**THE BIRKDALE BUCKET**

Since the foundation of the Bucket in 1957, held each year in mid March, Stowe’s participation has been somewhat patchy, often, I am told, with just the sole representation of the late David Hadfield flying the Stowe colours.

However, after an awakening to the joys of the annual gathering of Bucketeers at Woodhall Spa Golf Club, I am very keen for that to change. Hence, this call to arms to Old Stoic golfers in every handicap range.

Since inception, Stowe have won the Bucket just the once, in 2021. To cut to the chase, the more players that we enter, the better our chances – we can have as many competitors as may wish to enter, the best 4 stableford scores from each School are aggregated to produce the winner.

The competing 8 schools, mainly from the North, are:

Giggleswick

Pocklington

Sedburgh

Wrekin

Worksop

Oundle

Uppingham

Stowe

Uppingham tend to be quite successful as they enter a large number each year – the total number of entrants is restricted to about 60.

Now, let me be clear, whilst keenly fought, this competition is all about fun and camaraderie, with a very lively post competition dinner held at the Petwood Hotel, where we stay. The Hotel, a mile from the Golf Club, housed the Officers’ Mess for the Dambusters 603 Lancaster Squadron.

The cherry on the cake, is the auctioning off of the following day’s Foursomes pairings at the conclusion of the dinner. The pairings are randomly drawn and the bidding can be quite fierce. However, as Arthur Fenwicke – Clennell discovered last year, it can be quite lucrative if you finish in the Top 5 pairings and you own a slice of yourself!

Furthermore, the Society meets your green fee costs, so it’s a rather good value 36 hours away.

So, let’s get a decent quorum out from Stowe next March, and put Uppingham back in their box – it was hugely gratifying to knock them off their perch in 2021.

Get that form filled in (it’s attached to this mailing).

Please feel free to contact me on 07971 444888 if you have any questions.

Nick Rice (Lyttelton 1971)