

## Spot Light on the winners of the Ken Smith Trophy.



Congratulations to all the team members who played in the Ken Smith Trophy and helped Hawkstone win this prestigious trophy.

The Ken Smith Trophy is a prestigious competition, which is played on a pyramid system with various clubs from Shropshire & Herefordshire taken part. The game is not for the faint hearted as the standard of golf is at a high level with most players being under a low single figure handicap. However, during the 6 months the games are played over, when some of the main team players are not available higher handicap players join the team which is a great experience. The scores are based on home and away games with a six-man team playing in pairs. Strict rules apply for dates and is overseen by the Shropshire and Herefordshire Union of Golf Clubs. 20 Teams took part with the competition running over the winter months. If you are over 55, can strike the ball and putt well in the winter, have a handicap around 5 or less and play in any condition over both counties, then maybe you have a chance of getting into the team to compete for the trophy.

So again, congratulations to our team lead by Captain John Gallagher, Nigel Chesters, Ian Balmforth, Keith Forster, Daryl Walters, Nik Roberts, Mike Powell, and the trusted reserves Tony Harrop, and Paul Greatbatch

The competition starts on the 15<sup>th</sup> September and finishes 15<sup>th</sup> March, but there are circumstances when extensions are added, so the final game was held on the 17<sup>th</sup> May at Hawkstone against Ludlow with a resounding win with games won 2½ and a total of 6 holes up.

Getting to the final started in November 8<sup>th</sup> playing away at Bridgenorth in zone D winning a tight game 2 & 1 with 3 holes up to their 5. The on the 29<sup>th</sup> November Bridgenorth visited Hawkstone and again a tight game was played with Hawkstone repeating the 2 & 1 games won with 5 holes up against their 2.

Our next game was against Leominster due to take place on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December, but unfortunately Leominster could not field a team and conceded the game. This led to the next match against Oswestry away on 10<sup>th</sup> February winning 2½ & ½ then playing Oswestry at Home on the Hawkstone course on the 9<sup>th</sup> of March. We came in with all three games under our belt and ready to take on Shifnal.

The Shifnal game was an away match on the 11<sup>th</sup> February, which was the tightest game of the competition for Hawkstone ending in a draw 1½ & 1½ leaving the return match at Hawkstone in the balance for reaching the final. However, the 28<sup>th</sup> of March saw our team triumph with a 3 & 0 win and 13 holes up victory sending them into the final against Ludlow.

First game of the final was on the 21<sup>st</sup> April was away to Ludlow and Captain John was home nursing a broken ankle, which was very unfortunate indeed however Mike Powel step in and kept the momentum going. The team came up trumps with a 2 & 1 win leaving them in a great position for the home game at Hawkstone. The home game took place on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May and once again the team played exceptional well winning 2½ & ½ brining the much coveted trophy home to Hawkstone Park Golf Club.

Once again congratulation to this year's winning team.

