

This week at West Berks

Andy takes midweek medal

Andy Grayson shot a gross 79, net 71 to win the midweek medal on Tuesday April 30. Evergreen Geoff Pudner took second place with 86, net 73 while Roger Gaskell with net 74, won a three-way tie with Andy Robbings and Carl McCartney to take third spot on count-back.

Mary's midweek stableford

Also on Tuesday, Mary Harwood scored 35 points in the ladies' midweek stableford to win from Renee Wheeler on 33. Georgie Seaman was a further shot behind beating Carol Sparvell on count-back to take third place.

Liddiard update

The nine-hole qualifier for the Liddiard Cup on Wednesday produced six qualifying scores.

This week's winner was Jason Kendal when the three-handicapper shot a one under par 37 for 21 points beating Fred Stephens on count-back. Jason scored two birdies, six pars and bogeyed just one, the fifth. What went wrong there Jason?

Other qualifiers were Patrick Wilmore 20 and Pete Dye, Brian Bailey and Chris Terrett with 19.

There are, so far 25 qualifiers for the final at the end of July and among those

are two models of consistency. Patrick Wilmore has qualified three times, each time with 20 points, and Chris Terrett has played all five weeks and returned 19, 18, 20, 18 and 19 to total 94 and take an early lead in the Herbie Sternberg Trophy that is awarded to the player returning the highest aggregate of their best five scores.

Sian's the lady for May medal

Sian Soanes won the ladies' May medal on Saturday with a gross 100, net 78. Jane Brackenbury shot 85, net 79 to take second spot and Gale McAuley third with 103, net 80.

And Chris takes men's prize

Chris Ramsey won Division 1 of the men's May medal on Sunday with a gross 81, net 69 while Giles Feltham with 82, net 74 took second spot by beating Robert Camden, 83, net 74, on count-back.

Old chums and adversaries, Stuart King and Ian Lewin, fought out Division 2 with Stuart's gross 88, net 71 taking the spoils from Ian who scored 90, net 73. Tim Palmer with 91, net 78 to take third place from Garry Postlethwaite on count-back.

Nick Jones won Division 3 with gross 93, net 74 from Daniel (Geordie) Duncan 96,

net 75 second and Phil Clare third with 107, net 78.

Team Matters

It was a mixed bag of results for West Berks this week.

Seniors lose at Drayton

Bob Ekins made his debut as captain of the seniors on Thursday when substituting for Barrie Seaman at Drayton Park. Unfortunately his well-earned epithet of 'Lucky Bob', assigned because of his propensity to play balls into the deepest part of the woods and yet end up in the fairway, did not apply on this occasion and we lost the match 4-2.

Central 7s slip up at home

The Central 7s team lost 4-3 at home to Drayton. According to skipper, Tim Howes, we had a strong team out and the match was very close. As Tim said: "We just have to go again at Tadmarton next Saturday."

Great win at Ogbourne Downs

The Saturday men's friendly team made it four wins out of four when they went to Ogbourne Downs, a notoriously difficult course for away teams, and won 3½ to 2½.

Well done Kevin Wilkins and his team and long may the run continue.



Digging deep

The picture left shows the extent of the recent work carried out on the bunker just short of the ninth green.

A picture showing the completion of the work and the newly-built bunker in all its glory can be seen on Page 2.

You see, it's not just a question of throwing a rake at it!

Also on Page 2:

New rules relating to bunkers

What's on in May at WBGC

TTNB Rules update

How 2019 rule changes affect taking relief from bunkers

Reader's question:

During a recent round I was very close to the back edge of a bunker and I had little chance of getting the ball out. I could not drop in the bunker without it being nearer the hole and I was aware that the rules for relief in bunkers changed in 2019 but I could not remember the details.

Can you advise please?

TTNB answer:

In January 2019 significant changes to the rules about playing from bunkers were introduced.

Loose impediments and touching sand:

Under Rules 12.2a and 12.2b, the player is now allowed to touch or move loose impediments in a bunker and will be generally allowed to touch the sand with a hand or club.

However, this is still strictly controlled and a player must not (i) deliberately touch the sand in a bunker with a hand, club, rake or other object to test the condition of the sand to learn information for the stroke, or (ii) touch the sand with a club in

making a practice swing, in grounding the club right in front of or behind the ball, or in making the backswing for a stroke.

Relief from unplayable ball:

You always had the option of dropping in the bunker no nearer the hole under the penalty of one stroke or taking stroke and distance penalty.

You now have an extra option of taking relief outside the bunker using the back-on-the-line procedure, but you must remember a two-stroke penalty applies. (Rule 19.3b).

This penalty may seem somewhat draconian at first but in fact it is consistent with the significant amount of relief being allowed and is consistent with other rules that provide that, when an obstruction or abnormal ground condition interferes with the play of a ball in a bunker, the player has the option to take free relief within the bunker itself or the extra option to take relief for one penalty stroke by playing from back-on-the-line outside the bunker.

If you have any queries please just ask TTNB and we will try to help.

The month of May at West Berks

May

Tue 7	Seniors: v Caversham Heath (H)
Wed 8	Men: Liddiard
Thu 9	Mixed: v Marlborough (H)
Fri 10	Seniors: Medal
Sat 11	Men: Stableford
	Men: v North Wilts (H)
	Men: Scratch League v Goring 2 (H)
	C7s v Tadmerton Heath (A)
Sun 12	Men: Lambourn Trophy R1
Tue 14	Mixed: Husbands & Wives Trophy
Wed 15	Seniors: v Wokefield Estate (A)
	Men: Liddiard
Sat 18	Men: Stableford
Sun 19	Men: Lambourn Trophy R2
Tue 21	Ladies: Midweek Medal
Wed 22	Men: Midweek Stableford
	Men: Liddiard
Sat 25	Men: v Broome Manor (H)
	Men: Stableford
	Men: Scratch League v Goring 2 (A)
	Ladies: Coronation Foursomes
Sun 26	Men & Ladies: Fun Competition
Tue 28	Mixed: Sunshine Cup
	Men: Midweek Stableford
Wed 29	Men: Liddiard
Thu 30	Seniors: v Drayton Park (H)



The finished product

Well done to Patrick and his team on the great job on the bunker on the ninth. I am sure it will be appreciated by all those who have already made a visit. Even those who, like me, have usually blobbed the hole before reaching the bunker can appreciate how good it looks. - Ed