



## The week's results at West Berks

### Making his mark

Mark Ramos won Division 1 of the first monthly medal of the year on Sunday March 1 with a gross 78, net 67. Mark beat Carl McCartney, who shot gross 79, net 67 on count-back while Kevin Wilkins with gross 82, net 70 was third.

Keith Wilkins won Division 2 with net 72, one shot clear of Martin Drew who beat Charlie Dixon on count-back to take second place.

Rob Griffiths won Division 3 with 86, net 66 to record the best net score of the day while Paul Beake with net 70 beat Paul Barton on count-back to take second spot.

### Seniors stay smart on M4

Having secured a place in the KO stages of the M4 Seniors Winter League for the sixth year in succession the previous week, our seniors were due to play at Sand Martins on Monday but weather prevailed and the match was called off again.

They did play at Sandford Springs on Wednesday though where they overcame the soggy conditions to achieve a closely fought 2½ to 1½ victory and in so doing clinched first place in the Nonsuch League. Well done to Rob Bridgman and his team and we look forward to

keeping you informed of our progress in the knockout stage.

Rob and his merry men will be keen to enhance our already impressive record in this competition that we won in 2014/2015 and 2016/17.

Watch these pages!

### It's rain again

Although this time the Met Office did not name the culprit who poured rain on us for several days through the week the effect was much the same and the ladies' March stableford and the men's midweek medal became non-events.

Sunday March 8 dawned brightly with a reasonable forecast, but the heavy overnight rain led the course to be closed yet again.

This caused the planned fifth round of the men's winter league to be cancelled for the third time so creating yet another rescheduling headache for the comps boys.

*See Page 2 for reschedule information*



Rob Griffiths - lowest net score in March medal

### Gale blows them away

The good news is that the ladies' March medal was played on Saturday March 7 and was won by Gale McAuley who finished six shots clear of the field with net 76.

Jane Brackenbury was second with net 82 while Tina Mulford's net 88 beat Sian Soanes on count-back to take third spot.

## A day in the rain for ex-Carswell boys

IT HAS to be said that it is not the role of TTNB to apportion blame for any happenings at WBGC. However, it is our duty to bring to the attention of our readers natural phenomena as and when it occurs, especially when it has an effect on our golf.

The facts are that last autumn we welcomed a host of new members from Carswell GC with open arms. In these pages we said: *"While we offer the past members of Carswell GC every sympathy for the untimely closure of their course it is a great privilege for us at West Berks to receive an influx of new members We extend a warm welcome to everybody and can assure you that at West Berks we will do all we can to integrate our new members and golfing friends into the activities of our club"*.

And we meant every word of it, and a cheery lot they are, but we are obliged to point out that it has not stopped raining since.

As if to make the point Brian Reid, who has proved an invaluable addition to our club and is now serving on the

handicap committee of the GC, organised a golf day at West Berks for ex-Carswell members on Thursday March 5. It was just about the wettest day of a very wet winter.

Thirty-nine players turned up and, remarkably, thirty-six of them went out to face the fierce rain and wind. It was only when the greens started holding water was it decided to make it a nine-hole competition.

Afterwards Brian declared the day a great success saying: "The weather may have won but everyone appreciated the warming effect of the bacon rolls before and the sarnies and chips and, of course, the bar afterwards. The good news is that, despite the conditions, six players on the day declared an intent to become new members."

Well done Brian - very enterprising of you but about this rain!

**See Page 2 for: more qualifiers, why you need stamps, Eddie's costly mistake and what's coming up at WBGC**

## STOP PRESS

### Diary changes on March 15 and April 12

AS REPORTED on Page 1 the men's winter league R5 scheduled for yesterday was postponed for the third time.

It will now be played on Sunday March 15.

The Spring Competition due to be played on that date will now be played on Sunday April 12.

Members who have a stamp up for that day and cannot play on the new date should see Paul in the Pro shop.

### Extra qualifying opportunities

IT IS THE recommendation from English Golf that members should play as many qualifiers as possible prior to the commencement of the WHS on November 1 2020.

To simplify this process the GC has introduced a full bakers' dozen of extra Saturday stableford qualifying competitions on the dates below.

Please add these to your diary:

**March 21, April 4 and 18, May 2, June 13, July 18, August 8 and 15, September 12, October 3, 10 and 24, November 7.**

### Don't hog it – stamp it!

THE GC wishes to remind all members that the only way to reserve a competition slot is to place a stamp on the relevant competition sheet.

A name without a stamp has no authority and another competitor has every right to place a stamp over the name. In addition, competition secretaries reserve the right to remove names without stamps at any time.

### Coming up at WBGC

#### March

Tue 10 Men: Midweek Stableford

Ladies: Midweek Medal

Sat 14 Men: Stableford

Ladies: Spring Stableford

Men v Sonning GC (A)

Sun 15 Men: Winter League Round 5 (note change)

Wed 18 Men: Midweek Stableford

Sat 21 Mixed: Chappell Cup

Men: Stableford

Foursomes League v Feldon Valley (H)

Sun 22 Men & Ladies Fun Competition

Mon 23 Men: Midweek Stableford

Tue 24 Mixed: Midweek Competition

Thu 26 Seniors v Wrag Barn (H)

Sat 28 Men v Sandford Springs (A)

Men: Stableford

Sun 29 Men: Winter League Round 6

Mon 30 Ladies v Donnington Grove (A)

### Ouch! Eddie's costly mistake

THERE WAS a bit of a hoo-ha recently when local lad made good, Eddie Pepperell, was disqualified from the Qatar Open for signing for a score lower than his correct score.

No problem there of course but in truth it was a bit more complicated than that. This is what happened - you may need a pencil and paper – I did!

His playing partner, who was marking his card, had recorded a 5 on the 11th where he actually made a 6, and a 4 on the 16th where he made 3.

Eddie correctly picked up on this and adjusted his card before signing and this would have been OK except while altering the score he made a costly error. He adjusted 11 to show the correct score of 6 but instead of changing 16 from 4 to 3 he changed the score on 17 instead.

This meant that on holes 11, 16 and 17 he had actually scored 6, 3 and 4 but he returned scores of 6, 4 and 3. The returned total was correct but the score recorded on 17 was lower than his score and therefore it was a DQ because Rule 3.3b (3), clearly states that when the returned score is 'lower than the actual score or no score returned the player is disqualified.'

As a reminder, if he had recorded a number that was higher than his actual score, the higher score would have stood and he would not have been disqualified.

Eddie accepted his fate with good grace but surely this is a lesson to us all. If a pro playing in a top tournament with all the checks in the marker tent can fall foul of the laws, it can happen to any of us. It may not be as expensive but it will be just as annoying.

Entering your correct handicap and your correct gross score is just about all you, as a competitor, are responsible for, all the rest is down to the organising committee. But it's costly when you get it wrong.

*TTNB is grateful to Bob Patten who first brought this story to our attention.*

## WB Race Night

**Friday 17th April**

**Start: 6.30pm**

**In aid of 2020 Captain's Charity:**

**Sobell House Hospice**

**For more information please see posters in the clubhouse or contact**

**Tina Mulford, Rob Bridgeman**

**or Sian Soanes**

**Enjoy a great evening while supporting a very worthy charity**