



Match Report VLTC of GB Vs Norwegian Veterans

Held at St Georges Hill Tennis Club on
Wednesday 17th, Thursday 18th & Friday 19th August 2011

Classed as the blue ribbon event of our extensive calendar of matches we welcomed our Norwegian friends to St George's Hill Tennis Club Weybridge in Surrey, who had offered us their courts and excellent facilities for the duration of this match. We would like to thank them profusely for their help on and off the court. They could not have been more helpful.

Our visitors arrived with just two lady players, but that did not deter them from always being available for any match at any time, I think they went home a little fitter than when they arrived, well at least one did!

Norwegian Team consisted of:-

Ladies

Line Schjøth-Iversen

Mary Andreassen +brother Brian Tomlinson

Men

Thomas Wettergren

Jon-Erik Lunø

Henning Simonsen

Harld Messel + Mette

Jørgen Elvik + Anne

Hans Nordstaa + Mona

Sverre Lie + Anne-Marit

Terje Sørensen + Frøydis

Bjørn Wold + Lill-Beate

Christian Bernt + Beate

Espen Wold + Marianne

Finn Søhol

Arne Melander

Cato Bryn + Margaret



Great Britain Team consisted of:-

Ladies

Ann Collings + Gren
Bridget Friedmann
Felicity Thomas
Amelia Robinson
Glynis Lambert
Mandy Spicer



Jim Whittaker
Jeremy Woods
Mike Dawe
Alan Tarney
Peter Friedman
Chris Hill
Dave Rawlinson
David Straker
Eddie Fox
John Lambert
Rob Chojnacki
Bob Battersby
Mike Carrol
Phil Tovey
Adey Roberts
Robin Smith

On the Wednesday the first day match practise was started in beautiful sunny conditions on the very good grass courts at St Georges Tennis Club, surrounded by some spectacular houses owned by some of the rich and famous (not me I am afraid) in leafy Surrey.

Our English weather of course did not keep up its good work and the heavens opened up that evening, so the first competitive days match was moved to the indoor courts at St Georges College nearby. We were able to finish 10 matches in total, with 7 matches all going to a championship tie break, all very close run. We ended up the day tied with the match score at 5 for GB and 5 for Norway.

So for Friday the final day, it was all change. Not only were we back on grass for the second round of matches but!!! Our Norwegian's seem to have lost their way? In more ways than one?? The normal routine for these matches is we have dinners on the Wednesday and Friday all together, leaving our visitors to go to bed early on the Thursday night so they are ready for the match next day. How wrong we were, we booked a superb restaurant for them in Weybridge a short walk from their hotel on the banks of the River Thames for their whole party plus two of our team (spies for the evening) Our people did their duty suitably setting the scene for a great party, with plenty of heartfelt skal's ("cheers!" in our country) leading to them all rolling up very late, slightly the worst for wear, finishing with a putting competition in the Hotel corridor at 1-30 in the morning. Breakfast the next morning we understand was a

picture with one of the ladies, not able to face breakfast after the particularly heavy night of 'drinking tea' well that's what she told me!

So now to the match on Friday- We have set the scene of some very weary Norwegian players and GB had saved some of our best players to play their matches just on this day, you guessed it we ran out winners with our visitors only able to record 3 more wins and your victorious hosts 11.

VLTC of GB 16 and the Norwegian Veterans 8, so a resounding win for GB.

A couple of items which took place and are worth mentioning are taxis and speeches.

We had organised Mini Buses and Taxis to pick up and drop off our visitors before and after the formal dinners. The hotel is just 5/10 minutes away from the tennis club but ----! Some road works had started just the day before, cutting off the main road which links the Tennis Club and the Hotel where our visitors were staying. This proved to be a real problem for the local taxi drivers, well call them local! Not sure if any of them were born within a 1000 mile radius! Chaos ruled with some drivers taking nearly an hour to do the journey. You would have thought they would have learned for the return journey, well they did! One driver was told to follow one of the other cars back to the hotel, so he did but picked the wrong car and ended up going completely the wrong way taking nearly an hour to get back to the hotel- Good job we had a fixed price on the job.

The speeches----- in previous years for some reason people have droned on during speeches, but not this time. All were witty to the point and short, We had 6 people standing up and saying a few words and they did do just that and even Finn Søhol kept his speech down to less than 3 minutes. Overall a very successful and fun event.

Jim Whittaker
Match Manager (GB)