



RBCGS PLAYS THE RANKIN BROTHERS AND SONS TROPHY at Estoril Golf Club – Wed., 27th October 2021

On yet another gloriously sunny day at Estoril, 34 golfers set out to play and win the Rankin Brothers and Sons Trophy. They also hoped to post a further good score to add to that gained in the Peter Dawson Bowl earlier this month, to have a chance of taking home the Silver Jubilee Trophy at the end of year.

The event, normally held in November when the clocks have gone back, had to be brought forward to October, meaning, well, it was a trifle dark at 07.44. Some members arrived, not with a 'good morning', but more of a 'you must be mad - we surely can't play in this – it's not light yet!' Oh Ye of little faith. Well, OK, it wasn't quite light, but as the sun rose, so did the first two groups.... to the challenge of a straight shot and a ball you could hopefully find. And heavens did it concentrate the mind. Our first group - Sponsor, Captain and Vice-Captain – stepped up to the tee with confidence and placed straight drives down the fairway. It put a swagger in their step. Sadly, it was short lived, as they spent the rest of the game trying to avoid coming in last.

At lunch, after the game, our members welcomed and thanked our sponsor, friend and fellow golfer, Ewan Rankin for his continued generous sponsorship of this event. Ewan in turn revealed the new and very stunning Trophy he had designed – it is surely one we'll all want to win.

As to the game itself? Well, whilst our guests commented on the excellent condition of the course, others felt the greens and pin positions just a challenge too far. Indeed, one thought a request should be made to grow the grass to slow them down. Another felt a thicker perimeter of grass around the 5th green was needed to stop the ball rolling off. Well, now, where would the fun be in that! We're not pros, but on the day when we can read those greens, it feels as though we are. So, be patient, your day will come.

And now for the PRIZEWINNERS, all of whom, were offered a pot of Quinta Nova marmalade, loving made and provided by Carol Rankin Mason:

The Guest Prizes went to **Julie Brown** for the ladies and **Nick Hadden** for the gentleman.

Nearest the Pin for the ladies was **Julie Brown** and **Keith Potter** for the men.

The Cowbell – was awarded to our Vice Captain, **Richard Keech**, who was sorely tested on the tee box, but as usual remained his utterly calm and charming self, never uttering a word of complaint or irritation. And by the time we reached the 17th hole, he finally worked out the culprit of his errant drives, sending two missiles straight down the middle. Hooray!

The Newstead Cup – to great applause went to Bill Buxton with 32 points, marking a comeback after some difficult years. His wife, me, the Captain was so emotional and thrilled for him, she could hardly utter the result. Well done Billy!

6th Place was **Jan Van Boetzelaer** with 33 pts (18/15), **5th, Ron Goddard** - 33 pts (16/17). **4th, Carol Mason** - 34 pts (17/17); **3rd, Mark Dawson** - 36 pts (19/17), **2nd, Steven Deighton** 36 pts (17/19).

But our **CONGRATULATIONS** go to our **WINNER, the very deserving Sakiko Takeda with 37 points**, who this year has worked so hard at her golf, often been in the prizes, and often just been pipped at the post for a win. This was her day, and fittingly was the first lady winner to take home the new Vista Alegre Champagne Flute (a new prize for lady winners, instead of the usual cognac glass, perhaps more suited to the gentlemen).

Our next and last event of the year is the **President's Baffy on THURSDAY, 2nd December**, with dinner after at the Hotel Miragem, Cascais.

Sally Buxton, Captain