

Herts Men's Seniors beat Hampshire to Win the SEG Men's Seniors League Title!

Having won the SEG Seniors League Title (north section) with four straight wins, against Beds, BB & O, Middx and Essex, it was now time to slug out the Final against the SEG (south section) winners, Hampshire, to determine the undisputed champions of south east England.

On 14th October, the teams assembled at Crews Hill Golf Club, Middlesex, for the final showdown.

Herts were well prepared having played several practice rounds to gain course familiarisation, and a small advantage over our opponents, however, Hampshire had similar ideas and were spotted the previous week getting in some extra practice too, so we were on an equal footing.

Whilst the team's momentum had built through the summer, due to not having played a match since beating Essex back on 1st September, the momentum was lost, and this match was going to be more like a cup final. It was anyone's to win.

With the team selected, the day before the match, disaster struck, with one of our top players, Mark Gershinson, injuring his ankle and unable to play. In came Jason Court off the bench, having not played a league match all year, but having recently hit form just at the right time.

The match began with a mixture of good and nervy, opening tee shots from both sides, which was understandable considering what was at stake.

After a few holes played, we were down in five, all square in one and up in four matches. The signs weren't encouraging, but there was a long way to go.

But our no.1, England player, Steve Standing, soon put a stop to the negativity, playing blistering golf (5 under par for the 12 holes played) to beat his opponent 7 & 6. The result reverberated through the team, which gave them an injection of belief.

Our no. 2, David Lang, who never loses, was 3 down after 8 and struggling. However, he fought back valiantly to halve his match and gain a very valuable half point.

John Ambridge came close to overturing his match, only to just miss out losing 1 down.

Then, Gordon Stewart, unbeaten this year, was seen ambling cross-country towards us, having played solidly to dispatch his opponent 5&4.

Then came Phil Embleton, having been 2 down early on, to finish off his match early 5&4. So the tide was turning and we now had 3 ½ points and needed two more to win.

But then, Paul Marshall lost, against possibly Hampshire's best player, so it was now 3 ½ - 2 ½ to Herts with four games still out there.

When we left Nick Leconte earlier on the 12th hole, he seemed to be in control of his match at 3 up, so the captain and several team members and supporters, piled on to a buggy and raced across the furrowed fairways to find him, almost wrecking the suspension on route. Then suddenly, strutting over the hill on the 18th was Nick, carrying his bag with a smile on his face. He'd just won on the 17th hole, 2&1. So that was now 4 ½ - 2 ½.

With even more passengers on board the buggy, (looking like an attempt to go for the Guinness Book of World Records), and others opting to run for fear of being knocked unconscious

banging their heads on the roof, we raced over the course to find Simon Kay putting on the 14th. By this time, a big crowd had gathered, as this was a crucial match for both sides. However, fittingly and as cool as you like, our Senior County Champion holed a 6-footer for par, to close out his match 5&4 to win the point that secured the team victory. There were scenes of jubilation amongst the Herts team and supporters, eclipsing those witnessed at Lahinch when GB&I won the Walker Cup a few weeks ago.

Meanwhile, our unbeaten rookie, Doug Montgomery, had an unfortunate bounce left off the 18th fairway from his tee shot, reminiscing a Barnes Wallis dam buster bomb on steroids, giving him no shot to the green, resulting in him halving his match for another valuable half point.

With the match won, Jason Court was next, being all square after 14, having come from 2 down earlier on. There was some discussion as to whether they should agree to a half, rather than play in. Jason wouldn't have any of it and wanted to try and earn a point. He promptly then lost the par 3, 15th and suddenly there were murmurs from the crowd as to whether he'd regret his decision. However, a good half at 16, a conceded birdie at 17 to go all square, and winning the last, secured Jason his hard-fought point, What a super-sub he turned out to be!

So, the team did it! 7 wins out of 7 earning the right to become the "Invincibles" of 2026!

What a fantastic achievement for the team, becoming the League Champions of south east England. A proud moment for Hertfordshire Golf.

It must be said, that the match was played in great spirit, with both sides displaying some fabulous golf and the highest etiquette and sportsmanship throughout. Hampshire were obviously disappointed, but rightly proud to have made their first final in 8 years. Well done to them and we look forward to playing them again next year in a pre-season friendly.

A big thanks to all the caddies and supporters on the day. It really helped to create a home-like atmosphere, and without doubt gave the boys a boost.

Also, thanks to Mike and Simon of South East Golf Union for all their hard work administering the competition through the year and on the day, for refereeing and setting up the 1st tee display which quite rightly, helps give the final the gravitas it deserves.

And finally, thanks go to Crews Hill for hosting the match and serving us a delicious lunch.



Left to right:-

Paul Nancarrow, Simon Kay, Steve Standing, Gordon Stewart, Dominic Ronan, David Lang, Matthew Cohen (Captain), Doug Montgomery, Phil Embleton, Jason Court, Nick Leconte, Paul Marshall, John Ambridge & Dave Scammell (Vice Captain)



The Herts Golf Cheerleaders, from left to right:-

Jane Walter (County President), Jane Clarke (Chair of the Board), Suzanne Thrower & Liz Perrottet (Board Directors and Tilly (Nick O'Byrne's plus one).