

Match Report

Cowdenbeath v St Michaels

Fife Inter Club Summer Handicap League

16 May 2023

Team - CB – Alan Falconer (12), Scott Bence (10), Kevin Traynor (10), Stewart Cochrane (8), Taylor Graham (0), Scotty Allan (5)

St Michaels – Tony Venables (13), Alec Givan (7), Mark McKenna (19), Alf Petrie (24), Gordon Ogilvie (17), Ewan McGregor (8).

On Tuesday 16 May, Cowdenbeath hosted St Michael's in their season opening Summer Inter Club Handicap League tie. After a close tussle of six single matchplay ties, the visitors walked away with the two points, but not without a strong fight from the home side.

The visitors arrived with a well-balanced team in terms of handicaps, enjoying a total of 43 strokes from the home team, highlighting the extent of the task faced by Cowdenbeath.

The scratch handicapper Taylor was particularly up against it, giving up 19 strokes to his opponent, Mark McKenna. The visitor won't hold that handicap for long as he flew to a net 5 under par total after 5 holes. Despite Taylor being scratch level par at the time, the pair shook hands on the 13th with Mark taking the impressive 7&6 victory.

On the other hand, despite giving his opponent 16 shots, Stewart Cochrane returned an excellent 3 & 1 victory against Alf Petrie having maintained the lead throughout the round.

Cowdenbeath's other point came from the solid anchor of Scotty Allan. This final game was a tight one with Scotty facing the closely matched 'force' of Ewan McGregor. Scotty never lost the lead but was pushed the full way with a 'to and fro' match that came to an end on the 17th green. With Ewan wishing he had some Jedi mind tricks to call upon, Scotty claimed the 3& (Obi)1 victory.

The other three matches all went down the last in very tense affairs. Kevin Traynor pulled back the two-hole deficit he faced on the 16th tee to take it down the last all square. A wayward drive on 18 though brought Kevin's valiant efforts to an end against Gordon Ogilvie, losing 1 down.

Similar fates were faced by Alan Falconer, who lost on the 18th green to a monster putt by Tony Venables and Scott Bence faced a tough challenge, having lost a 3 hole lead, with the 7 hc Alex Givan coming back to clinch the 1 Up win on the last.

It was a great effort and win by the visitors.

Cowdenbeath will be back at home to Thornton on Tuesday 23 May in confident form. knowing this result could have produced the opposite score.