



NEWSLETTER



Owston Hall GC - 26 April 2015

Following last month's aborted event, our season restarted in bright spring sunshine at Owston Hall GC Doncaster. On first impressions the course looked easy – flat, wide fairways and very few hazards. However, our scores indicate otherwise, with very few players scoring over 30, due mainly to the very firm and uneven greens.

No problems for our winner however, Stef Borys carrying on where he left off last season with a great score of 40. Runner up in the top flight was Andy Bendzak, also in great form recently. 2nd flight winner was Graham Meggitt with Ray Gregory runner up.

Minor prizes went to Ray Gregory – Nearest Pin, Mick Borys – NP2 and Andy Bendzak – Longest Drive.

The team event went to the Queens – Stef Borys and Ray Gregory with very little assistance from Roman Skalsky.

Our next event is at Birstall GC, Leicester – hope to see you all there.

Birstall GC - 24 May 2015

Our second event of the season was held at Birstall, Leicester – a pretty little course in excellent condition. The early rain stopped just before we started and the weather was perfect for our rounds. Although the course was relatively short, it was very tight with narrow wooded fairways and fast greens.

The event saw a return to form for our world champ – Paul Allen, winning with an excellent 41 points. Mick Melnyk was runner up with 37 also back close to his best. Winner of the second flight was Roman Skalsky with 30 points followed by runner up Slawko Bdzola. Players in the first group away actually had the highest scores in flight 2 but their scores didn't stand as they failed to complete the correct course.

Minor prizes went to Paul Allen for Longest Drive and NP2 and Bazz Bdzola for Nearest Pin.

Our next event is the re-run of our abortive opening event at the Nottinghamshire GC. Hopefully the weather will permit us to complete our rounds this time.

See you all there on 7 June.

Nottinghamshire GC 7 June 2015

In complete contrast to the last time we started at the Nottinghamshire, the rerun was played in lovely early summer sunshine. Conditions were perfect and scores were generally good – with one notable exception.

Overall winner on the day was Mick Gillies with a brilliant, 4 birdy score of 40. God help us when his back gets better! Runner up – overall and in flight 2 was Slawko Bdzola with 37 points.

Flight 1 was wrapped up by the Borys family – Mick winning with 34 and Stef runner up on 33.

Minor prizes went to:– Mick Gillies – Longest Drive, Bazz Bdzola - Nearest Pin and Stef Borys NP2.

We're now nearly halfway through the season already and the next event follows shortly at the Hallamshire GC, Sheffield on 28 June.

See you all there.

Hallamshire GC - 28 June 2015

Nestling like a verdant jewel in the foothills of the Pennines, the Hallamshire was a truly testing venue for our fourth event of the season. The course was beautifully presented with some spectacular, and difficult, holes around the turn.

Winner on the day, and indeed winner of each event he has attended this year, was Paul Allen with 35 points. Paul is clearly on course to defend his World Champion title in Prague next month. Runner up in the 1st flight was Mick Borys with 30 points.

Flight 2 was wrapped up by the Bradford contingent with Mick Rewilak winning on 34 points and Graham Meggitt was second on countback with 29 points.

Minor prizes went to:– John Pasicznyk - Longest Drive, Mick Melnyk – Nearest Pin and Stef Borys – NP2.

Our next event is our much anticipated annual weekend competition. This year's venue is Forest Pines in Lincs. We will have a record turnout this year, including our resurrected former President so proceedings should prove as enjoyable as ever.

Look forward to seeing you all there.

Roman

Forest Pines Weekend 24 – 26 July 2015

Our much anticipated weekend event was held at the Forest Pines resort in North Lincolnshire amid much trepidation following last year's biblical downpours and ominous weather forecasts. Happily, conditions were perfect until late in our final round when the forecast rain set in.

The hotel was one of the best we have stayed in, with excellent rooms and great fitness and health facilities (reportedly).

The course was laid out in 3 loops of 9 holes, although to be honest, most holes were very similar with narrow, flat, tree-lined fairways. The greens were in great condition and very true although somewhat slow and difficult to read.

With a record 24 players in attendance, we had 6 teams of 4 competing each day.

After dinner on the first day, we retired to the Golf bar for the traditional Quiz hosted by Mick Gillies, followed by the now notorious Friday party in Mick and Graham's room. Our parties have been rather tame recently, with no raucous singing and very little overt drunkenness, however this subdued gathering still proved too much for some guests who soon called the management to complain. Having initially ignored a request to pipe down by a security man we were confronted by the formidable night manageress Angie, whose presence was sufficient to clear the room in short order. She did however offer to let us move the party to the main bar. This offer was taken up by several of us and the diehards finally staggered to bed at 5am.

Saturday's weather was the best of the weekend, with the heat forcing us to retire to the bar after our rounds and remain until our dehydration was fully relieved. Following dinner, Mick Gillies brought his Karaoke show to the Golf bar. This was very well attended but participation was rather sparse so Mick Gillies revealed another hidden talent and filled in the gaps by regaling us in his dulcet tones.

Following Sunday's final round, the competition results were announced in the bar. Runaway winner of the Weekend Trophy was Sara Allen with an astonishing 124 points. As Sara hasn't played in any of our monthly competitions this year, we haven't had the opportunity to adjust her handicap for her obvious improvement, so the committee has decided cut her by 6 shots for future comps.

Runner up, with a very creditable 107, was Stef Borys, followed by Andy Bendzak on 101.

And so, another great weekend over, leaving many of us wishing we had spent a bit less time in the bar and more time in bed, but still looking forward to doing it again next year.

Our next monthly event follows very shortly on 9 August in Manchester.

See you there.

Manchester Golf Club - 9 August 2015

The Manchester Golf club was a true homecoming for me, situated across the road from my alma mater and next to Hopwood Hall where the De la Salle brothers who ran the school had their seminary and church which was a prototype for Paddy's Wigwam in Liverpool.

This was a fitting venue for our annual strokeplay event with some of the most penal rough I have seen, no doubt causing many a score of 10 to be racked up. At least the weather stayed dry with a gentle breeze to cool us as we slogged up and down the hills.

Paul Allen was the winner on the day, keeping up his record of winning every event he has entered this year. Paul scored 70 net, narrowly beating Mick Rewilak on countback. Mick had the best score in flight 2 and now moves into the top flight for the first time in his UGAGB career. Runner up in flight 2 was Mick Melnyk on 73 and Stef Borys finished second in the top flight.

The minor prize winners were Mick Melnyk – longest drive, Bazz Bdzola – Nearest Pin and Paul Allen NP2.

Our next event is at Astbury Hall in Shropshire on 6 September. In the meantime some of us will be playing in the Ukrainian World Golf Challenge in Prague. With Paul Allen currently in great form there is a good chance that he will become the first player in the history of the event to retain his World Champion's crown. Hopefully we will be bringing back some trophies to show you next month.

See you then.

Astbury Hall 6 September 2015

It was a sparkling, bright late summer day for our penultimate event at Astbury Hall in Shropshire. This really was a special day, with beautiful conditions and a benign golf course, leading to a total of 11 birdies being shared amongst our 15 players – surely a record.

The winner with 39 points was Bazz Bdzola, his first win since he took the same trophy exactly 6 years ago! Runner up, on countback, in the second flight was Sara Allen, playing off her new society handicap for the first time. Top flight winner, also with 39 points was Mick Borys with Mick Melnyk in second place on 35.

Minor prizes went to Stef Borys for Longest Drive and Nearest Pin and Mick Melnyk for NP2.

Our final event of the year at Rotherham will see the presentation of the annual Order of Merit, with Stef Borys and Paul Allen in very close contention.

See you all there.

Rotherham GC - 4 October 2015

This season, which began with torrential rain, finished in glorious autumn sunshine at Rotherham Golf Club – a picturesque, tree-lined course in excellent condition with an imposing baronial clubhouse.

Stef Borys and Paul Allen were in close contention for the season's Order of Merit and Stef, with a score of 40 points, won the day and the season. In second place in Flight 1 was Mick Gillies with 39 points, a fine performance considering his various ailments. Flight 2 was won by Mick Rewilak with Sara Allen in second place.

Minor prizes were awarded for 4 Nearest Pins – winners were Mick Gillies, Mick Melnyk, Paul Allen and Zen Sydor.

And so, another great season has flown by and planning is already underway for next season. Also, please bear in mind that we will be hosting the 2017 UWGC in Scotland and we hope to get a good participation from the UGAGB.

Have great Christmas's and New Years.

See you all in the Spring.