



What's on - 25th July to 7th August 2011

Date:	Mon 25 th	Tues 26 th	Wed 27 th	Thur 28 th	Fri 29 th	Sat 30 th	Sun 31 st
Event	Vets Trophy 9.30 to 11.30	Lady Captain's Day Closed to 1.30	LGU Peugeot Area Final Closed to 4.45	SUGC Mini Tour 11.00 to 12.00 Bronze Match 1.00 to 2.00	Captain's Exchange Radcliffe-on-Trent 11.00 to 1.00	Scratch Cup 8.00 to 10.30 Vets Cup 11.30 to 2.30 Junior Medal 2.30 to 3.15 DUGC League 3.30 to 4.45	Scratch Cup 11.15 to 12.00 Mixed v Hallamshire 1.00 to 2.30
Date:	Mon 1 st	Tues 2 nd	Wed 3 rd	Thur 4 th	Fri 5 th	Sat 6 th	Sun 7 th
Event	Silver Match 1.00 to 2.00	Ladies Medal 9.00 to 11.00 Junior Shentall Cup 11.00 to 12.00	SUGC Suma Closed to 4.30	Ladies Open Am-Am Closed All Day		Medal & President's Cup Closed to 3.30	Swanwick Bogey Closed to 3.30

From Bob Adams

19/7/2011

Sandwich in the Rain

Maureen and I went to the Open with a few 'suvvern' pals, staying at a friend's seaside cottage.

First impression was that the organization was poor. Access to the course was over a level crossing, blocked by BR's special (and unscheduled) trains, which were too long for the platform, so the train and the traffic just sat there. Security then made matters worse, creating long, slow, foot-queues.

Saturday was our first day, and the rain came in sideways, propelled by 40 mph gusts of wind.

Horrible! The players were heroes, three of them still shooting a sub-par round, including Tom Watson at 61 years young.

Royal St Georges relies on four factors to keep scores down: the wind, undulating fairways, deep and evil bunkers and firm greens. The tee shot, often hit 40 yards off-centre to allow for the wind, usually hit the fairway, but it then kicked off an undulation into short rough or, worse, a bunker. The approach had to be run in, unless your name was Mickelson, onto undulating greens, maybe 10 or so on the stimpmeter. The pin positions were OK in theory, but just as your putt reached the hole, it veered left or right. Very few putts over 6 feet went down, and very few approach putts reached the hole, especially the up-hillers. Never Up - Never In! All this meant birdies were ultra rare and bogies were the norm for the world's best players.

We sat on No 9 for most of Sunday and saw three birdies, the longest a 20 footer from Jaquelin. If your putt from the front allowed for the borrow, or was a bit too hard, you risked sliding off down the right bank, leaving a 30 foot wedge back up again, with the green sloping away from you. Great fun for the spectators, not so funny for players in a 30 mph gale and rain showers.

The 17th green was our other viewing point. It had two levels, like our 18th. That's where the similarity ended, the St Georges version was five times the rise of ours, but even so, most of the pars came from a 'short' approach and a super-skilful up the bank first putt.

The chips back by those who slid down the side bank were fantastic, I reckon our Juniors can chip, but these guys just slam it into the bank with backspin, so the ball stops dead right next to the pin. Wow! It was no surprise that the "oldies" all did well. Experience brings canniness, youth brings boldness, and this course can really punish a brave shot. Ask Mr Johnson, who hit his approach on the par 5 14th out of bounds to finish second!

Crowd favourites were Darren, Rory, Phil Mickelson and Tom Watson - to my mind the ultimate gentleman of golf. He chatted away to the young amateur Tom Lewis, trying to keep Tom's head up when it all went wrong. "Golf averages out", he told him "A great round is balanced out by a poor one over time". On the Sunday young Tom Lewis partnered Phil, who showed him the sort of short game anyone who wants to be a Champion needs to learn. If only Phil didn't miss those gimmes!

Darren's experience of the course was a deciding factor, plus a bit of help from Heather, looking down on his final round. Twice Darren thinned it from a tricky lie, twice it skidded along the ground, and twice it jumped over a bunker and ran up to the pin. Darren just grinned, we all yelled our heads off! The wind was lethal. Dead umbrellas littered the course and the unbroken ones had to be held sideways to keep the rain off. Balls wavered as the putter head went back. Twice on 9 did we see top names run up to the green to mark a ball hovering above the drop off to the right, earning a cheer from the crowd and a wave from the player.

A great weekend, not a tree in sight, and rough not overlong, but that wind was something else. You had to be there - - - .

Bob Adams

Have you got an item of news that you would like me to publish? If so, would you let me have your suggestions at the following address: secretary@chesterfieldgolfclub.co.uk. Trevor Glover