

Grand expedition and 'entertaining' golf

Keeping true to their highly legitimate claim in titling the Barenbrug Trophy 'International', the good folk of Barenbrug UK Ltd held a competition which included as reward a trip to compete in the third International Barenbrug Trophy at Nunspeet GC in Holland. Thus it was that a party representing and upholding the traditions of British green-keeping golf took to the air for a three day visit, included Jim Lake (Druids Heath), Barry Holt (Bur-

ford), Hugh Parry (Bristol & Clifton), John Philp (Carnoustie) and Richard Pride (Thorndon Park) and your humble editor.

The whole event – sans golf – could only be described as wonderfully entertaining and totally informative, with grand expeditions to both Barenbrug's testing, breeding and scientific plant and to the factory where literally billions of seeds are sorted, cleaned, bagged and dispatched worldwide. It was, quite literally, mind boggling and did much to further the enlightenment of those who might have imagined that seed is seed. Don't ever believe it, at Barenbrug it's a scientific act of wizardry!

I use the term sans golf, for it is not being too critical to say that the golf at Nunspeet, or more specifically the golf course, whilst being charmingly pretty and delightfully set in what should have been perfect golfing country, with pines, heather and delicious sandy loam soil, was a disappointment. I do not know the name of the architect, though I understand he is of aristocratic blood, but I hope someone will take him aside very soon and tell him what a golf course ought to be about. Here



Upholders of a proud tradition – our British team of greenkeeping golfers

we had a course laid out with Penncross which had gone horribly wrong, coupled with a lay-out that provided no facility for balancing-out, no width to speak of, no alternate routes and with treachery and disaster awaiting every shot that was even minutely off-line. Nunspeet is one to send people dashing to the bar not for mere sustenance, but to wash away the taste of doom and horror on the course.

Notwithstanding the golf, which at least was entertaining, our

Barenbrug friends – the delightful and refreshing Muchel Mulder and the ever-smiling John Bradley – were our most charming hosts and our scores – all of them – will remain a secret in order to protect the reputations of those I know to be good golfers. In passing, I can heap nothing but praise upon Mr G B Kooster, handicap 10, who succeeded where others failed and produced the almost unbelievable score of 37 Stableford points!

DAVID WHITE



Mr G B Kooster receives the Barenbrug International Trophy and congratulations from Barenbrug's Michel Mulder

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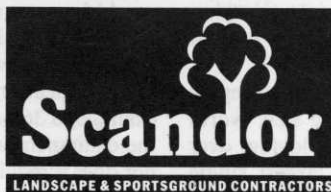
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