

## **Europro finals 3**

### **Day 3**

#### **Tournament round 1**

Up and ready to go by 8.30am, no one else in the house is awake and it's awkward because we only have one security key. I had to wake Simon, Jordan's dad and ask him to come open the gate with me or I would lock them in if I take the key. He came with me and was OK about it really. I packed clothes with me today to shower at club and eat there then I can come home with the others and don't need to mess about with the security key later. We'll at least in theory that was a sensible plan. We shall see.

So I go pick up Jack and take him for his breakfast. I have a coffee and do my pin sheet for today's play. No caddy lounge or anything like that this week so sat with Jack while he had his breakfast. We hit his warm up bang on time and all is going smoothly. The range was very quiet and you could tell there was tension in the air. Big week for some of these boys and you could tell.

So warm up done and we head to the first. We're playing with Will and Niall. Nice lads. Jack looked good on the range so I was hoping for good things today. It started well with a lovely opening 3 iron bullet tee shot on the tight par 5 first, lay-up was simple enough just a 5 iron to keep it short of the desert in front of the green. But wow Jack hit this big pull draw which we thought was out of bounds but luckily it was in the desert (hard pan), even luckier was the free drop he had for being near a sprinkler head.

After a nice chat to the referee we managed to get the drop back on grass and Jack hit a good 8 iron to 15ft and holed the putt for a birdie. (the claw worked well) a pulled 8 iron on the second left a tricky bunker shot but he played it well and holed a nice 4ft par putt. (Go on the claw) a 320 yard drive on three left him 215 to flag on the par five he just missed the green but had a lovely up and down for birdie. Nice start son. Another great drive at 4 had him in perfect position but then he hit another pull with an 8 iron and missed the green in thick rough. He played a very good chip and holed from 4ft to save par. Another pulled wedge on 5 left him 40ft but he two putted for par (thank god for the claw) he is now worried about these pulls and to be fair I am by now as well, could be a long day.

The 6th is a great risk reward par 4, 320yards long bunkers, desert and agua surround the green. He wants to go for it and why not he's going to miss the fairway with an iron and his drives had gone well so yeah I agree. The tee shot was perfect pitched the green but got a firm bounce and finished on the back edge some 50 feet away but he did manage a good two putt birdie and by now I am in love with this new claw grip.

7 he hit it in the desert with a 3 iron and got away with it and made par, 8 he pulled his 4 iron but got away with it and made par. Now 9 was very tense but quite amusing to you readers. I persuaded Jack to hit 3 iron from the tee, when he wanted to hit driver up the wrong fairway trying to miss all that holes fairway bunkers, never the shot in my opinion. He hit the 3 iron straight into the desert, again very lucky to have a shot. He had 244 yards left to flag, (it's a par five) wind from left, desert and hazard long and left. He wanted to hit 3 wood but I made him hit 3 iron, we agreed short and right was fine if he didn't get all of the 3 iron. Well I won't say it was his best shot and when it started going right with the wind pushing it further right I feared the worst. Luckily we found it 10inches off the floor stuck in a cactus Bush.

Bare in mind he hasn't spoke to me since the tee shot, you can imagine how mad he is and how scared I am as all these shots were my suggestions against his feeling. He asks me if he can play it from the Bush, I look around and the drop is horrendous so he was better off trying to play it, which he did and advanced it onto grass which was a huge bonus. He then played a brilliant chip and holed a 6ft par putt.

On walking down the next hole, Jack chose to explain to me how the last hole was pretty much all my fault, I said pretty much nothing but they were the right clubs he just hit them awful. He played 10 OK, par, 11th par from the desert and 12th par from the thick rough. At least he hit the fairway on the 13th but after trying to go for the green in 2 with a three wood he hit it in the agua, again left. Tension is rising between us and more so after I advised him to drop his ball on the cart path to get a free drop onto the grass. But we found out all paths are integral part of the course and he had to play it. He was not a happy bunny with me I can tell you. He did play a fantastic pitch from the path to 8ft but missed his par putt. He was boiling up.

Now 14 was fun as well. A good short par 3 all over water to a very tight flag. He pulled his 9 iron slightly and it finished in thick rough just short of a bunker which he had to stand in to play his shot. Tricky but he played it too well and left him 15ft for par. He threw his ball at me very very hard for me to clean, casually I caught it one handed right in front of my face. I said nothing cleaned it and handed it back to him saying nothing.

He holed the putt for par but I will say if it hadn't had hit the middle of the hole it was going 10ft passed, but it went in, thank god. He walked off and silence from the pair of us. We spoke on 15th tee briefly and then for his second shot which again was poor but he made par. He was a little calmer on 16 and we spoke again trying to get back into game mode. He made a solid par but another pull on 17 left him in thick rough again. He did well to get it on the green and a very good two putt saved his par. He duffed his 4 iron on 18 tee and left him 204 to a tight back flag. We were talking by now so he told me how he was going to finish with a good shot. It wasn't easy but when he thinned it I feared it would not be good. It finished on the back edge and he 3 putted for bogey.

71 and 1 under was the result and I was very relieved at that. Jack was not a happy boy when he finished and it took a little while for him to relax. We decided best have some food and chill before going on the range to sort his swing. It was the right thing to do and he felt much better after food. We went to the range and he worked hard on his swing. What helped a lot, was the fact a few of his friends were on the range and they all seemed to struggle today.

He relaxed and felt a lot better after he had chatted to them. He then decided he was going to eat with his friends and I was not required anymore. Mmm mmm thanks kiddo, so I went for a shower and found Jordan, his dad and James. They had just finished eating so we're going back to apartment. OK that's fine I will follow them and go for food where I went last night. Oh but first they want to call in the supermarket. Bloody hell an hour later and we eventually get back. I dump my bag take the security key and told them I will see them later.

So I am eating on my own again, huh best laid plans never work out. Let's hope tomorrow is better for golf and food.

## **Europro finals 4**

### **Day 4**

#### **Tournament round 2**

Ok so the day starts quite well, Jordan and his dad are leaving apartment early so I run down and let them out, James and I are leaving a little later, no problem. I go get Jack, take him for breakfast and I have my coffee and do my pin sheets. The weather is glorious today and the wind is not as strong as yesterday for the time being.

Breakfast is done and we head to warm up. Chipping first then range then putting, we're playing with Niall again today and Will Enefer, a different Will from yesterday but still nice enough. The day starts well, a birdie par birdie start and it was pretty simple really. Jack missed a good chance on 4 and 5 but birdied 6 to be 3 under and all is good.

He hit his 3 iron tee shot on 7 into the desert but a brilliant approach left a tap in for birdie and now he's flying. Well not for long because he pulled his tee shot on 8 and after a good recovery unfortunately missed the 6ft par putt. He was annoyed. Now yesterday if you remember, I made Jack hit 3 iron from 9th tee and he didn't want to or like it, and hit it in the desert, so today we agree on a grip down punchy 3 wood and yeah he hit the fairway, thank god. He had 246 left to front and 254 to flag, uphill into wind. He wanted to hit a high cut 3 wood, I wasn't overly happy with this but I agreed as it was an almighty 3 iron and he was angry so I didn't want to piss him off. Now all I will say is the shot he hit left me open

mouthed. It was perfect high floating 3 wood that pitched a foot from the flag and finished 12ft behind the hole, class shot jacko. Unfortunately he whacked the putt 4ft passed but at least he made birdie. He was alot more calm now and he still had momentum going.

A poor tee shot on the 10th put him in a fairway bunker some 140 yards from the flag, he hit it heavy and finished in the desert but he played a magnificent pitch to 3ft and saved par, all good. A 12ft birdie putt on 11 slipped by and a 5ft birdie on 12 was missed as well. Yes he could have been 7 under but he still wasn't really flushing it. So 13 he wants to hit driver from the tee, its 314 to carry the desert and no miss, OOB right desert left. I persuade him to hit 4 iron like we have all week. It was this hole that went wet yesterday and guess what yep it went wet again today. 276 to flag but he convinced me he was going to hit the same high floating 3 wood like he did on 9, so I agreed. Stupid crunch, should have stuck with my thoughts. He flushed his 3 wood, no cut, no float, no land. Splash agua!!!! Then he turns to me and says I should have made him hit 3 iron, no shit Sherlock.

Sometimes players make their own mistakes but when they do they take responsibility and don't blame others. Anyway we get to the water and Jack is about 30yards ahead of me. Prepare people this is going to be long!! As I approach I can see Jack standing on a rock trying to take a stance at this ball in the water. Oh hell here we go! "I CAN HIT THAT" he states at me, no no no no you can't, was my reply. The ball was under water, not half and half, not sitting just in the water, it was totally under the water. "I AM HITTING IT" oh Jesus Christ how am I going to deal with this. OK he had a fair argument, if he took the penalty drop he would have to drop it on the desert and could get an awful lie.

By the time I was thinking about it, Jack had removed his shirt and was taking his stance half in water half on a rock. Holy shit he really is going to try to hit this thing. I give him his 58 degree wedge and I walk away. Splash!! Water everywhere and the ball moved up and forward about 2 yards bounced on the desert and inched onto the grass, thank the lord!! Jack was wet, covered wet, if only I was allowed to video it!! To be fair he did well to move it and I looked at him not really knowing what to do. It was only when he started complaining he had something in his eye and was shouting for a towel that I actually moved and gave him the towel. Can't believe he played it but at least the ball got to grass.

In typical Jack style, just to prove a point he almost holed his chip for birdie and had a tap in par. How he has remained at - 4 for the round is a testament to his developing ability to utilise his short game which has been sharp this week. Shame he didn't have his A game this week. So 14 he hit probably the worst 9 iron I have seen him hit ever, and although he played another good chip he couldn't save par from 7ft. 16, 17 and 18 produced pars with a very good chip and putt on the last after a pretty good second shot that finished just of the green in an awful lie. 3under was probably about fair but if he had kept his momentum going earlier and holed a few more putts it could have been better.

Never mind onto tomorrow. So golf is done we go for lunch, well Jack did, I had a beer. Saved the food till later. After his food we went for more practice. He needed to get confident for final round. It was a good practice and he seemed a lot happier after. He also did some putting and he got chatting to his mate Marco Penge. I like Marco funny boy but a bit mental when it comes to golf. He really does fly by seat of his pants.

Driver everywhere it's either - 6 or +6 he really throws everything at it. I like him but couldn't caddy for him. So again Jack decides he is staying with Marco and his friends and eating with them. I am better prepared today, so I shower in the clubhouse and eat there as well. Very nice but only one beer as I have to drive back to apartment. I did stop at the bar on the corner of our apartment, mainly to wait for the security gate to be opened plus to have a nightcap. It was OK but I had to get back to pack my suitcase as I am flying home tomorrow. Guess what when I do get back the other 3 are playing cards again, Jesus Christ they are boring. Each to their own I suppose. Night for now.

## **Europo finals 5**

### **Final day**

#### **Final round**

All good this morning, all in the apartment are leaving at same time. Jordan is at - 4 (playing with Jack today) and James is at - 5 so all the tee times are close to each other. We leave at 9.20am and I have left the apartment for good. Not going to lie, won't miss the place, nice enough but bit of a headache getting in and out. So I go get Jack and he heads for breakfast and I get coffee and pin sheet.

Have a brief chat to John e Morgan who is doing all his TV work for the programme out on 6th November I think. At this point I will say I am writing this after a very long day, currently sat in airport, flight delayed an hour, sat in bar tired and casually sipping beer number 3 maybe 4. Anyway back to the golf. So breakfast done we head to warm up, all good. Jack looks sharp today. Kit on the course is interviewing the leaders on the range and maybe it spurs some players on to prove themselves, maybe just maybe.

So we head to first tee, like I said earlier we are playing today with my roomie this week Jordan wrisdale who has his dad (Simon) caddying for him and Will Enifer, we played with him yesterday. I was pretty confident going to the tee that Jack was going to play well today, but after his first tee shot I was not so confident, a long pulled 3 wood, the only shot he hates this week is that pull. Luckily it stayed on grass and after a 6 iron lay up and 8 iron

approach to 15ft he rolled the putt in for a birdie. He birdied the first all 3 rounds and honestly he didn't like the hole and played it average at best. (CARD DOESN'T PAINT A PICTURE) so the second he hit an 8 iron against my will. Good shot to 10ft. I can't be politically correct here because the only way to describe the shot was "girlie" it was just a girlie 8 iron simple. But he holed it for birdie. Mmmmm nice start.

A great drive again on 3 and a decent 5 iron was a little unlucky and left him a tricky chip which he played to perfection and tapped in for birdie, mmmmm good start. Another flush drive on 4 left him a 145yd 9 iron to 8 ft and he holed. (hello that's four on a bounce) he missed from 15ft on 5 but hit a great driver on 6 pin high only 8 yards from flag. He was really unlucky with his tee shot as a foot right and it would have rolled stiff for Eagle but it finished in the fringe rough and a bad lie. He played another great flop shot to 6ft and holed. My my my nice start son.

His confidence is coming and he looks good. Great 3 wood off 7 and a 9 iron to 7ft was missed on the lip, gutted. I will hold my hand up on 8 and say I probably gave him the wrong club, all the trouble was long and left and I aird on short, he made par but he wanted to hit 4 and I gave him 5, maybe now sat here having a beer I should have just let him hit the 4 and see, but he didn't play that hole well all week and I thought a par was good.

So 9 nice 3 wood from tee but it left him in between clubs, yesterday he controlled his 3 wood approach to perfection, today we were a bit closer and less wind, 3 wood was too much, 3 iron was pushing it. The miss was short so 3 iron it was, not a great shot and it finished on the desert but a decent chip of the stones left 18ft for birdie which he just missed. OK so out in - 5 and a quick look at the leader board, Christ he's nowhere, leaders are flying. OK he says to me he needs another 2 at least maybe more. I agree so he tells 20th is no good let's go for it. Boom let's go kiddo.

He almost holed his shot to 10th tap in birdie (-6) 11th had a terrible flag position but he made a good effort from 18ft but a par was fine. He had 10ft for birdie on 12 which broke across the hole and slipped by. He was bemused how much it moved. 13 his bad hole all week or should I say his wet hole all week. I was tempted to let him hit driver from the tee but the carry over the water was 314yds and the wind was just off the right not helping.

We agreed 4 iron layup. So the last 2 days he has hit 3 wood from 272yds to flag pretty much same wind, off the right. Today he had 281 flag with 254yds to the front, same wind off the right. He said to me, "this is it, it's the shot that defines my round" to which I replied "well you're not hitting 3 wood mate, you can get up and down from anywhere short". He was thinking but I gave him the 3 iron. As I walked away to let him hit it, I was expecting front bunker or maybe 10yards short for easy chip and putt. Excuse my French now because yet again he fucking amazed me with a golf shot. This 3 iron flew high and soft, not bullet

like, just high and soft, pitched front third of green and finished 21ft from the flag. "hooray its not in the water" I say loudly and he smiles at me. What I was thinking was holy shit kid that's some sodding golf shot tiger, bloody impressive son. Maybe I should not have told this playing partners he had hit it in the water for last 2 days because Will bless him hit it in the water after I said that, oops. A nice putt slipped by for Eagle but tap in birdie (-7).

14 he hit another pull but it landed on the green some 30ft. He thought he holed the birdie putt but it went 7ft passed, luckily he holed a very solid par putt. 15th is 422yds long water at 295yds and desert left and right, plus it played straight into stiff breeze. 3 wood from tee left him 185 to a tricky back flag, we agree on 6 iron as short in middle of green is fine, he hit a lovely shot to 8ft and rolled it in to go - 8 for the day and - 12 for the tournament. OK son now we rocking, we agreed 2 more from here and he could finish top 5 maybe top 3.

Lovely approach to 16 looked as if it was stiff from the fairway but when we got there it's 10ft and he left his putt short, probs his worst putt all week. Body language is massive in this game and I looked at him after he missed the putt and he just looked devastated. He thought that was his chance, it was just one bad stroke it happens but you could see he was annoyed and frustrated at that putt. As he is teeing up on 17th I here buggies approaching.

They stop for him to hit but as I look I see they are TV crew, I know why, they coming to get Jack on TV, he must be close to the leader board. Jack didn't see them and hit a lovely tee shot. As he walks off the tee the buggy man approaches me and asks who is Jack? At first I said I dont know, but I eventually pointed at the boy wonder. They scurry off in their buggies to get their cameras set up. Now 17 his approach was 154yds into stiff breeze playing 165. The flag is tight right and in normal play you would just go middle green and putt from 30ft.

But he is - 8 and full of confidence so a knock down 7iron flighted was the shot, shame he hit the dreaded pull, long and left. For those of you who will watch the TV programme on this tournament you will see the horrendous lie he left himself in the back left bunker, but hand on heart, and he won't like me saying this but it was the pull shot that killed him all week, under pressure it just came out and left him an impossible up and down.

To be fair he made a great bogey 5 but momentum had gone. He was now rushing, TV crew filming him and he knew he was on the leader board. I don't like to knock him and criticize him but he got out of his routine, everything was quicker, he walked quicker, made decisions quicker etc. He will deny it but I saved him a shot on 18 at least. He had 195 to flag with wind off the left, he wanted to hit 5 but I could see he was agitated and full of emotion, I gave him 6 which he pushed a little and it went long. Just imagine the 5 iron he wanted to hit, that would be bouncing around in the clubhouse. He did make par and eventually calmed himself.

It was a good day, he is a quality player when his A game is in town but learning everyday, if he keeps learning all Llanwern members will be very proud of him, trust me. So we shake hands and go in for a beer. I get the beer and he buys me lunch, very nice of him.

## **Europro finals 6**

### **Last day**

### **Additional blog**

So golf is done and we eat and shower for the 2 hour journey to Alicante airport. Jack is driving and to be fair it was a great trip back. We had a laugh and a bit of banter. I ribbed him a little about the pressure getting to him on last 2 holes and he abused me quite a bit, it was fun I enjoyed it.

So he dropped me off and he headed for his girlfriend's grandparents where he is staying for next week stage 2 qualifying. I headed for departures. Checked in and greeted with the wonderful news of an hour delay. So what do you do?? Head to the bar.

Yep a few beers and sit down and write this blog. I am currently sat in the sports bar at alicante enjoying a sip and relaxing, oh and another half hour delay on my flight. That's a 1am depart from here and 3.30am arrival, God bless my daughter Bethan, she has to pick me up.

OK my friends that's it for this week and look forward to next week.