, were in agreement that the day had been a success and hopefully could be done again in the future. Presentations of gifts to the Captain, Lady Captain and participating Walton Heath Golf Club members were made, along with the proceeds of the traditional "Bunnett Collection" for the Club's Junior Section.

A letter from the Walton Heath Golf Club Captain has subsequently been received by the JBGS Captain. The letter, thanked the Society for its visit and confirmed how much the Walton Heath members along with himself had enjoyed the day and hoped it could be done again in the future.

Your Captain has replied to the letter and echoed the thoughts that this event should be repeated if possible. All in all, a great day.

October 28th 2021 – North Hants Golf Club

For the 2nd day of the S.E. Tour, we made our way across to North Hants Golf Club, where we once again were lucky with the weather and were looking forward to playing a course originally laid out by James Braid in 1904 (nine holes) and 1905 (nine holes).

Bolstered by coffee and bacon rolls we undertook the challenge of a further 8 pairs v 8 pairs match against a welcoming yet determined North Hants side.

The course was in excellent condition for the time of year and the layout found to be both challenging and enjoyable with many Braid characteristics evident.

The match was keenly contested with North Hants Golf Club edging out the JBGS by 4.5–3.5.

Special mention should go to JBGS members Peter Stanbrook and David Grounds who played for North Hants to balance up the numbers and “took one for the team”, though I’m sure they will refute this claim. Also, to Len Bunton and Malcolm Harris who fought admirably in the final game, trying to tie the match which was delicately poised at 4-3 to the home team. Unfortunately, they were held off, for what was still a commendable half point, and Len Bunton was able to wax lyrically that he had returned to his halcyon days when he won the Elie Boys Championship in 1955.

Following the match, members were treated to a tour of the “JR Room” to see a more modern but nonetheless fascinating collection of Justin Rose memorabilia.

A superb dinner followed and once again both Captains in their speeches, were in agreement that the day had been a success and hopefully could be done again in the future. Presentations of gifts to the Captain, Lady Captain and participating North Hants Golf Club members were made, along with the proceeds of the traditional “Bunnett Collection” for the Club’s Junior Section.

A letter of thanks will be sent from the Society Captain to the North Hants Golf Club Captain.

Summary:

Overall, a very successful trip and thanks go to all the JBGS members who attended.

Good relationships have, I believe been reinvigorated at both Walton Heath and North Hants Golf Clubs and this is something we can build on going forward.

Finally, special thanks must go to our Members’ Secretary Alison Stanbrook and our Immediate Past Captain Peter Stanbrook. Their coordination and perseverance to get these visits to both clubs on behalf of the membership through the Covid-19 pandemic has been tremendous.

We are currently working on next year’s itinerary, and will update you early in the New Year. In the meantime, please stay safe and well.