



Fylde Scratch Team

Match Report - Simon Denye (Lytham Green Drive GC)

Fylde hosted Southport DGA in this 2011 Lancashire Scratch League opener on Friday night at Fleetwood Golf Club, both teams looking to start their campaign off to a winning start. Despite both sides fielding slightly under-strength teams, it did not detract from the golf as both sides looked to get an early edge on proceedings.

Durnian from Fylde made a steady start against McIlroy from Southport & Ainsdale but couldn't quite match McIlroy's steady play in very testing windy conditions. This fixture has been well contested over the last 3 or 4 years with not much more than a point in it and tonight's game was no exception.

Croston battled valiantly against Reid (Southport Old Links) and despite birding 17 and hitting his approach at the last close, Croston failed to convert the chance and lost 1 down.

With the match firmly going Southport's way debutant Griffiths took control of his game early on securing a 3 up lead after 12 although Harrison battled hard and by the time the pair came off the 16th they were tied. However, Griffiths continued his good form of late securing a point for Fylde by 1up.

Mayers (Fairhaven) made a promising start against Duncalf (Formby) although a few uncharacteristic errors on the back nine allowed Duncalf to get back into the match. Lee eventually going down by 2&1 to the in-form Formby scratch player.

With the Fylde desperately needing to gain something out of the last three games, O'Brien (Blackpool North Shore) showed his experience by controlling the match throughout and it looked a certain victory albeit for Shephard (Southport Old Links) holing out well on the last three greens. The match ended up tied although Mike is probably rueing the missed putt on 18th which would have given him a deserved victory. It is great to see Mike back playing good golf, like we know he can, after a torrid time the last few years with illness.

The last two matches were crucial and Bell (Royal Lytham) who is currently studying on a golf scholarship in the United States showed signs of Jet lag as he made a sluggish start. However, he soon found his rhythm and despite the match being fairly even throughout Bell finished strongly winning the 15th, 16th and 17th to close out the match by 2&1.

Denye again showed his experience against Simms (Southport Old Links) controlling the match throughout and closed out the match by holing out for an eagle two on the 14th to complete a notable 6&4 victory. His unbeaten record for Fylde remaining intact.

Fylde will be keen to get back to winning ways in the next match. The Fylde's next fixture will be away to North Lancashire on June 17th June and then away to Preston DGA on Thursday 7th July at Chorley Golf Club.