The Disillusioned Aardvarks

*The ‘Sultana’s of Swing’*

# The R W Thomas Shield 2018

It’s a Sunday night in December 2017. Dick Allott has just come off stage at SPOTY 2017 having accepted the lifetime achievement award for his seventeenth consecutive victory in the Roger W Thomas shield and in the green room, cool-as-a-cucumber Claire Balding is eager for an in-depth interview. What makes ‘The Dick’, tick…?

‘*I’m a tremendous player – tremendous - I get thousands of letters everyday telling me I’m the best swinger ever’. All the others are very bad’.*

The cold black Gloucestershire night pierced Dicks dreamy slumber. Sitting on the edge of the bed he realised he had woken. He scratched a few flaky scabs and sniffed the yellow patch on his y-fronts, *‘should get another day’*, he thought.

It was the same – always the same - he knew that standing on the first tee, he would be hopeful, but knew also that it would not end well. True also, that simply rubbing shoulders with the gladiators of golf would be enough….

Not for him, the triumphant entry procession through the golden doors of Valhalla to the Aardvark Hall of Fame.

Not for him, the secret hand shake that unlocks the ‘Gordian knott’ of life.

He knew that he would be in the Bridge street café, sipping tepid tea from a polystyrene cup, trying hard to remember that dream about Clare Balding… or was it just balding….?

**Weds 13th to Fri 15th June.**

**FEES.**

The cost for accommodation this year is £185 (inc golf + accom + eve meal + bacon roll on arrival). You have already paid a deposit of £50 leaving a balance of **£135.** (or for Juddy + Tipler who are staying one night only, its 135-50 = 85)

A Note form our returning champ and organiser… could you please pay this across to Nick before MON 5th June as they will be removing the loot from his bank account; Sort code: 07-10-40, A/C: 65119360
Name: N I Burnett

Remembering of course to add you name as reference so Nick knows who has paid.

The cost of the prizes will be required in cash… but at this point we’re unable to confirm exactly what this will be, due to exchange rate changes following Brewit… I mean Brexit…. To be advised…

So, The vague itinerary…….

**WED 13th**

**Hagley Golf Club**,
<http://www.hagleygolfclub.co.uk/>

DY9 9JW

Tee Off: 12noon

Arrive from 10.15 onwards for the usual bacon things and accoutrements

Mr Brogden, last years ‘surpreme being’, will dispense nothing less than a vintage malt straight from the secret board room stash of Bruton Knowles at 11.50am on the first tee.

But pleased don’t be too concerned about the cost… as you and I have already paid for it!.... courtesy of the riches harvested from their lucrative masonic ‘contract’ with the National Grid, pretending to survey some pipes on an annual basis.

**THURS 14th**

Kidderminster GC

<https://www.thekidderminstergolfclub.com/>

DY10 3HT

Tee Off: 11.00

Evening Meal. Booked for 18.30 – meet bar 18.00

Taxis to the Bear at Hodnett will be arranged for 20.00 departure…

**FRI 16th**

**Droitwich GC**

<http://www.droitwichgolfclub.co.uk/>

Tee off from 10.00am

Super prize giving gala sandwich follows… leading to the awardation of the R W Thomas Shield

***This years contestants***

C. Adams, R. Allott, R Brogden, D. Brown, N Burnett, N Colton, J English, A Foster, El Juddo, A Luthers dad, P Maddocks, P Nicholson, S Nicholson, T Roberts, C Taylor, J Tipler, I Tolley, (17).

***Hall of Fame***

There have been 16 different winners of the previous 23 competitions – all now, masters of the secret handshake.

C Adams 2008 R Brogden 2017

D Brown 1996 & 2004 N Colton 2003 & 2005

J English 2015 El Juddo 2010, 2012 & 2014

A Luthers dad 2001 S Nicholson 1998, 2006 & 2016

C O’Neill 1999 D Pittaway 2007

C Taylor 2000 K Taylor 2002 & 2011

J Tipler 2013 R Venes 2009

G Wagg 1995 J Wilks 1997

# Taxes.

Along with Dicks inevitable defeat, the only certainty in life. Details of this tax windfall will no doubt, be circulated by the Chancellor in due course.

You can of course appeal against any fine levied.......

As usual the bottom of the pile on Weds and Thu will become the kitty master and wearer of the tour shirt for those evenings.

## Lodgings

We are staying at the course itself.

<http://www.hawkstone.co.uk/hotel.html>

… and it seems the sharing side of things has already been determined for us.

Judd/Tipler

Nich S / Tolley

Nich P / Brown

English / Broggy

Taylor / Allott

Colton / Maddocks

Adams / Luth’s dad

Foster / Roberts

Burnett / Files.

If you need to know anything else, give me a ring – otherwise see you on Weds 14th June in the bar at Hawkstone Park GC sometime from 10.30 ish

Col.

07990 971190

 **Please could you transfer the loot across to the bank account now…. !!**