

Rock Park Bowls Club Mixed Tour 2023

Toorak Hotel, Torquay.

11th to 15th September 2023.

The day began with a heavy shower of rain as we congregated at Barnstaple Railway Station to board the Coach to Torquay. The omens did not look good,

However after a brief stop at Cullompton Services we arrived at our hotel in Torquay in bright sunshine.

The first Match (Monday 11th. September) was at Kings Bowling Club, Torquay where our Captain for the day was Dougie Cole. We were welcomed by Kings Captain, Lee Robins.

After a spirited match where Kings ran out winners of 120 shots to 78, They then provided an Al Fresco tea on the picnic benches out side the club house. The weather had improved and we had sunshine although it had looked likely that we might have had some rain , this did not materialise. I will not publish who the winners of Parky were. Suffice to know that they know who they are.

The following day (Tuesday 12th. September) we played at Torbay Country Bowling Club, in the grounds of Oldway Mansion. What a lovely setting.

Our Captain for the day was Mike Kelly who was welcomed by their Captain, John Allodi. The game was played in glorious sunshine and the opponents ran out winners by 103 shots to 92. As before the Parky winners know who they are.

The following day (Wednesday 13th September) we had a morning excursion to Brixham where surprisingly a lot ended up in Wetherspoons. Funny that. In the afternoon we went to Babbacombe Bowling club where our Captain for the day was Kenny Ellis who was greeted by their Captain,

Gordon Nickerson. Uncle Albert (Dave Hammett) was presented with a Pirate Hat to wear during the match. I think it was to remind him of his adventures on the seven seas. Babbacome run out winners at 121 shots to 86. Never mind. It was a lovely day besides. Parky was awarded to ????????????????

On Thursday 14th September, several members played indoor bowls at the hotel, before we went to Torquay Bowling Club in the afternoon. Our captain for the day was Jack Neville who was greeted by their Captain, Eric Neason. The result was Torquay 97 shots to Rock Park 87. The best result for Rock park on this tour. Parky was awarded again as before, you know who you are.

The weather was exceptional all throughout the tour and it was very enjoyable.

Our Great Thanks go to Mike and Pauline Kelly who did a magnificent job in organising the tour, which I know was no mean feat, and also to our coach driver Chris from Dunwoods who provided an excellent service.

I hope everybody enjoyed the tour despite the results. All matches were played in a friendly manner and we are looking forward to next years tour already. We will be staying at the same hotel in Torquay, but playing at different venues.

Finally a total of £275.00 was raised from fines and other sources and presented to North Devon Hospice by Mike and Pauline with the backup of Paul Holland who was probably there acting as security. Well done Kenny for extracting all those fines at the end of the tour.

G. Sylvester

