

PUCKRUP HALL GC SENIORS v BRANSFORD GC SENIORS

31.05.22 (AWAY)

There's no easy way to report this other than to say the plucky Puckrup Team suffered a loss that comes under the heading "whitewashed" and a LOSS of

6 games to 0.

So many narratives are littered with comments from the opposition of "This is the best we've played for ages!" that the visitors might be forgiven for being able to empathise with the England Rugby, Cricket and even Football Teams who seem to suffer the same comments regularly. It also follows a similar pattern of previous encounters where 6-0 results have also been recorded.

In the now usual manner, it was very gratifying to welcome another 'debutant' in this season's campaign in the shape of **TONY TOMBS** who was selected to partner our esteemed Captain. Tony is known for his reluctance to be outspoken and is a reserved, quiet character, but on this occasion was heard to liken his playing partner to a rucksack. We all know he meant that he had to carry a lot of treats and drinks around for the Skip, so no offence was taken from such a retiring individual.

There is absolutely no criticism of the Hosts in their play. Indeed, the standard from all the players was hugely impressive and is exemplified by two in particular when playing their 'signature' hole 11th and off the Blue tees. This is a daunting tee shot with a 170+yd carry across an expansive lake (and into a slight headwind to boot), to a small green and bunkers left and right. Not once, but twice, the Home player saw their shots nestle neatly on the green, with one of them actually striking the pin, the other very adjacent to the hole and have the pleasure of also receiving a shot into the bargain. Both sunk their respective putts so only a Hole-In-One would have been sufficient to secure a 'Halve'. Little consolation to the Puckrup players, but it has to be said that superlatives are sadly lacking when describing this outstanding stroke-play.

It has to be said that the Visitors from Puckrup didn't deserve the scorecard reading of losses 4 & 2; 6 & 4; 3 & 2; 6 & 5; 6 & 4 and 6 & 4 but sometimes, that's just the way it is with Golf. The HOME advantage is something much exploited in the game of Rugby and so it is in Golf.

The little gems of delight that will bring us all back to the tee again tomorrow, included the Captain recording a birdie on the last hole, despite having already conceded the loss. There were shots from bunkers that finished satisfyingly close to the hole and which we would dearly love in any Monday Competition. Although long range putts were hard to come on greens that had subtle curves, there were also the huge 'borrows' that were successfully negotiated as the ball sunk below the surface. There were long drives that split the fairways when to err into the semi-rough would have been punished by grass that seemed to delight in wrapping itself around the club-face. The Course itself was in super condition and the company was – as always in these 'friendly' games – a joy to be on the Course with.

The highlight for the Puckrup Team came as 'Max-the-shank' **MICHAEL MAXWELL**, registered the win for the 'Nearest-the-pin' competition. Well done Max!

Licking wounds that will smart for a while, the Puckrup Team will retreat back to base and plot the return fixture later in the season.

Adrian Tame

Vice Captain

Puckrup Hall GC Seniors