



This week at West Berks

Grand finale set up for Gillas

Shaun Ponsford won the second round of the men's Gillas Cup on Sunday with 41 points. Ashley Atherton, a new member from Carswell got his West Berks' career off to a strong start when the five-handicapper scored 40 points to take second place while Keith Wilkins, Colin Harrison and Greg Collins were a single shot further back in a three-way tie for third place a position that Keith claimed on count-back.

The result sets up an epic climax to the competition with eight players taking 40 points or more into the final scheduled for Sunday November 10. These are: Jon Bale and Dan Bowsher on 42, Shaun on 41 and Ashley, Richard Camden, Kevin Hopwood, Jimmy Green and defending champion, Chris Ramsey, on 40.

A result that catches the eye is the beautiful symmetry of the performances of Keith and Kevin Wilkins. Few names could be more similar and they duly obliged by both scoring 36 and 39 in the two rounds so taking a best score of 39 points into the final.

Two for one in the mixed

Twenty players participated in the October mixed, midweek competition on Tuesday. Never lacking in imagination the organisers opted to play a 'half and half'. The front nine was a 'double joker' where each person was obliged to choose

two holes at which they score double points and the back nine was an 'odds and evens' where the two best scores count on the odd holes and three best count on the even.

It proved to be a close contest with only six points separating the five teams of four. The winning team comprised: Helen Bell, Mary Harwood, Jane Wilmore and Mike Sparvell with a score of 104.

Well done all concerned and a special commendation to the markers.

Barrie by a point

Barrie Green won the men's midweek stableford on Wednesday with a fine 44 points outscoring Graham Mort who took second spot by a single shot. Mark Richardson scored 36 points to take third place.

Saturday success

The men's Saturday team played its last fixture of the season at Broome Manor in dire conditions that reduced the match to a 13-hole challenge.

It was a contest that we won by 4½ to 1½ to finish with a highly impressive record of having played 16 matches, winning 14, halving one and suffering just one defeat.

Captain, Kevin Wilkins, said: "It was a damp end to a very successful season and I would like to thank all the players who supported the team. What a year! Well played all."

Congratulations from TTNB to all concerned.

... and no hold ups on M4

Elsewhere our seniors are also enjoying a great start to the 2019/2020 campaign



Shaun in sunnier climes

in the M4 Seniors Winter League.

So far we have enjoyed 4-0 victories at home to The Downshire, Hadden Hill and Sand Martins and a 2½ to 1½ away win at Hadden Hill.

Well done and keep up the good work.

Coming up before the mid-winter break starts at the end of November are away matches at Donnington Grove and The Downshire and a home fixture to Sandford Springs.

Down in the Valley

The ladies lost a rearranged fixture at Donnington Valley on Monday by 3-1.



Mary, Mike, Helen and Jane mixing it up in midweek

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How friendly are friendlies?

A correspondent raises the issue of just how friendly friendlies should be.

Dear TTNB

These days I am a close observer but rare participant in the club's senior team and there can be no doubt that having played 21 inter-club friendly matches winning 12 and losing only four, our team has enjoyed a very successful season.

However, the list of results and individual performances prepared and posted by this year's captain, Barrie Seaman, can only bring into question the meaning of the word 'friendly'.

It seems straightforward enough. A visiting team is warmly welcomed, they enjoy a round of keenly contested yet relaxed golf and a drink or two afterwards is followed by a good meal. It's a simple formula and one to which most players are fully committed.

But a close look at Barrie's statistics reveals a darker side to the picture. Take for instance, the performance of Derrick Perrin, Graham Short, David Gentleman and Patrick Wilmore. At first sight this seems a friendly enough four-ball, but closer scrutiny reveals that between them they have represented the club on no less than 38 occasions and have, in total, lost only five times.

I might sound a little old fashioned but that sounds downright unfriendly to me. It is not my intention to launch a witch hunt but to get personal, take the performance of the seemingly easy-going and charming Derrick Perrin. Derrick has won ten of the dozen matches he has played losing just one. Now, that surely cannot be described as friendly by any stretch of the imagination.

Of course, there are two sides to every story. I know there are some really friendly chaps involved who turn out occasionally and have a somewhat different record and, it has to be admitted, could possibly be accused of going just a little bit too far the other way. We are so friendly and caring that our opponents are positively queuing up to enjoy our hospitality every year but we take consolation that we do redress the balance somewhat.

Name and address supplied

A rules reminder

And a reader seeks Fink's help

In 2019 the rules of golf concerning accidentally hitting a ball changed when the distinction between a deflection caused by an outside agency and one caused by the player who hit the ball was eliminated.

According to new *Rule 11.1*, if a player deflects or stops his own ball in motion there is no penalty and the ball must be played as it lies. It must be stressed that this is only the case provided the player did so accidentally - more on this later.

Similarly, if a player accidentally hits his ball twice in one stroke, again there is no penalty, and the ball must be played as it lies.

It is the latter rule that triggered a letter to our own Fink Wright. Although Fink established his world-wide reputation as a mind coach he also doubles up as a swing coach for a number of clients. It is in the latter category that he was contacted by a TTNB reader earlier this week.

Dear Fink

I note under the new 2019 rules there is no longer a penalty for a double-hit. As you know my game well do you think I should practice this and add the double-hit to the already extensive range of shots that I have developed over the years?

IFC, Wantage

Dear IFC

Absolutely not! Having watched your swing at the driving range, practice area and on the course for so long I know that it lacks the tempo, rhythm and intent of purpose required for trick shots.

With a handicap of 23 and rising you should think yourself lucky that you hit it once on a swing as often as you do, never mind twice.

Apart from these basic swing deficiencies I fear that you also lack the skill and imagination to make the shot look accidental and this is a prerequisite of the rule change.

I hope you are keeping well.

Fink

The rest of 2019 at West Berks

November

- Sat 2 Men: Stableford
Ladies: Winter League R1
Sun 3 Men: Monthly Medal
Sat 9 **LADIES AGM 1430hr**
Ladies Winter League R2
Sun 10 Men: Gillas Final
Tue 12 Mixed: Portuguese Caddy Trophy
Sat 16 Men: Stableford
Ladies: Winter League R3
Sun 17 Air Ambulance Corbridge Cup
Wed 20 **CLUB AGM 1930hr**
Sat 23 Ladies: Winter League R4

Sun 24 Men: Winter League R1

Sat 30 Ladies: Winter League R5

December

- Sun 1 Men: Winter League R2
Tue 3 Ladies: Winter Trophy Stableford
Sat 7 Men and Ladies Fun Comp
Sun 8 Men: Winter Competition
Tue 10 Ladies: 8-hole comp & Xmas Lunch
Wed 11 Men: Midweek Turkey Trot Singles
Ladies: Midweek Turkey Trot singles
Sat 14 Men & Ladies: Turkey Trot Singles
Sun 15 **CAPTAIN'S DRIVE-IN**
Men & Ladies: Turkey Trot