

A Happy New Year to all our readers

Golf finally beats the weather but it's a close run thing

The editorial team at TTNB wish our readers a very happy and healthy 2020 and hope that you enjoy a great year of golf at West Berks.

Since our last issue we have suffered from wet and soggy conditions and an unusually high number of days have been lost (for West Berks) because the course was closed due to rain.

A certain best selling book described the weather at one time as: 'the fountains of the Great Deep burst apart and the floodgates of heaven broke open and rain fell for forty days and forty nights'.

OK we cannot pretend it was quite that bad but it has to be pretty wet for West

Berks to be closed to rain. We expect to lose a few days a year due to the white stuff but rain alone does not often beat Pat and his team.

'Old Boys v New' to be rearranged

One of the events to be lost to the weather was the proposed match between old (or is it kinder to say 'existing') and new members. Paul hopes to rearrange this event for early in the New Year, possibly in February.

Tina wins Round 5

Only two ladies finished Round 5 of the ladies' Winter League on Saturday January 4 due to a variety of reasons including our normally faultless secretary,

Sandy Miller, losing her specs on the course. All ended happily thankfully.

Tina Mulford started the new year as she no doubt intends to continue by winning with a highly creditable 37 points. She was followed home by Gale McAuley with 32 points.

2020 Diaries

The WBGC 2020 diaries that contain a full list of fixtures, and events plus contact details of all members and a host of other useful information are now available from both the Pro-Shop and the bar.

Introducing your new captain

Rob Bridgeman is our men's captain for 2020. Rob has been a member at West Berks since 2002 having taken up golf when he was in his forties. As a young man he was a keen runner and represented his county at 400 and 800 metres and was a trialist for the GB team before a chronic Achilles injury ended his competitive athletic career. Bob has also enjoyed singing as a hobby for the past 40 years firstly in a chorus singing four-part Barbershop Harmony and lately in a five-piece cappella group known as Quintessence.

Upon joining West Berks he was soon put in touch with the SAAGS where he was warmly welcomed and his West Berks career was up and running. More recently he has been a regular member of what was once known as the Mike O'Connell Friday Boys but is now more often referred to as the Seniors' Roll-Up.

Rob says of his time at West Berks: "Although I took up the game comparatively late in life I found it was an ideal outlet for my competitive instinct while allowing me to make a lot of really good friends."

He added that he loves match play golf and this probably explains why he is enjoying a very successful season as captain of our 2019/2020 M4 Seniors Winter League team.

Rob added: "I always felt I wanted to give a bit back to the club and I have been serving on the General Committee for a number of years, first in my role as Pro-Am organiser and then, more recently, on handicaps.

"I hope that as captain I can play a part in ensuring that we enjoy our golf in peace and harmony throughout my year I also look forward to meeting members with whom I do not normally have the opportunity to play. This is particularly important this year as we welcome our new friends who have joined from Carswell and we continue to integrate them into the club in their first full season of golf at West Berks. If possible I would also like to organise with help and support from The Ladies Section, some social events throughout the year. More of that later!"

Sobell House Hospice

The chosen charity for 2020 is Sobell House Hospice, based at The Churchill Hospital, Headington, Oxford. This wonderful charity supports patients with life limiting illness, providing end of life care and support for their families.

We hope that members of West Berks Golf Club will donate generously and participate in the various fund raising events throughout the year.



As Rob explains he has a very personal reason for supporting this charity: "Sobell House gave wonderful support to me and my late wife Gill who was cared for by Sobell House at the end of her life. It is a very special place. It is only partly funded by the NHS and requires a great deal of money to keep running. I hope that all members will support the charity generously throughout the year."

Good luck Rob. Have a great year.

Salute our champions of 2019



WBGC 2019 Champions (clockwise from the top): men's and ladies' champions Jason Kendal and Jane Brackenbury, ladies' senior champion Mary Harwood and men's senior champion Terry Phelps.

Well done to our champs and all those who supported the comps throughout the year - both the winners and those not so fortunate.

BB&O County Card now free

BB&O Golf has announced that its County Card will be offered free of charge for the forthcoming year and there will be no charge for replacements once existing cards expire.

The County Card scheme provides cardholders with the opportunity to play at more than 1,300 golf clubs throughout the country at a special rate that is at least as competitive as the members guest rate. A list of participating clubs is available on the BB&O website.

The new system will run from 1st February 2020 to 31st January 2021. All new applicants will need to apply online via the BB&O website for a card. There will be a small administration charge of £1.90 to cover the costs while 2019 County Card holders will be issued with a new card completely free of charge. All cards will be sent to the club for collection in the Pro-Shop.

If you have any queries please contact Sandy Miller at: sandy.miller@live.co.uk

Coming up at West Berks

January

Tue 7	Ladies: Winter Stableford
Sat 11	Ladies: Winter League
Sun 12	Men: Winter League R3
Sat 18	Ladies: Winter League
Sun 19	Men: Winter Competition
Sat 25	Ladies: Winter League
Sun 26	Men: Winter League R4

February

Sat 1	Ladies' Winter League
Sun 2	Men & Ladies: Fun Competition
Mon 3	M4 League v Sand Martins (A)
Tue 4	Ladies: Winter Stableford
Sat 8	Ladies: Winter League
Sun 9	Men: Winter League R5