

BRENT VALLEY GOLF CLUB NEWSLETTER



AUTUMN 2009

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

BRENT VALLEY CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS GO OFF WITH A BANG!



Brent Valley's centenary celebrations went off with a bang on the weekend of August 8-9. Saturday's events were opened by the Mayor of Ealing and rounded off by a spectacular firework display organised by Tom Murray and Jamie Lea. The highlight of Sunday's competition was the equalling of the course record by Andrew Lea.

Pictured above before the official tee-off on Saturday August 8 are (left to right) Ken Jay (BV Captain 1985), John Antunes (Captain 2009), Denis Burke (President 1993-95, Captain 1984), Mayor of Ealing Mayor, Barbara Yerolemou, MJ Murphy (President 2009) and Mayor Consort Tony Yerolemou. More on inside pages.

CENTENARYTEE-OFF BY THE EALING MAYOR

Air Shot! When invited to be Brent Valley's guest of honour at our Centenary celebrations, Ealing Mayor, Councillor Barbara Yerolemou, showed great enthusiasm for the official tee-off. Since the course's public ownership was marked by a similar tee-off by the then Mayor in 1938 (see photo right), Councillor Yerolemou perhaps felt part of a continuing history. Unfortunately, as the photo above shows, her enthusiasm was not matched by her golfing skill. Public ownership of the course



does not permit the Mayor to endanger the lives of the public so several golfers were warned to stand clear before the tee-off. And, after a couple of tries, and with the expert tuition of club President, MJ Murphy, the club finally connected with the ball, which projected in a forwards motion and the official tee-off was consummated. The Mayor's Consort, Tony Yerolemou, evidenced more experienced skills, honed, so he informed us over tea afterwards, on the golf courses of his native Cyprus.

Photo bottom right: President Murphy gives Madam Mayor a free lesson with the aim of eventually getting the ball into the air. His expert tuition succeeded in the end.



CENTENARY PRIZE • 9/8/09

		Gros	H'ca	Net
ıst	Andrew Lea	62	3	59
2n	Ray Cryan	70	IO	61
3rd	Mick McSwig-	72	11	61
4th	J. McGonagle	76	II	65
5th	Ray Bonner	82	17	65

CSS: 63; Non-qualifier; 3/4 of club handicap used.



CENTENARY: COURSE RECORD EQUALLED!

The Club's 100th birthday celebrations were capped by a superb golfing achievement: Andrew Lea shot a gross 62 to win the Centenary Prize and equal the Brent Valley course record. With 2 eagles, 1 birdie, 15 pars and no bogies, Andrew came in 5 under the course par, equalling club pro, Victor Santos's, record, which was set in 1999. Playing off a handicap of 3, his net score was 59, finishing 2 strokes clear of second place Ray Cryan, to take the Centenary Trophy and a symbolic cash prize of £100. Unlike the other majors,

which are annual, Andrew gets to retain his title as Centenary Champion for the next 100 years. See the notice board to sign up for the 2109 event. Pictured below left: a smiling Andrew with the Centenary Prize, presented by Captain John Antunes, along with an excellent bottle of the Captain's favourite Portuguese wine. Below right: Andrew Lea's record-setting Centenary-Winning score card.







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BRENTVALLEY CENTENARY IN THE LOCAL PRESS

The Ealing Gazette recorded the Club's Centenary celebrations by publishing two articles, one (on the right) in the sports pages of its edition of July 31, and the

other (below) on August 14. The newspaper's professional photographer even succeeded in capturing the Mayor's ball in flight!



CENTENARY ATTRACTS OLD BRENT VALLEY MEMBERS FROM FAR AND WIDE

As an event to celebrate the Club's last 100 years, the weekend's competitions were open to both ex-members and current members. Some old friends of the club travelled many miles to take part in competitions on both days of the weekend. On the Saturday a Cap-



tain's Team competed against a President's Team, followed by a buffet dinner and a fireworks display. The Sunday saw the serious business of the Centenary Prize, a medal competition with three quarters handicap. Various ex-members figured on the final leaderboard. The Club was pleased to see the return of two of its Captains, Dave Penn (pictured left) and Ray Bonner.



COURSE MANAGEMENT NOW IN PRIVATE HANDS

Last December, Ealing Council decided to put the management of its three public golf courses (Brent Valley, Perivale and Horsenden Hill) into private hands. In May the Council appointed My Time Active as the successful bidder and awarded a contract effective from September 1.

According to published Council documents, My Time Active intends to invest an initial sum of around £421,000 in the 3 courses to improve facilities. Brent Valley Golf Club's lease on the clubhouse is unaffected by this change and so any changes that My Time Active wishes to make to the clubhouse will have to be with the Club's agreement.

The terms of the management lease ensure that the Club will retain its preferred tee times. Furthermore, the Golf Club is the new operator's largest client and so it will naturally want

to develop a positive relationship with the Club. The Club's Committee has appointed a sub-committee to liaise with My Time Active and various meetings have already taken place. The Committee's aim at all times will be safeguard members' interests and to ensure a positive future for the Club.

With new investment coming into the course and, most probably, into the clubhouse, the Club looks forward to some major improvements to members' golfing experience. Work has already started to achieve the operator's immediate priorities of improving the condi-

tion of greens, tees, bunkers and the semi-rough. Other plans include a Junior Academy at Perivale in conjunction with Active Ealing and local schools, which would feed a junior section at Brent Valley. The improvements in the quality of green-keeping since September I have already been appreciated by many members.

The Roundhouse is also now under the management of My Time Active and is expected to be incorporated into the clubhouse facilities, with plans for a single catering facility serving the whole building. Other changes to the building will include the removal of the black iron bar barrier. Designs for the complete restructuring of the building will be submit-

ted soon and discussed with the Club and are likely to be implemented over the next two years.

Brent Valley members were informed of these changes and will continue to be fully informed as the situation develops.



CHRISTMAS IS COMING

The fun doesn't stop for Christmas at Brent Valley. Our Christmas lunch is on Sun Dec 6, a special Christmas quiz on Fri Dec 11 and many other golfing events over the period (see Events Calendar on next page)

BRENT VALLEY GOLF COURSE'S NEW MANAGEMENT:

mytimeactive

Ealing Council recently nominated Mytime Active as the new managers of Brent Valley Golf Course. So, who are Mytime Active? They are a charitable company based in Bromley, who manage sports centres, swimming pools, gyms, tennis centres and, more recently, golf courses. Mytime Active's strapline on their website is "encourage an active life style". Their stated corporate aim is:

"...to improve the quality of people's lives and their well-being by delivering sports, physical activity, health, arts, play and other cultural services that are widely regarded to be top quality, reliable, accessible and customer focused."

- Founded in 2003
- Manages around 8 sports centres and 3 golf courses
- Based in Bromley. Most of the charity's work is with the London Borough of Bromley.
- Registered charity no. 1102460
- Income in 2008: £15.4m
- Profit in 2008: £0.76m.
- Employ around 700 people, mainly in Bromley leisure centres
- Administered by 12 unpaid trustees who meet quarterly. The charity is managed by a team of 3-5 paid executives.



Above: screenshot from Mytime Active's website. Sources: Mytime Active website, Companies House (2008 annual accounts).

COMPETITION RESULTS

PRESIDENT'S PRIZE • 13/9/09

		Gross	Net
ıst	David Jacks	81	61
2nd	Andrew Lea	65	62
3rd	Oscar Brown	71	62
4th	Phillip Christides	68	63
5th	Jeff Thompson	82	64

PRESIDENT'S PRIZE • 12/9/09

		Gross	Net
ıst	Philip Christides	67	62
2nd	Adellino Rocha	77	63
3rd	Keith Lea	86	63
4th	David Jacks	83	63
5th	Ron Dyer	71	63



PAT MCGLEW COMP • 12/7/09

		Points
ıst	Andrew Lea	41
2nd	Bill Mulvanney	39
3rd	Geoff Raynor	38
4th	John Antunes	38



CAPTAIN'S PRIZE • 20/6/09

		Points
ıst	Steve Cannon	44
2nd	Frank Deeley	41
3rd	Ken Curtis	41
4th	Ray Black	41
5th	Jack Farrugia	40

CAPTAIN'S PRIZE • 21/6/09

		Points
ıst	Geoff Raynor	41
2nd	Ray Black	41
3rd	Calum Weill	39
4th	John Hunter	38
5th	Ray Cryan	38

David Jacks (pictured above left) produced the best combined Saturday and Sunday score (61+63=123) to win the 2009 President's Prize. In second place with a combined score of 125 was Phillip Christides (above right), who won the Saturday prize.

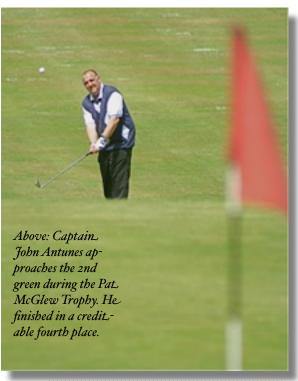
CREMIN 1 • 18/10/09			
		Net	
ıst	Mick McSwiggan	64	
2nd	Ray Cryan	66	
3rd	Joe Hovarth	66	
4th	Andrew Lea	67	
5th	Phillip Christides	67	
CSS: 66			





Top Left: Steve Hynes, 3rd in. Brent Cup 5. Left: Barrie Barker celebrates winning Brent Cup 6





BRENT CUP 4 • 5/7/09

		Net
ıst	Joe Hovarth	61
2nd	Keith Hall	62
3rd	Kevin Keenan	63
4th	Andrew Lea	65
5th	Frank Scanlon	65

BRENT CUP 5 • 1-2/8/09

		Net
ıst	Geoff Quantock	62
2nd	Noel Rutherford	63
3rd	Steve Hynes	63
4th	Andrew Lea	63
5th	Phillip Christides	64

BRENT CUP 6 • 5/9/09

		Net
ıst	Barrie Barker	64
2nd	Colm Gough	65
3rd	Jamie Lea	66
4th	Graham Tollit	66
5th	Sean Diggins	66

i.....i

LADIES SECTION

LADIES RESULTS (WINNERS):

Club Championship: Helen Weill August Medal: Mary Curtis

September Medal: Kathleen Maloney Presidents: Annette Dillon (below)

Autumn Cup: Helen Weill

September Stableford: Barbara Murphy Midsummer Salver: Teresa Brennan October Stableford: Helen Weill Centenary Prize: Mary Curtis



JOSIE RUNS 10 MILES FOR CHARITY!

Huge congratulations go out to Josie Keenan, the Club's cook and long-time loyal servant, for a magnificent achievement in raising

£1,082 for Meadow House Hospice Primary Care Trust. She raised the money by completing a 10-mile run last June! Yes, you read right, 10 MILES!! The Hospice provides specialist palliative care in west London. Josie wishes to

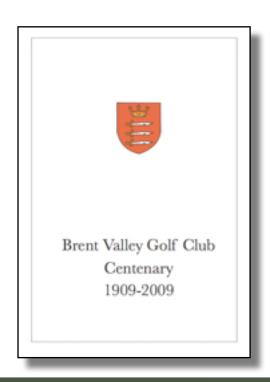
thank all those club members who lent their



support, both financial and moral, to her fund-raising efforts.

BRENT VALLEY CENTENARY BOOKLET

To mark the Club's Centenary the Newsletter editor, Richard Gray, has produced a 40-page booklet, featuring a history of the course and the club. Packed with historical photos (dating from the 30s), more recent photos of members and events in the 70s and 80s and a unique hole-byhole commentary of the course by club pro, Victor Santos. The definitive historical account of BVGC's history brings together information from sources as diverse as the British Library, Ealing Public Library, the British Newspaper Library and Billy Kearney's brain. The booklet was printed as a limited edition but some copies remain and are available for purchase at the bar for only £5 each (all proceeds go to the club). The ideal Christmas gift for all Brent Valley golf lovers! Copies may be signed by the author in exchange for a pint of beer.



BRENTSIDE

Going into the final Brentside outing of the year in November, Mick McSwiggan led the Order of Merit by 4 points on 38 points but due to personal commitments was unable to play. However none of the four nearest in the chasing pack (Ray Black, Andrew Lea, Peter Hyde or Steve Cannon) were able to add a single point and so Mick took the 2009 Brentside Order of Merit on November 7 without playing a stroke.

August outing

lst Ray Black

2nd Mick McSwiggan

3rd MJ Murphy

Gues Philip Christides

The outgoing Brentside President of three years, Kevin Keenan (pictured), held his President's Day at West Middlesex course on August 22, attracting 21 members and 21 guests. The competition was won by Frankie Burke with 42 points. Meanwhile Tommy Tarpey, the Brentside captain, held his captain's day at Five Lakes Golf Course in Tiptree. The competition was won by next year's captain Frank Deeley. And in a first for the Brentside, a women's competition was held on the same day and won by Helen Weill.

The September outing included the annual society challenge for

September outing

lst Ken Curtis

2nd Frank Deeley

3rd Martin Halferty

Guest Philip Christides

the Alan Moore Trophy, which pitted Brentside against Brent Valley's other resident society, the Phoenix, which edged it by 559 points to 534.

Lastly, on September 11, Ray Cryan and MJ Murphy beat Andrew Lea and Ronnie Herbertson to take the Brentside Doubles competition.



Above: Outgoing Brentside President, Kevin Keenan, putting onto

October outing

lst Mick McSwiggan

2nd Joe Hovarth

3rd Andrew Lea

Guest Philip Christides

November outing

lst John Hunter

2nd Jamie Lea

3rd Brian Lennox

Guest Calum Weill

2009 Order of Merit (final standings)

1stMick McSwiggan38 pts2ndRay Black34 pts3rdAndrew Lea34 pts

4th Steve Cannon 29 pts

Best 6 cards over the season. 10 points for each outing winner, 9 for 2nd, to 1 point for 10th.

SENIORS

The Terry Strettle Memorial Seniors' Open held on May 20th as a tribute to the late Terry Strettle whose untimely death we reported in the last BVGC Newsletter, was a resounding success with 72 members and guests participating on the day. Our thanks go to club President M J Murphy and captain John Antunes for supporting this event and for their kind words of condolence for our late colleague. Our grateful thanks also go to Terry's widow Suzy Strettle who took time out to present the newly named Terry Strettle Cup to the winner Ronnie Dyer who came in ahead of the field with an excellent 40 points.

Two away days were held at Farnham Park golf club and Downshire golf club on 22nd July and 30th September respectively. Well done Kathy Maloney for winning the ladies competition at Farnham Park and to James Graven for winning the men's event. The Downshire match was won by Ken Curtis playing as a guest and returning a massive 45 points (when are they going to look at this guy's handicap?!). The winner of the match itself was yet another shock of the day with Rick Harvey, seniors' captain strolling in with 40 points!





Above: Ronnie Dyer (right) is presented with the trophy as the winner of the Terry Strettle Memorial Seniors' Open by Suzy Strettle and Rick Harvey. Below: next. year's seniors captain, Keith Hall.

The annual match between Air Links golf club and Brent Valley seniors took place on the 1st October (away) and 1st October (home) with the final result from the two day's of golf providing us with a well earned win and the silver trophy to boot. Well done all those who played in what has now become a highly competitive annual event.

This year has been highly successful for a number of our members in club competitions. Congratulations go to Ray Black for winning the Captain's prize and also to Geoff Rayner who won the St. Andrews. Having reached the end of the seniors' competitive year congratulations also go to Billy Kearney for yet another fantastically successful year winning both the Denis Burke cup and the Stableford prize and to John Walton for a tremendous performance at the age of <code>9t()</code> winning the Van de Velde trophy and the 'Big One' – the Order of Merit.

The next big event, only a few weeks away on 27th November, is the seniors' awards dinner and the inauguration of Keith Hall as the new seniors' captain. Our retiring captain Rick Harvey after 3 years of building a team spirit amongst the seniors that is second to none will now have time to focus entirely on his golf and will no doubt win a few more trophies for his sideboard!



AUF WIEDER-SEHEN RONNIE!

One of Brent Valley's most active and popular members, Ronnie Herbertson, said goodbye to the club and moved back to his native north-east. The picture on the right was taken on his last round on the Brent Valley links before his move. We wish him all the best and hope he keeps up his golf for many years to come.

THANKS TOM!

A big Brent Valley thanks to Tom Murray for his superb fireworks displays at the Centenary and Trinations competitions. And to his pyrotechnic assistant Jamie Lea!

Thanks to our advertisers

This edition of the newsletter is the first to include advertising by local businesses. We would like to thank Tuffin & Wren and Windmill Residential for their support and express our hope that it will continue for many editions to come and be of mutual benefit.

BRENT VALLEY PHOTOS NOW ONLINE

A selection of Brent Valley's photos are now available to members to view and download for free online at the following address:



PHOENIX

The winners of the last three Phoenix society outings were:

AUGUST: Noel Rutherford and Kathy Maloney SEPTEMBER: MJ Murphy and Kathy Maloney OCTOBER: Bill Mulvanny (below) and Helen Weill

Order of Merit Standings

(1 outing to go): Mick Hynes 31 points Frank Scanlon 22 points Noel Rutherford 21 points

ANNUAL PRIZE-GIVING

Did you win a prize in 2009? There were a lot of them so you might have done and not even realised it! Maybe not a major (you'd remember that) but perhaps a modest Cremin on a rainy Sunday? If you did, be sure to bask in glory and receive your prize before a packed clubhouse on Sunday November 29 after the Phoenix. Check the list on the clubhouse notice board just in case. Photo right: Surely Bill Mulvanny won something in 2009?



AGM APPROVES ACCOUNTS

Brent Valley Golf Club's Annual General Meeting was held on May 8 and approved the year's accounts, which showed a surplus of £2,493. Revenues from subscriptions totalled £15,831, Raffles, bingo, poker and take your pick brought in £4,634. Bar takings totalled £46,461.

THREE BREAK-INS AT CLUB-HOUSE

There have been three break-ins in the last few months at the clubhouse. One was at the Roundhouse on the night of September 12 and the other two were at the Brent Valley clubhouse on the nights of October 25 and November 11.

The first break-in was believed to have been caused by a disagreement between drinkers in the Roundhouse pub and the bar staff. A fruit machine and juke box were thrown through the window (see photo right). Police were on site on Sunday morning and the pub was closed. The pub's licence has since been revoked.

The clubhouse break-ins seem to have been motivated by theft. The flat-screen television, cigarettes and the small amount of petty cash in the till was stolen in the first one. The burglars used cutting equipment to break through the bar grille. Nothing was stolen in the most recent one but a window on the first floor was broken. The burglars seem to have been scared off by the



COOL GOLFERS OF THE WORLD

NO. 1: ALICE COOPER

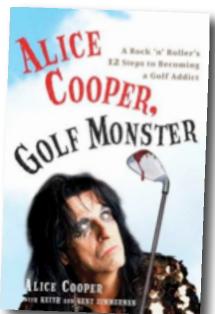
We at the newsletter feel golfers suffer from an unfair public image, for which we can mainly blame Bruce Forsyth and Jimmy Tarbuck. Of course we know that golf is the coolest sport in the world, but the rest of the world doesn't see it that way. So, in an attempt to boost the street credibility of our sport, the newsletter proudly launches an occasional series: Cool Golfers of the World. And first in the series is **Alice Cooper.**



Above: Although a 3 handicap, Alison Cooper (without the gothic make-up) takes some tips from a slightly stronger player

Best known for his 1972 hit "School's Out", Alice Cooper might have played truant in his younger years, but when not at school you were more likely to have found the teenage Alice on his local golf course than smoking round the back of the bike sheds. His rock n'roll shows were notoriously bloodthirsty affairs, but in the afternoons before the gigs, he was usually rolling golf balls into holes and baying for the blood of his golfing opponents.

Cooper has on often credited golf for playing a major role in helping him overcome his alcohol addiction, even saying that when he took up golf, he replaced one addiction with another. His 2007 autobiography paid homage to his obsession: *Alice Cooper, Golf Monster*. Cooper, who has



Above: So keen on golf that Cooper named his autobiography, Alice Cooper Golf Monster.

participated in a number of Pro-Ams, plays the game six days a week, and has a handicap of three. Since 1997, he has hosted an annual golf competition, the Alice Cooper Celebrity AM Golf Tournament, all proceeds going to his charity, the Solid Rock Foundation. This

charity uses golf as a way of helping teenagers "negotiate through the

turbulent adolescent years"

Cooper has also appeared in commercials for Callaway, was a guest of veteran British player and broadcaster Peter Allis on the programme *A Golfer's Travels*. In August 2006, Cooper took part in an annual celebrity golf version of the Ryder Cup called the All Star Cup in South Wales. NO.



Above: Alison Cooper in the recent Sony Brava advert, Don't. Throw your TV out of the Window.

In the next edition of "Cool Golfers of the World": **Samuel L. Jackson**.



Events Calendar

November	December	January	February
Sat/Sun 21/22: Winter Greensomes; Ladies Stableford	Wed 2: Seniors	Sat/Sun 2/3: Ladies Winter Cup	Wed 3: Seniors Medal
Wed 25: Seniors	Fri 4: Ladies Christmas Dinner at West Mid	Wed 6: Seniors Medal	Sat/Sun 6/7/: Ladies Winter Cup Sun 7: Phoenix
Fri 20: Poker evening	Sat/Sun 5/6: Ladies Winter Cup Sun 6: Turkey Trot Scramble, Christmas Lunch	Sun 10: Phoenix New Year Bash	Wed 10: Seniors Stableford
Nov 27: Seniors Dinner	Fri 11: Special Christmas Quiz	Wed 13: Seniors Stableford	Thurs II: Committee Meeting
Sat/Sun 28/29: Cremin 3	Sun 13: Ladies Christmas Spirit	Thurs 14: Committee Meeting	Sat/Sun 13/14: Cremin 5 Sat 13: Dinner Dance Sun 14: L.Valentine Cup, Brentside
Sun 29: Phoenix	Wed 13: Seniors Bogey	Sat/Sun 16/17: Cremin 3 Sun 17: Brentside, Ladies Stableford	Wed 17: Seniors Bogey
Sun 29: Annual Prize-Giving	Fri 18: Poker evening	Wed 20: Seniors Bogey	Sat 20: Ladies Stableford
	Sat 19: Ladies Stableford	Sun 24: January Waltz	Wed 24: Seniors
	Sun 20: Captains' Drive-In, Ladies Stableford, Brentside Scramble	Wed 27: Seniors	Sun 28: St Davids Competition
	Wed 23: Seniors	Sat/Sun 30/31: Cremin 4	
	Sun 27: Team Event		

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CONGRATULATIONS TO BRENT VALLEY GOLF CLUB ON ITS CENTENARY!

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