

January saw the deciding match in the darts series between Seder Village and the RGBB. With both teams in confident mood and high spirits the Seder team started strongly, winning the first leg.

However in a complete reversal of the previous match the RGBB went on to win the next 5 legs, with individual victories from Fred Redden, Gary Richardson, Sheldon Ritchie, Mark Campbell and Malcolm Harrison. This put the RGBB team in the unfamiliar position of being 1 leg from securing the draw and 2 legs from winning the Axa trophy outright.

When Rick Armstrong and Malcolm Harrison won the first doubles match to take a 6-1 lead the RGBB really looked in an unassailable position with at least a play-off guaranteed. However the Seder team are made of strong stuff and promptly won the next 2 legs to bring the score back to 6-3. With Captain Richardson starting to panic a little, Fred Redden and Mark Campbell stepped onto the oche and held their nerve as the tension mounted to finally secure the leg that was needed.

The final legs were played out in almost a party atmosphere with the RGBB winning 2 more legs to Seder's 1. The final score was 8-4 to the RGBB, although that was flattering as so many of the games had gone down to both teams having

chances at doubles. The jubilant RGBB team received the Axa cup, which they now keep.

Captain Richardson said "I am so proud of this team; we lost the first match in the series and were out on our feet in the second before we edged it. Tonight we got off to a great start in the singles, but the Seder Team really showed their spirit with that fight back. I was significantly relieved when Fred and Mark finally got the leg we needed... I really didn't fancy another sudden death leg against Terry". He went on to thank Terry and all of the Seder players for their warm welcome and great hospitality.

Seder captain Terry Carey handed the trophy to the RGBB saying "we really enjoyed this series and hope to repeat it again. The RGBB are a great group of people to spend the evening playing against and socializing with".

Terry also invited the RGBB to form a team to play in a tri series competition between them and the Rock compound. Any interested players should contact the RGBB secretary Jane Brierley for more information.



The annual "Ryder Cup" match between the RGBB and ABGR (American business group Riyadh) took place at Riyadh Greens golf course in the second week of January.

Having won one event each over the previous 2 years both groups were keen to edge ahead in the quest to win the "Camel's breath cup". Despite the RGBB Captain Gary Richardson's threat he did not check the passports of the American team, despite their being some extreme variations on the American accent (some sounded South African, Canadian and English, but I am no expert !!).

The match was played in a pairs in a "Texas Scramble" format, with both players hitting a shot from the same place, with the best resulting shot chosen as the place to play the next shot from. Despite being extremely confident before the game the RGBB team were on the receiving end of a considerable beating from the American side, excelled on a challenging course. The Americans eventually winning by a landslide 22 – 8.

Defeated RGBB Captain Gary congratulated winning captain Tom Merkel and his side, he said "I would like to thank Tom and his team for a great day played in a fantastic spirit. I have already spoken to numerous players from both sides who have met new people, made new friends and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. I hope Tom enjoys



keeping the trophy for now, as we fully intend to get it back next time".

ABGR Captain Tom Merkel thanked Gary and his side for a great day, saying "I am really proud to lead this American side and think that the score line flattered us as there were some extremely close games out there. I will enjoy this trophy for a year before we set out to defend the title next time round.

We would like to extend our thanks to Raffy and the team at Riyadh greens for preparing the course and looking after all of the participants. Next time we are looking to run a ladies "Solheim Cup" event as well as the Ryder cup, any ladies interested please email RGBB secretary Jane, so that we can start making the required arrangements.

## RGBB TRIUMPH AT THE FINAL HURDLE

## RYDER CUP