

ESSEX Under 14s versus HERTFORDSHIRE

played at Rochford GC on Friday, 30 May 2008

Result: Essex 4½ Herts 10½

Keith Mitchell, team manager, reports:

Rochford Hundred provided a really excellent course for this hard fought match. Played in a most competitive, yet friendly spirit Hertfordshire deservedly took the honours because they held their nerve in the final throws of most of the matches.

The morning nine hole foursomes displayed this quite clearly with Essex starting well in four of the matches yet failing to win one of them. Patrick Amoroso and Fred Harrington gaining a half for Essex's only score of the morning. Hertfordshire therefore led 4½ – ½ at this stage. The Hertfordshire stars for the morning were Nick Ward and Sam Towler who won their match 5&3 and Elliot Leonard and Jac Hicks who came from 3 behind after four to win their match on the ninth hole against the Essex top pair. In all fairness all but one match went to the last hole.

Essex approached the afternoon singles in a positive frame of mind and for a while it looked as though they could turn the match. Excellent wins for Tobias Tay-Smith (7&6) and Devon Dunmore (6&5) showed that the Hertfordshire boys could be beaten. At the halfway stage Essex boys lead enough matches to make it appear that a win was still possible against the odds, but again the Hertfordshire boys displayed greater fortitude and turned all but two of the remaining matches into victories. Essex two winners were Patrick Amoroso (4&3) and John Withington (1up). John is only 11 years old but displayed the character missing in some of his older teammates.

Hertfordshire were the deserving winners 10 ½ - 4 ½ and celebrated their victory in a most sportsmanlike manner. A credit to their manager!

Essex Team members – Devon Dunmore (Thorpe Hall), Reece Francis (North Weald), Josh Cardy (Channels), Chris Payne (Harwich & Dovercourt), Fred Harrington (Orsett), Patrick Amoroso (Chigwell), John Withington (Canons Brook), Billy Mason (Maldon), Ben Spong (Canons Brook), Tobias Tay-Smith (Orsett), James Taggat (Frinton), & Kishen Velani (Wanstead).