

## Matchplay Finals Reports for 2020

Hi Folks, as you know we had a number of Matchplay competitions this year culminating on Finals Day where we managed to play out 5 Finals and the 6th Final was the Provost Trophy which was played recently. Below are the reports of those matches. The course was in magnificent order with very slick greens which I am sure caught a few people out.

### Challenge Cup - Mark Cannon vs Alex Roy

This looked a fairly close match on paper with only 1 shot difference in Handicap. Alex got caught out at the first by the slick greens and a 3-putt put Mark one up. Alex soon got it back but then some steady golf by Mark put him firmly in the driving seat and went to the turn 2up. Another couple of Pars by Mark @ 11 & 12 looked like putting the game to bed with Mark going 4 up.

As they reached the 13<sup>th</sup> tee Kenny Roy appeared in amongst the spectators and was told that he was just in time to see the game finish especially as Mark hit the front of the Green with his Tee shot. However, Alex responded with a shot to about 20 feet which he managed to hole for a 2 and reduced the deficit. Mark was bunkered at the next and allowed Alex to get the game back to 2 down. At 15 Mark was just short in 2 and Alex bunkered his 2<sup>nd</sup>, Mark chipped to 8 feet and Alex played a great shot from the bunker to 2 feet. After Mark missed his putt the anticipation of the crowd for a tight finish was shattered as Alex's bottle crashed and he failed to hole his 2-foot putt!!

Alex's caddy Al Roy was so disgusted that he decided to forego the can of Tennants Alex offered up as an apology.

With both players parring 16 it looked like the game would go the way of Mark as he was still 2 up, but a couple of loose drives and a couple of good pars from Alex meant the game was going to extra time.

The Green staff had intimated before the games went out that they were going to start hollow coring as soon as the last game had finished the first so when the game got to the first, they thought it won't be too bad and as its same for both then let's go for it.

After 2 good drives Alex played first and hit his 2<sup>nd</sup> to about 25 ft and after Mark duffed his 2<sup>nd</sup> it looked advantage Alex. Mark hit his chip what looked initially like being too hard however after hitting a few hollow cores it stopped up quickly and finished 18 inches away. Alex having 3 putted earlier from the same spot decided not to be so bold but with the hollow coring the ball took a dozen bounces in the air and stopped halfway to the hole. Disgusted with the effort and thinking his chances of holing because of the coring were nil Alex quickly walked up and hit the 2<sup>nd</sup> putt towards the hole. The ball took forever to get to the hole going left, right, left right and with its final turn dropped into the hole. After conceding Marks putt the Game went onto the next hole which was the 5<sup>th</sup> as it hadn't been hollow cored.

At the 5<sup>th</sup> both players hit their 2 shots to bottom of the mound. Alex went first and hit a wedge to 15 feet behind the hole. Marks 3<sup>rd</sup> shot caught the trees and finished in the gully beside the Green but being close to the wall it looked like a very difficult shot. With a restricted backswing Mark thinned his chip and it looked as though it was heading off the back of the green, however it whacked the pin and stopped 2 feet away!! Pressure back on Alex. After assessing how high to hit the putt Alex tried to ensure he didn't leave himself any work to do but the ball went straight into the hole for a winning birdie. This was a game which earlier looked like being a straightforward victory for Mark but the game had a few unexpected twists and turns much to the enjoyment of the large crowd watching (someone did say Kenny had put on a few pounds !!). The game was played in a very sporting spirit, but probably one Mark would now like to forget, albeit as he has already won the Challenge cup previously then he won't lose too much sleep.

### **Reid Rose Bowl - Paul McCauley vs Sandy McLean**

This was a very tight game with never more than a one-hole advantage to either player until the 17th. A game where both players would rue chances to put themselves further ahead but a game that was played in a great spirit. The game was certainly won on the back 9 where Sandy's steady scoring proved to be decisive. Paul was 1 up at the turn but by the time they walked off the 12th Paul found himself 1 down. Holes were swapped at the 13th and 14th and with 15 and 16 being halved it looked like the game would be going up the 18th until an error off the tee by Paul allowed Sandy to capitalise, win the hole and the match.

### **Seniors Championship - Crawford M Rae Vs Paul McFarlane**

The Senior championship was a scrappy affair from holes 1-5, both players exchanging early holes and then Crawford winning 6 & 7 to reach the turn 2 up. Paul won 11 to get back to one down only to lose 12 & 13! Crawford was now 3 up with 5 to go and looking favourite to cuff his younger senior ( I think that's what you call an oxymoron ) opponent comfortably, however, despite a strong fightback from the under sixty chap winning 14 & 17 it wasn't enough! The old head with lots of experience knew that a solid par would likely still be enough, and so it panned out. Paul was unable to raise his game for one last throw and it meant the game finished at the last with Crawford easing home to win another Championship with an easy par.

### **Whinhill Seniors Trophy – Peter Gallagher Vs Eddie Spence**

Peter developed a convincing early lead with Eddie not in his best form. Eddie started to get back into the game with pars at 7,8,9,11, however some equally strong play from Peter meant he was able to hold Eddie off and close the match out at 14. The game was played in a friendly manner and the after-match hospitality was much appreciated!!

### **Challenge Quaich (Inter Toto Cup!!) - Chris McAuley Vs George Anderson**

George indicated that this was pretty much a tale of Premier-League vs Non-League with almost a giant killing story to tell.

The first few holes were fairly even and Chris took the lead at 6 after almost holing out for a 2. He would then add to his lead at 8 to go 2up. However, NL George won the next 3 holes to flip the game on its head and go 1up with 8 to play (The Bookies were rubbing their hands!!).

Premier player Chris put on the reserves and won the 12th with par and made a 2 at 13 to take the lead once again, however, it didn't last long! George made a great nett 3 at 14 and followed it up with a strong nett 4 at 15 to give himself a 1up advantage with 3 to play (A hint of a giant killing was definitely on the cards!!).

With 16 halved in 3s, and 2 shots still to come the bookies had already started to pay out!

This meant Chris had to throw everything at it and he started playing the long ball, ie, taking his driver out for the last couple of holes!! This change of tactics made George a bit worried and uncomfortable and it showed in his play by taking 6 while Chris made a comfortable par 4. It was now all to play for down the last, albeit George still had a shot to receive.

George tried to play a containing game down the last but with Chris still throwing everything at it, George eventually ran out of legs and Chris's long game paid dividends winning the last with a solid par. Paddy Power nearly went into administration after paying out too early,

### **Provost Trophy – Graham Knox & Alistair Campbell Vs Iain Smith & Paul McFarlane**

Odds on favourites (The Rugby boys) managed to get their noses in front after a few holes, albeit there was either some form of witchcraft going on or young rugby minnows hanging about the 3rd green, miraculously both Iain & Paul's ball disappeared from the 3rd green vicinity, whilst big Al and Grahams balls sitting perfect just short of the bunker. Paul convinced he heard Graham talking to his GPS watch as they walked down the path from the 3rd medal tee (Knoxy 1 to Knoxy ninja, remove the Pro V's on the green and run for the hills – Knoxy 1 out). ...A boring affair thereafter, the game all square at the turn.

From the 10th Smith & McFarlane won 4 in a row, the rugby boys 4 down with 5 to go. On 14 Graham flying solo after Al ripped a drive just in front of the box tee, Graham proceeds to hole a 10-footer to take the game up 15, dormie 4 down (Big Al furious, the beers he'd ordered from 14th tee now getting warm). Al now focused, holes a 20 ft putt for a 4 (nett 3) up 15 to keep the game going. A now confident Al standing on the 16th tee with a pert pigeon chest, fades an iron to 8 ft below the hole – game on..... Unfortunately, Al left his birdie putt on the lip, Smith & McFarlane make par to triumph by a 3&2 margin.