



TEE TIMES NEWS BULLETIN

Issue No: 078 March 04 2019

This week's results at West Berks

THIS week seemed to mark the onset of the full competitive season at West Berks with the first medal competitions of the year played out over the weekend.

Jane to the fore

Jane Brackenbury followed up her win in the ladies' winter league by winning the March medal played on Saturday March 2 with gross 85 net 79. Sian Soanes was second with gross 104, net 82 beating Tina Mulford, who shot gross 103 for her net 82, on count-back.

Degga wins

Derek (Degga) Smith won Division 1 of the men's March medal on a wet and windy Sunday scoring gross 81 net 73.

Jimmy Green was second with gross 83, net 73 while Darren Bolton with 79, net 74 was one shot behind in third place.

Terry Phelps won Division 2 with gross 81, net 68, while count-back was again required to place Tim Palmer second

with 87 net 74 ahead of Ian Miles who also shot 87 for a net 74.

Lloyd Ponsford with gross 95, net 74 won Division 3 with Paul Barton claiming second spot with 100, net 78 while Bob Griffiths with 101, net 80 took third place.

Harry takes midweek

On Wednesday February 27, Harry White won the midweek stableford with 39 points, John Loader was second on 36 and Dan Taylor was a point behind third.

Paul takes the prize

Paul Reber won the Saturday stableford with fine 42 points.

He was followed home by Gordon Mackinnon who was two points behind while Lee Nicholson with 39 points beat Terry Phelps on count-back to take third spot.



Above: Degga takes Division 1 of March medal while (below) Paul's wet weather training programme pays off.



Seniors M4 Winter League

West Berks seniors claimed a place in the knock-out stages of the M4 Seniors Winter League for the fifth year in succession when they beat Sandford Springs 3-1 at home today, Monday March 4.

The win puts them on top of the Nonsuch Division and we now go forward to play in the quarterfinals that will be played during week beginning March 25. The four winning clubs will then contest the semifinals at Temple on April 9 and finals' day this year is at Calcot Park on April 16.

Congratulations to skipper Dave Gentleman and all those who played throughout the season. We wish them well in the quarterfinals and, hopefully, beyond when, as always, their exploits will be closely followed in these pages.

See Page 2 for: Progress on seniors' match format review; what's coming up at WBGC and we take a quick look at how the new rules apply to the putting green.

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: dgw.ware@gmail.com

To request a copy email: maryharwood695@btinternet.com

Seniors' match format review

AT THE 2018 Seniors' AGM, members asked that a review into the present arrangements for inter-club seniors' fixtures should be held and the 2019 senior captain, Barrie Seaman, and Bob Ekins, who volunteered to help at the AGM, have begun that process.

As Barrie explains: "The project will research all the key issues and also take soundings from the eleven opposition clubs that make up our 2019 fixture list. We are anxious to take note of members' views and so a questionnaire has been designed for seniors to complete. The packs can be collected from the box that is on the clubhouse bar.

If you play in these matches now, used to play in the past, or are interested in doing so for the first time, then it will be appreciated if you could take the time to complete the form and return it to Bob Ekins in the envelope provided."

Barrie and Bob hope to wrap up the study by the end of April and publish a brief report of their findings.

Coming up at WBGC

Mon	4	Seniors M4 v Sandford Springs (H)
Tue	5	Ladies: Monthly Stableford
Thu	7	Men: Midweek Medal
Sat	9	Ladies: Spring Stableford
Sun	10	Men: Spring Competition
Tue	12	Men: Midweek Stableford Ladies: Midweek Medal
Sat	16	Men: Stableford Mixed: Chappell Cup
Sun	17	Men: Spring Competition
Wed	20	Men: Midweek Stableford
Sat	23	Winter League away weekend Mixed: Chappell Cup
Sun	24	Winter League away weekend Men & Ladies: Fun Competition

The new 2019 Rules of golf - the putting green

BACK in January we discussed the new rules that were introduced that month and pointed out that English Golf has published a set of documents that explain the new rules and the rationale behind their introduction.

They are available on-line at: www.englishgolf.org/handicaps-rules/become-a-rules-guru

During the year it is our intention to occasionally run a summary of one of these rules and this week we have chosen the changes made relating to the putting green.

So what's new?

The new Rule 13.1c(2) allows repair of almost any damage on the green:

"Damage on the putting green" will be defined to include all types of damage (such as ball-marks, shoe damage, indentations from a club or flagstick, animal damage, etc). Exceptions to this include aeration holes, natural surface imperfections or natural wear of the hole.

The player is allowed to repair damage only with his or her hand, foot or other part of the body or a ball-mark repair tool, tee, club or similar item of normal equipment and must not unreasonably delay play.

The prohibition of touching the line of play on the putting green is eliminated:

There is no longer a penalty for merely touching the line of play on the putting green (the term "line of play" will apply

everywhere on the course including the putting green, and the term "line of putt" will no longer be used).

But the player will still be subject to the prohibition on improving his or her line of play on the putting green (see Rule 8.1a, as limited by 8.1b).

New Rule 13.2a means there will no longer be a penalty if a ball played from the putting green hits a flagstick left in the hole:

Players will not be required to putt with the flagstick in the hole; rather, they will continue to have the choice to have it removed (which includes having someone attend the flagstick and remove it after the ball is played).

Reasons for the change:

A basic philosophy of allowing players a smooth surface for putting has been applied and it will also eliminate the frequent questions among players about whether a particular area of damage on the green is a ball-mark that may be repaired or is a shoe mark or other damage that must not be repaired.

Allowing a player to putt with the flagstick in the hole without fear of penalty should generally help speed up play as, for example, if a putt is long enough that the player cannot easily see the hole unless the flagstick is left in, the player does not have to wait for it to be attended.

If you have a query about rules, etiquette or procedure please share it with TTNB and we will seek an answer.