



SWEET REVENGE AND A MANGLED BALL

First lesson – don't annoy a Muntjac, the Brookmans Park golfing variety at least. Jolted no doubt by a 6-2 defeat at Old Fold back in April, the return match was a different story. Very different in fact with our only winners being Richard Pacey and Paresh Kotecha.

Second lesson – when you stand on the final green wondering whether to offer a half to your opponents, do it. The thought crossed the minds of Alan Sallis and Ed Brown, even though Ed was closer to the hole than either of the Muntjac pair, but before anything was said in went a 40-foot putt and a match which they might have won and could have shared was instead lost.

Third lesson – don't hit your ball anywhere near a greenkeeper in a tractor cutting grass. Mark Garrod had taken out a shiny new Titleist Pro-VI (NOT CHEAP!) for his game alongside Terry Barnes, but on the par five third hole a second shot into the rough had tragic consequences when the ball was rendered useless. A deliberate act of sabotage maybe – we'll never know.

Brookmans Park led in that clash from the moment 25-handicapper Mark Kane parred the 427-yard first. Perhaps he had taken inspiration from his namesake Harry Kane's two goals against Ukraine two days earlier.

At least Pacey and Kotecha came away with a 3&1 win, Richard chipping in for birdie on the third (no problem with a tractor for him there!) and Paresh winning the nearest-the-pin prize for his tee shot to six feet at the 143-yard ninth.

Keith Embleton and Michael Tryphonides had high hopes when they established a two-up lead on the outward half, but ended up losing on the last and the other games all went the way of the Muntjacs as well, George Palourti and Keith Thomas also having to stomach a 40-foot putt against them at a crucial time.

Not to worry. It was a fine morning weather-wise, the course was in its usual good condition and we were fed and watered well too, both at the halfway hut and in the clubhouse afterwards.

Terry Barnes, by the way, was a late replacement for Richard Stell – and there's a story in that too. With a new kitchen about to be installed at home Richard withdrew from the Rabbits match with Brookmans Park match last Thursday to oversee the start of the work, but one of his fitters was then Covid "pinged" and the start was put back to Monday so Richard missed playing at Brookmans Park twice. Such is the world we now live in.