

NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2024



JAMIE'S BLOG

Our Christmas Lunch was held on Friday, Dec 8th at the London Hilton Park Lane. With a record attendance of over 500 guests, we were entertained by three incredible headline acts - ventriloquist/comedian Nina Conti, vocalist James H Williams and the legendary Bobby Davro.

The day got off in just the right way by presenting two Sunshine Coaches on Park Lane, right outside the Hilton Hotel. The first was sponsored by Variety Golf member Stuart Hennell to the Five Acre Wood School based in Maidstone. The second, presented to the Castledon School in Wickford, Essex. was actually sponsored by forty guests from last year's Christmas Lunch.

Once inside the Hilton, our President Jimmy Tarbuck, OBE, started the proceedings by welcoming everybody as we sat down for the Lunch. Shortly afterwards we were treated to a live performance of two songs performed by children from the Five Acre Wood Special School (recipients of one of the two Variety Golf Sunshine Coaches above) who absolutely stole the show before it had started and set the bar high for the rest of the acts!

Bob 'the cat' Bevan then hosted a True or False game to help raise more funds before the headline acts came on stage at various times during the lunch. They were all absolutely first class!

Our Live Auction was conducted by legendary auctioneer, Jonny Gould, and lunch concluded with Lady Wilnelia Forsyth drawing the winning tickets in our Grand Raffle.

There was a great atmosphere in the room with a real festive spirit which I'm absolutely thrilled to say enabled Variety Golf to break all records by raising an astonishing £561,000 net - £104,000 more than last year!

A huge thanks to all our members and guests who supported the Lunch and contributed to helping us achieve this amazing total but, more importantly, enabling us to present even more Sunshine Coaches to the schools, institutions and hospices who so desperately need our help.

I don't like to single out individuals as Variety Golf is a genuine team effort, but I would like to say a special thank-you to David Welsh and Joe Hemani who have both donated substantial sums to us throughout the year.



JANUARY PRIZE DRAW WINNERS...

Our lucky prize winners from the January prize draw are as follows:

- 1st** Michael Budgen Wins £400 Variety Golf vouchers
- 2nd** Lawrie Sanchez Wins £250 Variety Golf vouchers
- 3rd** Roger Riggs Wins £150 Variety Golf vouchers
- 4th** Richard Keel Wins £100 Variety Golf vouchers
- 5th** Richard Wigg Wins a Dozen Variety Logo Titleist Pro V1 balls

Please Note: Variety Golf vouchers can be redeemed as Entry fees to our events, Variety clothing & Variety Logo golf balls

2023 – Looking Back in Numbers...

- 25** Official Variety Events
- 11** Variety 'Proceeds To' events raising over £200,000
- 37** Sunshine Coaches presented
- 1** Wheelchair presented
- 1** Golf buggy presented
- 550** attended our Variety Christmas Lunch and £561,000 raised
- 32** new members
- 246** golf lessons for Disabled Children (1,876 children benefitted from the lessons)
- £2.4 Million** in Funds raised



Our Captain for 2024, Dave Beasant

As a player, Dave was a goalkeeper who played top-flight football for Wimbledon, Newcastle United, Chelsea, Southampton and Nottingham Forest. He spent the rest of his career in the Football League with Grimsby Town, Wolverhampton Wanderers, Portsmouth, Bradford City and Brighton & Hove Albion, as well as with non-league sides Edgware Town and North Greenford United.

He played in Wimbledon's 1988 FA Cup victory, during which he became the first goalkeeper to save a penalty in an FA Cup final, and the first goalkeeper since 1875 to lift the cup as captain of the winning team. He made two appearances for the England national football team.

On 10 May 2015, he became the oldest individual to be selected in the squad for a match in Football League history while representing Stevenage, as a substitute against Southend United in the League Two play-off semi-final second leg, at the age of 56.

Since retiring, Dave has worked as a goalkeeping coach for Fulham, Northern Ireland, the Glenn Hoddle Academy, Bristol Rovers, Stevenage and Reading.

Variety Golf has great pleasure in welcoming Dave as Captain for 2024.

VARIETY GOLF CAPTAIN'S LUNCH, FEBRUARY 22nd

HOSTED BY DAVE BEASANT AT FORTNUM & MASON

Our Variety Golf Captain's Lunch will be hosted by our 2024, Captain Dave Beasant, at Fortnum & Mason's in their London store on Piccadilly in their private dining area - The Drawing Room.

There are still a few places left so if you would like to support Dave and attend please get in touch. Ticket price is £120 per person and includes drinks reception followed by a three-course meal.



Our first golf event of the season is fast approaching and if you would like to come and watch Dave Beasant 'kick off' his Captaincy year in style and 'drive in' at Moor Park please get your entry in ASAP before it's too late and

contact the office to enter. The Captains Day entry fee is £140 per person and includes Full English Breakfast, Captain's Drive In, Shotgun start at 11am on the High course followed by Lunch and Prizes.



2024 RACE TO DUBAI

The prize this year for the leading Business Member and the Leading Celebrity Member in the Race to Dubai Order of Merit is being kindly sponsored by JA Resorts and Golf Escapes and both the Business Member and Celebrity Member will each win Return Flights from London – Dubai, 5 Nights in 5* Accommodation for you and one guest to stay at the Jebel Ali Resort (bed and breakfast) and three rounds of golf.

Thanks so much to Mike Bryant of Golf Escapes and JA Resorts in Dubai for sponsoring this amazing prize.

The seven events which will be counting towards the Race to Dubai will be...

- Captains Day** – Moor Park, 13th March
- Spring Masters** – Hankley Common 10th April
- Len Goodman Masters** – The Wilderness, 18th July
- President's Day** – Coombe Hill, 3rd September
- Chairman's Trophy** – New Zealand, 19th September
- Autumn Meeting** – Worplesdon, 9th October
- Season Finale** – The Berkshire, 31st October

2024 Event Sponsorship Available...

We currently have two events this season left available to sponsor.

They are:

- The Len Goodman Masters at The Wilderness on 18th July**
- Variety Golf Pro-Am at Ashridge Golf Club on 5th June**

Please do get in touch if you are interested and we can talk through what sponsorship costs and entails and the benefits.

Call Jamie on 07801 098101

A Note from Pip Burley, Chair, Variety Golf

As we end one season and begin another, I would like to thank everyone involved – especially Jamie and Sarah-Jane - for their tremendous efforts in making 2023 such a resounding success.

Although it appears we presented three coaches fewer than in 2022, this does not reflect the fact that we raised significantly more funds. Why? Firstly, because the cost of coaches increased during the year by almost 30% and, secondly, a significant shortage of Coaches available - both due to the well-publicised difficulties within the motor industry in obtaining parts and materials due to the geo-political situation.

But, as always, Variety Golf forged ahead continuing to do what we do, namely, enjoying our wonderful game coupled with our unique comradeship and, above all, helping thousands of disadvantaged children to lead a better life. And that is a privilege of which we can be proud.

I look forward to another great season and, again, thanks to you all.



Don't forget to take a regular look at our website for more information about our schedule for 2024. All our events are booked up fast, so do please get in touch with Jamie (tel: 07801 098101) or e-mail: Jamie@varietygolf.org.uk) as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.



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VARIETY GOLF 2024 SCHEDULE

Wednesday 13 th March	Captain's Day	Moor Park GC
Friday 22 nd March	Jamie's Charity Pro-Am	The Grove
Wednesday 3 rd April	Director's Away Day	Beaconsfield GC
Wednesday 10 th April	Spring Masters	Hankley Common GC
Friday 26 th April	Ladies European Tour Charity Pro-Am	Sundridge Park GC
Wednesday 1 st May	Variety Pairs Trophy	Tandridge GC
Tuesday 7 th May	Generals Day	North Hants GC & Sandhurst
Wednesday 15 th May	Lady Forsyth Invitational	The Shire London
Wednesday 5 th June	Variety Golf Pro-Am	Ashridge GC
Friday 14 th June	Ray Clemence Invitational	Porters Park GC
Thursday 27 th June	Sunshine Classic	Woburn GC
Wednesday 10 th July	Team Championship	Bearwood Lakes
Thursday 18 th July	Len Goodman Masters	The Wildernesse Club
Thursday 25 th July	Sir Bruce Forsyth Trophy	Wentworth GC
Mon 12 th - Tues 13 th August	Loch Lomond Celebrity-Am	Loch Lomond GC
Tuesday 3 rd September	President's Day	Coombe Hill
Tuesday 10 th September	Guests Day	West Hill GC
Thursday 19 th September	Chairman's Trophy	New Zealand GC
Sun 6 th – Mon 7 th October	Variety Rugby Legends	Loch Lomond GC
Wednesday 9 th October	Autumn Meeting	Worplesdon GC
Thursday 24 th October	Steve Coppel Footballers Classic	Walton Heath GC
Thursday 31 st October	Season Finale	The Berkshire
9 th – 13 th November	Russ Abbot Classic	Quinta Do Lago
Friday 13 th December	Variety Xmas Lunch	Hilton Park Lane