

Sixteen intrepid fellows made the, somewhat tortuous, drive to Kent on Tuesday 2nd July for the biannual away fixture against Kent Veteran Golfers Association. The relationship between the two counties stretches back to when Gordon Emerton-Court, who founded the DMVGA in 1970, moved to Kent in the late '90's, started a similar Association and the first match between the two counties took place in 1999.

This year the match against Kent took place, as in 2022, at Ashford GC which is a tree lined course with varying water hazards to be negotiated. Nearly all the matches were closely fought, swaying one way and then the other and indeed some not being decided until the final putt on the final green. Notwithstanding the effort of the Devon team the outcome was a 5 – 3 win for Kent; the score-line does not really do Devon justice as, with a couple of breaks of luck, it could well have been a different story. The Kent team were magnanimous in victory and, at a thoroughly enjoyable post-match dinner, the relationship between the counties was celebrated. We now look forward to welcoming Kent to Devon in 2025 when two matches will be played, the outcome being decided across the two matches to be played at Churston and Tiverton.

The squad's hotel accommodation, as for the last two trips, was at The Weald of Kent Golf Course & Hotel. A perfectly adequate hotel for our purposes with a newish course opened in 2000. Having played against their Vet's team on our last two visits to Kent it was very good of some of their team to be at the hotel on the Tuesday evening to welcome us with a drink. On the Thursday morning we breakfasted together before locking horns on the course; unfortunately, our 'horns' were not up to much as we ran out 7 – 1 losers. Apparently, they have yet to lose a match this year – we could see the reason why! Again, a thoroughly nice bunch of chaps - who we have yet to beat!

Thanks are due to each and every member of the squad who made the, not insignificant, effort to support the Association on this trip and congratulations should go to all of those who won their matches. It's clear that the relationship between the two counties remains in rude health and, as already stated, we look forward to welcoming them in July next year when, perhaps, we can wrest that Trophy out of their hands!

The squad of sixteen, and their nine clubs, are listed below:-

Bigbury - Peter Barraud

Boringdon Park - Peter Jago

East Devon - Phil Keen

Exeter - Barrington Rogers & Paul Waite

Saunton - Adrian Granville-Smith & Dave Gibson

Stover – Alan Turner & Jeffrey Steward

Tavistock - Bob Small (Captain), Ashley Austen & Ian Chrichton

Tiverton – Trevor Blatchford & Peter Stuckey

Yelverton - Tim Douglas-Riley & Noel Preston-Jones

Bob Small Captain DMVGA

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