

Cyril Gray 2022

We are arrived at Worplesdon on the Wednesday for a practice round in lovely weather. The course, as usual, was in excellent condition but not quite as fast as it can sometimes be.

In the first round we were playing St Paul's, second match out at 8.40am on the Thursday. Our team pairings were Phil Hine/Simon Waddington, Richard Hine/Kevin Ramshaw and Carey Ashworth/Paul Vicary. The weather was good and there was some wind. This turned out to be a close match Phil/Simon won theirs on the 17th, Richard/Kevin were all square after 18 and unfortunately lost on the 19th. Carey/Paul were one up playing 18 and held on to win their game and the match. We were now playing Berkhamsted in the second round, first match out at 8.30am on Friday, the weather was not as hot as the previous days and the wind a little stronger. Bill Cooper came into the side in place of Kevin who, unfortunately, couldn't play that day. This match was close for the first twelve holes or so but then all three Blundell's pairs started to win holes and we ended up winning all three matches without much drama. We now had to play Gresham's in the quarter finals. Bill/Richard got off to a poor start and were three down after three holes, however, Carey/Paul were soon up in their match and Phil/Simon were the odd hole ahead. Then Bill/Richard went on a lovely run and were soon in control of their match. It meant that we won the bottom two matches quite easily and with the match won Phil/Simon agreed a half on the 15th.

So onto the semi-final against Ampleforth who had beaten the Scottish schools Glenalmond, Watson's and then Fettes – a remarkable run given both Watson's and Fettes were recent winners. Saturday was a similar temperature to Friday but the wind was stronger. Kevin was able to play so our super sub, Bill Cooper, was rested. We played well and we won all the matches, Phil/Simon by 3&2 and the other two games by better margins.

The final was against Edinburgh Academy the holders. We got off to a good start Phil/Simon were 5 up after 9 and despite a wobble won 5&3. Carey and Paul were two up after twelve, then won the next three holes to also win 5&3. With the match won Richard/Kevin who were all square after 14 agreed a half. Throughout the tournament Peter Lowe, our president and Simon Lake supported us and Bill Cooper, hearing that we had progressed to the final, came to support and took some photographs. What follows is Bill's story of the final holes.



1st pair, Simon Waddington's 3 wood to the 15th



Followed by Phil Hine's chip to 6 feet



And the 1st match is won.



After a superb second by Paul Vicary, surveying Edinburgh's position on 15.



Allowing Carey Ashworth to effortlessly attack the green.



Which wins the 2nd match and the Tournament



Man hugs all round



Which robs match 3 of a finish. Kevin Ramshaw watches the end of the match, whilst Richard Hine smiles that three hard days have delivered a well-deserved win



Let the presentation start



The team are presented their tankards



And our captain receives the Cyril Gray salver and makes a heartfelt gracious speech



And that just leaves the OBs to have a glass of champagne and the obligatory team photo.

Left to right, Bill Cooper, Richard Hine, Sam Lake, Paul Vicary, Peter Lowe, Phil Hine, Kevin Ramshaw, Simon Waddington and Carey Ashworth.