



## **Cornwall Golf Union**

### **Cornwall Team Championship**

#### **Match Report**

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> October saw Bude & North Cornwall take on St. Enodoc in the first round of the 2018/2019 Cornwall Team Championships. Bowood played host to the match on a wonderful crisp and clear morning for the foursomes with hardly a breath of wind blowing. Bude had a tough task ahead of them, coming up against a very strong St. Enodoc team. The morning foursomes however proved to be a very close affair with Lawrie Bridges and Dan Vanstone taking their match down the last and narrowly losing 1 down to county player Josh Greenaway and Steve Buse. The young pairing of Shaun Marshall and county junior player Harry Macauley secured a very respectable and well earned half point against former county player and playing team captain Steve Chapman and partner Ian Joliffe. The formidable pairing of Gary Stone and Mark Jenkins gave another county player Jack Irwin and partner Mike Masters a run for their money taking them down the 17<sup>th</sup>, but got pipped 2&1. The final pairing of former county player & captain Steve Rickard and Bude's playing team captain Harry Wellington saw them go 4 down through 9 holes to Guy Hovil and Dave Lupton, but wins on 10, 12, 13, 14 and a birdie on 17 saw them go 1 up playing the last. Unfortunately, it wasn't meant to be, they lost the 18th and came away with another half for the team. The ever steady 9<sup>th</sup> man, Tim Greenslade, came up against young county junior golfer, Lewis Bradley. Despite Tim having a solid round himself, Lewis proved too much on the day as from what I understand, was 2 or 3 under par through 15 holes! That's tough to compete against, earning Lewis a 4&3 win which sealed the  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a point, leaving the score going into lunch at  $3\frac{3}{4}$  - 1 in favour of St. Enodoc.

By the afternoon singles with everyone fed and watered, the sun was still shining and the temperature was like a summer's day! Bude's top dog Lawrie Bridges kicked things off against Josh Greenaway and gave him another close match which resulted in a narrow 2&1 win for Josh, who as a former long term Bowood member was pretty much playing on home soil. Dan Vanstone was second out against a very strong Steve Chapman, who is a past winner of the Cornish Closed Championship when it was held at Bowood, he came away with a 6&5 win for the oppositions. Shaun Marshall had another close and well fought out match taking Ian Joliffe down the last, but again the full point just going to St. Enodoc. Fourth out was the youngest member of the Bude team and making his CTC debut, Harry Macauley, coming up against a former teaching professional Guy

Hovil. Guy makes little mistakes and showed his very steady play with a 7&6 win over the youngster. Although it was a great experience and getting Harry involved in the CTC will only help him progress further with his golf and he will no doubt become a long-standing member of the team in the future! The next match finally saw a point come Bude's way, with the ever-reliable Gary Stone, winning convincingly against Joe Combellack 5&3...not bad for an 'old git' who is currently a force to be reckoned with on the county seniors calendar! Jack Irwin continued his form into the afternoon in match 6, with a 5&4 win over former Bude Club Champion Mark Jenkins. The penultimate singles match between Steve Rickard and Mike Masters saw the St. Enodoc player coming out on top with a 5&3 win. Finally, the 8<sup>th</sup> match of the day between Harry Wellington and lefty Dave Lupton saw another well fought out contest with Dave going 4 up after 9 holes. Standing on the 17<sup>th</sup> tee now only 1 up, an extra Bude point was all to play for. But a missed green and a bogey for Bude compared to a safe Par for St. Enodoc saw the oppositions earn yet another point and finish the day with a resounding win of 10 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> points to 2.

Although Bude suffered a heavy defeat, we should be very proud for showing such great team spirit throughout the day (which was noticed and purposely mentioned by joint St. Enodoc team Captain, Bob Cruse, in his post-match speech), considering a month or so ago it was looking likely that Bude wouldn't be entering a team at all and there was a lot of negativity surrounding the CTC! It just goes to show... with the right attitude and showing willing to play, even against a very tough team, we are more than capable of holding our own, especially in the close foursomes contest which could have gone either way. We could have quite easily come away with a few more points in the afternoon as well, but on this occasion, we fell short. As always, a big thankyou to the caddies that came down and gave up their day to help the team, and the few supporters that made the effort to come down and watch the afternoon singles matches.

A lot of positives can be taken away from this experience, not only for Bude as a team, but for me also in my last minute role as the team captain. It would be great if we could carry this forward into next years CTC competition and set the bar a lot higher for ourselves now we know we are more than capable of competing to the same level as some of the better golfers within the county. I would like to thank everyone who has supported me over the last few weeks and once again thanks to the team, who despite defeat, all had a very enjoyable day and gave it their all!

Harry Wellington – CTC Captain