

SLCS v HAMPSHIRE
HARTLEY WINTNEY GOLF CLUB
Thursday 18th July 2024

I was pleased to include seven players who have not taken part in SLCS friendly matches this year. I am also extremely grateful to Pat McNeil and Cordelia Lamont who both stepped in at the last minute, when two players were unable to play, one late on Monday evening and the other on Wednesday morning.

Julie Smith, the Hampshire Captain made us very welcome and prepared the cards and handicaps – the joys of an away match! I set off to the first in a confident mood. We teed off at noon in warm conditions but although it might have been too hot for some no-one was complaining, as we have waited too long for Summer this year.

The course looked lovely and very green. Many of us were ahead at the turn but the challenges of the back nine proved too much: if you don't go into the first ditch the second one will get you. We just didn't appreciate you need to be at least five up at the turn to have any chance of victory. Apparently Hartley Wintney is the hardest course in Hampshire and most of us would agree! I was told that the rating for the back nine is 151 and the greens were also quite difficult to read.

The staff were very welcoming, and efficient. The dinner of haddock fishcakes crushed potato and salad, including Hampshire's own watercress was perfect for a Summer evening and was followed by a white chocolate roulade served with raspberries. The meal was enjoyed by all. It was a very friendly occasion, with plenty of laughter and conversation.

Most of the matches were really close but on this occasion the home side pressed home their advantage and won by five and a half to two and a half. However we made new friendships with several players exchanging details and offering invite to home club events.

Judy Searle

Captain 2024

Players: Carol Bilton, Maggie Bradbury, Hazel Corstin, Jeannette Goulding, Debbie Hardiman, Val Howard, Alex Jamison, Sue Jarman, Cordelia Lamont, Pat Mc Neil, Chris Nelson, Gerry Ross, Sue Sadler, Judy Searle, Hilary Thornhill, Lesley Webb.