

Ladies Invitational Day – 25th September 2005

A very big thanks to everyone who supported our Ladies Day. I hope you all enjoyed the occasion and were as relieved as I was that the Met forecast was proved wrong yet again and it didn't pour down.

It was a full day and for those of you unable to attend the event, the highlights were as follows:

THE WINNERS

A well deserved win for Jane and Neil Hughes who came first in the Greensomes Stableford, despite an exhausting Club Championship of 36 holes and late night celebrations the previous day!! Also, well done to Janet and Richard Thomas who came second and Sharon Brabant and Tom who were placed third.

Marion Eldridge produced some solid chipping and putting and triumphed in the Pitching competition and Caron Wright secured first place in the Putting competition.

PROFESSIONAL AT WORK

Phil Golding, Quindell's sponsored European Tour Professional and French Open winner, gave an impressive display of pitching and chipping around the green, demonstrating with great ease, how various techniques can produce different results – all we have to do now is to practice!

KANE VS GOLDING

Call me green, but in an attempt to boost the fundraising for the Rowan's Hospice, I had a moment of pure foolishness and naively challenged Phil Golding, to a match play competition. Well, I heard he was available and was keen to be involved in the day and it seemed like a good idea at the time!

Some quick research before the game, revealed he had shot a 66 at Quindell in the ProAm earlier this year (just one stroke short of winning) and was currently on top form, having been placed 7th in the Omega European Masters and 17th in the Linde German Masters in previous weeks. Clearly my request for two shots a hole underestimated the difference between our games, but hey, it was all in aid of charity!

Despite having been at the Club celebrations the previous evening, where it was rumoured the champagne flowed, Phil arrived looking as fresh as a daisy carrying an enormous golf bag, the size of which would make the average caddie require a breakfast of at least 3 shreddies!

He mentioned he'd been working on his swing the previous day with Jason, although I wasn't sure whether this was to my advantage or disadvantage as my game usually goes to pot just after a lesson but his first tee shot looked pretty good to me.

Christine (part of our four ball) and I got off to a dodgy start so in an attempt to calm our nerves, I rummaged in my golf bag for my Bach Rescue Remedy Spray and proceeded to dowse us both with the brandy based liquid, unfortunately making us smell like a couple of 'old soakes'

Arriving at the 2nd tee, I was horrified to discover there were only yards between the white and the red tees on this very long par 5. As the most difficult hole on the course, it was impossible to compete with Phil's powerful shots which blasted through the air like a rocket, flying so far in the distance one needed bionic vision to see where it had landed.

Moving through the course, my ball met a watery death on the 3rd so that blew that hole. I struggled to compete on the next long par 5 (the 4th), in fact I didn't settle and win anything until the 8th, where I celebrated with a somewhat loud, unprofessional noise, which was heard by neighbouring players.

Unfortunately, smugness set in on the following hole (the 9th) producing a sloppy tee shot which transformed into an awesome slice, sadly landing in forbidden territory, commonly known as 'out of bounds'. Off the tee for three, followed by another poor shot meant I could return my clubs to the bag, scratch the hole and reserve my energy for the back nine.

On the 12th, a group of visitors watched in awe, as both Phil and Brett pulled off two superb tee shots, flying high over the tree line to land near the green. Christine and I also rose to the occasion and produced some pretty good drives, both managing a lucky bounce off the middle of the path, leaving the visitors rather impressed about the standard of play at the club – little did they know!

At last, I started to win or half the odd hole on some of the par 3s and shorter par 4s, but I was clearly out powered on the longer holes. It also became obvious the short game was vital and whilst my pitches just landed near or on the green, Phil placed his near the pin. My chipping frequently went wide of the flag, whilst his always edged up to the hole. My putts painfully missed the mark but his glided towards their destination like a magnet.

Playing with someone of such a high standard could have been very intimidating, yet it was a pleasure to watch and learn from an expert on a familiar course and my mistakes prompted some very useful tips, although I've always thought the best tip about the rough was not to go in there in the first place!!!!

It's a completely different world for the Tour Professional, let's face it, I doubt if they usually 'pucker up' on the 18th



MONEY COLLECTED FOR CHARITY

Finally, many thanks to all those who contributed to the Rowan's Hospice by entering the Match Play Challenge Sweepstake, or by trying the different golf balls on the simulator. I know a number of you gave me money on the day as my pockets simply bulged with notes and cheques by the end of the afternoon, however, if you didn't manage to pay me then I will leave an envelope at Quindell Reception so you can add to the donations, which currently stands at £185.

Good golfing

Claire Kane