



BRENT VALLEY GOLF CLUB NEWSLETTER

Summer 2007

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President: Martin Brennan; Mens Captain: Ken Curtis; Ladies Captain: Mary Curtis; Newsletter Editor: Richard Gray



A packed clubhouse before the presentation of the Captain's Prizes in June

I CAN'T STAND THE RAIN!

The new summer season was marred by rain, rain and more rain. The course was closed on various days following sometimes torrential downpours (see course diary on page 4).



The 5th "fairway" was more like a waterway in early July after some torrential rain!

The 5th and 6th holes were converted into a huge lake after one flash flood in July (see photo left – thanks to Graeme Tollit), though unlike the old days, they drained quickly and play was possible the next day.

COMPETITION NEWS

PAT MCGLEW TROPHY

Played in temperatures of around 22 degrees with little wind on Sunday June 17, just under fifty players turned out to compete for the Pat McGlew trophy.

The winner of the men's competition was Alan Niel. He did have a moment's anxiety on the 14th hole when he thought someone else had played his ball – no wonder when he had such an excellent round going. The team event was won by Harry Manners, John Smith, Frank Scanlon, and, wild card, Graeme Tollit.

Presenting the claret jug trophy, Captain Ken Curtis paid tribute to Pat McGlew as "a steward of the club, captain, president – the lot! And an excellent golfer too". Pat's family donated the trophy in 2002. Pat

played until well into his 80s and was noted for often only using six clubs.



Alan Neil, winner of the Pat McGlew trophy

CAPTAIN'S PRIZE

Played over two days on June 30 and July 1, the first major event of the year was played in mostly very wet conditions. Rain dogged play throughout the whole of the Saturday, leaving puddles on many of the greens by the end of the day. There was even talk of the second day being postponed a week, but fortunately there was little rain on the Sunday. The ground staff even managed to cut the greens before the start of play on Sunday so, with the added bonus of a strange yellow object shining bright in the sky for more than 5 minutes, there was good golf to be had on the Sunday.



Mick McSwiggan beats the smoking ban on the 17th fairway on the second day of the Captain's Prize (the ban came in on the same day)

In the men's competition, Mick Bodnar led after the first day with a 64, followed closely by Oscar Brown with 65 and Don Stewart, despite a back injury, on 66. However, on the second day, Oscar Brown went one better with a score of 64 to take the prize with a very steady total score of 129. Mick Bodnar was unable to keep up the good form of the previous day and posted a final score of 135, to finish second overall, but he took the prize for best Saturday score. The men's scratch competition was won by Jamie Lea. Kathy Malone won the ladies captain's prize.



Oscar Brown, winner of the men's captain's prize, places a smacker on the trophy.

THE CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

There was a brief break in the weather that allowed the club championships to be played in relatively summery conditions on the weekend of July 28 and 29 under scratch medal rules.

The winner of the men's competition was Philip Christides with scores of 69 and 68 (137), three strokes ahead of Andrew Lea, who recorded a combined score of 140 (66/74). Tom Tarpey was in third place with 73 and 74 (147). The Division 2 winner was Barat Bhushan (80/76) and Division 3 winner was Mick Hynes (88/87). The junior winner was Shane Dolan with scores of 79 and 87, an impressive 14 strokes of second place.



Tom Murray, Joe Machado and Danny Maher take time out during the Club Championships

OTHER COMPETITION NEWS

Brent Cup

The Brent Cup is a medal summer competition played in 6 parts on specific weekends (see calendar). Players have to register in the book in the pro shop in advance. There are no set tee times but players have to play on the specified weekends and then drop their signed cards in the card box upstairs in the club house.

Played on June 2 and 3, the **Brent Cup 3** was won by PJ Gallagher with a net score of 61. He takes 10 points for the order of merit. Second was Steve Cannon, with a net 62 and third was J Hunter with 63.

The following month's round, **Brent Cup 4**, played on the weekend of July 6-7, was won by Jamie Lea with a net 61 (10 points for the order of merit), with Alan Niel in second place (9 points for the OOM) with a 62, and third was Andrew Lea with a net 63 (8 points).

Played on the weekend of August 5 and 6, **Brent Cup 5** was won by Andy Buckenham with a net score of 61, followed by Ray Cryan on 62, and Oscar Brown with 64.

Play-the-Loop – Golf for fun!

Making the most of the long evenings, on four Fridays in early summer Mike Murphy organised a 9-hole "waltz" competition on holes 1-5 and 15-18. In a more informal setting, the event was also a good way for beginners to try their hands at golf without having to worry about the length of their socks or walking on their partners lines. Some particularly talented new juniors also joined in the fun. We hope that many of those people new to the game will go on and become Brent Valley regulars. On the last Friday, June 15, Josie, Thin Thin and the gang prepared a marvellous buffet for the official prize-giving. The winners over the four days were:

Ladies: 1) Heather Burke; 2) Mary Curtis.

Ladies beginners: 1) Sheila Hicky; 2) Barbara Murphy; 3) Josie xx; 4) Helen Buckenham.

Mens: 1) Ken Curtis; 2) Steve Cannon; 3) Jamie Lea; 4) Andy Buckenham.

Mens beginners: 1) Ernie Joseph; 2) Elliot Joseph;) Martin McPhillan

Juniors: 1) Andrew Gardner; 2) Callen Weil; 3) Kevin Collins.

Phoenix Away Day (Saturday June 16)

The Phoenix golf society made a wise choice for the venue of its away day – as far away from the torrential rain in West London as possible! Forty players made the trip to Traditions Golf Club near Woking and, apart from one brief shower, they enjoyed excellent weather. Though some of them didn't enjoy the course as much. It proved quite a test of golfing skills, with some long rough claiming the lives of a lot of balls, for some players running into double figures! The winner on the day was Oscar Brown with an excellent 40 points.

R&R Midsummer Challenge

Played on the longest day of the year, the Annual R&R Midsummer Challenge, took place on June 21. Perhaps the early tee-off time of 4:43am put some people off, but the turn-out of three was somewhat disappointing. But for those mad enough to roll out of bed at just past 4am, the magnificent conditions on the course more

than made up for it. The sun peeked over the horizon to throw long shadows over the dewy greens for three intrepid golfers, Richard Gray, Rick Harvey and Bobby Osubu. But the putting lines and foot prints in the dew told the participants that someone had got their earlier! Some people are mad!



Rick Harvey putts through the dew at dawn on the 4th green on the longest day of the year.



FORTHCOMING FIXTURES AND SOCIAL EVENTS

September

Sat 1/Sun 2: Ladies MM

Sun 2: Billy Birmingham Competition

Sat 8/Sun 9: Brent Cup 6

Sun 9: John Rushe Memorial, New Members Comp.

Tues 11: Committee Meeting

Wed 12: Seniors Stableford

Fri 14: Last summer 9-hole waltz + food.

Sat 15/Sun 16: President's Prize

Thurs 20: Seniors Bogey

Fri 21: Poker Night

Sat 22/Sun 23: Ladies Autumn Cup

Sun 23: Brentside

Fri 28: Bingo

Sat 29: Charity social event (tickets: Harry Manners)

Sun 30: Brent Valley Open

October

Wed 3: Seniors medal

Sat/Sun 6/7: Brent Cup 7

Sun 7: England v Ireland v Rest of World

Wed 10: Seniors Stableford

Fri 12: Quiz (tbc)

Sat 13/Sun 14: Winter 4 Ball Qualifier

Tues 16: Committee Meeting

Wed 17: Seniors Bogey

Fri 19: Poker Night

Sat 20/Sun 21: Cremin 1, Winter Singles Qualifier

Fri 26: Bingo

Sun 28: St Andrews

November

Sat 4/Sun 5: Cremin 2

Wed 7: Seniors Medal
 Sat 10/Sun 11: Ladies Winter Cup
 Sun 11: Brentside
 Tues 13: Committee Meeting
 Wed 14: Seniors Stableford
 Sat 17/Sun 18: Tucker Trophy



Cut! The Cutter felt the sharpness of her own blade as handicap secretary Kathy Maloney beat her own handicap to win ladies captain's prize



SENIORS NEWS

A big thank you to all the seniors for their continuing support every Wednesday and Friday. The Medal Bogey and Stableford competitions are all reaching their denouements with Billy "The King" Kearney holding a strong lead in all 3 competitions (what ever happened to the pretender to the throne Rick Harvey??).

There was a big turnout of 44 people for the summer away day at Farnham Park. Thanks to the club captain, Ken Curtis for joining us (has Brent Valley ever had a better more committed captain?) and also Mary Curtis, the ladies captain (has Brent Valley ever had a more wonderful self-effacing Ladies Captain?) – good weather and excellent meal culminating in the usual very quiet prize-giving!! Congratulations to Liz Scott who won the ladies prize (a grovelling apology from the captain for forgetting to mention the superb birdie that Liz had on the difficult par-3 5th hole (sorry Liz!). Congratulations to our vice-captain Terry Strettle on a magnificent victory in the mens competition with 40 points. Billy Wilkinson was a very commendable 2nd with 36 points (and he almost smiled!). Third prize of two very nice bottles of wine went to Ken Curtis (the seniors captain didn't see a drop of the stuff!). Everyone is looking forward to the next away day in October. Congratulations to Ray Black for a tremendous gross 74 on the first day of the club championships – also to Geoff Rayner who finished 7th overall.

The annual team clash with West Middlesex resulted in a nail-biter at Brent Valley after West Mid won their home tie by 3½- 1½. The Brent Valley team fought

back to win the home tie 4½ – 1½ to win the Challenge Cup for the first time since it was introduced. Well done lads! Special mention to Jack Woodham who won both his matches!

Congratulations to the seniors "A" team (Rick Harvey, Peter Duffy Jr and Billy Kearney) who won the NAPGC Seniors regional qualifiers at Farnham Park on August, beating 18 other clubs. They go through to the national finals, to be held on September 26. Bad luck to Rick Harvey who finished 4th overall and just missed out on going through to the national individual finals.

The next couple of months will be very busy with the seniors hosting the Wadsworth Cup in September and with home and away games against Air Links.



COMMITTEE NEWS

- Bar prices were increased from July 1 following the Chancellor's budget.
- Any members who have not paid their subs for lockers should do so immediately. If subs are not received by July 24, the lockers will be passed onto other members. There is currently demand for the lockers but no spare ones available.
- Marge Griffen and Terry Strettle recently met representatives from Ealing Council. One of the main items discussed was the need for course season tickets to be made payable by monthly direct debit, as is the case for many other council sports facilities. We have been assured that direct debits will be available very shortly.
- The committee has agreed to launch a study into the feasibility of building a gents toilet in the clubhouse so that male members do not have to use the council facilities downstairs.



COURSE DIARY

May 27: Although the frequent rain put paid to a lot of golf during May (especially on the last bank holiday weekend), it left the course looking very lush and the greens in very good condition if a little soggy.

May 28: Torrential rain and high winds during the night ripped off a large branch from a tree next to the 16th hole. The Brent river also broke its banks and flooded the 7th (just like the old days!). The course had to close on what is usually one of its busiest public days.

June 6: The greens are in fantastic condition, some of the best seen in many years. The grass is consistently green and tightly packed giving a very true roll of the ball. Even the track marks on the 18th green are fading and being replaced by grass. The rest of the course is

still quite green, though the first signs of yellowness are being seen after a week without rain.

June 15: The parakeets seemed to be particularly vocal and active, swooping very low and squawking their tiny green heads off.

June 17: Torrential rain the previous day left the greens quite fluffy and the fairways green and slow for the Pat McGlew. Even a few puddles around.

July 1: Heavy rain through all but the first week of June left the greens and fairways in excellent condition, though some of the greens, most notably the 4th and the 15th, barely had time to soak up the puddles before more rain would come to replace them.

July 20: Torrential rain sees a lake covering the whole of the 5th, 6th and 16th fairways. The course is closed on the following Saturday forcing the cancellation of the club's fun day.

July 28-29: Rain during the night left the course marshy and very soft on Sunday July 29 after a mainly sunny day on the Saturday for the club championships. The bunkers had heavy sand and there were puddles on the 5th and 13th greens.



OTHER BRENT VALLEY NEWS

- A friend of the club going back many years, Steven Pound, MP for Ealing North (third from left in photo below), along with various Labour Ealing councillors, paid a visit to the club and enjoyed a drink on the terrace, on the day of the Pat McGlew competition.



- Pat Heneghan was named golfer of the year by the Galway Association Golf Society. Pat, aged 84, and elected president of the Association in January, was presented with the award at the Moor Park Golf Club recently.
- The Brent Valley Golf Club website has been re-launched. You will find it at www.bvgc.org. The site contains sections on facilities, the course, events and membership. It also contains a photos section and a members area, which will be password-protected and will contain members contact details. We hope the site will increase the

number of potential members who are able to find out about the club and the number of societies who use the course and the club's facilities. We also hope it will improve services for members, allowing them to find information on fixtures, events and other members more easily, so allowing them to plan ahead and so, hopefully, participate more fully in the club's activities. Many thanks go to Tom Murray for some excellent work in setting up the website.

- A new secure storage area has been built in the men's changing room, allowing trolleys to be stored overnight. Thanks to John McFall for his excellent work on this project.
- Flying the flag proudly for Brent Valley, Andrew Lea and Andy Buckenham produced some excellent results at the National Association of Public Golf Clubs (NAPGC) North Thames (W) final held at Little Hay golf club on July 7. Andrew Lea took second prize in the scratch competition with a round of 74, while Andy won the division 3 competition with a net 73. They both go through to the finals at Woodhall Spa Golf Course on August 25 – we wish them the best of luck!
- Also representing the club excellently, Brent Valley "A" team beat Ruislip "A" in the semi-final of the Clapham Cup in a very close match which ended 230 v 230, Brent Valley winning on countback. The team progresses to the area final against Leaside on August 27. Best of Brent Valley luck to the boys there!
- The club will be hosting a charity social event to raise money for a senior citizens on Saturday September 29. For tickets, see Harry Manners.



CAPTION COMPETITION



Humorous captions please! Prize of £10 to spend behind the bar to the best entry. Send entries to news@bvgc.org or leave behind the bar.



NAME THAT GREEN!

Name the Brent Valley green pictured below.



The answer to last month's name that green was the 7th.

CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEXT NEWSLETTER!

Please send any results, news or information to news@bvgc.org 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-November.



John and Jean Evans enjoy some rare sunshine on the clubhouse terrace

Thanks go to everyone who provided information for this newsletter, particularly John Antunes for competition news and Rick Harvey for the seniors news and to Graeme Tollit and Annette Dillon for photos.

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 news@bvgc.org and we'll put you on the mailing list.

Contacts:

Club competitions: John Antunes 07845 5945255

Phoenix: Barry Barker 020 85670024

Brentside: Ken Curtis 020 84454324

Seniors: Rick Harvey 020 89983816

Ladies: Marge Griffin 020 85678548

Quiz: Larry Weil 020 82483590

Bingo: Steve Cannon 020 88106586

Poker: Don Stewart 07956 294324