



Recent happenings at WBGC

Putting the boot in

A result missing from last week's issue was the 'Portuguese Caddy Trophy' a mixed competition played annually in memory of John Adams.

In this year's event, played on Tuesday November 12, there were a total of 25 competitors and was won by the team comprising: Lyn Pell, Rob Small and Patrick Wilmore with a splendid 100 points.

Ola Adams, Colin Bell and Mike Sparvell were second with 97 points while Aileen Summers, Allan Trotman and Tony Pell were third with 91.

Gale takes Round 3

Gale McAuley won Round 3 of the Ladies' Winter League on Saturday November 23 with 32 points. Jane Brackenbury was second with 31 and Mary Harwood third with 28.

Tony and Mark off to a flyer

The men's Winter League got underway on Sunday when Mark Charlton and Tony Atkins won Round 1, a better-ball stableford competition, with 49 points.

Jimmy Green and Gary (Murph) Abraham shared the winning score and were relegated into second place on count-back, while count-back also decided third and fourth place with Christy Whelehan and Chris Prior with 48 points edging out Kevin and Garry Dixon.



Patrick, Lyn and Rob receive trophy from Ola

Nigel triumphs

The finals of the Dowling Cup and the Seniors' Matchplay were delayed because a finalist in both, Nigel Huszarik, was unwell.

We are glad to report that Nigel is now fighting fit and although he lost the final of Dowling Cup to Andy Greaves last week, this week he beat Tony (Ticker) Athawes at the first extra hole to claim the Seniors' Matchplay title.

Well done Nigel and, of course, Andy and Ticker.

Terry Richards

It is with much regret that we have to report that Terry Richards died suddenly at his home in Winnersh on Monday October 28 2019 at the age of 73.

Terry joined West Berks during the 1980s and soon became established as part of the Saturday morning boys. In later years when he cut back his work commitments Terry started to play midweek and regularly played for the West Berks seniors' team. He was a fine golfer and at one point Paul Simpson asked Terry to partner him in a series of challenges against other players from West Berks.

A few years ago when the journey from Winnersh to West Berks became too much he joined East Berks GC as it was just 10 minutes from his home. However, he still kept in touch and played regularly with Steve Jones and Ray Freeman at either East or West Berks.

Steve also was in regular contact with Terry on the phone and told TTNB: "Terry's wife Sue passed away last year leaving a massive hole in Terry's life from which he never fully recovered. His death was so sudden that it has shocked all of us who knew and played with him at West Berks. He was a good golfer, a good bloke and a very good friend."

Many thanks to Steve Jones for helping with this report

Air of optimism at AGM

THIRTY-ONE members attended the AGM held at the club on Wednesday.

After the President's welcoming address our Chairman, Kevin Hopwood, paid tribute to those leaving the committee with particular reference to Mary Harwood who is leaving the club after many years of service and having made a significant contribution to the club. Kevin also spoke positively about the future of the club and welcomed the new members who have arrived from Carswell.

Treasurer, Nick Jones, reported on a strong financial position and the captains, Nigel Day for the men and Barrie Seaman the seniors plus Mary Harwood representing the ladies' organising group reported on busy and successful seasons of golf.

Rob Bridgman and Bob Ekins were then ratified as men's and seniors' captains respectively for 2020 and Kevin Wilkins, Greg Collins, Stuart Harrison and Stuart Murphy were elected to the General Committee while Brian Reid was nominated from the floor and unanimously voted as a committee member.

Full details of the officers, members and structure of the new General Committee will appear in TTNB shortly.

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

If you have any items or ideas for TTNB or you would like to receive a copy please email Dave Ware at: dgw.ware@gmail.com

The Annual Review explained

THE LATEST annual handicap review has created its normal share of controversy, discussion and not always best-informed comment.

TTNB decided to ask Club President, Gordon Munro, to share with us his many years of experience in dealing with such matters.

Here is what he had to say:

As we are affiliated to CONGU (the Council of National Golf Unions) we are required to carry out an annual review of handicaps of all members of the club.

The purpose of the review is to identify players whose general playing performance and scoring pattern over the year is different to that expected for their handicap.

A point to note here is that the 'perfect golfer' (CONGU's phrase not mine) will only play in their buffer zone (note not their handicap) a third of the time.

The review is carried out by the handicap committee augmented by inputs from competition secretaries, team captains and roll-up organisers.

You can imagine that reviewing the handicap of each member is difficult and time consuming and so, to that end, a computer generated report has been designed to help the handicap committee in its deliberations.

This report compares an individual player's performance against a national database of players with the same exact handicap. Performance is measured by taking the median score (the middle score of a range) of all qualifying rounds a player has played against an expected (target) score derived from the national database. In every case the target score is greater than the handicap to which it refers. Normally if performance versus target is around three shots different then this would indicate a handicap adjustment either increase or decrease would be in order.

However, this is only part of the story. Normally a player who regularly plays in qualifying competitions will carry a handicap that reflects their ability as it is constantly adjusted depending on their results.

In addition, CONGU state that consideration MUST be given to a player's achievements in non-qualifying competitions including match-play, four-ball better ball, and all other forms of team competition.

A player also has a duty to notify the club of away scores. This information becomes even more important when a player has returned only a few qualifying scores.

This additional information is used as 'evidence' of a player's ability. It does not entail any automatic penalty which CONGU expressly prohibits. The same is true of players who do well in internal competitions including for example the knockouts and winter league.

The importance of playing with a 'true' handicap cannot be overstated. Not only does it mean everyone can compete fairly but players using handicaps that are incorrect – either too low or too high can have an effect on a competition's CSS and therefore the handicaps of all other players.

Gordon Munro

The rest of 2019 at WBGC

Check out what's on at the club between now and Christmas

November

Sat 30 Ladies: Winter League

December

Sun 1 Men: Winter League R2

Tue 3 Ladies: Winter Trophy Stableford

Sat 7 Men and Ladies Christmas Fun Comp

Sun 8 Men: Winter Competition

Tue 10 Ladies: 8-hole competition and Christmas 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 Team

Sat 21 'Old' and 'New' Challenge

Saturday December 21 2019

'Old' and 'New' Challenge

Paul Simpson is arranging an 'Old meets New' Challenge at West Berks on the morning of Saturday December 21.

Pairs comprising one 'old' and one 'new' West Berks member will be drawn to compete in a better-ball stableford competition off the yellow tees.

See Paul in the shop to enter the draw or email: paulsimpsongolf@gmail.com

Please join in - it should be fun!

Saturday December 7

Men and Ladies Christmas Fun Comp

There is still time to enter this team mixed Am-Am comp

Please see start sheet on notice board in main lobby

Let Christmas celebrations commence!