

## Stamford Golf Club: Match Report from 14<sup>th</sup> August 2025

What a day! Absolutely stunning weather and course in fantastic condition.

The only thing that gave us a problem was taking the team photo. I don't know if you have ever tried to herd cats, but if you have, you will understand why there are two team photos this time.





The course offers some of the best views you will find in the area, but those greens were tricky. Maybe that was just me...

The meal after the match was really excellent and it is fair to say that a great day out was had by all. Their Sunday Carvery looks like a treat.

I've dug around and found a little bit about the history of this club, including it here for anyone who is interested.

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When Scottish ex-pat Mr Wilson arrived as manager of the Carrbrook print works in 1899, he recruited two of his local men Mr Knox and Mr. Morton to play golf locally, the nearest alternative Clubs being Fairfield and Oldham. In those days to travel to Fairfield and Oldham from Stalybridge carrying a bag of clubs was a major undertaking.

After much searching and discussions with local farmers a nine-hole course was built using land and buildings rented from Farmer Henry Trueman for fifteen shillings per annum. The front parlour of Crows i'th Wood farmhouse was used as the first Clubhouse when the club was incorporated on Saturday 24th August 1901. Traces of the farmhouse and cottages from that day can still be seen, as you approach your drive from the eighth Rabbit tee.

Few golf clubs can have had such a varied history as Stamford. From an informal gathering of enthusiasts playing over the Crows i'th Wood fields at

the beginning of the twentieth century, to the club as it is today, over one hundred years later. During this period the clubhouse has occupied three different buildings and introduced many changes to the extent and location of the course, which have led to the use of more than forty different greens at one time or another!

The buoyant and thriving Stamford that exists today with its traditions and customs, its fine golf course and clubhouse, is a fitting tribute to the founders and all those generations of succeeding members. Throughout the whole span of the 1900's, their industry and resourcefulness kept the club alive and functioning throughout all the lean years and two world wars.

During the first world war half the course had to be abandoned by order of the first World War cabinet due to the need to grow crops. By 1921 land had been once more acquired and the course was back to 18 holes due to the hard work of the membership in building the course. The legacy of the war on the membership was the loss of ten members who are remembered by a memorial displayed in the 19th hole.

So now, as we progress through our second century, we can be justly proud of our progress and achievements and that we will be able to pass on to our successors in future generations, a club that now stands in the forefront of golfing excellence in the area.

*Reproduced, with minor editing, with thanks to Stamford Golf Club. On the website you can find a number of old photographs which bring this story to life.*

Jon White August 2025