



TEE TIMES NEWS BULLETIN

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Back to golf - again

COVID-19 really has made a mess of 2020 but it's good to be back. It may not be golf as we know it but it is golf. Although a vaccine may be on the horizon, we as golfers have a responsibility to maintain the social distancing and hygiene rules that have been in force on golf courses since May. No relaxing! We need to stay extra diligent now that the winning post may be at hand. WHS is with us so, armed with your handicap index, playing handicap, competition allowance and mask, you are ready to go!

Simon sets the pace

Simon Clifford won the first comp after play started again on Wednesday December 2 when he won the men's Saturday stableford with 41

points. Andy Grayson was second with 39 while count-back was required to resolve a three-way tie on 38 points with Liam Bint edging out Tim Hoiles and Nick Jones to take third place.

Gillas set to go

Stuart King won Gillas R2 on Sunday with 42 points. Christy Whelehan, playing off scratch shot the low round of the day, a gross 69, to score 40 points and in so doing beat Darren Morton on count-back to take second place.

This competition is now reduced from four rounds to three and ten players take 40 points or more into the final on Sunday December 13 with Shaun Ponsford leading the way thanks to his 45 in the first round. All will be revealed on Sunday.



Rob set for second year

WB holds first virtual AGM

FIFTY 'attendees' meant that we had a fine turnout for our first ever virtual AGM held on Wednesday November 18. After the traditional addresses by the chairman, the captains and the secretary, the meeting moved to the election of the officers and general committee members for 2021.

Officers and captains unchanged

The officers, men's captain and lady's representative remain unchanged and I am sure the membership is at one when we wish them well and hope that they have an easier time than in 2020. With the introduction of WHS and online booking, 2020 would have been a testing year in any event. With Covid-19 causing two total cessations of golf and what seemed, at times, a daily change in rules of engagement, it proved a very challenging year for all concerned. Congratulations on a job well done to the GC

and we all hope that 2021 will be an altogether more fun golfing year.

Changes to general committee

Patrick Wilmore, Bob Fagg and Tony Dyet served last year but did not stand for re-election and the chairman thanked them on behalf of the club membership for their past endeavours.

The only new committee member for 2021 is John Bennett. John volunteered from the 'floor' and was elected unanimously. We wish John well and we are confident that what he lacks in experience will be compensated for by his boundless enthusiasm!

Block bookings of tee times

A motion that requested block tee times to restart roll ups was proposed by Roger Gaskell and seconded by Rob Small. This motion was carried by 30 votes to 16.

Following the AGM, the course owner, Bournebridge Golf, has received a number of requests from other groups in addition to those represented at the AGM and has decided to place a restriction on block booked tee times as is its right under the licence agreement between Bournebridge and WBGC. The company believes that under the present circumstances, if all requests were accommodated it would result in a disproportionate number of tees being pre-booked to the detriment of those who are not part of a group.

Bournebridge has further advised that the company is not averse to block booked tee times per se, and wholly supports 'roll ups' in the manner in which they previously operated and has agreed that the matter should be re-visited by both the General Committee and the company sometime next year when deemed appropriate.

Who's who in 2021

President:	Gordon Munro
Chairman:	Kevin Hopwood
Secretary:	Sandy Miller
Treasurer:	Nick Jones
Men's Captain:	Rob Bridgeman
Ladies' Representative:	Tina Mulford
Men's Seniors' Captain:	Bob Ekins
Members of GC:	John Bennett Greg Collins Stuart Harrison Stuart Murphy Brian Reid Kevin Wilkins

Spare a thought

PLEASE remember to enter your scores after a comp on the HDID app on your phone or the screen in the clubhouse. Comps may have a hundred cards to check and having to enter the scores as well is an onerous task. Many thanks - your efforts will be much appreciated.

David Grenier

August 12 1931 – November 6 2020

NO DOUBT by now you will have read the TTNB News Announcement sent out on November 17 or heard from some other source that David Grenier died on November 6 2020. Although the suspension of golf did not allow TTNB to cover this sad news at the time, the delay does nothing to diminish the sincerity of this message.

David, who was 89, was a long-time, highly respected member of West Berks and was very popular with both fellow members and staff at the club and in particular with SAGGS, a group in which he played for many years.

He became a highly successful member of the financial community and ran his own investment company for many years. He was also a trustee of a number of pension schemes until quite recently.

When not working, David enjoyed many other interests including politics, the arts, music and, in particular, opera. Always a keen sportsman, he was a great rugby union fan and a long-term supporter of Wasps RFC.

An enthusiastic golfer, David had numerous lessons with Paul over the past 20 years or so and Paul sums up the feeling of all those who knew him at West Berks when he said: "David was always keen to improve his golf and striving for an extra 20 yards to keep up with his friends in SAGGS. He was a real gentleman and it was a great pleasure to teach and get to know him."

The response to the news of David's death from all sectors of the club, and SAGGS in particular, was as warm as it was sincere. He is described as someone who was shrewd and intelligent, a delightful golfing companion and a valued contributor to the SAGGS pre-golf debates. He is much missed by everyone who knew him at the club. Once again we offer our sincere condolences to his wife, Janet, and his sons, Lewis, Julian and Michael.

A Master class

Fink Wright reflects on the Masters

Hi all and I hope you guys in the UK are now getting back into the swing of playing golf again.

Although the Masters finished a while ago now it is still a talking point over here. Apart from the unusual silence of the place, there were a couple of truly standout examples of how strong in the head these guys are.

The first was Dustin Johnson's outstanding win by five clear shots. DJ had what could have been an unsettling start on Sunday when Im Sung-jae closed to within a couple of shots. But DJ has the best possible attitude for the game, lets nothing phase him and he does just what is required and concentrates on the next shot.

I couldn't help comparing that with just a couple of weeks back when I asked a young, very promising, college golfer who is under my wing, how he managed to fluff a chip on the ninth hole in an amateur tournament. He said that a photographer had spooked him on the eighth tee and he couldn't get it out of his mind. Out of his mind? It wouldn't have even entered the mind of DJ or any of the other top guys out there.

Then there was Tiger Woods. Tiger struggled all week and calamity struck on the twelfth hole on Sunday. A par three of a fraction over 150 yards, he went in the water three times and racked up a ten. That would have destroyed a lot of golfers, but not Tiger. Now I have never worked with Tiger and never gotten to know him real well but you just have to admire the strength of mind and self-pride at work there. It made no material difference to him whether he finished in the top 50 or the top 150 but he finished with five birdies in the last six holes – truly remarkable. And my college boy allowed a photographer to spook him. He'll learn – I'll make sure of that.

Nice to be back, Fink

PS Your editor tells me he had a fiver on DJ winning by six shots and he was hoping that the last putt would drop. Sorry to disappoint you Dave but with a five shot lead there was no way DJ was going to try to make that putt.

Off your trolley?

THERE has been a lot of discussions and undiluted criticism among members lately of golfers who drive trolleys too near to greens and between bunkers, just to save a few yards of walking. The matter was also raised again at the AGM.

Daft, well yes and, in fact, you could say that golfers who do so really are off their trolley. This highly apt phrase was coined in the late nineteenth century when electric trams or trolley cars were first introduced. When a vehicle became detached from its overhead power source it was completely out of control. It had indeed lost its trolley. Judging by the voice at the AGM some golfers are the same. So don't be a Wally when using your trolley!

PS Despite the fact that it is homophonic, Wally in this context has nothing to do with trolley. This is an expression that is believed to have originated at a rock festival in the 1960s. A young man of that name went missing for several hours and the repeated public-address messages broadcast for him amused the crowd to such an extent that they continued to chant his name and it stuck. I like that.

Diary update

WELL DONE to both ladies' and men's comps teams for reorganising our fixture programme following the latest cessation of golf. These are the remaining fixtures for 2020. Enjoy!

December

Tue 8 Ladies: December Winter Trophy Stableford

Sat 12 Men and Ladies: Mixed fun competition

Sun 13 Men: Gillas Cup Final

Wed 16 Men: Midweek Turkey Trot Singles*

Ladies: Midweek Turkey Trot Singles*

Sat 19 Men and Ladies: Turkey Trot Singles*

Sun 20 Men and Ladies: Turkey Trot Team*

* Due to the pertaining circumstances vouchers will be awarded this year.

Play anywhere with MyEG

If you have not already done so, you are urged to download MyEG, the new app from England Golf that allows you to access your Handicap Index on the go, keep track of your overall playing record and find your Playing Handicap for any set of tees on any course in the country.

MyEG is available for free in Apple and Google Play stores and you can find further information on the England Golf website