



BRENT VALLEY GOLF CLUB NEWSLETTER

Spring/Summer 2007

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



THREE MAJORS GET NEW SEASON UNDER WAY

St Patrick's - March 18



The first three majors of the season were decided within a period of five weeks between March 18 and April 22. The first, the St Patrick's, took place on a sunny but very windy day on March 18, a day after actual St Patrick's day. Some of the Irish contingent were asking for a couple of shots to make up for the ill effects of the previous night's celebrations, but the committee ruled that self-inflicted pain could not be accommodated (quite right!). Maybe this had something to do with Rick Harvey's victory (he was tucked up in bed by 10 the night before) with a net score of 63, with Richard Gray in second place, 2 strokes behind on 65. In third place was Kevin Keenan on 66. In his acceptance speech, Rick dedicated his win to his Irish mother, Eileen Philomena Murphy, originally from county Ofley. Rick called her immediately after hearing that he'd won to tell her of the dedication.



Stiff winds on the 18th green on March 18 for the St Patrick's

The ladies section was won by Helen Weil, with Rose O'Connor in second place



When Irish eyes are smiling: men's winner Rick Harvey enjoys a glass of Guinness and is congratulated by Kathy Tracy.

St David's - April 1



Matty Carthy took first prize in the St David's with a score of 63 on a sunny day with swirling wind, much like the weather on the day of the St. Patrick's. In his acceptance speech, Matty said it gave him great pleasure to win the St David's again, having won it once before many years ago "when there were a lot more trees on the course and if you strayed from the fairway you'd be in a lot more trouble". When thanking his playing partners, he said that one of them, Jamie Lea, had likened Matty's company to "listening to Talksport with the volume turned up!".



Captain, Ken Curtis, presents Matty "Talksport" Carthy with the St David's trophy

Played on April 1, it was a day of firsts: the first of April, the first competition off the white tees and the first season's sighting of a pair of shorts - sported by Wayne Dickenson.



Ladies Captain, Mary Curtis, presents the St David's cup to Teresa Brennan, who has clearly never seen so many Marks & Sparks vouchers!

St George's – April 22



Once more unto the breach! Barry Barker and Ray Black prepare to do battle for their country

The sun was out and the heat was on for the St George's on April 22. Rick Harvey picked up his second major of the season with a net 63, just pipping John McFall and Dave Flynn who both had 64s. In the ladies section, Fay Daquil was the winner and Janet Townley came second. The competition attracted a large field, with the last groups teeing after well past 11 o'clock.



Ladies captain, Mary Curtis, presents Fay Daquil with the St Georges trophy

OTHER COMPETITION NEWS

Cremin

Due to fixture congestion last year, there were two Cremin competitions this winter. The first, technically 2006's, was won back in November by Mick McSwiggan and the second, corresponding to 2007, was won by Mick O'Conner, with an impressive 44 points in the final, held on March 25.



Mick "Streaky" O'Conner, winner of the 2007 Cremin

Winter Singles

On March 31, the last day of the winter season, Richard Gray defeated PJ Gallagher to take the Winter Singles title in a closely fought match that was all square after 18 holes and required a deciding hole on the 1st.

Brent Cup

The first Brent Cup of the year was played on April 14 and 15 and was won by Graham Tollit with a net score of 63, followed in second and third places by John Antunes and Don Stewart, both on 66. Brent Cup 2 was played on May 5 and 6 and was won by John Antunes with a very impressive net score of 59. Jamie Lea was second on an also excellent 60 and Andy Buckenham with a 61 – two scores that would ordinarily have comfortably won any other competition.

Jimmy Cup

The Jimmy Cup, a bogey competition, was won by Ken Curtis with +7. In second place was Wayne Dickenson with +3 and in third place was Andy Buckenham, also with +3.

The Clapham

Brent Valley put out two mens teams for the Clapham competition, a greensomes stableford competition organised by the National Association of Public Golf Clubs. Six pairs from each club play against each other, 3 at home and 3 away. Brent Valley A and B both won their first round matches against Leaside A and Airlinks B, but lost their second round matches against Cheshunt and Rickmansworth respectively. Thanks to all the players who represented the club so valiantly, especially those who had to travel to away games. See napg.org.uk for more information.

Seniors Open

The Brent Valley Seniors Open, held on May 23, attracted 56 entries, which was an excellent result, and on a beautiful day, there was some tremendous scoring. In first place was Brent Valley's own Matty Carthy with an impressive 44 points (well done Matty!), in so doing he retained the trophy he won last year. In second place was Mo Aslam with 42 points and in third place Alan

Niel with 41 points. A big thank you to Marge Griffen and Kathy “the Body” Maloney for all their help and to Josie “Delia” Keenan and Thin Thin for all their excellent gastronomical work. This event could not have happened without you!



Many members gave their shorts their first airing of the season as the St George's was played in very warm temperatures for mid-April: Billy “Baggy Trousers” Wilkinson (Ed: why do they call him that?) and Noel Rutherford on the second green



SENIORS NEWS

The spring sunshine brought out the seniors in their droves. With an average of 24 on Wednesdays and 14 on Fridays, it has been a busy period after miserable weather in January and February. A big thank-you goes to Mary Curtis and the ladies section for helping to make the Mar Away Day at Ruislip such a tremendous success. Well done to Heather Burke for winning the ladies prize (begging the question, will Frankie Burke ever win again!!). No surprise in the mens section – won by Billie “the kid” Kearney (begging the question, will Rick “the quiet man” Harvey win a bottle of wine on a Wednesday ever again!!). Prizes in the ongoing competitions have been spread quite evenly (Ed: makes a change, Rick) – nice to see the “Lord of Brentham” Geoff Rayner amongst the winners again! A warm welcome to our new members in the seniors, Jim McDonagh (about time!) and Prem Arjoon.

Tremendous results for seniors in club competitions continued into the new year (we won the last major of 2006). The first three majors of the year were all won by seniors – the St Georges and St Patrick's by Rick Harvey (apparently a bigger surprise than Ireland beating Pakistan in the cricket world cup!), and the St David's by Matty Carthy (well done, Matty!). Come on the rest of Brent Valley – don't let the old fogies win everything!

The next few months will be very busy: a match against Basildon (best of luck to Rick, Alan, Billy, Mo, Geoff, Pat, James and Jack with that), home and away against

West Mid and Airlinks, and an away day on June 27th at Farnham Park.



FORTHCOMING FIXTURES AND SOCIAL EVENTS

June

Fri 1 (evening): Play-the-loop golf (9 holes)
 Sat/Sun 2/3: Brent Cup 3
 Sun 3: Phoenix
 Wed 6: Seniors medal
 Fri 8: Quiz (8pm)
 Sat/Sun 9/10: Ladies Midsummer Salver
 Sun 10: Brentside
 Tues 12: Committee Meeting
 Wed 13: Seniors Medal
 Fri 15 (evening): Gala play-the-loop, with prize-giving
 Sun 17: Pat McGlew Trophy
 Wed 20: Seniors bogey
 Thur 21: Rick and Richard's mid-summer madness golf (tee off 4:43am)
 Fri 22: Poker (8pm)
 Sat 23: New Members Cup
 Sun 24: AM-AM competition
 Wed 27: Seniors away day, Farnham
 Fri 29: Bingo (8pm)
 Sat 30/July 1: Captain's Day

July

Wed 4: Seniors medal
 Sat/Sun 7/8: Brent Cup 4
 Sun 8: Phoenix
 Tues 10: Committee Meeting
 Wed 11: Seniors Stableford
 Fri 13: Quiz (8pm)
 Sat 14: Ladies Captain's Day
 Wed 18: Seniors Bogey
 Fri 20: Poker night (8pm)
 Sat/Sun 21/22: Club Championship (M&L)
 Fri 27: Bingo
 Sun 29: Brentside

August

Wed 1: Seniors medal
 Sat/Sun 5/6: Brent Cup 5
 Sat/Sun 5/6: Ladies MM
 Wed 8: Seniors Stableford
 Fri 10: Quiz (tbc)
 Sun 12: Brentside v Phoenix
 Tues 14: Committee Meeting
 Wed 14: Seniors Bogey
 Fri 17: Poker evening (tbc)
 Sun 19: John Rushe Memorial competition
 Fri 25: Bingo evening (tbc)

September

Sat/Sun 1/2: Ladies MM
 Wed 5: Seniors Medal
 Sat/Sun 8/9: Brent Cup 6

Sun 9: Phoenix
 Tues 11: Committee Meeting
 Wed 12: Seniors stableford
 Fri 14: Quiz (tbc)
 Sat/Sun 15/16: President's Prize
 Wed 19: Seniors Bogey
 Fri 21: Poker (tbc)
 Sat/Sun 22/23: Ladies Autumn Cup
 Fri 28: Bingo
 Sun 23: Brentside
 Sun 30: Brent Valley Open

For more information contact:

Club competitions: John Antunes 07931 7450014
Phoenix: Barry Barker 020 85670024
Brentside: Ken Curtis 020 84454324
Seniors: John O'Halloran 020 85681800
Ladies/Club Secretary: Marge Griffin 020 85678548
Quiz: Larry Weil 020 82483590
Bingo: Steve Cannon 020 88106586
Poker: Don Stewart 07956 294324



LADIES SECTION

In spite of being reduced in number, Brent Valley ladies are all playing regularly. We are very pleased to see Judy Collins back playing a bit after her hip operation. She says she is in much less pain and is waiting to get the other hip done ... so no more high kicks Judy! The two main ladies summer knockout competitions get under way very soon, the Letts Bowl and the Bunchmore Cup. We also send good luck wishes to those ladies taking part in the Hawtry and White Webbs competitions.

And if you know of any ladies wanting to take up golf ... please point them in Marge's direction! And gentlemen members, if any of your WAGs show any golfing inclination, please do encourage them - think of all the golfing holidays you could go on!



SOCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

In April, a jackpot of £1,000 was won in the take-your-pick draw. But the pot is now back again at an impressive £700 so be sure to buy your tickets for the draw. Weather permitting, the draw will be held every Sunday at 3:30pm. As well as giving you the chance to win a large cash prize, the draw is a major contributor to club fund-raising.



Mick Murphy plays hard to get with Steve Cannon at a recent take-your-pick

POKER NIGHT!

The club held its first poker night on May 17, excellently organised and hosted by Don "Croupier" Stewart. The stakes were low (£10 for 1,300 worth of chips) but the excitement was high. And with three tables of ten players each, it was quite a good night for the Brent Valley bar, though with players trying to keep a clear head and a steady nerve, Thin Thin was perhaps serving more soft drinks than for the bingo. The competition was won by Larry Weil, taking a prize of £135, after a marathon session that that ended at 1:30 in the morning! Second and third were Kevin Barry and Rick Harvey (him again!). The evening attracted over 20 players of varying standards and a large crowd stayed to the end to watch the final cards being played. And with 20% of proceeds going to the club, the evening proved an excellent fund-raiser, so thanks and congratulations to Don for having the idea and organising the evening.



Ray Black ponders whether to call, raise, check or fold.



NEW MEMBERS

The club would like to extend a warm welcome to two new members, Stephen Gearty and Bobby Osuba, who joined the club recently. We will do our best to make them feel at home and to help them out in

understanding the ways of the club. We wish them all the best and we look forward to seeing them in the club's competitions and social events.



VICTOR GETS TOUGH ON BRENT VALLEY FREELOADERS

Brent Valley course allows right of way to the general public and so it is not fenced off. So it is very easy, particularly on the far side of the course away from the pro shop, to simply walk onto the course without paying and start playing, especially during the week. Some ticket-dodgers have even been sighted parking their cars, next to the 4th tee box and walking onto the course. In a crack-down on ticket-dodgers, club pro Victor Santos took the step of acquiring an electric buggy to patrol the course in pursuit of non-payers. He saw it on eBay and put in a bid that turned out to be successful. With only one careful previous owner, the buggy is in almost-new condition and was a bargain at £960 (they usually retail for £2,000). He took delivery of the buggy in April and reckons that since then the buggy has allowed him to collect around £600 of tickets from people who had walked onto the course without paying at the shop. The only problem is that while Victor is racing around the course in the buggy he needs someone back at the pro shop, which isn't always possible.



2007 Annual General Meeting

The club's 69th AGM was held on Friday May 11 at the clubhouse. With around 40 members attending, the Club President, Martin Brennan, gave the opening address. The minutes of the 2006 AGM were approved and this was followed by the Men's and Ladies' Captains' reports, by Ken and Mary Curtis respectively. On the mens side, Ken Curtis described the year as having been a "trying one" but he noted that the social

side of the Club had improved greatly recently, with good turnouts for the Friday evening quiz and bingo evenings, and with the great success of 'Take Your Pick'. On this point, he thanked John McFall for having donated the initial £500 jackpot, without which it would not have developed into the major contributor to the club's finances that it is now. He also thanked Marge Griffen, who he described as an "angel of God" for her work on the social side.

The proposals for new committee members were all accepted. The new committee is as follows: Martin Brennan (president) Ken Curtis (men's captain), Mary Curtis (ladies captain), Ray Black (men's vice-captain), Barry Barker (treasurer), Marge Griffen (secretary), Kathleen Maloney (handicap secretary), John Antunes (competitions secretary), Rick Harvey (seniors), MJ Murphy, Terry Strettle, Dave Flynn, Larry Weil, Andy Buckenham and Richard Gray.

The Club's Treasurer, Barry Barker, gave a detailed presentation of the Club's financial year and current financial position. The good news was that the Club showed a slightly higher surplus for the year than in 2006. Both subscriptions and bar profits were hit by the fall in club membership, from 155 in 2006 to 125 this year. But these reductions were offset by the success of raffles, bonus balls and, in particular, 'Take Your Pick'. So although there were fewer members to spend money at the bar, members were stumping up more for fund-raising events, which more than doubled the previous year's figure. Looking to next year, Barry noted that with the smoking ban coming into force on July 1, the Club would no longer need the air cleaners, allowing for a saving of £900. Another potential cost saving was the Club's subscription to Sky TV, which costs around £2,700. There was a discussion about the value of this subscription to the Club and a proposal to cancel it. This was put to the vote and a decision was taken to cancel the subscription on a trial basis for one year but buy a set-top box so that other non-paying channels could be shown at the Club.



NAME THAT GREEN!

Name the Brent Valley green pictured below.





OTHER BRENT VALLEY NEWS

- The leading golf magazine, Today's Golfer, recently contacted the club to request information and photos of the course to feature on its website. Visit www.todaysgolfer.co.uk for the results. Here is one of the photos, of the picturesque 14th green:



- Still on the 14th hole, there have been various sightings of a terrapin, admiring many of the members' putting from the vantage point of a log in the pond:



- Calendars and member phone directories are available to all members in the club house.
- Our best wishes and support go to Alan Moore and Sheila McCarthy who are both undergoing chemotherapy at the moment. We all wish you a full and speedy recovery and look forward to seeing you back on the course very soon.
- Rick Harvey and Richard Gray will be having their traditional mid-summers morning round of golf on June 21, the longest day of the year. Everyone is welcome to join them – but first tee-off is strictly at sunrise: 4:43am!!
- 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.



CAPTION COMPETITION



Congratulations to the winner of the caption competition, who, for reasons best known to themselves, wanted to remain anonymous (!). The caption was: "If it was a horse, we'd have to shoot it!". The prize goes to the captain's charity.



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 every three months or so: the next one is planned for the end of September.

Thanks go to everyone who provided information for this newsletter, particularly Andy Buckenham for competition news, Marge Griffen for the ladies news, 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.