

Highs and Lows:

The 2017 season teed off with a windy day followed by a wet Wednesday. Sadly, 2017 has seen us suffer at least 5 wet afternoons with 3 consecutive ones in late July and August. In past years, there was possibly one wet afternoon every other year. That said, we nearly had 90 players in late May (87 in fact) and thankfully the Rangers ensured that we have been able to start early which greatly relieved the wait and the late games. Indeed on the 87 evening, the prizes etc. were all done by 9:15pm! and on nearly every other week we were done by 9:30pm.

Facebook, we've published weekly photos of the winners (individual, team and nearest the pin). While we cannot see who has viewed these postings, we are aware that most weeks nearly 300 people see the announcement and a couple of times we've reached nearly 400! Every week we send the Facebook communication wording to the JEP and we have seen our results published a few times.

As always, the website has recorded all of our efforts and we hope that you have had a chance to see what we've produced. The main thing is that it answers any potential criticisms that we hear. For instance, too many Social, Junior or Category 1 players. The answer; there's been no significant change since we started recording this information in 2011. The big difference as to the numbers is the Category 3 players of the club. These have doubled in the 6 years.

Last year we replaced the glass decanters and mugs with Pro Shop merchandise on the final evening. We believe this was a very positively accepted and this year we've also added two trophies to go with the existing ones. Until now, the Combined Prize for the person winning the most points was recognized by a very nice pair of mounted silver candle sticks (very kindly donated several years ago by Terry Ruane). The Nett Eclectic was also recognized by a silver salver. We now have an Individual trophy, the GALLICHAN PROPELLER being a mounted boat propeller recognizing the efforts that Bob Gallichan put in for the years 2005 – 2015 when he ran the League. In addition, we have created a Team Trophy, the THREE BUDDHAS, recognizing the teams of 3 that play each week. We therefore have a trophy to go with the Pro Shop merchandise for all the major League season prizes.

Fortuitously, 2017 has ended up with 15 weeks, rather than the usual 14, with the final event – the Texas Scramble being played on a Saturday afternoon with the dinner to follow in the evening. While it is great that we have had an opportunity to hold a Saturday competition, it has been expressed by a number of members that it was a shame the season could not have concluded with the Texas in August. In future years we will endeavor to finish with the Texas in August. We will also be enquiring about the possibility of holding a 3 club competition in 2018, subject to the consent of the club's Management Committee.

Numbers: This year saw 158 players (157) play 854 rounds of golf (910). While the players are up, the wet afternoons certainly curbed numbers. In past years we have been pushing an average of 70 players every week, this year it was 57. As mentioned above, the early part of the season saw some great attendance but the rain has had an affect. That said, one miserably wet afternoon had 17 players try and play. Thankfully that afternoon was also non-qualifying, something we saw twice this year but not before.

40 club: 15 players (19 in 2016, 26 in 2015) made it into the 40 club with only two players achieving it twice (Chris Cole and the junior, Tommy Jewell).

Vouchers: we gave out vouchers to 34 people this year. The lucky recipient of FIVE was Chris Cole, which equated to £160 (Professional, yet?). Most years, 3 is enough, hard luck this year to Casper Perry (£90) and Paul Le Marquand (£70). We should also note that Tommy Jewell (Junior) won a place 3 times. Two vouchers, five individuals: Simon Barrett (£50), Paul Devitt (£80), John Lloyd (£80), Kevin Mundy (£50) and Julian Roffe (£65). Finally, we had another 26 players pick up a prize and one other junior had a mention.

Team (& NTP) balls: 67 people won a sleeve or more of CBRE balls with three players picking up 6, well done Tony Burt, Peter Lewin and Kevin Mundy. 5 sleeves were won by two, Rupert C-L and Jimmy Hughes. Finally 5 players picked up 4 sleeves and 6 had 3 sleeves. That leaves another 48 players who received at least one set of ProVIs.

Holes in one: NONE! The last one was in week 1, 2015 (Barry Phillips on the 8th) so we've now had 12,875 opportunities to no avail.

Honours board: 2 eagles (4 in 2016), well done Tony Burt, one on the 1st (wk11) and the other on the 18th (wk13).

Birdie2s: this year saw 71 (83) players get 143 (136) B2s (2015: 75 / 145). Two won 6 (Tony Burt and Chris Cole), 5 won 5 sleeves (Peter Lewin, Tom Mee, Aston Goode – 3 on one night, and Piero Macaione). 4 sleeves were won by 4 (Mike Labey, Casper Perry, Bob Bowden and John Turner). (Sadly 5 individuals were not able to stay for dinner to collect their balls over the season.)

Nearest the Pin: 14 different winners over the 15 weeks with one person achieving it twice (well done Peter Lewin). Closest: there were two at or very near 50cm. Wally, 50 cm, and he didn't get the birdie but Mike Labey at 52cm did. The averages over the season: handicap 13 and distance 2 metres (last year h/c 13 and distance 226cm).

Bingo: 45 players won this year with 2 people winning 4 times (Wayne Gallichan and Geoff Coppock), 2 people winning 3 times, 6 with 2 sleeves and the rest getting one sleeve. Thankfully for all of his efforts, Bob Denison won a sleeve on the last draw of the season. Thanks Bob, well deserved.

Fun: we've had two evenings where we've had a specific dress code. Firstly, on the longest day in the year, we celebrated with a "loud shirt" evening. Yes, it was very colourful and the club's bar staff couldn't separate two so we had an equal first (Mick Le Signe and Trevor Ray). For the final evening, week 15, we celebrated wearing smart casual (including denim – "what, you say!").

Of note: two events which were surprising as everyone in the team of three managed a birdie on a particular hole. Firstly, week 11 on the 4th hole: Chris Cole, Stuart Hamilton and Mike Russell, and secondly, week 5 on the 18th hole: Bob Bowden, Peter Lewin and Matthew Sutton. Well done, guys.

Sponsorship:

Thank you to CBRE [and Jon Carter] for their support this year and we look forward to the remaining year to come in 2018.

Matches:

Ladies: well it had to happen and on their 8th attempt, they won. Yes, it was great fun but we were a few times nearly 100 yards behind them teeing off. We'll need to agree tee positions next year.

Juniors: date set for Sunday 22nd October. Names please, probably need 14 players. (Report to follow.)

League Prizes:

As with last year we've changed from giving out glass decanters and wine to offering golf related prizes that can be exchanged, if need be, in the Pro Shop (thanks to Aaron and James for their help). [* below denotes a Pro shop prize] In addition, and as in the past, no one can win two Pro shop prizes.

Combined (the "Candle Sticks"):

1st: Chris Cole with 65 points (36 Individual [1st], 28 Team [7th]) *

Individual (the "Gallichan Propeller"):

1st: Chris Cole with 36 points

2nd: Casper Perry with 30 points *

3rd: Julian Roffe with 29 points but 31 points over 9 rounds *

4th: Paul Devitt also with 29 points but 30 points over 9 rounds *

Team (the "Three Buddhas"):

1st: Rupert Cuddon-Large with 36 points *

2nd: Kevin Mundy with 33 points *

3rd =: Jimmy Hughes and Tony Burt both with 32 points (who couldn't be separated) *

Eclectic NETT (the "Silver Salver"):

Rupert Cuddon-Large – well done with a net 48 although we should mention Tommy Jewell (Junior) who made 46 off a cascading handicap (started with 21 and finished with 15).

Effort:

Charles Canham – 8 rounds, 7 points. Thanks for playing, better luck next year.

The TEETH:

This individual puts a lot of effort into the Spring Tour and therefore speaks a LOT. "I just like to give you a head's up", it's Bob Bowden.

The ALTHAM / MCGLYNN:

Sam Quail, Junior. Rain is threatened so Sam arrives to play well prepared. Yes, the forecast was correct and it starts raining, and we mean raining. Sam puts on his only extra clothing item, a golf hat. This completes his attire, shorts, golf shirt and cap. Everyone else fully dressed in waterproof suits for the rest of the afternoon. Now, for dinner, his change of clothes – none, "I'll dry out upstairs".

Texas:

12 teams (previous years 21+) battled it out this year where the wind blew (force 5 [at least]) and the game stopped for 15 mins as a rather nasty hail storm came through. That said it was sunny most of the time. While the numbers were down on previous years, everyone enjoyed the competition and wished it was played more often.

The winners were:

- 1st : Reuben Legge, Derren Le Glover Breton, Paul King and Mick Le Signe; 5 birdies; net: 58.50
- 2nd : Trevor Gray, Dennis Le Couillard, John Turner, Peter Williams; 7 birdies, 1 bogey; net 59.125
- 3rd : Ian Brandon, Rupert Cuddon-Large, Steve Morgan, Richard Madison; 4 birdies, 2 bogies; net: 59.50

2018:

So that concludes 2017.

There's now another 37 weeks until we start again which will be on the 9th May, 2018.

Any ideas to make this more fun, please let us know. Otherwise, good night and see you all again soon.

Chris & John

9th September 2017

