

**We Wish You A Curry Christmas!                                  - THUGS Christmas Curry Arrangements**

**November 2nd 2022**

Our annual Christmas curry is booked for Friday 9th December at The Spice Lounge on Manchester's Shudehill (9pm). Graham has again taken control of arrangements, and those travelling from Oldham will meet at The Fox & Pine at 7pm.

Transport has been booked, and the numbers seem to be increasing every year for this event. Please vcontact Graham for any further info.



**Mallorca 2022 proves a winner for GFW!**

**Oct 20th 2022**

It’s rare that our annual Mallorca tour passes without some slight issue, however the weather has only been a determining factor on as many occasions as can be counted on the fingers of Homer Simpson’s hand in our twenty-odd years of the trip. Once again, despite us travelling a week further out of season than usual for our 2022 trip, we were hugely fortunate in maintaining a full five day programme of golf without interruption from the rain. That is not to say we didn’t see any – In fact, immediately after walking off the eighteenth green at Maioris we witnessed a downpour of biblical proportion, but in general, and true to form - we were once again looked upon kindly by the weather gods.

The first setback we encountered happened immediately upon our arrival on the island, as it soon became apparent that one of the golf bags was missing from the luggage carousel. The bag’s owner (Andy Vickers) didn’t appear too worried, and the general feeling was that he wouldn’t have minded losing his kit entirely and spending the week in the bar instead. However twenty minutes later, the clubs were located and we joined our transport for the week – a minibus which was to take us to and from the airport and also our daily golf venues, thus negating the need for the tiresome and stressful hiring of cars that have always been our previous choice of transport. The minibus proved a huge success, and will surely be our first choice in future.

Our first night comprised a few beers, a couple of songs on the karaoke, and a very welcome and inexpensive kebab, before rising on the Monday morning for the main event – beginning at Son Quint. Graham Wilson had been considered favourite to take the Pink Jacket over the five rounds, and made sure he started with a clear message in round one by amassing 38 Stableford points to take the honours from Andy Vickers who was five points back in second place.

Andy also won the Longest Drive prize plus two Nearest The Pin (NTP) awards. A further NTP award went to Jim Wilson, whilst Dave Whittingham bagged himself a NTP in second shot (NTP2) prize.

A trip to Portals Nous later in the evening saw us dining at Moo Moo’s Grill, where the food was enjoyable, though not so much as the very entertaining and informative “WOP” (His words) that served us. Drinks followed in a rather quiet Magaluf, before we returned to our Palma Nova apartments after a nightcap or four in nearby Monroe’s.

Day two of the golf saw us visiting the excellent Maioris course, where overnight rain had put a few people off, and the course was quiet enough to allow us an earlier start than scheduled. The course was in great condition despite the earlier rain, and produced some good scores for what is quite a tough track. Dave Whittingham’s 36 took the honours – beating Pete Ashworth by a single point. In the minor honours, Jim Wilson’s third-hole NTP shot was enough to win the only NTP prize of the day, whilst Adie Cartwright won the Longest Drive award.

As we exited the 18th green, the heavens opened, and we narrowly missed a huge soaking thanks to starting our round that few minutes earlier. Once again, our luck with the weather was the topic of conversation during the post-round drinks.

Tuesday evening saw us dining at the beautiful La Paloma restaurant in Palma, where fabulous food was followed by a few drinks in Sa Faxina bar at Santa Catalina, where it became apparent that our decision to move the trip back a week meant we clashed with Spain’s National Day, and the bar was packed with patriotic locals.

On Wednesday our golf itinerary took us to the fantastic Son Muntaner course. Ordinarily this is one of the tougher tracks we play, however the course had been chosen to host the European Tour’s Mallorca Open, and had been set up accordingly – making the round a whole lot tougher. In fact, to see the professionals struggling on the televised coverage a week later brought home how much of a challenge it had been for us.

Suffering the least from the tough conditions was Adie Cartwright whose 36 points was enough to take the win, with both Graham Wilson and Dave Whittingham being the nearest challengers on 34. Adie also won a NTP prize, alongside Pete Ashworth and Dave Whittingham – who bumped up his prize money by taking the Longest Drive prize also. Andy Vickers’ hopes of a Pink Jacket title pretty much disappeared as he missed five holes looking for some of his clubs which he’d mislaid on the fourth hole. It was the second time in a few days his clubs had gone missing, and by now he appeared to be wishing he hadn’t brought them with him at all!

The NTP2 winner could not be determined, as several attempts to measure the distances between Ashey’s and Adie’s markers to the pin found no clear winner, so the honour was shared on this occasion.

Wednesday night’s booking at Diecisiete Grados in Palma was inexplicably cancelled by the restaurant, and we can only presume it was down to the Public Holiday previously mentioned, so we opted to go back into Magaluf to make a return visit to the Chinese restaurant we have enjoyed so many times in the past. Once again the restaurant didn’t disappoint, and fabulous food was followed by a few drinks nearby before heading back into Palma Nova.

Thursday saw a day off from the golf, and most people found their own way to relax and unwind before the evening’s excesses began again. This time it was a trip to Santa Ponsa for our evening meal at our spiritual home of EL Ceibo restaurant. The food was considered excellent, and was washed down with excellent Sangria followed by another few drinks in Magaluf and Palma Nova.

Friday’s golf at Santa Ponsa saw Quent Cartwright come good after a few difficult rounds. Quent’s 35 points tally was a huge eight points greater than second placed Dave Whittingham – who consoled himself with the only Birdie of the week. Adie took both NTP and Longest Drive awards, whilst Jimmy Elliott took the honours for the NTP2.

Port Adriano was our chosen venue for Friday evening’s restaurant, and as always Bistro 49 excelled themselves. A splendid meal was followed by more drinks around what few establishments were available to us at such a quiet time of year, before we retired to bed in anticipation of the last round of golf of the week.

Going into the final round, the Overall Pink Jacket scores were already suggesting that Graham’s very steady week had put him in an unassailable lead, with his nearest rival Dave Whittingham needing to beat Graham by at least eight points at Son Vida. The victor on the day was Jimmy Elliott, with a decent 35 points on a tough course, three ahead of Dave. Minor honours were picked up by Graham, Dave and Andy Vickers for their NTP’s, Dave also won the NTP2 prize, and Graham picked up the Longest Drive award to add to his Mallorca Pink Jacket Winner 2022 title which he won by a comfortable seven points from Dave Whittingham.

Palma Nova’s excellent Jaipur Indian restaurant finished off a week of superb evening dining, and a trawl of our usual haunts ended another year for us.

2023 will be our 25th anniversary – We will need to pull all the stops out to ensure we celebrate in style. If we are to return to Mallorca (As we probably should) we will probably need to  make a few drastic changes, as we have seen the resorts gradually quieten off year by year – even though the golf courses and restaurants continue to impress.



**Mallorca 2022 Itinerary**

**October 1st 2022**

Every aspect of the 2022 Mallorca tour has now been finalised, and as always Quent has put together a full itinerary in a spreadsheet which can be downloaded below.

Please make sure you are aware of all luggage allowances advised in the itinerary.

Daily groupings and shirt colours can be found on the [Competitions](https://www.thugsgolf.co.uk/competitions)page of this site.

[](https://www.thugsgolf.co.uk/_files/ugd/0aef76_58dfea48322f4aa7bc3a6d5ecd4d173e.xls?dn=ITINERARY%202022.xls" \o "ITINERARY 2022.xlsx" \t "_blank)

[ITINERARY 2022.xlsx](https://www.thugsgolf.co.uk/_files/ugd/0aef76_58dfea48322f4aa7bc3a6d5ecd4d173e.xls?dn=ITINERARY%202022.xls" \o "ITINERARY 2022.xlsx" \t "_blank)



**Rossendale Produces Another June Cup Success**

**June 27th 2022**

Our luck continues with venues and weather where the June Cup is concerned, as our 2022 competition at Rossendale GC produced another resounding success.

Aside from a stiff breeze, and in defiance of the forecast, the weather remained perfect with plenty of warm sun and only a hint of a possible shower. The conditions complimented what was a very well maintained course perfectly suited for all standards of player.

Although one or two of our members failed to realise their potential, there were some very decent scores carded, the best of which saw Mike Wood gain his first THUGS Major success with a Stableford score of 38 points - narrowly beating Pete Ashworth and Andy Vickers by a point.

Rossendale had been set up for a fun golf event the following day, allowing us to take advantage and incorporate their 'Nearest The Line' competition into our own minor honours as a one-off bit of fun, with Ken Shadford happily accepting the prize after a not particularly successful round otherwise. The course had also cheekily set up a ridiculously difficult pin position for their 'Nearest The Pin (Second Shot)' on the short par four last hole, which we again used for our own NTP2 prize - with Adie Cartwright taking that particular honour.

Jim Wilson was the victor in the standard 'Nearest The Pin' contest on the 13th hole, however those who witnessed Jimmy Elliott's ball actually rolling over the hole were anticipating celebrating the much greater achievement of witnessing his first Hole-in-One, however his luck was out and the ball trickled to the back of the green.

The 'Longest Drive' prize on the 16th hole was won comfortably by Leo Stuchbury, who had already signalled his intentions with a 321 yard effort on his very first drive of the day. Leo also bagged himself a Birdie to add to his THUGS tally, along with Adie and Mike.

The meal and hospitality at the club rounded off an excellent day, with a handful of members then concluding our typical evening of alcohol and banter with a further nightcap back at Werneth GC.

Thanks to everyone who joined us - and all those who helped with the organisation of the event.



**Scotland 'Mini Tour' 2022 Details**

**February 15th 2022**

The Tee times for the Scotland tour have now been secured, and are as follows;

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Thursday 28th April – Kirkcudbright G.C.

Tee Off 13:00

Green Fees £32

Buggies 4 @ £24 divided by 6 players = £16 each

Friday 29th April – Colvend G.C.

Tee Off 11:30

Green Fees £25

Buggies 4 @ £25 divided by 6 players = £16.67 each

Saturday 30th April – Brighouse Bay G.C.

Tee Off 11:30

Green Fees £30

Buggies 4 @ £22 divided by 6 players = £14.67 each

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A full itinerary is available here:

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[Colvend Website](http://www.colvendgolfclub.co.uk/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

[Kirkcudbright Website](http://www.kirkcudbrightgolf.co.uk/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

[Brighouse Bay Website](http://brighousebay-golfclub.co.uk/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

[](https://www.thugsgolf.co.uk/_files/ugd/0aef76_4d1226477d92491d82a1e098e6d838ff.xlsx?dn=ITINERARY%202022.xlsx" \o "ITINERARY 2022.xlsx" \t "_blank)

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**2022 Social Events Get Underway**

**January 19th 2022**

Our next Social Event will mark Dave Whittingham’s birthday, and will take place on Friday 18th February. Dave has chosen the Rajdoot Indian restaurant in Albert Square Manchester as the venue, and a minibus has been arranged which will allow us to return at a more convenient time than using the tram would.

We meet at the Fox & Pine on Greaves St / Firth St Oldham from 6.30pm before heading to the City for a 9pm booking.

Further details will be available from Graham.

[Rajdoot Website](https://rajdootmanchester.co.uk/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)



**Balearic Covid Update**

**January 18th 2022**

A quick update on the ever-changing covid situation in Mallorca:

Cases are currently increasing to levels the Spanish / Balearic governments consider deeply concerning, and consequently the islands have been put to ‘Level Three’. This effectively means greater restrictions in the form of Covid passes and I.D required to enter most of the venues which haven’t already been closed, a cap on the number of persons allowed in venues, maximum four person groups, masks everywhere – including outside and on beaches, plus ‘Bubbles’ and other enforced restrictions.

Whilst this would have a huge impact on our trip, it is not foreseen that these restrictions will continue through summer, as the patterns shown in almost all countries have been similar – though observed at differing times – and if the UK is to be seen as a forerunner in the pandemic then other countries would likely follow at a later date in easing restrictions.

Returning from Spain is now much easier than it was in 2021, and Omicron is proving itself much less harmful to both individuals and medical infrastructure. Hopefully 2022 will be the year we return to Mallorca of old.