



NEWSLETTER



Norwood Park GC - 16 March 2014

At this time last year, our opening event was cancelled due to two feet of snow on the course after three days of blizzards. The contrast couldn't have been greater to this year, with our opening event played in dry and sunny weather.

The course was in excellent condition and particularly forgiving, with wide fairways and very light rough, which suited those of us whose game was a little rusty after the long lay-off. The forgiving nature of the course allowed most of us to come in with decent scores in the 30's.

The overall winner, continuing his stellar form of last year, was Paul Allen with 41 points. Steff Borys was runner up in the top flight with 37 points. Second flight winner was Ray Gregory with 39 points and runner up in her maiden event as a member was Sara Allen with 37.

Minor prize winners were Zen Sydor for Longest Drive and NP2 and Mick Borys for Nearest Pin.

We had a fantastic turnout of 21 for this event and it was great to see everyone again. Looking forward to seeing you all again at another new venue, Boundhay Golf Club, Worksop, next month.

Regards

Roman

Bondhay GC - 13 April 2014

If last month's course was particularly forgiving, Bondhay was the opposite! I have never heard so much bad language on a golf course before, with cries of 'Too many ****ing trees on this course' and 'Not another ****ing bunker', echoing around the course.

Truly, the course was difficult, with narrow tree lined fairways and a plethora of bunkers on every hole and the scores reflected this. I think the average score was the lowest I remember, with only 3 scores in the 30's and most scores in the low 20's.

Coming in with a very creditable 32, for his maiden victory in the society, was our youngest member Stef Borys, surely the first of many wins to come. Runner up in Flight 1 was the inevitable Paul Allen with 30 points. Flight 2 winner, also with 30 points was Mick Rewilak with Roman Skalsky on 27 a distant runner up. Minor prize winners were John Pasicznyk for Longest Drive and Mick Gillies for NP2 – Nearest Pin was unclaimed.

All in all, a very enjoyable if somewhat taxing day, in perfect conditions on a very pretty course.

I hope to see you all again next month in Yorkshire.

Roman

Bingley St Ives GC - 18 May 2014

A lovely sunny day in West Yorkshire saw the UGAGB tour roll into Bingley St Ives, resplendent in all its early summer glory. This was another tricky course yielding very few scores in the thirties and providing some major upsets, notably reigning World Champ Paul Allen coming in with his lowest score for years.

The course was in excellent condition, with very little water but a great deal of heather in play. Trevor Johnson managed to find the water on the 12th but his ball performed a 'Barnes Wallis', bouncing twice on the water before skipping out onto the fairway. However, his luck ran out on the 14th, where attempting to hack out of the heather, the ball catapulted back, leaving a clear impression on his leg.

Overall and Top Flight winner on the day was John Pasicznyk with 33 points. Zen Sydor was runner up in the top flight with 31 points. Roman Skalsky won Flight 2 on 32 with Paul Killoran second on countback. Minor prizes went to:-

Rob Harrisson – Longest Drive, Zen Sydor – Nearest Pin, John Pasicznyk – NP2 and Mick Rewilak – NP3.

We also had a team competition, won by Lancashire raiders Paul Killoran, Ray Gregory and Derek Gosling, assisted by local guide Graham Meggitt.

All in all a great day, good test of golf and a very welcoming club. We only have a short break to our next event at Branston G&CC, Burton-on-Trent.

Hope to see you all there.

Roman

Branston GC - 8 June 2014

The day dawned bright and sunny as we made our way to Burton on Trent in the geographic heart of the country. On arrival at Branston Golf and Country Club, one could not help but be impressed by the palatial buildings and immaculately groomed grounds. This was yet another tricky course with water on almost every hole, tight fairways and super slick greens.

We started our rounds, somewhat weighed down by the enormous breakfast baguette, in bright sunshine but the skies soon darkened, heralding the eruption of thundery showers. However, the UGAGB are made of sterner stuff than the PGA and carried on regardless, dodging the hail and bolts of lightning.

Considering the conditions and difficulty of the course, some decent scores were made particularly by the second flight players. Winner of this flight and first time overall winner was our new lady (and Branston) member, Sara Allen, with a very creditable 35. Second on countback was Graham Meggitt. The top flight was won by Bazz Bdzola on 34 points with Zen Sydor runner up on 32.

Minor prizes went to Bazz Bdzola – Longest Drive, Mick Melnyk – Nearest Pin and Roman Skalsky – NP2. We also had a team competition, won by a distance with a massive 99 points by the Kings – Graham Meggitt, Mick Rewilak, Mick Borys and Roman Skalsky.

After our rounds, we were treated to a lavish three course meal followed by coffee, leading to numerous requests for a return to this venue next year.

Our next event is at Greettham Valley GC, Rutland on the 8th of July.

Looking forward to see you all there.

Roman

Greetham Valley GC – 6 July 2014

The UGAGB tour continued into Rutland, England's smallest county, and arrived at another new venue for our society. Greetham was a lovely little course, short but tricky with tight fairways, lots of hidden hazards and very hilly. This was a fitting venue for our annual strokeplay event, requiring precision play in order to avoid running up cricket scores on some of the card wrecking holes.

Winner on the day with a nett score of 66 strokes, retaining the trophy from last year, was Mick Rewilak, testimony to his steady and accurate play. Second on countback was Ray Gregory, with another very steady round only marred by a couple of bad holes.

A much depleted top flight was won by won by Stef Borys with a super 67 nett (82 gross) with Bazz Bdzola second on 73.

Minor prize winners were Derek Gosling – Longest Drive and Paul Killoran – Nearest Pin, with no-one managing to hit the green for NP2.

And so, we approach our annual weekend event, which this year has the added pressure of being a European Challenge event, although I'm sure this won't detract from our enjoyment. Here's looking forward to sharing a few beverages with you over the weekend.

Roman

Carden Park - August 1- 3 2014

Our much anticipated weekend competition finally arrived and with it came the rain. After weeks of hot, sunny weather, we experienced some of the heaviest rain we have ever played in on Friday and Saturday. However, we battled through the deluge and most of us managed to complete our rounds.

The venue, Carden Park, was excellent in respect of both the hotel and golf courses – a cut above our usual weekend venues in anticipation of staging a European event. As it happened, our European challengers didn't turn up – their visas arrived on Friday, just as we were teeing off on our first round!

This was a team competition on the Cheshire course, the longer and hillier of the two courses. Soon after we started, the skies opened, unleashing a downpour of truly biblical proportions, flooding greens and threatening to bring play to an end. However, most of the greens were soon cleared and we managed to continue, somewhat drenched, to complete a very long and wet round.

After drying out, we met in the restaurant for dinner and presentations. The winning team, with an excellent score in the 90's, was Slawko Bdzola, Mick Melnyk, Paul Killoran and Rob Harrison. This was followed by an exceptionally boisterous quiz, presented as ever by Mick Gillies and won by the usual suspects.

Saturday was the first day of our weekend competition on the Nicklaus course, and started quite promisingly, but again the clouds burst and dumped torrents on us hapless players. Nevertheless, we managed to complete our rounds, with the exception of Derek Gosling, who slipped on the wet grass and dislocated both shoulders,

having to be taken to hospital accompanied by Ray Gregory, ending his weekend rather tragically.

Thankfully, Sunday, on the Cheshire course again, was a lovely day, allowing us to dry out our gear and enjoy an uninterrupted round. When the combined scores were added up, the clear winner over the two rounds with 78 points, was John Pasicznyk with occasional member Andy Bendzak in second with 72 and Mick Melnyk third on 69.

All in all, a great weekend, only slightly marred by the weather and leaving us in eager anticipation of next year's event.

Roman

Dore & Totley GC – 7 September 2014

This was our second visit to Dore and Totley Golf Club. The weather was set fair and those of us who brought shorts to play in were very pleased they did.

The course proved a little tricky especially if you went off the fairways. This was mainly due to the heavy rain which fell the previous day saturating the longer grass areas. If you kept it on the fairway you were ok. Most people did and the majority of scores on the day were in the 30's. There were three particularly good scores of 36 each achieved by Mick Drapan, Mick Melnyk and Roman Luczyn. However, they were just beaten by the man in current great form, John Pasicznyk, who scored 37. Well done to him.

Nearest the Pin winner was Roman Luczyn with a great tee shot to an elevated green. Nearest the Pin in 2 winner was Andy Bendzak who showed great skill and control to easily take the prize. Longest Drive winner was Paul Killoran whose magnificent effort soared past all others to claim the prize.

The roast meal afterwards was very good with most helping themselves to at least two desserts.

Our next and last event of the season is on Sunday 5th.October 2014 at the Nottinghamshire Golf Club.

Hope to see you all there.

Bazz

Nottinghamshire GC - 5 October 2014

Our final event of the year was held at the magnificent Nottinghamshire GC, in mild and sunny weather, perfect conditions for early October. The course was in excellent condition with lightning fast greens and water in play on most holes.

Difficult as the course was, scoring was generally good and the competition was won by Mick Melnyk with 40 points, beating Andy Bendzak into second place on countback. The team event was narrowly won by the Aces consisting of Mick Melnyk, Andy Bendzak, Roman Skalsky and Steve Holmes.

As this was the last event of the year, the Order of Merit was decided and the overall winner in his rookie year was young Stef Borys with 172 points, taking the title from runner up, last year's champ, Paul Allen. Well done Stef! Also worthy of mention, in joint third place, was another rookie, Sara Allen.

In past years, the Order of Merit has normally been won by a score in the mid to high 180's – the lower winning total this year is perhaps indicative of the better, tougher courses we have played. I personally have enjoyed the challenge and hope we maintain the standard next year.

Look forward to seeing you all next March and wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Roman