



UGAGB NEWSLETTERS 2013

HUDDERSFIELD GOLF CLUB – 21 APRIL 2013

All things come to those who wait, as the saying goes, and eventually our first competition of the year arrived, somewhat belatedly, after our scheduled first event was snowed off last month, an event unprecedented in the history of the UGAGB.

After the seemingly never-ending winter, it was a welcome relief when the day dawned bright and dry, and remained dry if somewhat cold throughout our rounds.

I personally find this course very difficult and judging by the scores on the day, most others also found it difficult although it could be that due to the long hard winter, there was a general lack of practice evident.

No such problem however for our winner, Paul Allen, who came in with 42 points, 5 ahead of runner up, HGC member John Pasicznyk on 37. This is the second year in succession that John has been beaten into second place on his home course.

Minor prizewinners were Steve Holmes – longest drive and Mick Melnyk - NP2.

Hopefully, with the weather improving, we will be able to get more practice in before the next event. Paul Allen is already in full training for our World Challenge in China and has threatened to put the rest of his team, me and Melly, through a tough physical training regime, although it's more likely that we will be practicing our 'social skills'.

Hope to see you all at Mapperley GC, Nottingham on 19 May.

Regards

Roman

MAPPERLEY GOLF CLUB - 19 MAY 2013

For the first time in what seems like an age, the sun shone on our event in Mapperley. We last played here almost exactly three years ago, on a very hot and sunny day, the course on that occasion was bone dry and the greens were lightning fast. This time the greens were much more receptive after what seems like several years of rain, but the scores weren't much better.

We started the day with a hearty breakfast, which it turned out was required to get us round this extremely hilly course. Every hole was either uphill or downhill, sometimes both.





Winner on the day was Steve Holmes with 36 points. Runner up on 34 was Mick Melnyk, beating Roman Luczyn and John Passicznyk on count-back. Minor prizes went to John Passicznyk for longest drive, Slawko Bdzola – Nearest Pin and Roman Luczyn – NP2. The winning team was Paul Allen, Mick Melnyk and Slawko Bdzola, the second event in a row where Paul and Melly have featured in the winning team.

After our rounds it was a pleasant change to be able to sit outside and enjoy some cool refreshment.

Hope to see you all at our next event – Thorpe Wood, Peterborough on 23 June.

Regards

Roman

THORPE WOOD GOLF CLUB - 23 JUNE 2013

Mid-summer finds us at Thorpe Wood, Peterborough – not a particularly bright day but, apart from a few showers and a blustery wind, quite pleasant.

The course was in excellent condition, particularly the greens, which caused so many complaints last year, we got complimentary rounds this year.

Although the weather conditions were somewhat more difficult than last year, scores were much better, the best of the year to date by some margin.

Winner on the day was Mick Melnyk with a fantastic 44, including birdies on the first two holes. Runner up was Paul Allen with 41. These two (and John Pasicznyk) have now opened a substantive gap on the rest of the field at the head of the Order of Merit and would no doubt have been in the winning team again, had they played together. As it was, the team event was narrowly won by team 2 – Bazz Bdzola, Mick Borys and Roman Skalsky. Minor prizewinners were Mick Borys – Longest Drive, Mick Drapan – Nearest Pin and Graham Meggitt – NP2.

Our next event is our much anticipated weekend of debauchery at the Draycote Hotel nr. Rugby – with three rounds of golf thrown in.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Regards

Roman





DRAYCOTE HOTEL & WHITFIELDS GOLF CLUB WEEKEND - 26 - 28 JULY 2013

Our much anticipated weekend event has come and gone and I'm sure very few will be disappointed except by the prospect of having to wait for another year for it to come round again.

The weather certainly didn't let us down, we dodged all the forecast thunder storms and if anything Saturday was just too hot, especially for those of us nursing hangovers.

The accommodation was fully acceptable and the bar did a roaring trade in cold liquid refreshments. Our traditional Friday night revels were barely interrupted as it turned out the hotel was sparsely occupied - a good thing too, as our efforts were even more raucous than usual.

And so to the secondary events of the weekend, the golf. On Friday we had four teams competing for cash prizes. The winners were the Jacks (Mick Rewilak, Mick Drapan, Mike Bdzola and Trevor Johnson), closely followed by the Kings (Mick Melnyk, John Pasicznyk, Derek Gosling & Roman Skalsky). The Kings also won the quiz on Saturday night, many thanks to Mick Gillies for organizing this.

The individual trophy was played for over Saturday & Sunday and the winner by some distance was Mike Bdzola followed by Mick Rewilak runner-up, with Ray Gregory in third place. Mick and Ray are emerging as weekend specialists, with Mick winning last year and Ray the previous year - usually their best performances of the season. On the other hand, I am the weekend duffer - having by far my worst performances of the season at these events - could it be something to do with alcohol????!!!

Other prizes were given for the best scores on par 3s - Ray Gregory, and best on par 5s - Steve Holmes.

On the whole everyone seemed to enjoy the weekend, we even had the pleasant distraction of a ladies golf society, with some being more distracted than most - they know who they are!!!

Back to our regular season next month, with Cleckheaton, Yorkshire providing the venue.

Hope to see you all there.

Roman

CLECKHEATON GOLF CLUB - 18 AUGUST 2013

Back to Yorkshire for our 5th event of the year at Cleckheaton GC. The weather turned out fine and we were treated to great day out on a very pretty course with some interesting and tricky





holes. The nature of these holes meant that some very big scores were racked up on this, our annual stroke-play competition.

Triumphant on the day, with his maiden victory in our monthly competitions, was Mick Rewilak. Runner up was Bazz Bdzola, in a great run of form currently. Minor prizewinners were Paul Allen – Longest Drive, Mick Rewilak – Nearest Pin and Mick Gillies – NP2.

Our next event, which is the postponed event from March at Dore & Topley, will soon be upon us. Unfortunately I won't see you there as I will be in China for the Ukrainian World Golf Challenge, but I'll see you at the following event at the end of September.

Roman

DORE & TOTLEY GOLF CLUB - 8 SEPTEMBER 2013

In the absence of our usual roving reporter Roman Skalsky who is currently representing UGAGB in the Ukrainian Golf World Championship in China together with Mick Melnyk and Paul Allen, I hope you enjoy reading this temporary correspondent's chronicle of today's event and that it lives up to Roman's exceptionally high standard of reporting.

The course in South Sheffield, which was recommended to UGAGB's Mick Borys and chosen as the first event of the 2013 season but due to heavy snowfall in March was postponed and re-arranged for today, greeted the 15 members and one guest that played with glorious sunshine which lasted throughout the day making conditions near perfect for golf.

On arrival, we made our way to the terracing by the practice putting and 18th greens and couldn't help but notice the PGA scoreboard (see gallery) which further research revealed the course had hosted the PGA North Assistant Challenge - Harold Lees Trophy on the 2 and 3 September. This fact coupled with the course measuring 6,460 yards off the yellow tees made it a daunting and formidable test of golf even before hitting a ball off the first tee.

The course was in excellent condition as expected having hosted a PGA tournament days earlier; the greens were fast and some very difficult to read, breaking in opposite directions to anticipated which made some putts quite tricky. As the general public seemed to have access on some parts of the course, we found people walking dogs on leads, including a lady walking her border collie without a lead behind the green on the par 3 5th which thought Slawko Bdzola's tee shot was a toy, which luckily for him, was only sniffed and left in its original position (don't know what the R&A rule book says about dogs picking up balls and dropping them elsewhere) and which then mistook the other Queen team members for sheep and tried rounding us up one by one until the embarrassed owner eventually managed to collar and restrain her pet.

The day turned out to be a family affair with the overall winner Mick Borys winning with a score of 40 closely followed by his son Stefan who was runner-up with a score of 39, well done to the





Borys boys. Unfortunately, the winner of the previous year's event forgot to return the trophy so an imaginary trophy was presented by the President to Mick; it is hoped that last year's winner is cured from his temporary amnesia in time for the trophy to be returned and belatedly be presented at our next event. Minor prizewinners were Mick Borys – Longest Drive, Mike Bdzola – Nearest Pin and Mick Gillies – NP2.

As Mick also recorded 3 of the 5 birdies scored on the day, it turned out to be an excellent and profitable day for him all round.

After the golf, we experienced one of the best 3-course dinner's the society has enjoyed in recent years, with copious helpings of food waited on by a snooker referee complete with white gloves who wouldn't look out of place at the World Snooker Championship at The Crucible in Sheffield dressed as he was. Unfortunately for Mick Gillies, he left without sampling the excellent cuisine which was good fortune for the other 7 diners on his table who didn't need asking twice to devour his repast.

In summary, a great day, a superb course rounded off with an excellent meal, which everybody agreed should definitely be played again in 2014.

NB. A special mention goes to Mick Melnyk who, as noted above, is currently in China. Today's event was the first one Mick has missed in all his years as a UGAGB member, both at home and abroad, an awesome achievement and commitment by a great guy and we all wish him and the UGAGB team success in China.

Our next event is in 3 weeks' time at the Forest Hill Golf and Country Club in Botcheston, Leicestershire; watch out for Bazz's email in the next few days with more information.

Over and out,

Mick

FOREST HILL GOLF CLUB - 29 SEPTEMBER 2013

From the exotic climes of Mission Hills to the more mundane surroundings of Forest Hill for our penultimate event of the year. One thing was an improvement on Mission Hills – the weather, perfect for golf and a great relief after the suffering we endured in China. The course was in excellent condition and although the greens had been recently aerated, they ran fast and true.

Scores on the day were, on average the best of the year so far, and the winner with 38 points was John Pasicznyk. Runner-up, continuing his great run of recent form, was Bazz Bdzola with 36 points. Minor prize winners were John Pasicznyk – Longest Drive, Zen Sydor – Nearest Pin and Mick Melnyk – NP2.





The returning China team suffered mixed fortunes with Mick Melnyk having a good round and I had my best score of the year to date, but we had been home for two weeks. Paul Allen, who had been back for under a day, fared less well, returning his lowest score of the year. This was something of a surprise as he had scored much better every day on the infinitely tougher courses in China – obviously he was suffering from jet-lag and lack of practice!

This leads to a very exciting final competition of the year, with the top three contenders in the Order of Merit stakes within 1 point of each other. I hope you all turn out to compete in our finale at Mansfield Golf Club on 20 October.

See you all there.

Roman

MANSFIELD GOLF CLUB - 20 OCTOBER 2013

Driving to our final event of the year, I passed through several torrential rainstorms and feared the worst for our competition. Luckily, weather conditions for our rounds were perfect, if a little windy. The condition of the greens however, left much to be desired, un-mown, covered in debris and growing mushrooms – perfect for my putting!

Another player unfazed by the greens was Mick Gillies, who holed practically everything he looked at, to win the event with 39 points, pipping runner-up Roman Skalsky on count-back, by draining a 20 footer for a birdie on the last hole.

Minor prize winners were Derek Gosling – Longest Drive and Nearest Pin and Bazz Bdzola – NP2.

As this was the final comp. of the year, the Order of Merit was decided. This was very close coming into this event, with three players within 1 point of the lead. In the end, the 2 leaders, John Pasicznyk and Bazz didn't manage to improve their scores, allowing Paul Allen to storm through and take the title by 4 points. This capped a great year for Paul, in which he played well in every round and was crowned World Champion in China. His winning margin in our comp. was actually much closer than in the World Challenge – perhaps indicating a higher standard of competition in the UGAGB!

Mick Gillies winning our final comp. meant that every event has been won by a different player, 8 different winners including our weekend event!

All in all, an excellent year for UGAGB – good turnout at each event and a great performance in the World Challenge – 2nd place in the team event and individual World Champion.





Also, I would like to add my thanks to Mick Rewilak for his excellent work on the website – now probably the best of its kind among the Uki Golf sites, very informative and massive content – I haven't managed to view everything on there yet.

Finally, looking forward to next year, which should be another great year for our society, as we are hosting the European Challenge at Carden Park in August.

See you all next year!

Roman

