



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

HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY BRENT VALLEY GOLF CLUB!

Part 2 of the historical centenary edition of the newsletter

2009 marks the 100th birthday of Brent Valley Golf Club. The club's year of establishment in 1909 is found in Nisbet's Golf Year Book for 1911 (see cutting below). At that time the membership is stated as 500 and the best amateur score on the course was 5 over the course par. The Club secretary of the time, George Chambers, comments that the club's aim is to "provide moderate golf at a moderate price". This tradition of non-elitist golf continues 100 years later at the club and is something Brent Valley can be rightly



proud of. Today, however, we allow ladies to play the course at the weekends, and the obligatory use of caddies on Sundays was relaxed some time ago!

The course has a proud heritage, having been designed by 5-times Open winner JH Taylor (pictured left on a cigarette card from the time), who was also the architect of Royal Birkdale.

With the support of its members, we look forward to the next 100 years of a great club!

BRENT VALLEY GOLF CLUB, HANWELL (MIDDLESEX). (Tel. No.—1287 P.O. Ealing.)

Just. 1909. Number of Members—500. Stations—Hanwell (G.W.R.), 5 minutes. Hon. Sec.—Geo. A. Chambers, 70, Lavington Road, Ealing. Entrance Fee—£1 1s. Subs.—£3 3s. Number of Holes—18. Pro.—C. Carr. Amateur Record—J. R. Murray, 77. Terms for Visitors—1s. per day, 2s. 6d. Saturdays and Sundays. Ladies may not play Saturdays or Sundays. Sunday play, with caddies.

"The course is on the short side, but it has plenty of variety, good use being made of the River Brent. The aim of the management to provide moderate golf at a moderate price has proved very popular."

GEO. H. CHAMBERS, Hon. Sec.



*No ladies at the weekends please -
and caddies required on a Sunday!*

BRENT VALLEY'S FOUNDING FATHER: ALBERT TOLEY

Albert Toley was Brent Valley Golf Club's founder and first President, in 1909. He moved to Hanwell in 1906 and lived in The Grove, which was located on the eastern side of Brent Valley Golf Course.

Albert was a public benefactor and a property entrepreneur. Born in 1855 in Devon, Toley came to London as a teacher at the United Westminster School near Victoria Station aged 17. In 1876 he took over the school's sports and found that the school lacked playing fields. He had the idea of renting land, in Willesden, for the school's games and sub-letting some of it to local sports clubs. Sensing demand from other clubs, he repeated the exercise with other land. So successful was the



venture that he gave up his teaching job and acquired other sites. At one point he was managing over 1,000 acres. One of the plots of land he acquired was later to become Brent Valley Golf Course, where he founded the club. Although he managed many other sites and founded other clubs, Brent Valley must have held a special place in his heart since he lived in The Grove, whose grounds were near, if not formed part of, the golf course, and he was the Club's first president. Local newspapers report him playing in matches for Brent Valley, alongside his son Frank, against other local clubs with a handicap of 9 at the age of 64. Albert Toley died on September 6, 1924.



In the 1800s the course was the grounds of an estate of a house called Hanwell Grove, comprising 29 acres of land in 1837. It is believed the course was built in 1909 when Albert Toley took it over and founded the club. It was designed by JH Taylor, a prolific course architect of the time and a 5-times Open winner (pictured above).

Brent Valley v. Ealing.

This return match was played at Brent Valley, resulting in a win for the home club by 221 points to 81. Details ---

Singles.

Brent Valley		Ealing	
B. Coleman (scr.)	0	J. B. S. Kellock (2)	0
W. H. Brackenbury (4)	0	J. R. Preston (4)	1
E. Clayton (7)	0	R. C. Leverett (7)	1
H. Read (10)	1	O. P. Wade (7)	1
E. Pritchard (6)	0	C. M. Balls (6)	0
W. H. Brown (7)	1	C. D. Crittall (8)	0
H. Richards (7)	1	L. H. Gilbert (8)	0
G. Collier (9)	1	H. S. Barnett (11)	0
J. Potts (10)	0	S. R. Hall (8)	1
C. Davey (12)	0	J. P. Willmott (11)	1
J. Warren (11)	1	W. H. Partridge (12)	0
F. Empringham (12)	1	W. H. Saunders (12)	0
H. Bain (14)	1	J. E. Kemp (11)	0
R. Jenkins (14)	1	A. H. D. Carpenter (14)	0
C. Henry (14)	0	L. Brown (14)	1
A. Jellis (14)	1	H. T. Hipwell (14)	0
C. C. Cook (18)	0	H. P. Rowles (16)	1
S. Pooley (18)	0	A. S. Clarke (17)	1
G. Poole (18)	1	F. W. Pullen (16)	0
F. Toley (8)	1	H. G. Partridge (9)	0
A. Toley (9)	1	T. H. Bull (8)	1
R. A. Williamson (5)	1	J. Brown (capt.) (10)	0
	124		81

A cutting from the Middlesex County Times of October 4, 1919, showing the results of a match between Brent Valley and Ealing. Albert Toley and his son Frank represented Brent Valley.

WHAT WAS THE COURSE LIKE IN 1909?

We have no records of what the course was like in 1909 but we have a good description in an article in the Middlesex County Times of August 16, 1919. The author, "Ionball", who is a "medium player" with a 10 handicap, describes each hole in the company of "Mr Scratch". Taking his mashie (wedge), brassy (2 wood) and baffy (4 wood), Ionball plays the course, giving tips on how to tackle each hole. He gives the par (or bogey) for all the holes and some yardages, and he also gives some clues that allow us to visualise where he is on the course as we know it today. When he says "we cross the lane to arrive at 15", we know he is on the



same

route that we take between the 16th and the 17th. And when he says "From the tee at No. 5 we have for the first time to clear the Brent..." we know we are at today's 7th. Today's 13th is also easy to spot when he says "The 9th hole is tricky, as all holes are that have a river a few yards from the tee".

From these and other clues it seems the course follows roughly the same pattern as it did up until 1966, when it was changed to today's layout. But some curiosities remain. The 4th hole is a short par

4 and Ionball comments "you cannot see the flag from the tee", while the 3rd hole is only 230 yards, which leads us to speculate that the tee box for the 4th might have been where the green of the 3rd is today. Another difference from the pre-1966 course

"Plentifully distributed in flickering light and shade are white clothed tea tables and easy wicker chairs..."

is that the 12th is described as "the prettiest hole, the church spire above the trees", and so sounds like today's 14th and 1966's 10th. But we have to wonder where the 10th was since it is only 210 yards and the tee box would have to be near the green of the 9th (today's 13th).

Although we can only guess at the total yardage of the course, we know the course par was 72, ie five strokes more than today and two more than 1966. The course then had four "bogey" 5s, some of them relatively short like the 2nd, but then players at that time had to contend with far more trees and, from the account given by Ionball, a lot more bunkers. All this without, of course, taking into account the hickory brassies and baffies!

Brent Valley Golf Course: Scorecard					
Hole	Yards	Boge	Hole	Yards	Boge
1	365 (e)	4	10	210	4
2	400 (e)	5	11	440 (e)	5
3	230	4	12	370 (e)	4
4	250 (e)	4	13	280	4
5	140	3	14	160	3
6	440 (e)	5	15	305	4
7	420 (e)	4	16	450	5
8	160 (e)	3	17	330 (e)	4
9	180 (e)	3	18	380 (e)	4
OUT		35	IN		37
			OUT		35
			TOTA		72

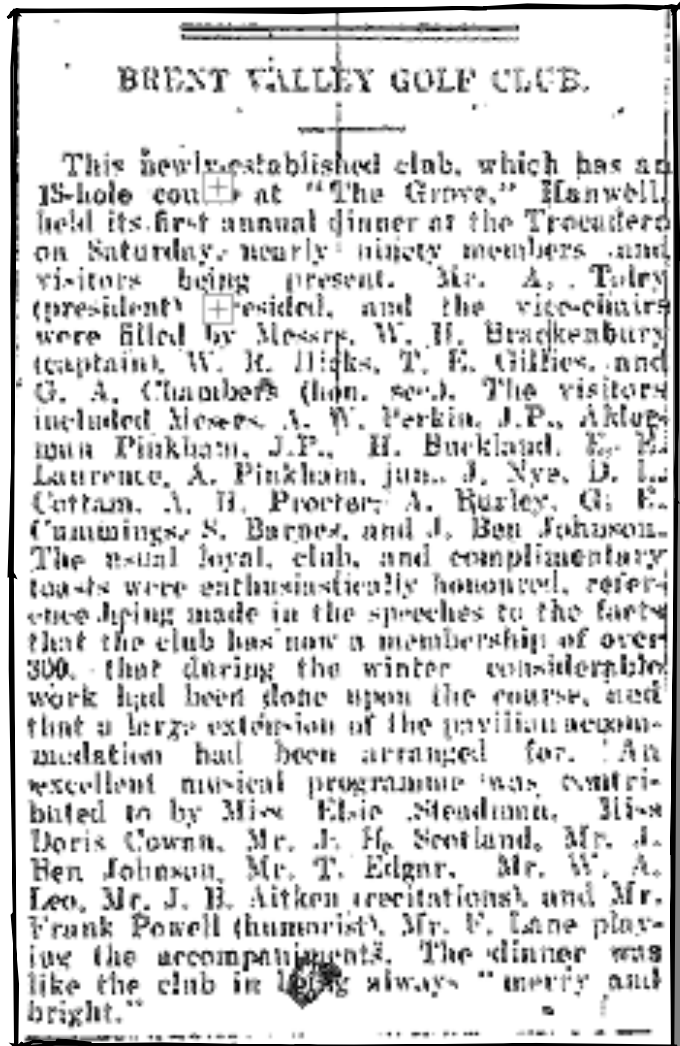
BRENT VALLEY IN THE 1910 NEWS

The cutting on the right is from the Middlesex and Hanwell Times of April 9, 1910. It records the club's first annual dinner on April 5 at the Trocodero in Hanwell. Attended by 90 members, the club is described as "newly established" (ie in 1909) and refers to work carried out on the course during the previous winter. The founder of the club, Albert Toley, was the club's president at that time and he hosted the dinner. There was a "musical programme",

recitations and a humourist. No mention of a raffle or 70s disco.

The article also mentions that membership at that time was over 300! Finally the club is described as "merry and bright". So at least that hasn't changed!

Throughout the 1910s, The Times carries regular reports of the club's competitions, events and matches against other local clubs (at that time mainly Acton, Hanger Hill and Ealing).

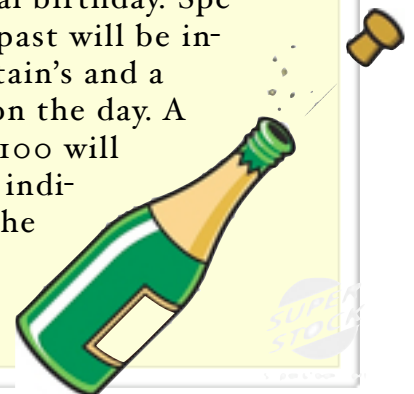


BVGC History in Brief

- 1900s: Course is designed by JH Taylor
- 1909: BVGC founded by Albert Toley.
- 1910: First annual dinner on April 5 at the Trocodero, Hanwell. Membership is over 300.
- 1911: Listed in Nisbet's Golf Year Book. Membership is 500.
- 1933: BVGC wins the Middlesex CGU Coronation Bowl in the second year it was played.
- 1938: Ealing Council acquires course and BVGC signs lease.
- 1939-45: 8th and 9th holes ploughed to aid war effort.
- 1966: The old clubhouse, the "Dublin House" demolished by the council and the present one built, and the course is remodeled to the present

SPECIAL CENTENARY COMPETITION!

To mark the Club's centenary, a special competition will be held on the afternoon of Saturday August 8, followed by a party in the evening. Members, past and present, will be invited to join us celebrate this special birthday. Special guests from the club's past will be invited and two teams, a captain's and a president's, will do battle on the day. A "centenary" cash prize of £100 will be up for grabs to the best individual stableford score of the day. See the clubhouse for more details and to sign up.



THE 2009 BRENT VALLEY ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

On Saturday February 23 Brent Valley Golf Club held its 2009 annual dinner dance, a tradition that started exactly 99 years earlier when the club held its first annual dinner at the Trocodero in Hanwell (see article on page 2). Attended by over 100 guests at the clubhouse of the West Middlesex Golf Club, the evening went with a swing and finished in the small hours.



In the Captain's speech, John Antunes hailed Sporting Lisbon's win over local rivals Benfica before turning to a sport closer to home in west London. Apologising in advance for his speech because, he said, his preparation had been interrupted by Frankie Burke calling him out to fix a forty-year old tap. John didn't seem to be short on content though as he then went on to tell the story of his introduction to golf following an England v Ireland v Rest of the World match and his friendship with Danny O'Neil. Very much accustomed now to public speaking, John rectified what was perhaps a small faux pas in a previous speech when he said becoming Brent Valley Captain had been the proudest moment in his life. It now ranked number 4 after his wedding day and the birth of his two daughters. The mic was eventually wrestled from him by Presi-

dent MJ Murphy who said grace so that everyone could get stuck into a delicious carvery meal.

Prizes donated by committee members for the raffle were distributed to winners - some people (eg Jim Chalmers) won more than one prize, while some tables (eg Josie Keanan's) seemed to wait forever before a prize came their way. Various football themed prizes were on offer before the draw began. The deluxe set of Luton Town golfing accessories was of course one of the first prizes to go. A signed Brentford shirt was one of the last to be taken up, soon after the M&S shortbread selection. Fortunately there was no Barnet FC merchandise on offer.

As the music began, guests jitterbugged to the sounds of the 50s, jived to some 60s blasts from the past and grooved their way through some 70s disco classics. The 80s didn't figure in any of the guests' dancing repertoires.

Profits from the evening went to the Captain's charity, the Alzheimer's Society.

For more photos of the event, see the yellow club photo album in the club house.



ST PATRICK'S

The first Major of the season, the 2009 St Patricks was played on March 15th on a beautiful spring day from the grass tees for the first time this year. With a large field of 60 men and 11 ladies, extra tee times had to be found at the last minute.



Green was the colour of choice for many players but the luck of the Irish was out on the day as a Portuguese took the ladies prize and an Englishman (with Irish roots) took the men's prize. Teresa Machado won her first club competition as she took the ladies prize with a net 71. Brian Lennox, a winner of many previous majors, took the men's prize with a net 63. The men's scratch prize was won by Philip Christides with 70.



Top: Teresa Machado with the Ladies St Patricks Prize; Left: Mens Captain John Antunes presents Brian Lennox with the Mens' St Patricks Trophy; Below: Paul Shanahan , who was 4th, tees off on the 1st.

ST PATRICK'S RESULTS

Mens Prize

1st: Brian Lennox 63
2nd: Jamie Lea 64
3rd: Ken Curtis 65
4th: Paul Shanahan 68

Ladies Prize

1st: Teresa Machado, 71
2nd: Theresa Brennan, 73
3rd: Veronica Collins, 73

Mens Scratch Prize

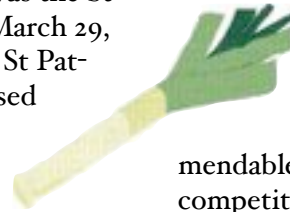
Philip Christides, 70



ST DAVID'S



The majors were coming thick and fast during March and the second of the year was the St David's, played on March 29, two weeks after the St Patrick's. We were blessed with another bright and dry day as a field of 53 in the mens competition and 11 in the women's battled it out for the St David's Prize.



The mens's prize was won by Joe Gallagher (pictured below

left), who was streets ahead of the rest of the field with an excellent net 59. The ladies prize went to Theresa Brennan with a very commendable net 70. The scratch competition was won by Andrew Lea with a gross 70. Club captain Jon Antunes presented the prizes from newly computerised read-outs provided by handicap secretary Kathy Maloney. Josie served up a particularly delicious lamb roast (was it Welsh?).



WINTER FOURBALL

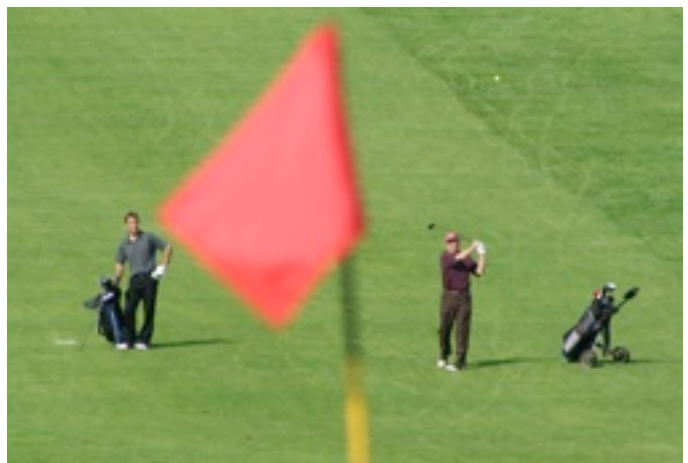
Always a hard fought and popular competition, the 2009 winter fourball was won by newly crowned Cremin champion Jamie Lea, in partnership with Mick Hynes. Commenting on the pair's victory, Mick said about his partner, "I carried him basically".

BRENT CUP 1 April 4, CSS = 67.

- 1st: 83-20 = 63 Steve Cannon
- 2nd: 93-27 = 66 Geoff Rayner
- 3rd: 98-27 = 66 Geoff Quantock

THE CREMIN FINAL

Squeezed between two majors, the Cremin Final was played on Sunday March 22. The sixteen players with the most Stableford points from the six Cremin competitions played during the course of the winter were drawn in four four-balls. Congratulations to the winner, Jamie Lea, who shot an impressive 42 points, an excellent score when playing off a handicap of 4. Jamie beat Kevin Keenan into second place on the back nine, while Philip Christides was close behind in third place with 41 points.

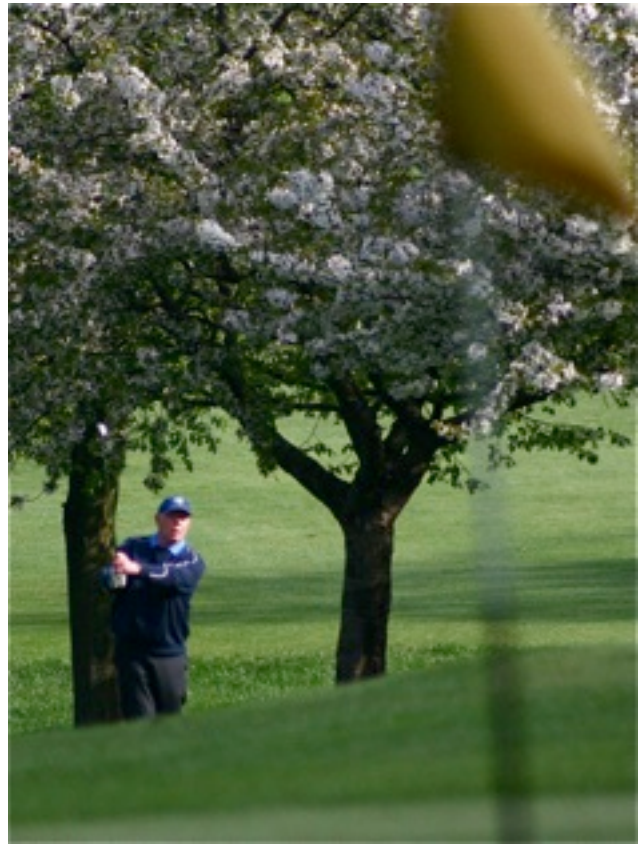


SENIORS

The season is now well under way. Congratulations to Wednesday Senior Ken Elstone who won the R&R Challenge at Aldenham, putting paid to his Captain's chance of a hat-trick of wins!

We had our first official seniors away day of the year at Wexham on April 22. A big thank-you to the forty players who came, especially nice to have our Lady Captain, Helen Weill, past Lady President, Theresa Brennan, past Captain and Lady Captain, Ken and Mary Curtis and our present President and his Lady, MJ and Barbara Murphy. The weather on the day was fantastic: well done to our handicap secretary Kathy Maloney who took the ladies prize. Well done to Ken Curtis, who took the guest prize. A tremendous performance from Cliff Folland who took the 70+ prize and a huge shock when the overall winners prize went to Seniors Captain Rick Harvey!

The past three months have been dominated by the untimely death of Terry Strettle. Terry, a former Captain of Brent Valley Seniors and Vice-Captain for the past two years will be sorely missed; an incredibly generous and much loved member of Wednesday seniors. A Memorial Seniors Open will be played on May 20 and we hope to see as many seniors take part as possible (see Rick or Alan Neil for information).



BRENTSIDE

JANUARY OUTING

1st Jamie Lea, points, 41 points
2nd Peter Hyde, 39 points;
3rd Andrew Lea, 36 points.
Guest winner: Philip Christides, 43 points

FEBRUARY OUTING

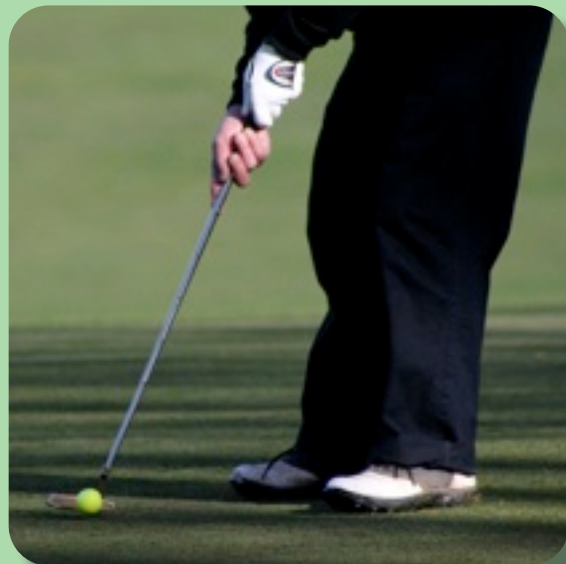
(Invitation AM-AM)

Winning team:

Matt Carthy, Bill Kearney, Noel Rutherford,
Joe Gallagher.

MARCH OUTING

1st Mick O'Conner, 40 points
2nd Matty Carthy, 39 points
3rd Kevin Keenan, 39 points
Guest winner: Philip Christides, 41 points



Kevin "yellow balls" Keenan shows off his smooth putting style in the Brentside

BV RESULTS AND HANDICAPS NOW ONLINE

Brent Valley members can now check their competition scores and handicaps online. By logging on to www.howdido.co.uk players can see results from all official competitions and see changes in their handicaps.

Other features of the website include:

- Hole-by-hole records of all your rounds can be entered (by the handicap secretary or by you)
- You can enter the details of other courses and enter your scores on those courses.

•Text or email alerts with information about competitions and handicaps changes.

Players can sign up for a trial period and then an annual subscription costs £15. While you will be bang up to date with changes to your handicap with this new system, unfortunately there is no function for lodging a complaint if you disagree with the handicap secretary's decision!



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BRENT VALLEY GOLF CLUB

My Clubs > BRENT VALLEY GOLF CLUB > Competition Results > ST.DAVIDS > Reductions Only > CSS:66 > Division 1

Player	Score	New Exact Handicap	Con
Joe Gallagher	84 - 25 = 59	21.8	
Calum Weill	77 - 13 = 64	12.4	
Richard Gray	81 - 16 = 65	15.9	
Andrew Lea	70 - 4 = 66	3.7	Low
Michael J Murphy	85 - 18 = 67	17.9	
Mick McSwiggan	80 - 13 = 67	12.5	
Rick Harvey	81 - 13 = 68	12.7	
Martin Brennan	77 - 9 = 68	8.7	
David Jacks	90 - 21 = 69	21.0	

Details
Handicap List
Fixtures
Competition Results
Division 1
Course Analysis
Ladies' Section

Select a Course Home Club / BRENT VALLEY

Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Par	4	4	4	3	4	4	3	4	4
Analysis	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Eagles or Better	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Birdies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pars	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	2	1
Bogies	2	1	1	0	1	2	1	0	1
Double Bogies or Worse	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0

The screenshot above shows the results from the recent St Davids. On the left, the hole-by-hole record of the editor's rounds to date. The address to sign up for a trial is www.howdido.co.uk.

“LUCKY” JIM WINS SECOND JACKPOT

More than a few eye brows were raised in the clubhouse on Sunday March 29 when Jim “Lucky” Chalmers won his second take-your-pick jackpot in only a few weeks, this time scooping £800. In fact, this was the fifth time Jim's number had come up! There were calls for the tombolo to be serviced, as



Jim generously put part of his prize behind the bar. He donated part of his previous prize towards a new television for the clubhouse. Jim, pictured left emerging from London hot spot “Ruffles” in the early hours of last Saturday, was unavailable for comment on the secret of his success but was last seen at Heathrow booking two 1st-class tickets to Rio de Janeiro.

LADIES SECTION

Current news from the ladies is that on Saturday 11th April Brent Valley Ladies beat Basildon ladies 3:2 in the first round of the NAPGC White Webbs match play competition. Whilst this was a great result we were not sure we had a full team of five until the evening before. Hence a big thanks to Kathy, Annette, Sheila and Marion, myself being the fifth member. No news yet as to who we will play next, but it will be an away match.

To cap this, the following weekend saw the Hawtree team (mixed matchplay), beat Richmond 5:0, again the next round will be an away match either in Kent or Essex. Thanks to all who played – Kathy & Andrew, Annette & Grahame, Sheila & Wayne, Veronica & Joe and Jamie & myself.

Our current numbers within the ladies section is at an all time low, so if anyone out there knows any ladies wanting to play golf please let them know about Brent Valley. Whilst the low numbers are disappointing, so far this year with 3 Saints played

we have seen 3 different winners and cover a range of handicaps, and should encourage all as everyone has a chance to win. In the meantime well done Teresa Machado and Teresa Brennan winners of the St Patricks and David's respectively. The third being myself and the St Georges.

Prior to all the above taking place we received the sad news that Kathy Tracy had died. Whilst she had not played the game for a year, prior to that she had been a very keen member of the club and was willing and wanting to play golf at any opportunity and at any course. For me I will always remember her for a popular request she often made "Is that a mixed competition"? Plus the fact you could never rush her at any point she always did everything in her own time, but she was never late.

On a lighter note, can all ladies ensure they have their names down for the St Andrew's being played on Sunday 17th May, and lets have a fourth winner.

Helen Weill – Lady Captain

NEW BRENT VALLEY MEMBERS

Brent Valley welcomes new members Ray Morgan and Tom Watkins (pictured below at the recent R&R Challenge in Aldenham); David Jacks (pictured right) and Steve Hynnes (pictured below) . Ray and Tom are been playing on the Brent



Valley golf course for many years - and we're very glad they finally decided to come upstairs. All four have been very active in the Club's many competitions - David and Steve have even come very close to winning some majors recently.



SOCIAL SCENE

One of the club's poker experts, Philip Christides, went away with a cash prize of £140 as he held his nerve to win the second poker evening of the year. In second place was relative newcomer, Graham Tollitt. Another of the club's poker whizzes, Alan "Poker Face" Neil, won the March prize and very nearly scooped the April prize, but was just eased into second place by social member David Daley.

Hosting the poker evenings, Don Stewart, has created a very friendly atmosphere for experts and beginners alike, where no-one has to worry about losing their shirts since the your loss is limited to £30 - and



that's even if you buy in twice. Even some women are joining the evenings!

Usually on the 3rd Friday of every month, look out for confirmation of dates in the club house. The most popular version of the game, Texas Hold 'Em, is played and beginners are very welcome to come along and just observe before taking the plunge. Don also offers very reasonable coaching services, though judging from the results obtained with John Antunes recently, you may want to give that careful consideration!

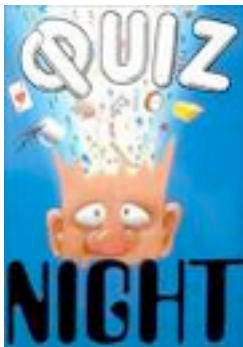
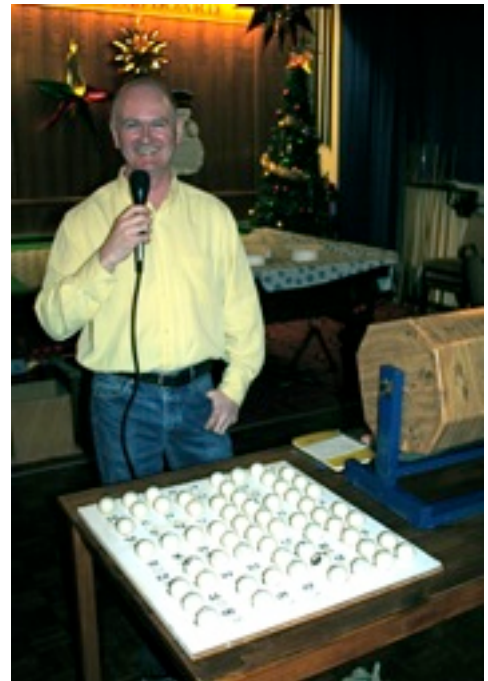
With a cut of each evening's takings going to the club, the evenings have raised over £100 for the club so far this year.



Hosted by Steve "Cannonball" Cannon (pictured right) every 4th Friday night at the club house (check Events

Calendar on back page for exact dates).

New member Tom Watkins scooped the rollover jackpot on Friday January 30.



A special "Millionaire" quiz was held on February 13, with Barry and Sarah Barker setting the questions. Top prize was won by Steve Cannon's team, which enjoyed the benefit of the combined brainpower of his close family, a number of other friends and more distant relatives and their friends. An excellent evening was enjoyed by all who attended, with a delicious Thai curry served in the interval. Watch out for future Quiz Nights at the club, usually every 2nd Friday in the month.

NEW PHOTO SERVICE FOR CLUB MEMBERS!

All the photos in this newsletter, and many more besides, are now available to members to buy. A full selection of photos of all the club's major events, social and golfing, will be on view in a folder in the club house. Copies are available on paper or in electronic form (see folder for details). All proceeds go to the club!





Events Calendar

April	May	June	July
Sat/Sun 4/5: Brent Cup I, Summer Singles, Ladies MM, Phoenix	Sat/Sun 2/3: Brent Cup 2, Ladies Spring Cup, Phoenix	Wed 3: Seniors Medal, Ladies MM	Wed 1: Seniors Medal
Wed 8: Seniors Medal	Wed 6: Seniors Medal	Fri 5: Friday Night Challenge (golf in the long spring evenings)	Fri 3: Friday Night Challenge (golf in the long Spring evenings)
Wed 14: Seniors Bogey	Sat/Sun 9/10: Jimmy Cup, Ladies MM, Brentside	Sat/Sun 6/7: Ladies Spring Cup, Brentside	Sat/Sun 4/5: Brent Cup 4, Ladies MM, Phoenix
Fri 13: Quiz Night	Wed 13: Seniors Stableford	Wed 10: Seniors Stableford	Wed 8: Seniors Stableford
Sun 19: St Georges	Sun 17: St Andrews (Major)	Sat/Sun 13/14: Brent Cup 3, Ladies Midsummer Salver, Phoenix	Sat 11: Lady Captain's Day
Fri 24: Poker	Wed 20: Seniors Open	Wed 17: Seniors Bogey	Sun 12: Pat McGlew Trophy
Sat/Sun 25/26: Summer Four Ball, Ladies Stableford, Brentside	Fri 22: Poker	Fri 19: Friday Night Challenge	Wed 15: Seniors Bogey
Wed 29: Seniors	Wed 27: Seniors	Sat 20: Fun Day, Ladies Stableford	Fri 17: Friday Night Challenge
	Fri 29: Bingo	Sun 21: Ladies Stableford, AM-AM	Sat/Sun 18/19: Club Championships
	Sun 31: John Rushe Mem'l New Members' Cup	Wed 24: Seniors	Wed 22: Seniors
		Sat/Sun 27:28: Captain's Day	Sat 25: Ladies Stableford
			Sun 26: Ladies Stableford, Brentside