



BRENT VALLEY GOLF CLUB NEWSLETTER

Winter 2006/07

Brent Valley Golf Club (estd. 1938), Church Road, Hanwell, London W7 3BE, Tel: 020 85674230
President: Martin Brennan; Mens Captain: Ken Curtis; Ladies Captain: Mary Curtis; Newsletter Editor: Richard Gray



FINAL ORDER OF MERIT 2006

With the scores in from the last few competitions of the year, the final order of merit for 2006 could be drawn up. Topping the mens' list with an impressive 28 point lead over his nearest rival was Philip Christides (shown below receiving his prize from competitions secretary Andy Buckenham), who, playing off a very low handicap, rounded off an excellent 2006 with a second place in the St Andrews and a win in the scratch competition of the President's Prize. The top five for the year were: P Christides 109, T Tarpey 81, J Antunes 46, A Lea 45, F Burke 41.



Philip Christides receives Order of Merit award from Andy Buckenham

In the ladies section the top five on the final order of merit for 2006 was: Cathy Maloney 42, Helen Weill 40, Mary Curtis 37, Liz Scott 36, Annette Dillon 35.



Ladies Captain Liz Scott presents Annette Dillon with the Club Championship trophy

2006 ROLL OF HONOUR

MENS

St Patricks	Ren Mulley
St Davids	D Stoneman
St Georges	Andrew Long
St Andrews	Rick Harvey
Captains Prize	John Antunes
Presidents Prize	Peter Duffy Jnr
Jimmy Cup	Frank Burke
Pat McGlew	Frank Burke
Club Champion	Philip Christides
Cremin Trophy	Mick McSwiggan
Brent Cup	Tom Tarpey
Winter Singles	Philip Christides
Summer Singles	Wayne Dickenson
Foxes	Andrew Lea
Order of Merit	Philip Christides



The mens winners at the annual prize giving ceremony on December 3

LADIES

St Patricks	Mary Curtis
St Davids	Annette Dillon
St Georges	Kathy Maloney
St Andrews	Mary Curtis
Captains Prize	Sharon Hassett
Presidents Prize	Kathy Malone
Club Champion	Annette Dillon
Lady Captain's Day	Rose O'Connor
Midsummer Salver	Liz Scott
Burchmore Cup	Sharon Hassett
Letts Bowl	Sheila McCarthy
Order of Merit	Kathy Maloney

OTHER COMPETITION NEWS

New Members John Rushe Memorial Competition
Winner of the inaugural John Rushe Memorial Competition was Alan Niel with a score of 40 points (below) played on November 12. In second place was Mike Murphy and in third place Rick Harvey.



As many members will know, John Rushe did a great deal to introduce new members to the club and for this reason a competition for new members was also played on the same day. Winner of this prize was Martin Halferty. The best scratch score of the day was Andrew Lea and the Ladies winner was Kathleen Tracey.

Cremin Final

The final of the 2006 Cremin was played on Sunday November 19. The Cremin is a Stableford competition played throughout the year over various weekends and the 16 players with the most points play a final to Stableford rules. Mick McSwiggan was the winner in a very closely fought final, tying on points with Ken Curtis and Tom Robinson but winning on the back nine.

Cremin 4/1 (October 21-22)

Winner: Mick McSwiggan, 44 points
Runner-up: Andrew Lea, 42 points
Third: Steve Cannon, 41 points

Cremin 5/2 (November 4-5)

Winner: Keith Woodward, 43 points
Runner-up: Tom Robinson, 41 points
Third: Larry Weill, 41 points

Cremin 3 (December 2-3)

Winner: Tom Dunleavy, 37 points
Runner-up: John Antunes, 37 points
Third: Joe Hovarth, 37 points

Brent Cup

And in the other competition played throughout the year over various weekends but using the medal format, Tom Tarpey topped the final placings for the year with

a total of 314 for his best 5 cards (an average round of just under 63). This was after the final found, the ninth of the year, played on October 14/15. Hot on his heels in second place was Philip Christides with 323 and in third place was Joe Hovarth.

Brent Valley Club Day

It may seem a long time ago now, but back on October 29, the club held the Brent Valley Golf Club benefit day. This was a Stableford team event following the "waltz" format. The winning team was Joe Machado, Graham Tollit, Sharon Hasset and Eddie Bartok. Much needed funds of £155 were raised for the club.



SENIORS NEWS

A successful year ended for the Seniors Captain, John "Ssshhh" O'Halloran, with a well-attended Seniors dinner held at West Middlesex Golf Club. We were pleased to welcome our club President and his good lady, Martin and Theresa Brennan and the incumbent Mens and Ladies captains, Ken and Mary Curtis. John, who was full of the Christmas spirit (or was it shock of Rick Harvey actually buying him a drink?), presented the trophies for the four main prizes. The Stableford was won by Matty Carthy, the Bogey prize by Pat Henaghan and the Medal and Order of Merit by Rick Harvey. John also generously donated prizes to the winning Brent Valley team that beat Airlinks Golf Club this year. John also presented gifts to Ken Jay (Treasury), Dennis Burke and Cliff Folland, who all do a great job organising and running the day-to-day administration of the seniors section.



Outgoing Seniors Captain John O'Halloran presents Pat Henaghan with the Bogey prize at the recent prize-giving dinner

The incumbent Seniors Captain, Rick Harvey, thanked John and his wife Christine for organising the Seniors dinner so efficiently and ensuring a wonderful evening. Rick Harvey thanked Ken and Dennis for their tremendous efforts over the last seven years! Rick introduced new committee members, Peter Duffy Jnr to help run and organise competitions through the year,

Alan Niel, who takes over as Treasurer and Terry Strettle, who will be vice-captain this year. Rick is also grateful that Cliff Folland has agreed to carry on collating all the results weekly.

Rick sends a big thank you to everyone who attended and made his first Captain's away day such a tremendous success, especially Peter Duffy Jnr, Alan Niel and Terry Strettle for their help and generously providing prizes on the day. Rick would also like to thank Cathy Malone, who took time out of her generous schedule to play, and remind everyone what a great job she does as handicap secretary.



FORTHCOMING FIXTURES AND EVENTS

January

Fri 19: Quiz night (8pm)
Sun 20-21: Cremin 4
Sun 21: Brentside
Fri 26: Bingo (8pm)

February

Fri 3: Dinner dance
Sun 4: Phoenix
Wed 7: Seniors Medal
Fri 9: Quiz night (8pm)
Sat/Sun 10/11: Ladies Monthly Winter Cup
Tues 13: Committee Meeting
Wed 14: Seniors Stableford
Sat/Sun 16/17: Cremin 5
Wed 21: Seniors Bogey
Fri 23: Bingo (8pm)
Sun 25: Brentside AM-AM

March

Sat/Sun 3/4: Cremin 6
Sun 4: Ladies Winter Cup
Wed 7: Seniors Stableford
Fri 9: Quiz night (8pm)
Sat/Sun 10/11: Mens Greensomes Qualifier
Tues 13: Committee Meeting
Sat 17: St Patricks Day
Sun 18: St Patrick's Major Competition
Wed 21: Seniors Bogey
Fri 23: Bingo (8pm)
Sun 25: Cremin Final
Sun 25: Brentside

For more information:

Club competitions: Andy Buckenham 07890 394020
Phoenix: Barry Barker 020 85670024
Brentside: Ken Curtis 020 84454324
Seniors: John O'Halloran 020 85681800
Ladies: Marge Griffin 020 85678548

CHRISTMAS BRENT VALLEY STYLE!

One of the club's Christmas events was the Yellow Peril team event on December 10, which was won by a team captained by Matty Carthy on a frosty morning with 18 temporary greens. This followed some complex calculations of the scores by competition secretary Andy Buckenham. Many players were not 100% sure how the yellow boxes on the score cards came into play, but everyone knew that the aim of the game was to get the ball in the hole. Matty is pictured below in festive spirit receiving his team's prize from captain Mike Murphy.



The event was followed by an excellent Christmas dinner (the first of the season for many), with turkey and all the trimmings followed by a dessert. With over 60 people served, congratulations must go to all the kitchen staff who helped in the event, especially Josie and Thinthin. In fact, lots of members lent a hand making sure everyone was served a hot dinner, including our Captain, Ken Curtis, who donned a very fetching pinny to help out:



So that's what he gets up to in his spare time!

Captain's Drive Off

The new year got under way in traditional style in early January with the three new captains' for the year, Mary Curtis (ladies), Ken Curtis (mens) and Rick Harvey (seniors) driving off from the first tee. We wish them all the success in 2007.



SOCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

This year's annual dinner dance will be held on Friday February 3 at West Middlesex Golf Club. Tickets are £25 per person (available from the club house) and an excellent evening is promised. Buy your tickets early as spaces are limited.

The take-your-pick draw has built up to an impressive £1,000 prize (as the newsletter went to press). Weather permitting, the draw will be held every Sunday at 3:30pm. Be there for a chance to go home four figures richer!

FRIDAY NIGHT FEVER!

Every other Friday night is social night at the BVGC club house. Amongst the attractions is Steve "Smooth" Cannon's bingo night (picture below). With his dulcet Geordie tones, Steve takes us through the numbers until a shout of House! goes up and a lucky someone walks away with a generous cash prize. Bingo night is the last Friday of every month.



Steve "Smooth" Cannon and his bingo balls!

Every second Friday in the month is quiz night when Colin or Larry are question masters. Teams of up to 6. So join us for a few drinks and a possible cash prize on Friday nights down the club house.

Both evenings have proved very popular and excellent entertainment. Both events start at 8pm. And of course the takings from the bar provides a valuable source of much needed funds for the club. Everyone is very welcome, so come along and join in the fun!



Brent Valley Autumn leaves - Scott Lea in the John Rushe Memorial



STAT ATTACK: *NEVER UP, NEVER IN?*

We've all heard the old adage, "Never up, never in". And it seems to stand to reason: if the ball doesn't reach the hole, it doesn't have a chance of dropping. But if you start firing the thing towards the hole and it goes 3 feet past, you might have a knee-trembling putt coming back and could three-putt the hole. So what's a golfer to do?



Don't putt too far past, or you could have a knee-trembler on the way back!

Well, we at the newsletter carried out a scientific experiment to find out just whether it pays to give our putts that extra bit of weight to make sure it reaches the cup. Here's what we did. We recorded how many putts it took to sink the ball on all the holes we played over a series of rounds. We then put each hole into either one of two categories: those that reached the hole (putts

reached) and those that didn't (putts short). We then calculated the average number of putts needed to put the ball in the cup in each category. Of course on the miraculous occasions that we putted the ball in 1, this counted as a ball that reached the hole.

When the findings came back from the lab, they made for interesting reading. Our first surprising finding was that there were proportionally more 3 putts in the putts-short category. We might conclude from this that our tester was a rubbish putter, but it might also suggest that when you are a bit tentative, you leave it so far short that you sometimes need two more putts to get it in. And of course it doesn't matter if the line was bang-on because if the ball didn't reach the hole, it can't drop. Whereas if you've got the right line on a putt that is strong enough to reach the hole (even if it was a very strong putt), the ball will usually drop.

The key finding, however, was the average number of strokes taken when the putt reached the hole (1.95) was much lower than when the putt was short (2.37). The more mathematically minded of our readers will have worked out that because the average for putts past was below 2, that meant that we 1-putted more often than we 3-putted.

So the scientific conclusion to our experiment was that it's better to try to always reach the hole even at the risk of sometimes going a long way past. In other words, never up, never in!



Never up, never in. The old adage is sound advice!



DID YOU GET AN ILLEGAL DRIVER FOR CHRISTMAS?

If you hadn't heard, certain drivers (or "driving clubs", as the Royal & Ancient calls them) will become illegal on January 1 2008. Their idea is that technology is making golf too easy and they are taking steps to stop, for example, being able to drive Brent Valley's fourteen green, which, so the story goes, our President Martin Brennan once did on a hot summer's day a few years ago.



Too big Bertha? Or too springy Bertha?

The new rule basically outlaws drivers whose COR, or coefficient of restitution, is too high. In lay man's terms, a driver's COR is a measure of how "springy" it is. For the mathematicians amongst you, the COR is the speed of the ball off the club divided by the speed of the club. A perfect COR would see the ball fly off the club at exactly the same speed as the club came down on the swing. Golf's ruling bodies have set the limit at 0.83 for professional and recreational (that's us) play.

This rule should, of course, not be confused with the rule, introduced on March 1 2006, which limited the MOI (moment of inertia) of a driver. To be quite frank, this concept is quite beyond the limited brainpower of your editor but suffice to say it limits a club's resistance to twisting, which, according to the R&A determines how forgiving it is.

If you're having sleepless nights about whether your new driver conforms to either of these rules, the best way is to check the R&A website where there's a 265-page list of all the drivers that are legal. Next week, balls. Or perhaps not.



NAME THAT GREEN!

Name the Brent Valley green pictured below.



Last newsletter's "Name that green" answer: It was the 17th!



OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Calendars and member phone directories are available to all members in the club house.
- Thanks to those members who provided their email addresses. This newsletter will go to them in electronic form and they will receive updates and reminders of upcoming events by email.
- The club recently decided to more actively attract golf societies in order to take greater advantage of the clubhouse and its catering facilities. We can cater for up to 60 players and, unlike many other clubs, we are able to receive societies on Saturdays. So if any member knows of any societies looking for a venue, please contact Ken Curtis (020 84454324).
- The club is looking for new members and the committee will be considering ways of achieving this goal. If you have any good suggestions, please leave them behind the bar addressed to the committee, email the newsletter brentvalleygolf@yahoo.co.uk or speak to one of the committee.
- Would the owners of 679 tee pegs of various heights and colours please claim them at the pro shop where they have been handed in.



CAPTION COMPETITION



A £10 voucher to spend behind the bar goes to the best caption for the photo above, which was taken on the occasion of Ken Curtis's guest appearance as Barnet "senior mascot" to celebrate his recent birthday (49 was it again, Ken?). Answers on a piece of paper with your name left behind the bar marked for the Newsletter's attention. Winner announced in next newsletter.



CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEXT NEWSLETTER!

Please send any results, news or information to brentvalleygolf@yahoo.co.uk or give it in person to Richard Gray. Photos of key moments in the club's events (prize givings etc.) also very welcome (especially if they are electronic and can be emailed). The aim is to produce a newsletter at least every quarter so the next one is planned for mid-April.

Thanks go to everyone who provided information for this newsletter, particularly Andy Buckenham for competition news, Marge Griffen for the ladies news, Barry Barker for photos from the awards night and Alan Niel for photos from the John Rushe Memorial and Rick Harvey for the seniors news.

Also, if you don't get down the clubhouse as much as you'd like but want to stay in touch, you can receive this newsletter by email. Send an email to brentvalleygolf@yahoo.co.uk and we'll put you on the mailing list.