

ARMY INTER UNIT CHAMPIONSHIPS
CATTERICK GOLF CLUB 12 & 13 JUN 19

The 2019 Army Inter Unit Championship continued at Catterick Golf Club for the fourth year in succession and took place from 12 to 13 Jun 19. The event, which dates back to 1904, was attended by 45 players from a total of 15 teams. Whilst this was a slight increase on recent years, it was still some way short of the 30 teams we aspire, so we will focus our attention on advertising the event from early in the New Year in 2020. A special note of congratulations should also go to Sgt Sam Stanbridge, 6 Regt AAC, as the only female player entering the competition again, female entry is something we seek to improve upon going forward. What was disappointing however, was the lack of units entering from the north when considered against those teams that did travel the extra mile to compete in the event with teams coming from as far as Brunei Garrison, Dover and Lucas.

Each team comprised 3 players (with one reserve) with the format of a 36-hole handicap team stableford qualifying competition on the first day. On Day Two, the top 4 teams progress into the Matchplay Championship, the next 4 in the Plate with the remaining teams playing in a 27 hole stableford event off full handicap (full difference).

The weather however was to play a huge part in determining the eventual outcome of the competition. The forecast did not make good reading with most of the UK sat under a huge depression with rain forecast for the duration – it did not disappoint. Despite the conditions the course was in excellent condition with fast greens and healthy rough, although this had been cut back compared to recent visits, credit must go to all members of the Catterick Ground Staff for their hard work and efforts. Day One weather was as per the forecast with low cloud and drizzling rain and little wind, the event was in the balance before the start with pooling water on the greens. However after much discussion, the green keepers agreed to continually squeegee the greens and with the players providing the fortitude for the test ahead the first round commence as planned at 0750 hrs.

The rain proved to be a great leveller resulting in only 9 of the field scoring 30+ points. The standout score of 37 pts going to Capt Ganesh Rai from Brunei Garrison closely followed by Maj Aly Duncan, 32 Sig Regt and Cpl Raju Tamang, 1 RGR, on 35 pts. The chasing pack included Cpl Shaun Stanbridge, 6 Regt AAC, and Maj Russell from 3 SCOTS. In regard to the team scores after the first round it was all to play for in the PM round, with 6 Regt AAC narrowly leading by two on 94 pts from Brunei Garrison on 92 pts and 32 Sig Regt and 3 SCOTS on 88 pts each.

Again after much consternation between the Tournament Ctee and the Head Ground Keeper and with the weather showing signs of a break it was decided that the PM round would go ahead as planned. The rain relented and gave way to a fine misty drizzle that was more easily managed by the players, fresh from having purchased new and dryer clothing from the pro shop. The competition was a close run event amongst the top four teams from the morning round, so the team holding on to a level of consistency was likely to prevail.

With 17 Players breaking 30pts it was all to play for and last year's winners from ITC Catterick making an early push up the leader board, but as the weather improved so did the leading teams with Brunei Garrison showing the consistency required to post a good score. Bikash Subba, ITC Catterick (B), proved to be the afternoons stand out player posting a 38 pts, the highest of the day. This was closely followed by the most consistent player of the day Maj Aly Duncan from 32 Sig Regt, carding a credible 36 pts to match his

35 from the morning. Notable others were Capt Dipendra Ri, Brunei Garrison and Capt Ganesh Gurung, 1 RGR both on 34 pts.

Day Two looked bad from arrival at the Golf Culb and with the groundsmen unable to work on the course following the torrential rain that had continued throughout the night. The course was in no condition to be played on. Although all Golf courses within a 40-mile radius were closed, to their credit the groundsmen did offer to piece together 9-holes on the higher ground to enable a competition to take place, but after lengthy discussions the tournament ctee took the decision to cancel day two of the competition, to safe guard both the players and the course. In regard to the awarding of trophies all team captains were consulted and it was agreed that we were in a position to award the Inter Unit trophy based on the fact that we could derive an Inter Unit Champion from the Day one scores, but the Plate and Stapleford events would not however, be award this year.

So the team carding the most consistent scores was to prove correct as Brunei Garrison forged ahead in the afternoon on Day One to finish 13 Pts ahead of their second placed rivals and leaders after the Morning round, 6 Regt AAC, but only by 1 Pt from 32 Sig Regt in third. Based on the Day One scores the results were:

Brunei Garrison	190
6 Regt AAC (A)	177
ITC Catterick (B)	176
32 Sig Regt	174
3 SCOTS	174
ITC Catterick (A)	169
1 RGR	168
2 CS Bn REME (B)	163
2 CS Bn REME (C)	163
DE&S Abbey Wood	161
2 CS Bn REME (A)	154
1 RLC	138
2 RIFLES	129
4 YORKS	104
2 CS Bn REME (D)	86

The AGA is indebted to the Army Sport Control Board for their generous sponsorship in 2019. In addition thanks also go to Thales, for once again being the AGA Headline sponsor for 2019. Catterick Golf Club could not have been better hosts and made the AGA extremely welcome throughout the Championship, but a special thanks must go to the green staff for their tireless work on the course, for Mairi Young, the Secretary and her background team for their invaluable support and the Chairman, Lt Col (Retd) Brian De La Haye. And finally thanks for to the officials, both at the event, Keith Seddon, Jim Taylor, David Dufall and Steve Davis and back in the Aldershot Office, Di Walters and Wendy Porter.

The Championship was a success despite the weather, albeit on an amended programme. The competition returns to the South next year to Tidworth Golf Club on the **11 – 12 Jun 20**. Teams are requested to enter direct to the Assistant Secretary by early May 20 on either mil 94222 7078 (civ 01252 787078) or dwalters@ascb.uk.com .

Summary of results:

Inter Unit Champions (Balfour Trophy) – Brunei Garrison.
Runners-Up – 6 Regt AAC.

Plate and Stableford events (India Cup) not played due to weather conditions

Brunei Garrison – 2019 Inter Unit Champions
(with the Balfour Trophy)