

**AT LAST!
THE
XMAS SPECIAL!!**

The Musketeer

(unofficial journal of the 'unofficial' Winter League)

"AWL for one and one for AWL!"



AW (F)UL WEATHER HITS LEAGUE !



WE ASK THE BIG QUESTION

**- IS IT BETTER TO HAVE
ORANGE BALLS?**

Dr. Raj Cohen gives advice (page 6)

And that dinner.....

Why was the music so loud?

Why was the turkey so thinly sliced?

Where were the sub-titles when HLC said grace?

FULL MENU INSIDE - page 7

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Letters and match reports: pages 2-5

Jordan and those gorgeous '44s' page 6

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**Bugger, there's ten pages.....I can't be arsed! -Ed.*

LETTERS PAGE

Star Letter

Perhaps you could use this?

30th November

**** Shock Horror Course Open ****

What Mark didn't say:

This is the Henbury Course Information Line – for today Sunday. The course is open with 17 temporary greens – we are not sure about the other one. Trolleys are not allowed and there are no tee reservations. There is a weather warning in place so expect more rain and storm damage – there is casual water on the 5th, 6th, 7th, and the 8th 9th, 11th not to but mention 16th, 17th and 18th - so relief under rule 26 (or is 29?). Part of the 6th is in danger of falling in the Trym but no additional relief here.

The winter course is now in operation and all bunkers have been now deemed water hazards.

Note that over Xmas you are welcome to drop into “the caddyshack” (between the 11th fairway and the 14th fairway) for a mince pie and a game of poker.

Happy Xmas.

The Dirty Digger

P.S. Members wishing going out before 8am asked to get a medical certificate from our in-house medical staff Raj Cohen Inc.

Who ever said that satire was dead? - Ed

(more)LETTERS PAGE

Dear Hacker

I knoweth not whether you were there last night (*Sat 19th*) but I feel confident in my prediction that you will come into the possession of some useful copy. Particularly Slats on the dance floor – something I never thought I would see in my lifetime!

Interesting how many different spellings of Musketeer we're seeing (see header)!

See also attached a report on round 1 of Munk vs Bull. Round 2 ended in a damp squib as Bull was simply not in a fit state to compete (7 n 5 to Munk). Strategic error on Bull's part as he always knew he would be having a skin full on Friday at his office party. Should have gone down the 19th last week!

Tavs

.....so, read on

MATCH REPORTS

The (Very) Longest Day Part 1

Starring Pete Bull & John Monk

Extras AWL Secretary (JT) and The Hypenator (SFH)

All started very amicably with a gathering on the 1st tee (or so I'm told as I was late). Slight hiccup when JM's recent increase to handicap was raised (44 points obviously increases handicap by 1 shot?!?). However JM then went all visionary explaining how he had had a dream

All went well until the tricky 3rd hole, stroke index 5 where JM was getting a shot ... or does he? PB pulled the head cover from his big 'un and struck an awesome tee shot ... into the trees on the right. JM cautiously steered his shot to the fairway. PB provisional topped 20 feet, followed by duff. JM trying to keep smirk off his face. He who laughs last syndrome as PB's 1st ball found.

(Aside – JT's putter now on fire holing from all over the green)

Some extraordinary tee shots on the normal 9th (our 7th) with JM just avoiding the bunker of the previous green. PB into trees on the right, followed by a few more thrashes left him on the bank at the back of the green – very delicate shot needed. "Great shot" exclaimed JM as PB's ball sidled up to within 2 inches of the hole only for Fletcher's Trolley to take the ball down the slope and off the green - was this subtle gamesmanship from JM?? Probably

PB's driving back on form on the next hole resulting in a birdie putt which lipped out. Back to all square.

Holes were being exchanged but this was turning into a tense match. Things were tightening up, especially the queue behind us.

The critical 12th – JM drove into the trees on the right, PB drove into the trees on the left. Nerves clearly creeping in. A rare event then took place as an AWL match had to call through the group behind whilst searching for balls. Pleasantries exchanged with NC, NS and JT who were on the 18th tee – "see you in the bar afterwards", "get your £1s ready" etc: etc: PB ball located on the 11th green – 2nd shot into more trees. Horror as the AWL match had to call through a 2nd group on the same hole. All very embarrassing. Still the match remained tight.

MATCH REPORTS

Through the 13th – match all square.

Onto the long 14th and boy was it long. PB drove onto the clubhouse, JM “overdrew” (a hook to you and me) to the left. Long search for JM’s ball resulted in another group being called through. JM ball located on left of fairway in a tree hollow. Sensible chip out then a huge hook left and a “what the fuck am I doing over there” comment by JM. Ball lost – back to replay last shot. By this time yet another group had caught up and yes a 4th group was called through – the 2nd group on the 14th hole. PB (3 off the tee + a top) waiting patiently for group to finish hole. 25 minutes after his previous shot PB launch a massive effort 15 feet into the laurel bushes by the car park. Was this a 5th group approaching – thankfully no. Eventually JM won the hole with generous a 12ft gimmie for an 8 to go 1 up.

By this time the match was fast approaching the 4 hour mark with still a long way to go and “Operation Stack” now in place on the 14th fairway.

Onto the 15th still keeping an eye on the group behind and the group behind them. PB power faded off the tee into Blaise. JM now 2 up. PB looking like a dead man.

PB, now fatigued, pulled left off the 16th tee into the small ditch. JM already steady down the middle. Things very tense. However JM decides to play 3 duffs in a row (pressure) and eventually the hole is halved. JM 2 up with 2 to play.

PB pecker now slightly raised as JM pushes one into trees on right edge of 17th fairway (pressure again) – could this be a chance. PB secures the hole. JM 1 up with 1 to play.

The 18th (nearly dark now even though it was an 8.40am tee off). PB absolutely nails one down the middle. JM drives the 11th green. After further military golf by JM, PB wins the hole. All square – back to the first for a sudden death play off? Both players just couldn’t face it so agreed on a replay over 18 holes the following Saturday 19 December at 8am.

We decided against entering the clubhouse and bar (NC, NS and JT would have been long gone) and face the humiliation of the 4 groups we had had to call through and decided to leg it out the car park as quickly as we could.

It was indeed the Longest Day.....*Certainly the longest report to date! Ed.*

KNOCK-OUT FIRST ROUND: SIMON ‘Amazing Dancing Bear’ SMITH v PAUL ‘Bunker’ BAINES (ref/scorer: Jon Tanner)

This was a good-natured match played in hostile conditions where birdies on the 4th (*dead streaky!*), 14th, 17th proved decisive when a closer result seemed likely. Highlights included Simon’s drug-enhanced drive at the 3rd - what was in that chocolate flapjack? - and PB ‘sprinting’ the length of the 17th to find the flag and put it in the temporary green, returning breathless to the tee only to see JT, who had the ‘honour’, hook his tee-shot into the conifers - *“If I’d known you were going to put it over there then I wouldn’t have fucking bothered!”* .

JT furthered covered himself in glory by scoring the match and the AWLeague on a Summer Course card: *“It’s OK, we’ll start on the eleventh, I’ve sorted the holes and the stroke index, added VAT at 15% - no problem.....”* Three days later agreement was reached on the Stableford scores! Honestly, just when you need a bean-counter there’s none around.

(even more!) MATCH REPORTS

NIGEL "THE ICEMAN" SLATER v TOM BELLETY

The short version of this report was that Tom Belletty birdied the 16th and parred the 18th but you will need to read all of it to find out if this was enough to see off the mighty Nigel Slater

It was a cold and frosty morning, the temperature was minus 6 degrees but a few hardy souls were ready and raring to play at 8.00. Nigel was hovering around the clubhouse waiting to see if he could entice Tom in to playing with him. After a bit of discussion with Nigel saying he was ambivalent and Tom going home to find his dictionary to see what the word meant they decided to play. Negotiations ensued regarding clarification of handicaps (bearing in mind what happened to Brooksy in the previous round) and, despite Nigel suggesting that it should be three quarters the difference as it was matchplay, it was eventually decided that Nigel needed to give Tom 6 shots

Tom hit a mighty drive on the 1st and was handily placed to hit his second shot on to the green. He played a fine pitch shot (for summer conditions) and saw his ball bounce off the rock hard green about 30 feet in to the air and land virtually on Henbury Hill. Nigel used all his experience to scuff one along the ground and after Tom failed to get out of the bushes it was first blood to Nigel who then secured the 2nd hole with a monster putt

After Nigel won the 3rd to go 3 up Tom headed for the 4th tee with his shoulders slumped and was heard to mutter that the tactics of matchplay were "don't give away an early lead" and "never lose a hole where you get a shot" - these tactics are very sound, it was just a shame that Tom didn't follow them!

Conditions were tough and it was very difficult to get a tee in to the ground and Nigel was getting very excited by all the crude connotations of sticking it in hard, ramming it in to someone else's hole, getting a firm grip etc etc. However it didn't put him off his game although his glasses steamed up temporarily

Tom's aerial bombardment of the greens continued with fairly disastrous results and Nigel (Mr Consistency) kept playing steady golf to win more holes. There was a lull in proceedings around the turn and Tom won a hole to go from 6 down to 5 down. Was it time for a mighty fightback? Remember what happened on the 16th and 18th (see above)

Sadly the answer is NO - the game was soon over as the two competitors shook hands on the 12th although as the temperature was a tropical minus 2 degrees by then play continued (there were AWL points to play for after all). Tom immediately improved - perhaps he couldn't cope with Nigel's Steve Waugh-like mental disintegration having suffered Brooksy's mind games in the previous round - and resulted in some great shots over the last few holes

So Nigel marches on to the next round as the slayer of both Belletty's (presumably a Double Bells although his favourite tippie is an 18 year old Macallan - no, I won't be buying you one for Christmas!) and Tom joins me as an early loser so we can concentrate on the main competition for the rest of the winter

There was also a concerning incident in the bar afterwards when Tom was telling Nigel about all the gay clubs and bars in Bristol with Nigel expressing extreme interest in this topic*. Perhaps their match report will appear in the next issue of the Musketeer....

*'Hard cheese', Baby Bels! * What? Double-entry book-keeping? - Ed. (snigger, snigger)*

MUSKET BALLS

The Trivia Page

----- Forwarded Message

From: John Munk <johnkmunk@blueyonder.co.uk>

Date: Sun, 06 Dec 2009 23:27:21 +0000

To: <adambrooks11@aol.com>

Cc: Jeremy Tavare <j.tavare@mac.com>, <richardjneale@hotmail.com>, <nslater@carterbaynes.com>

Subject: RE: Turkey Trott 4/12/09

Bastards!!!!!! And we didn't even come second. It just goes to show how good I think you are, when I didn't believe a word you said.

Hey, no hard feelings; well done to both of you, you played a blinder.

Tavs, good copy for the Musketeer!!

John

From: adambrooks11@aol.com [mailto:adambrooks11@aol.com]

Sent: 06 December 2009 20:15

To: johnkmunk@blueyonder.co.uk

Cc: j.tavare@mac.com; richardjneale@hotmail.com; nslater@carterbaynes.com

Subject: Turkey Trott 4/12/09

John,

Unlucky Saturday-1 point off second but 5 off me and Rich.Sods made me play off 21 and we would have hit 50 if I'd had my full handicap!!!!

Still 2 AWL pairs in the top five slots-wasn't pulling your plonker in the bar after!.

Regards

Adam

Feel free to vent your spleen - the more vexatious, ungracious the better. All will be printed - Ed.



JOHN MUNK - - 44 POINTS HANDICAP 17

CHRIS BUDD -- 44 POINTS HANDICAP 15

THOSE ORANGE BALLS - DR RAJ COHEN ADVISES

Dear Worried Winter Golfer,

Should you find that your balls are suddenly hard, dimpled and a bright orange colour then you should seek medical advice immediately. The condition, *orchitis tangerinus*, is usually self-limiting and only requires rest in a warm environment. After a few days, when all the snow has gone, your balls should return to their normal appearance.*

Dr Raj Cohen

**If they don't, you really are in trouble!*

CAN TIGER OVERCOME THE “ SOON TO BE EX - FACTOR”?

Hacker has channeled the mighty resources of his organ into a campaign to put Tiger Woods back where he should be - No. 1 at Christmas. Readers will have noticed a certain Simon Cowell being somewhat annoyed at the thought of his latest mediocre popstastic creation being beaten for the prime slot on the season's premier playlist. But who cares? Bit of 'Irritable Cowell Syndrome' if you ask me!

What better record (*aren't they called 'tracks' nowadays?*) for Tiger to cover than the Human League's - "Don't You Want Me"? - Brilliant, I'm sure you all agree! And when Tiger hits the notes on that opening line - "*You were working as a waitress in a cocktail bar, when I met you...*" - well, you just know you've got a winner! There are only a few downloads at the moment, and all of those in the USA, but numbers are growing all the time. Here's hoping!

CHRISTMAS DINNER MENU**EARLY STARTER**

Tee off 7.45

MAIN COURSE

John Munk Fish (sorry, off)

'Shank' of Lamb

served with

Temporary Green Salad

Chips in for Par

SWEET

(Tiger said he'd bring some tarts)

Coffe and Petis FORE!

'All-square' After Eight Mints

SPOT THE BALL COMPETITION - SOLUTION

No: 2



Well, Hacker is pleased to report that everyone correctly ‘spotted the ball’everyone, that is, except Paul B who placed three crosses in the sand! Perhaps someone should point out that the aim is to get the ball out of the bunker with the first shot. Are we to believe that those sneaky ‘bunker lessons’ with Ryan aren’t working?

Anyway, the editorial board (*moi*) have decided to donate the prize money to the photographer for the extensive dental treatment needed.....that’s if he can find an affordable and competent dentist anywhere!

AWL UNOFFICIAL MERCHANDISE

XMAS CLEARANCE SALE BEGINS BOXING DAY!

In order to preserve the integrity of the 'Musketeer' brand the marketing department have taken the unusual step of endorsing only two products for the post-Christmas sale. And both feature - cutting edge design and the latest advanced technology



THE AMAZING 15TH CLUB!

STAY REFRESHED ALL THROUGH
YOUR ROUND!

DRIVE AND DRINK!

YET TO BE SANCTIONED
BY THE MATCH AND HANDICAP
COMMITTEE

(but that load of piss-heads should be easy to
convince!)

WORRIED ABOUT YOUR CRAP
PUTTING?

WHY NOT CRAP WHILE YOU
PRACTICE?

ONLY £ 49.99!
(air-freshener not included)

Isn't that a 'gimmee' - Ed.



*Strange as it may seem, both of these items are genuine products - and I thought I
needed to get a life! - Ed.*