



BRENT VALLEY GOLF CLUB NEWSLETTER



Founded 1909. Church Road, Hanwell, London W7 3BE, Tel: 020 85674230; www.bvgc.org
President: MJ Murphy; Men's Captain: John Antunes; Ladies Captain: Helen Weill; Newsletter Editor: Richard Gray

WINTER 2008/09 EDITION

HAPPY (DOUBLE) BIRTHDAY BRENT VALLEY!

Like the Queen, Brent Valley Golf Club has two birthdays. One is the birthday we celebrated in 2008, the 70th anniversary of the Club taking a lease on the Brent Valley Course from Ealing Council when it acquired the course in 1938. Its second birthday will be celebrated

in 2009, when the Club will be 100 years old. In the first of two parts, this newsletter celebrates the first birthday: 70 years since the old course was saved from the developers and became the home of Brent Valley Golf Club.



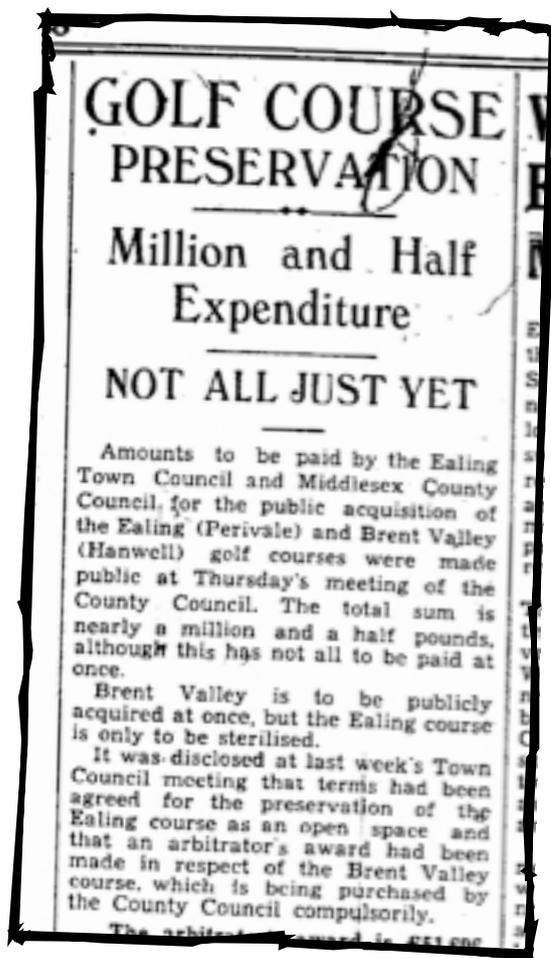
In the photo above some familiar faces dressed up in old-fashioned clothes to celebrate the 70th anniversary and in the photo to the left, some not so familiar faces also in old-fashioned clothes, but wearing them for real. The difference between the two photos is 70 years. On the left, from the West Middlesex Gazette of July 23, 1938, the then Mayor of Ealing Council tees off from the 1st tee to officially open the new Brent Valley Municipal Golf Course on Wednesday July 20, 1938. It was an expensive round for the Mayor - his Ealing Council (together with Middlesex Council) had just paid £1.5m for the course. If you look carefully, on the far left you can just see the local priest, who obviously gave the club a holy blessing.



The Mayor driving from the first tee of the Brent Valley Golf Course after opening it as a municipal course. Members of Ealing Council are seen in the background.

WHAT WAS THE COURSE LIKE IN 1938?

The course was very different in 1938 to the present day. Today's 9th and 10th did not exist and there were 2 holes in the near field that we do not have today. There were three par 5 holes when today there are none. The course was over 304 yards longer in total and its par was 70 compared



Date _____ H'cap _____
 Signature of player _____
 Certified by _____

Hole	Yards	Bogey	Self	Stroke Index	Opp't	Hole	Yards	Bogey	Self	Stroke Index	Opp't
1	365	4		6		10	370	4		1	
2	365	4		10		11	450	5		8	
3	360	4		2		12	440	5		5	
4	160	3		18		13	280	4		14	
5	170	3		11		14	180	3		12	
6	385	4		4		15	315	4		15	
7	420	4		7		16	440	5		3	
8	160	3		17		17	330	4		16	
9	180	3		13		18	380	4		9	
Tot. 2565		32				Tot. 3185		38			

Bogey 70 Scratch 70 Length 5750 yds.
 Won Lost Halved Out
 + - O Home
 Total
 Result Handicap
 { Up }
 { Down } On Bogey Nett

17

A scorecard believed to be from 1939

with today's 67. Aswell as being longer, the course had a lot more large elm trees to negotiate, particularly in the first field. The front and back nines were very different in lengths and pars: the front nine, which today measures 2,847 yards was shorter back then at 2,565 yards (with a par of 32) while the back nine was a lot longer: 3,185 yards (38 par) versus today's 2,599. We think the course was re-modelled to today's layout at the same time as the old clubhouse was demolished in 1966.

Hole by hole, here's how we think the course was in 1938:

1st: This was today's 3rd hole. So after putting out players would turn right to the 2nd tee box. Officially 6 yards longer than today.

2nd: Same location as today, but 4 yards longer.

3rd: This was today's 1st hole. Two large elm trees stood either side of the fairway where the ditch is, calling for a first tee shot that either went between or over them. The hole was 57 yards longer, we guess as a result of the tee box being further back. There were tennis courts to the left of the tee box.

4th: In 1938 this par 3 hole was 34 yards longer. Players played to a green that was about 30 yards to the right of the current one where today there are pine trees. Today's 4th green was used as the 15th in 1938.

5th: This was today's 7th and was 10 yards longer. The River Brent used to flow around the front of

the green, so any short tee shots met a watery death.

6th: Starting from today's 8th tee box, players would drive left up the hill and finish on today's 10th green. This mixture of today's 8th and 10th holes measured 385 yards. There was a "sports ground" to the right of this fairway.

7th: Starting from today's 11th tee, players came down the hill and finished on today's 9th green, which is shaped to be entered from the right. So no dog-leg 11th hole to contend with as we do today.

8th: Today's 12th. Same length.

9th: Today's 13th but 27 yards shorter.

10th: This was today's 14th and was 11 yards longer. There was no water in the pond and there was a large elm tree just in front of where the pond is today. You can still see its stump to this day after it was felled by Dutch elm disease in the 80s. The hardest hole on the course.

11th: Today's 6th and, at 11 yards longer, it was a bogey par 5.

12th: Today's 5th and another bogey par 5 though it was only 4 yards longer than today.

13th: Today's 15th and officially 1 yard longer.

14th: Today's 16th and 5 yards longer.

15th: One of the 2 holes no longer on the course, this is now the practice area. Going down the hill, the 315 yard hole led to what is today's 4th green. There was a pond somewhere on this hole.

16th: The other "lost hole" and the third par 5. The tee box was to the right of the 4th fairway and the 440 yards went over more elms to a green located where the 17th tee now is.

17th: As today but 47 yards shorter since the tee box was there the ladies 17th tee box now is.

18th: Same as today but 15 yards longer.

COMPETITIONS IN 1938

The page from the 1939 "Fairway Scorer" (see right) shows that the two individual competitions still surviving today are the Captain's Prize and the President's Cup. The Cups that have at some point been discontinued were the Grosvenor Cup and the James Cup (unless this is today's Jimmy Cup??). The "saints" majors were to be introduced at a later date.

It is interesting to note that, in match play competitions, players were given very clear instructions as to who is responsible for organising the match - see note 5. This is still the cause of much debate on committee meetings to this day.

CLUB PRIZES

Annual Foursomes.
Mixed Foursomes.
President's Cup.
Grosvenor Cup.
James Cup.
Chairman's Prize.
Captain's Prize.

NOTES ON COMPETITIONS

1. In Foursomes Partners enter together.
2. A Special Card must be taken out for Medal or Bogey Rounds. The competition must be the first of the day.
3. Details of Special Competitions will be announced from time to time on the Club Notice Board.
4. In Men's Competitions open to both Divisions, handicaps are limited to 20, unless otherwise stated.
5. It is the duty of the competitor first named on the draw to approach his opponent with regard to fixing his match.
6. All Competition Cards must be returned complete or otherwise, Holiday Competitions excepted.
7. All Entrance Fees must be paid to the Hon. Competition Secretary before playing.
8. Dates for rounds in Foursomes and Challenge Cup Competitions must be rigidly adhered to.

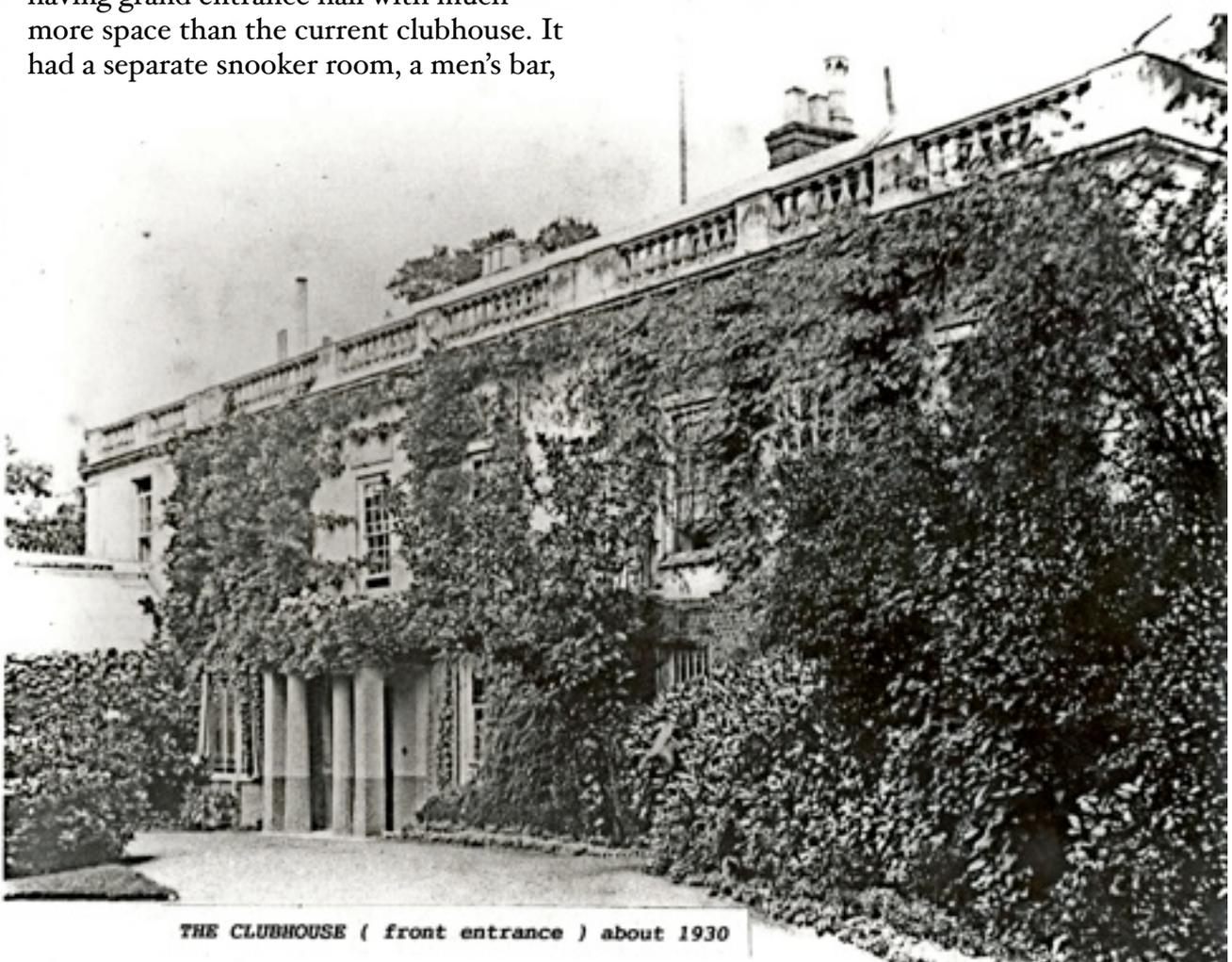
THE OLD CLUBHOUSE “DUBLIN HOUSE”

The old clubhouse, called “Dublin House”, used to stand to the rear of the current day practice putting area. As the photo below shows, it was a grand three-story Victorian mansion covered in ivy and boasting some very grand fireplaces and chimneys. Its Club Rooms were open from 9am to 10:30pm and meals were served in the dining room between 11am and 9pm. Previously home to the family of the club’s founder, Albert Toley, his wife lived there for many years after he died in 1925.

A few of today’s members still remember the clubhouse and they say describe it as having grand entrance hall with much more space than the current clubhouse. It had a separate snooker room, a men’s bar,

a lounge and a dining room. In the early 60s, the club steward, Simpson, and his family lived on the 1st floor.

The house was acquired by the council along with the course in 1938 for £1.5 million. But in what must have been a moment of town-planning madness, the building was demolished in 1966 to make way for the current clubhouse. Apparently one of the older members at the time refused to leave the clubhouse on its scheduled day of demolition. But the bulldozers had their way in the end.



70 YEARS OF BRENT VALLEY GOLFING TALES

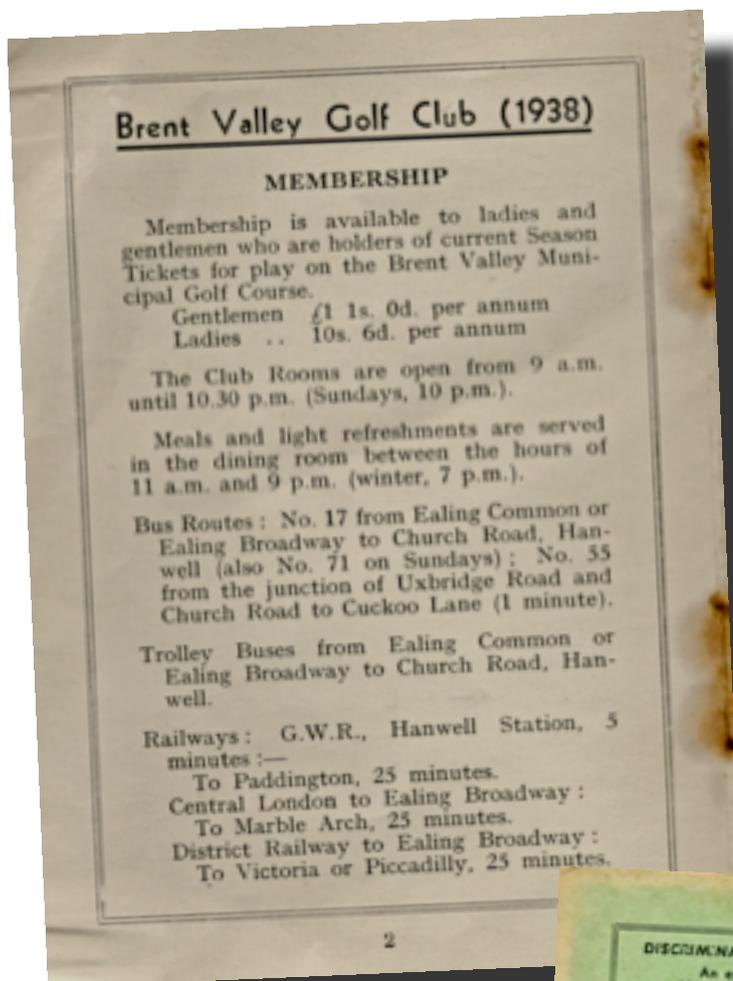
● In 1953, the bridge over the Brent on the 7th hole was all but washed away, leaving only a four-inch girder crossing the water.

stove that used to heat the room was kicked over by an unnamed player disgruntled with his round.

● During the second world war, the 8th and 9th fairways were ploughed up for crops to aid the war effort. Some say that if you look closely you can still see the furrows. The only casualty on the course during the war was the 1st fairway, which was hit by a bomb.

● The tee box for the old 15th hole used to be to the right of the 4th fairway, very close to the back gardens on Studland Road. Apparently one of the reasons for moving the tee box was because a gentleman neighbour complained that in summer players were peering over their garden fence and ogling his wife as she sunbathed in the garden.

A big thanks to all members who contributed to this history edition, especially Bill Kearney for his very clear memories of the course and the old clubhouse.



Most players took the safe route via the 13th, but one fearless member, Joe Hannan, tightroped across the girder with his clubs held above his head. No slow play for him!

● There used to be a locker room and pro shop next to the 18th green but it burned down in 1961 after a large pot



BRENT VALLEY 2008 ROLL OF HONOUR

Men		Ladies	
Brent Cup	Don Stewart	St David's	Mary Curtis
Cremin Final	Matty Carthy	St Patricks	Kathy Maloney
Seniors	Jack Woodham	St George's	Teresa Brennan
Foxes	Joe Horvarth	St Andrew's	Helen Weill
Teddies	Frank Burke	Spring Cup	Mary Curtis
Rabbits	Eddie Bartok	Autumn Cup	Barbara Murphy
Winter Singles	Jamie Lea	Midsummer Salver	Helen Weill
Summer Singles	Jamie Lea	Captain's Prize	Kathy Maloney
Winter 4 Ball	Ken Curtis/Frank Burke	President's Prize	Mary Curtis
Summer 4 Ball	Tony Twomey/Ray Cryan	Club Champs	Kathy Maloney
Jimmy Cup	Don Stewart	Burchmore Cup	Kathy Maloney
Pat McGlew Trophy	Frank Scanlon	Letts Bowl	Teresa Brennan
Billy Birmingham	Matty Carthy	Valentines Trophy	Teresa Brennan
Greensomes	P Christides/W Dickinson	Winter Cup	Helen Weill
St Patricks	Oscar Brown	Lady Captain's Day	Teresa Brennan
St Davids	Michael Murphy	Pat McGlew	Heather Burke
St Georges	Wayne Dickinson	Anglo-Irish	Ireland
St Andrews	Ken Curtis	Order of Merit	Kathy Maloney
Captain's Prize	Ken Curtis	Birdie Tree	Kathy Maloney
President's Prize	Don Stewart	Silver Division	Annette Dillon
Order of Merit	Wayne Dickinson	Bronze Division	Teresa Brennan
Club Champs Div 2	Mick McSwiggan		
Club Champs Div 3	Alan Niel		
Club Champs Div 4	Simon Koupparis		
Club Champion	Andrew Lea		

CAPTAINS' DRIVE-IN

On Sunday December 21, the shortest day of the year, Brent Valley's 2008 club captains handed the baton to their 2009 successors. In the mens section, Ray Black handed over to John Antunes and in the ladies section Kathy Burke made way for Helen Weill. In the seniors, Rick Harvey renewed his captaincy for another year.

In his handover speech Ray thanked all those who had helped him throughout the year, especially Ken Curtis, the previous year's captain. Describing 2008 as a difficult transitional year for the club, Ray handed his captain's jacket to Jon Antunes for 2008. Jon explained how he had come to Brent Valley, describing the club as very friendly and a special place for golf. He said his appointment as one of the proudest days in his life. He also named his vice-captain as Dave Flynn.

The end of 2008 also marked the end of Martin Brennan's 3-year term as president. He hands over to Michael J Murphy.



2009's captains: (left to right) Rick Harvey (seniors), Helen Weill (ladies) and Jon Antunes (men).



Jane Charlwood chips onto the 3rd green during the St Andrews. Below: Fay Daquil during the Captains.

LADIES RESULTS

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

1. Kathy Maloney 45 points
2. Rose O'Connor 39 points

MONTHLY STABLEFORD

Winner: Annette Dillon, 25 points



COMPETITION NEWS

ST ANDREWS

Ken Curtis romped away with the last major prize of the year on November 16, winning by 3 strokes with a net 58. In second place was Bharat Bhushan and in third, with 62 was Jim Chalmers won pipped Graham Tollit on the back nine. There were then 10 players just 3 shots behind. At least there was some competition for those places if not for the



cup it-
self! In the Ladies section, Helen Weill took the main trophy, while Kathy Maloney took the Silver section and Fay Daquil took the Bronze.



Top: 2008 captain Ray Black hands run-away winner Ken Curtis the St Andrews trophy. Left: Ladies Captain, Heather Burke presents the Ladies St Andrews trophy to Helen Weill.

CREMIN

1 (Oct 18/19)

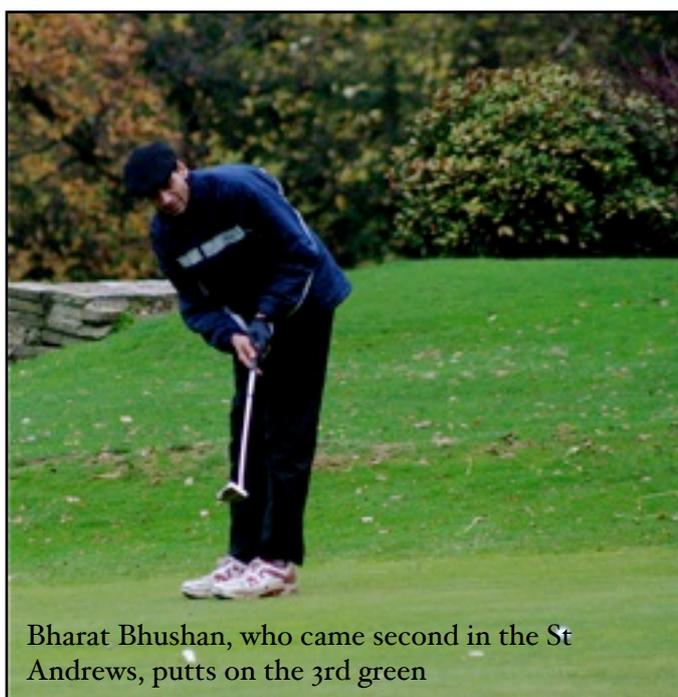
1. Geoff Rayner, 39 points
2. Bill Kearney, 36 points
3. Jeff Thompson, 36 points

2 (Nov 28/29)

1. Calum Weill 43 points
2. Philip Christides 41 points
3. Jamie Lea, 41 points

3 (Jan 17/18)

1. Peter Hyde, 42 points
2. Jamie Lea, 42 points
3. Andrew Lea, 40 points



Bharat Bhushan, who came second in the St Andrews, putts on the 3rd green

BRENTSIDE

October outing:

1st Brian Lennox, 35 points;

2nd Larry Weill 35 points;

3rd Ray Cryan 34 points.

Guest winner: Geoff Rayner.

November outing:

1st Tom Tarpey 65;

2nd Mick Hynes 65;

3rd Frank Burke 66.

Guest winner: James Graven 63.

Christmas scramble:

Winning team: Joe Hovarth, John Tobin,
John Graham, Oliver Connell.

January outing:

1st Jamie Lea (right);

2nd Peter Hyde;

3rd Andrew Lea.



The first meeting of the Brentside in 2009 saw the captaincy pass from Brian Lennox to Tom Tarpey, a founding member of the Society, which was created in 1983. Tom has named Frank Dealy as his vice-captain.

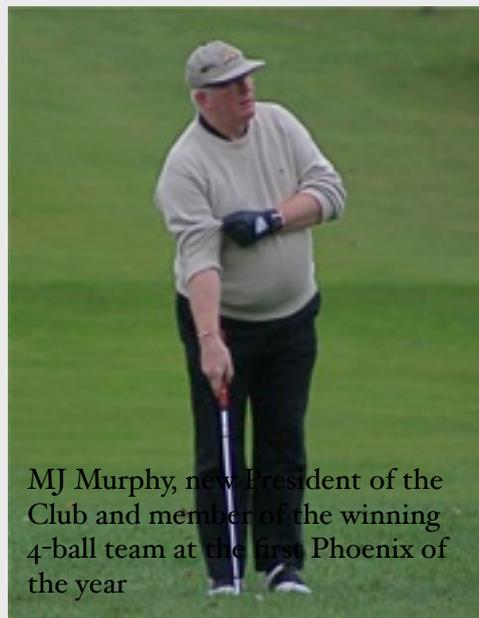
At the first outing of the Phoenix the new Captain Jack Farruggia took over from Steve Cannon. The Society thanks Steve for his sterling work during 2008 and wishes Jack the best of luck for 2009.

Reminder: Phoenix subs of £14 are now due to Barry Barker. The next outing is February 18th.

Results from the first outing of the year are below:

4 Ball Scramble (1/5th combined h/cap)		
		Score
1st	J.Horvath, L Weill, MJ Murphy, S McCarthy	44.6
2nd	A Lea, S.Lea, B Barker, J Hunter	44.6
3rd	J Antunes, W Kearney, N Rutherford, A Bailey	44.8
3 Ball Scramble (1/4 combined h/cap)		
1st	T Tarpey, F Burke, B Lennox	47.25
2nd	J Lea, G Quantock, P Shanahan	47.50
3rd	J Machado, J Graven, M Hynes	47.75

PHOENIX



MJ Murphy, new President of the Club and member of the winning 4-ball team at the first Phoenix of the year

SENIORS

Everything in the last 3 months of the year was overshadowed by the sudden death of our good friend Mick Bodnar. Mick was a committed and enthusiastic member of Seniors, who always supported team competitions, away days, seniors competitions with the same passion for golf and life that made him such an important member of Brent Valley Golf Club.

The final away day of the year was at Ruislip on October 29 and thanks to all 40 people who made the trip, including new Club Captain, John Antunes, and last year's La-

dies Captain, Heather Burke. Congratulations to Ladies winner Kathy Maloney and in the middle of a purple patch of form, Eddie Bartok in the men's competition. The highlight of the year for Seniors was the Seniors Prize Giving Dinner, at Ealing Golf Club on November 26. Thank you to the 65 people who helped make it a really success! A special thanks to Ladies Captain Heather Burke and her husband Frank, to the President Martin Brennan and his wife Theresa, to last year's Captain, Ken Curtis, and his wife Mary. A thank you to our special guests Marge Griffen, Thin Thin and Josie Keenan for all their help over the last year and also to

Josie for her superb contribution as guest comedienne for the evening!

After a really superb meal, flowers were presented to the wife of the Seniors Captain, Jill Harvey, to the Vice Captain's wife, Suzy, with thanks for organising the evening so well. A thank-you bouquet of flowers also went to our handicap secretary Kathy Maloney for her help during the year. Thank you goes also to Colin Wyncoll, Brian Wain and Cliff Folland. Congratulations to Peter Duffy Jnr for winning the Medal Trophy, Billy "the kid" Kearney for winning the Stableford and Rick Harvey for winning the Bogey and Order of Merit Trophies. An excellent evening finished with the news that Rick would continue as Seniors Captain for a 3rd and final year and that Keith Hall would take over as Vice Captain from Terry Strettle. The Christmas Lunch was held at the club on December 10 and big thank you to Josie and Colin for a very well organised and delicious meal.

Senior Captain's Comments: I would again like to thank all my Wednesday Seniors colleagues for their continued support over the last year. Your support for the away days matches against Airlinks and West Mid and your continuing fantastic support for Take-Your-Pick, all of which demonstrates great commitment to the future of Brent Valley Golf Club. I would like to congratulate John Antunes on becoming the new Club Captain and I can assure him 100% support from the Seniors. Congratulations also to Helen Weill, the new Ladies Captain, who, along with Larry and Calum, are an integral part of the team that make the Club tick and survive. Although

it is sad that due to other commitments Terry Strettle cannot become Captain this year, I am proud and pleased to carry on for another year! I congratulate Keith Hall on becoming the new vice-captain and I know his infectious enthusiasm and experience will be a huge asset to the Seniors and the Club. I want to thank Terry for his support, enthusiasm, down-to-earth common sense and friendship over the last two years and thank him for his part in keeping Wednesday Seniors the vibrant friendly bunch of friends it is today. I would also like to thank Alan Niel, our Seniors Secretary and Treasurer, for his continuous loyalty and hard work - it has been the cornerstone of the Seniors' success. Lastly, on behalf of the Seniors, I would like to thank Martin and Theresa Brennan for their fantastic support of Seniors - they have both been extremely generous with their time and commitment to our away days and prize-giving dinners. Martin has been a great president of the Club, maintaining a dignified presence at Committee meetings and in the club. Martin and Theresa - I give you a personal thanks.

I look forward to the coming year and trying to win again the Dennis Burke Cup. I was thrilled that in the inaugural year I was fortunate enough to win the cup named after a man, a past captain and a past president of the Club who epitomises the will to win and who, after huge success as a golfer, still has the fire in the belly (or is it Guinness?) to win and also great commitment to the Club. Well done Dennis - it is well deserved!

NEWS SNIPPETS

● Following a public request for proposals, Ealing Council is currently negotiating the terms of a contract to manage Brent Valley course with a preferred bidder. The Committee has been closely consulted during the proposal process and it is ensuring that the Club's interests are taken carefully into account and that the Council's legal obligations to the club are fully respected.

● **Brent Valley has a spanking new top-of-the-range 40-inch plasma screen telly. The club sends its sincere thanks to John McFall and Jim Chalmers for their very kind donations**

towards the purchase. The picture to the left shows the tense moment when its much bulkier predecessor was dethroned.



● Committee meetings will now be held from 8:30 on the second Thursday of each month.

● **Teams will be selected over the next few weeks for the 3 NAPGC competitions that Brent Valley will be entering.**

● The gas meter was recently stolen from the porch to the club house.

● The Mens Honours Board has been brought up to date.

NEW MEMBERS

Brent Valley is very pleased to welcome Alan Bailey, Steve Hines, Tom Watkins and Ray Morgan as new members to the club. We wish them all a very warm Brent Valley welcome to them and we hope to see them all out on the course very soon.



COMPUTER SAYS... CUT!

Brent

Valley's handicap system has been fully computerised. From now on all scores recorded for handicap purposes will be entered into a R&A- approved computer programme and handicaps will be calculated automatically. The system will be web-based from 2010 so players will be able to check their handicap over the internet.



Autumn leaves: Jamie Lea tees off on the 1st during the President's Prize, admired by Mick Hynes and John McFall.

POETRY CORNER

Do you belong?

Are you an active member - the kind that would be missed?

Or are you quite content to have your name upon the list?

Do you attend the meetings and mingle with

the flock?

Or do you stay at home and then criticise and knock?

Why not try a meeting and see if you get a kick?

Don't leave the work to just a few and complain about a clique

There's quite a programme scheduled, that I know you've read about

And we would appreciate it if you tried to help us out

So come to the meetings often, and help with hand and heart

Don't just be a member - get in and do your part

Think this over, member, then come and join the throng

Are you an active member or do you just belong?

Poem suggested by Ray Black



IN MEMORIAM

All at Brent Valley Golf Club were very sad to learn of the sudden death on November 20 of Miklosz (Mick) Bodnar. A Memorial Service was held at London Crematorium on January 14 and was attended by 47 Club members, a mark of the great esteem and fondness in which we as held at the club. A sad day was cheered by the sharing of many memories of Mick and a heartfelt and moving eulogy by his good friend Eddie Bartok. A Brentside and Phoenix member, Mick was a dedicated member of the Club and he was passionate about his golf: just a few days before he passed away, from his hospital bed he had issued instructions to put his name down for the Brentside Christmas Scramble. He will be greatly missed.



Events Calendar



January	February	March	April
Sat/Sun 3/4: Ladies Winter Cup	Sun 1: Cremin 4	Sun 1: Cremin 6/ Ladies Winter Cup/ Phoenix	Wed 1: Seniors Medal
Wed 7: Seniors Medal	Wed 4: Seniors Medal	Wed 4: Seniors Medal	Sat 4: Brent Cup I, Summer Singles
Sun 11: Phoenix New Year's Scramble	Sat 7: Ladies Winter Cup	Sat 7: Mens Greensomes / Ladies Winter Cup	Sun 5: Brent Cup I, Summer Singles, Ladies MM, Phoenix
Wed 14: Seniors Stableford	Sun 8: Ladies Winter Cup/ Phoenix	Sun 8: Mens Greensomes / Ladies Winter Cup	Wed 8: Seniors Stableford
Thurs 15: Committee Meeting	Wed 11: Seniors Stableford	Wed 11: Seniors Stableford	Thur 9: Committee Meeting
Sat 17: Cremin 3	Thur 12: Committee Meeting	Thur 12: Committee Meeting	Wed 15: Seniors Bogey
Sun 18: Cremin 3/Brentside	Fri 13: Quiz Night	Fri 13: Quiz Night	Fri 17: Poker
Wed 21: Seniors Bogey	Sat 14: Cremin 5	Sun 15: St Patricks	Sun 19: St Georges
Fri 23: Poker	Sun 15: Cremin 5/ Ladies Valentines Cup/ Brentside AM-AM	Tues 17: St Patricks Day	Fri 24: Bingo
Sun 25: January Waltz (Mixed teams)	Wed 18: Seniors Bogey	Wed 18: Seniors Bogey	Sat 25: Summer 4 Ball Qual., Ladies Stableford
Wed 28: Seniors	Fri 20: Poker	Fri 20: Poker	Sun 26: Summer 4 Ball Q, Ladies Stbfd, Brentside
Fri 30: Bingo	Sat 21: Ladies Stableford, Annual Dinner Dance	Sat 21: Ladies Stableford	Wed 29: Seniors
Sat 31: Cremin 4	Sun 22: Ladies Stableford / Annual Dinner Dance	Sun 22: Ladies Stableford/ Cremin Final / Brentside	
	Wed 25: Seniors	Wed 25: Seniors	
	Fri 27: Bingo	Fri 27: Bingo	
	Sat 28: Cremin 6/ Ladies Winter Cup	Sun 29 St Davids	

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Club Captain, Jon Antunes: 07845 945255
 Clubhouse: 020 85674230
 Pro Shop (to book tee times): 020 85671287
 Competition Secretary, Larry Weill: 020 82483590
 Seniors, Rick Harvey: 020 89983816

Phoenix, Barry Barker: 020 85670024
 Brentside, Brian Keany: 020 85703770
 Club Secretary, Marge Griffin: 020 85678548
 Poker, Don Stewart: 07956 294324
 Bingo, Steve Cannon: 07731 520132
 Newsletter, Richard Gray: 07768 741321