



Bedale's Bader Cup winners Denis and Kate Thompson celebrate. (S)

With no winner present in the Clubhouse, the weekly draw moves closer to its maximum jackpot payout - £450 being on the offer when the draw is made tonight.

Bedale Golf Club

Bedale members Denis and Kate Thompson took the club onto the European stage and won the Bader Cup in Portugal earlier this month, beating 12 other regional winners plus last year's defending champions.

The Bader Cup is run by the Bader Foundation, set up by the former RAF pilot to support the disabled community in whatever way possible.

Sir Douglas was a keen golfer, overcoming the handicap of playing with prosthetic legs.

The event raises around £20,000 annually for the charity.

The Bader Cup is played as a mixed greensome, in which both golfers take a drive and then choose which ball to play alternately for the remainder of the hole.

Denis Thompson says: "It was Kate's driving that was really the key to the win.

"The ladies' tees were so far forward that I was often left with just a wedge to the pin. We just ground it out - straight drive, decent approach and then hole the putts on the difficult greens."

They 'ground it out' to such effect that they scored 45 points and came home by the wide margin of four points.

Thanks to helpful staff at Monarch Airlines, one of the Bader Cup sponsors, Denis' (9 handicap) & Kate (25) were able to reschedule their flight out a week early to take part in a gala event.

This included a round at Los Alamos, the venue for the Bader Cup Final.

This tactic could have been crucial as they had an extra round to familiarise themselves with the course.

"All in all, we had a fabulous time - all expenses paid, with full board at the excellent four star Tivoli Hotel," says Denis, who encourages all local mixed pairings to enter for the 2011 Bader Cup.

Whoever wins the regional heat, they'll be up against Denis & Kate again as they automatically qualify for the Final next year.

Men: Thursday Stableford (Nov 18). 1. Gary Boothroyd (12) 38pts (c/back); 2. Ronnie Hall (18) 38; 3. Gordon Bainbridge (28) 37 (c/back).

Seniors' Xmas Pudding (Nov 19). 1. Peter Rawlins 43pts; 1. Des Taylor 39 (c/back); 3. Neil Exelby 39.

Mixed: Texas Scramble (Nov 13). 1. J. Rayner, M Day, D Brown & D Munton (2.7hcap) 55.3 nett; 2. J Shaw, D Thompson, Mrs C Shaw & Mrs K Thompson (7.5) 56.5; 3. R Harker, L Kitching, I Ginn & J Wilkinson (5.3) 56.7.

Women: Stableford (17 Nov). 1. Sandra Caygill 38 pts (c/back); 2. Carol Shaw 38; 3. Dorothy Hill 32.