

FIGS TOUR 2022

Finally after a two year delay the FIGS Tour was on. At last we were off to Worthing and surrounding areas to put into practice our wonderful golfing skills on some easier (than Forresters) golf courses.

Day one was Worthing Golf Course, we were all full of high expectations until we got to the putting green, if we can't keep a ball on here what will it be like when we get out on the course.

After a lot of up and down hills and greens with undulations in every direction we all successfully made it to the nineteenth. I think the scores said it all with only a handful making it to 30 points or above, our tour leader for the day Mark Jeffery making an impressive 37 points, ball of shame to Steve Brewington with 18. A great course, magnificent views and in superb condition.

Our spirit was not broken, bring on the next course it'll be flat and easy, won't it?

Day two didn't get off to the best start due to the night before. We all made it safely to bed on the first night (after a few drinks), but unfortunately Jim fell out of bed during the night, Paul had to call an ambulance, and Jim was off to the local hospital for a few stitches to his head.

In the morning, no sign of Jim. Several phone calls and texts, Jim was still in the hospital, was it worse than we thought, was he going to make the days play?

Well, we all had to set off to The Dyke Golf Club and with a positive attitude we took Jim's clubs and a change of clothes, you never know he might make it.

Tee off was 12 O'clock, Jim's group at the back, Jim still missing but like the trouper he is he finally made it by 12.30 after a £100 taxi ride from the hospital, no sleep and raring to go (he even birdied the first hole).

Once again the greens were like lightning and the fairways were to say the least hilly or was it mountainous. Again the scores were low with only 5 getting to 30 plus, winner of the day Dave Ayres with 35 points, ball of shame falling to Pat Crace with 20.

Day three was Mannings Heath, heathland that sounds flat. Only one buggy booked for the day, but, one look at the first hole eight more buggies were requested, only one brave (stupid) group were going to trudge it (Dave Ayres, David Gillespie, Pat Crace and Steve Brewington).

We were all glad we had buggies because this was the most undulating course we had played to date. Mr Ayres commented on completion of his round in between puffing and wheezing 'I'm glad I'm never going to play that course again'.

Miraculously over half the field made it to 30 points and above, Paul Messenger just scraping the win from Chris Hurrell on countback with 37 points, and you've guessed it Mr Brewington winning the ball of shame for a second time with 20 points.

Things were now hotting up on the leaderboard stakes, overall Mark Jeffery on 99, Dave Ayres 95, Kevin Royan 94 and Clive Walby (I've not hit a ball yet) on 93. All to play for tomorrow.

The blind draw was also hotting up with Dave Ayres in the lead with 101, his closest rival David Gillespie on 99 and Barraclough, Brewington and Brooker all on 90. Dave can't lose surely.

Day four Crowborough Beacon, today you could claim 'The Trophy'.

The first hole, a simple 150yard carry over the heather to reach the fairway, trees to the left and more heather to the right, what could go wrong.

Dave Ratchford in the heather on the right and Steve Barraclough in the heather at the front taking another two shots just to reach the fairway. Steve Brewington in the heather on the right, Mark even further in the heather on the right, David Gillespie in the trees on the left.

Pat Crace in the trees on the left (twice) never to be seen again, Chris Hurrell in the trees, Jim Chisholm way right in the heather, second shot shanked even further right, it was going to be a tough day.

Some of the holes seemed impossible to play, a nice wide fairway as long as you don't go right into the trees and/or heather, so go left, simple, except your ball would then bounce right and run all the way down the fairway into the trees and/or heather on the right.

More heather than you could miss with a golf ball, ravines on the sides and in front of you, bomb craters in the middle of the fairways, the first hole was looking as if it was the easiest hole, should we have stopped there.

Still we all made it round successfully but only two payers getting 31 and 37 points and many a lost ball what was going to happen to the leaderboard.

The winner for the Day was Chris Hurrell with a marvelous 37 points (and that's with a blob on the last), ball of shame that Buzz wanted so badly but he was well and truly beaten by Pat Crace with 12 points (this must be the lowest ever score on a FIGS tour)

Prizegiving in the club house

The Trophy

Two people on 126 points, countback ensued with Chris Hurrell zooming up the leaderboard from ninth place yesterday, stealing the Trophy from Mark Jeffery on Countback, Well played Chris.

The Blind Draw

Again two people on 128 points but Pat Crace (thanks to Chris Hurrell) stormed up the leaderboard from 19th place to steal it from Dave Ares (unlucky Dave, it's the taking part)

The Full Leaderboard

Chris (I can't believe I shot that) Hurrell 126 points
Mark (I dented my car) Jeffery 126 points
Kevin (they don't sell stella!!) Royan 122 points
Clive (I still haven't hit a ball yet) Walby 120 points
Kevin (nice shot Kev) Myers 119 points
Chris (I didn't get chance to get my chest out) Collins 118 points
Dave (I don't moan about anything) Ayres 118 points
Dave (cough cough oops sorry) Ratchford 116 points
David (another fiver to Royan) Gillespie 114 points
Dave (I need a shot back) Brooker 111 points
John (My knee hurts) Luxford 111
Jim (I fell out of bed and hurt my head) Chisholm 110
Steve (how could I lose a tenner to Atko) Barraclough 109 points
Steve (I've only got two speeds, slow and slower) Corkhill 109 points
Jeff (It's the taking part) Atkinson 108 points
Paul (I new I had a good score in there) Messenger 107 points
Phil (I can't use a toaster) Prior 105 points
Simon (how many balls have I got left) Harding 97 points
Steve (I want the full set of shame balls) Brewington 91 points
Pat (the lowest ever ever ever) Crace 86 points

Kevin, Clive and Kevin hope you all enjoyed your tour as at the end of the day it's all about the fun blood sweat and tears (especially the blood) that make the Tour. Hope to see you all next year.