



Somerset Golf Union

**Warm Weather Coaching
Desert Springs Golf Club.
Almanzora, Spain.**

Mid Week Review Wednesday 18th March



d e s e r t s p r i n g s

G O L F C L U B

Players attending:-

David Gregory	Burnham & Berrow
Jeremy Larcombe	Bath
Matt Kippen	Enmore Park
Craig Adams	Farrington
Nathan Bateman	Weston-super-Mare
Charlie Cossins	Bath
Alex Kippen	Enmore Park
Ellis Cook	Burnham & Berrow
Craig Cook	Enmore Park
Laurie Canter	Saltford
Phil White	Wells
Max Brittan	Saltford

Adrian Bishop, PGA Professional Wells GC, County Coach, And
Jon Cowgill, PGA Professional Farrington GC, Assistant County Coach
Steve Haines, SGU Captain 2009-10

Sunday 15th March

The SGU Squad, the County Coach, Assistant County Coach and Captain all arrived at Bristol Airport on time and shared in the English demonstration to the French of how to play rugby!

Flights departed and arrived in Murcia on time and with a clear run, (without any wrong turns!), arrived safely at Hotel Marina Playa in Mojocar, just after 10.30pm. After a quick snack, it was straight off to bed in preparation for the week ahead.

Monday 16th March (Day 1)

The squad met at 7.45am (local time) for breakfast and were on the road for 8.30am for Desert Springs. Arriving at Desert Springs in time to say a few hello's and then it was straight down to business with the pre training briefing and objective setting in the Dessert Springs Golf Academy.

With the glorious Spanish sunshine drying out the early morning dew, just after 9.30, the squad, mostly attired in shorts and polo shirts, moved outside to the five star practice facilities. The group were split into 2 groups for the morning sessions, rotating mid morning. County Coach, Adrian Bishop focussed on swing and technique on the range while short game specialist and Assistant County Coach, Jon Cowgil focussed on chipping.

After an intense morning of coaching and practice, there was time for a 15 minute break and a baguette before preparation for the first round of the week with the first group teeing off at 13.31. For the first day, a friendly 3 ball team stableford with 2 scores to count was the format, easing the players in and providing an opportunity to take a look at the course.

Most of the squad have visited Desert Springs with the SGU previously with only Nathan Bateman, the talented Junior from Weston-Super-Mare Golf Club

and the new incoming Captain, Steve Haines having not visited the venue before.

The course was presented in fabulous condition, the fairways and rough well manicured and all the greens running fast and true. The sand and rocks of the desert on the other hand were a different matter for anyone straying far from the fairways! The stiff afternoon breeze also provided further, little need defence to the par 71 6000m (roughly 6,600yrd) course.

The winning team with 77 points was Dave Gregory, Max Brittan and Jon Cowgil, with Alex Kippen, Ellis Cook and Laurie Canter as runners up with 75 points. A notable individual performance was provided by Laurie Canter who carded a level par 71 (SSS 72 from the Championship tees – All players playing off of scratch for the week).

The players then continued on putting and short game skills tests departing Desert Springs as the daylight faded just before 7.30pm.

The Welsh Ladies squad were also in attendance for the Monday at Desert springs although with tee and practice times being at opposite ends of the day to the SGU squad, little was seen of this group.

Tuesday 17th March (Day 2)

We were again welcomed by another glorious sunny day at Desert Springs. The squad again split into two groups (different groups from Monday).

County Pro, Adrian Bishop was to spend the morning with the squad on the putting green, focussing on technique and utilising his many putting practice aids while Jon Cowgil focussed on pitching between 60 and 100 yards on the range. The players again rotated mid morning. As for the whole week, one of the underlying objectives was to make practicing hard (i.e. aiming for a small part of the hole as a target), to make playing seem easier.

At 12 noon, the squad came back together for an Academy session. This session focussed on the importance of course management and a game plan.

After a quick baguette for lunch, the squad were on the tee by 1pm for the afternoon's golf. The format for the round being an individual stableford.

While the sun continued to shine, the afternoon breeze rose to a strong wind and with the pins having been moved from the previous day to some rather challenging positions, a difficult test of golf was to unfold. The players battled well. The most impressive performance of the day was carded by Craig Adams of Farrington Golf Club with a level par 71 for 36 points. His closest rivals were Dave Gregory, Laurie Canter and Phil White who all scored 32 points. 4 other players made thirty points with the others only scoring in the twenty's on a tough afternoon at Desert Springs.

Again the players continued on putting and short game skills tests departing Desert Springs at 7.30pm.

Wednesday 18th March (Day 3)

On a slightly overcast morning, the squad arrived at Deseret Springs for day 3 of warm weather training.

The squad were again split in to 2 groups with Adrian Bishop focussing on technique on the range while Jon Cowgil focused on bunker play involving short game skill tests. Max Brittan, as has come to be expected in short game skill tests, again performed well. Good skill was also shown by the tall Charlie Cousins (6ft 4).

At 12 noon the players reconvened in the golf academy for a session on the importance of good attitude on the golf course, in particular focusing on post shot behaviour. Players were receptive to the understanding and knowledge shared.

Again after a quick lunch, players started their final pre golf preparations and the first group of Canter, Bateman and Gregory teed off at 1 o'clock again for an individual stableford. The sun had broken through the late morning and the day was warming up suitably, as once again was the afternoon breeze.

The breeze once again, although not as strong as the previous day again little effected Laurie Canter who managed 36, despite dropping 4 shots in the last 4 holes with a fine birdie down the last. Good performances were also posted by Craig Adams, Phil White and Dave Gregory who scored 34 and a promising performance was also provided by Nathan Bateman who scored 33. Non playing Captain Steve Haines managed a reasonable knock reaching the turn in level par and finishing with 35 points (although he was playing off his 5 handicap unlike the rest of the players who all played off scratch! 😊)

The players once again concluded the day with chipping and putting skills tests before leaving the course just after 7pm.

Tomorrow, the squad tee off just after 10am in the first round of a 36 hole medal over the last 2 days to conclude the week. There will be no cover for any squad players who meddle with the Desert tomorrow!