



This week at West Berks

Royal win for Mary

Twenty-one players turned out in this week's midweek mixed competition, played on Tuesday 26, in celebration of the Queen's Official Birthday.

It was entitled the Royal Birthday Bonus and Aileen Summers reports that it was played as an individual stableford with the eponymous bonus being that each player was allowed to swap their shot for someone else's in their group once on each nine.

Be it a drive, iron or putt, they simply moved their ball to where their playing partners shot finished and played the next shot from there.

(Editor's note: this is surely a brilliant idea that should be considered for introduction into the World Handicap System that we discuss on Page 2).

Mary Harwood won the event complementing her recent fine form with, as is understood from a reliable source, a highly intelligent and judicious application of her back nine bonus.

Mary scored 42 points, Deb Weddell was second with 40 and Brian Grace with 39 beat Sian Soanes and Barrie Seaman on count-back to take third place.

Phil shoots 42 in midweek

Phil Cannon shot a fine 42 points to win the men's midweek stableford on Friday June 29. George Jameson was second with 40 and Dennis White took third place with 38.

Liddiard update

There were eight qualifiers in the midweek nine-hole Liddiard competition on Wednesday June 27.

There was a four-way tie for first place on 21 points with the final placing of Tony Athawes, Andrew Kerr, Jason Kendal and Chris Terrett decided by count-back.

Brian Bailey and Geoff Dominy both

qualified for the final with 20 points, as did Barrie Bunning and Giles Feltham with 19.

Team matters

The men's team lost 3-4 away in a Central Sevens Golf League fixture at Rye Hill.

STOP PRESS

Although still to be ratified early results show that Dan Taylor won a high scoring Saturday stableford on June 30 with 43 points. Paul Reber with 40 points beat John (Chopper) Harris on count-back to take second place.



Deb, Mary and Brian - sharing the royal bonus

The nights may be drawing in but it's hotting up at West Berks

The summer solstice has passed, the nights are drawing in and the nation's sporting thoughts turn to Russia, Wimbledon and Henley. But don't think WBGC doesn't have a chance because we have some great events coming up in July.

Saturday and Sunday July 7 and 8: Ladies' and Men's Club Championships weekend

The most prestigious event of the calendar, it allows players of all standards to compete in the Championship or, for men, the Wise and Bennett trophies depending upon your handicap. Don't miss this big weekend at WBGC.

Thursday July 12: Ladies: Invitation Day

Sunday July 22: Men's Invitation Day

Two great events that allow you to invite a visitor to play and enjoy the hospitality at West Berks.

Sunday July 29: Mixed Open

Always a fun event. Don't miss it.

Many thanks to the Hopwood Ash Financial Planning Consultancy for printing this bulletin

Please send items that you would like to be considered for the bulletin to Dave Ware at: tnb.wbgc@gmail.com

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And now the world

MANY of you will have heard of the proposed World Handicapping System (WHS) that is being discussed wherever golf is played. Gordon Munro and Mary Harwood are keeping abreast with this issue and it is our intention, through TTNB, to keep the members of West Berks up to date on developments and acquainted as to how the introduction of WHS will affect our club and our members.

Gordon reports that the system is likely to be implemented in April 2020 and there has been published a number of core principles that the new system is trying to achieve.

WHS – the core principles

1. Enable as many golfers as possible to obtain and maintain a handicap.
2. Enable golfers of differing ability, gender and nationality to travel around the world and compete on a fair and equal basis.
3. Indicate with sufficient accuracy the score a golfer is reasonably capable of achieving playing under average conditions.
4. To implement a system that monitors and reviews handicaps based

on sufficient evidence of a player's game.

5. Emphasise the importance of playing in accordance with the Rules of Golf.
6. Reflect variations in playing conditions.
7. Incorporate an element of flexibility or choice to reflect different golfing cultures around the world.
8. Be easy to understand and apply by golf clubs and golfing public, as economic as reasonably possible to install and operate.
9. Must have the confidence of the golfing public.
10. Undergo a regular, coordinated review process.

What will it mean to us?

Although employing basics with which we are familiar such as obtaining and maintaining a valid handicap, WHS will introduce concepts that are new to those of us who have played most of our golf in the UK and Europe.

One of the fundamental changes will be the incorporation of the USGA Course and Slope Rating system into WHS.

This will mean that the current Standard Scratch Score will be replaced by a Course Rating and a Slope Rating that measures the playing difficulty of a course for a bogey golfer relative to a scratch golfer. Simply put, your club handicap will vary when you play any course in the world depending on the relative difficulty of that course.

Handicap calculations

There will be fundamental changes to handicaps as they will be average based rather than the incremental system we now use. Whereas under the incremental system adjustments are made after every qualifying score, under WHS a handicap index will be calculated using the best eight from the last 20 scores after every qualifying score.

There will also be other changes to the handicap system on the number of scores required to obtain a handicap and the maximum handicap allowance of 54 for both men and ladies.

Please be assured we will keep you abreast of the changes. In the meantime CONGU and England Golf urge players of all abilities to return as many qualifying cards as possible.

What's on next week

- Mon 2: Mixed v Marlborough (A)
 Tue 3: Men: Midweek Medal
 Ladies: Monthly Stableford
 Wed 4: Men: Liddiard
 Thu 5: Ladies v Bradfield College (H)
 Sat 7: Men: Club Championship R1
 Wise Trophy R1
 Bennett Trophy R1
 Ladies: Club Championship R1
 Sun 8: Men: Club Championship R2
 Wise Trophy R2
 Bennett Trophy R2
 Ladies: Club Championship R2

Problem Corner

Your problems solved by TTNB mind coach, Fink Wright

Dear Fink

Despite underperforming and suffering almost unmitigated disappointment for nearly 40 years there is always something in a round that encourages and sends me off the next time thinking that this will be the start of something good. Is this normal?

GUR, Great Shefford

Dear GUR,

This is the same facet of human nature that has allowed mankind to overcome the darkness of political and religious oppression and the ravages of disease and poverty yet has still allowed our ancestors to retain the spirit required to explore the four quarters of the globe.

I should add that it is also really, really annoying, especially for those unlucky enough to be drawn to play with you in the roll-up.

Yours, Fink Wright.