

NEWSLETTER APRIL 16, 2020



JAMIE'S BLOG

Hope you are keeping well in this frustrating time and perhaps managing to practice your short game in the garden and getting yourself ready for our first Variety Event as soon as we are able to get back out there.

During this time we have had a chance to work really hard on putting together our new website and hope you agree it's looking great and is **NOW LIVE** so please feel free to take a look at it, you can simply click on this link - www.varietygolf.org.uk

You will see there are several new features including a new online entry system where members can pay for any events they wish using the 'Event Booking' page and along with PayPal this will make it an easier way for us to have a shorter wait at the registration table at each event. (Please note, I have been working on a revised event schedule and will of course update you as soon as

we know and are confident it's safe to run an event again).

We hope you like it and I'm sure you will enjoy some new images on the website of the fantastic golf courses we play at some of our events. I hope this whets your appetite to get back out to playing these great golf courses again very soon!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO JOE...

We must make a very special mention of our member, Joe Hemani, who just a couple of days ago, donated £35,000 which, including Gift Aid, totals a staggering £43,750! This has contributed massively to the sum we have raised since our last newsletter (see below). Joe also sponsors our Variety Team Championship event each year at his home club, Bearwood Lakes. Very soon we will be arranging for a Sunshine Coach in Joe's name for him to present to a deserving school – either at his event whenever it is held, or sooner. Joe, thank you so much.



SENSORY KITS TO FAMILIES IN NEED

Variety Golf is pleased to be providing Sensory Kits to 500 families with disabled and disadvantaged children to help them cope better whilst having to look after their children at home during enforced home isolation. The provision of this tangible equipment is not being provided by any other charities at present.

Sensory toys help children to relax, focus and calm down to a particular scenario or event. They help them grasp things with decreased fear and discomfort and enable them

to play more easily. The kits include items such as: Glow Gloves, Space Blanket, Colour Acrylic Mirrors, Spotty Spinner Ball, Impact Lightning Ball, Sparkly Play Foam, Ear Defenders, Weighted Cuddly Animals and Sensory stress balls.

The packs will be accompanied by information offering parents practical ideas for how to turn everyday household items into sensory objects, as well as a guide signposting to other websites and ideas-based resources for supporting children with SEN while schooling at home. Packs will be delivered next week.

STILL TIME TO BUY SOME VARIETY GOLF MERCHANDISE...

We have had several orders of our new logoed clothing and golf balls which have proved very popular. If you would like to place an order, please contact me and I can get it sent out next day delivery. The clothing is Footjoy and all great quality - sweaters (grey or black) are £65 and shirts (white, navy, or black) are £40 – very comparable to golf shop prices (*don't let the model put you off*).

The new logoed golf balls are available in Titliest PROV1 or Titliest PROV1X for £40 per dozen and Titliest Tour Soft at £30 per dozen.

Please just drop me an email with your order and I will get it despatched within a few days.



Thank you...

In the last two weeks, we have received just over 40 donations from members - whether a straight donation, donations for Captains Day or monthly direct debits. Adding Gift Aid, all of this adds up to just over £60,000!

Our goal since the 20th March, just under a month ago, has been to try to raise £100,000 before re-starting our events.

So, we are over halfway there - and if you would like to help us reach our target, you can do so either by sending a cheque, making a BACS payment or just ring and I can take a card payment over the phone.

If you haven't yet donated, perhaps you might like to give what you would have spent on your March & April Variety Golf entry fees, we would be extremely grateful! But we do understand times are tough out there...

Variety Golf: 11, Park Place, Newdigate Road, Harefield, UB9 6EJ or our bank details are: account no: 96808640 sort code: 60-18-20



LEN GOODMAN TO BE CAPTAIN FOR 2021

Variety Golf has pleasure in announcing that Len Goodman has agreed to remain as Captain of Variety Golf for a further year until the end of 2021.

"The first four months of this year have hardly been typical with so many events cancelled and others postponed," says Golf Director, Jamie Little. "We felt that Len hadn't had a fair crack of the whip and so we asked him if he would do us the honour of accepting the Captaincy for a further year. We were delighted when he said 'yes' without hesitation.

"Len has already been a great ambassador for Variety Golf and I have no doubt he will continue his conscientious level of support when everything reverts to normality".

In 55 years of Variety Golf, Len will be only the second Captain who has served for two successive years, the last being Ed Stewart in 182 and '83.

TIM BROOKE-TAYLOR, OBE

We are sad to report the death of Tim Brooke-Taylor OBE who died of the Covid 19 virus on Sunday, April 12th. Tim was Captain of Variety Golf in 1998.

Tim Brooke-Taylor was at the heart of British comedy for more than six decades and was one of a group of writers and performers who changed the face of British TV and radio comedy. He made millions of people laugh with his words, wit and quickfire japey creating programmes that have become classics of their time.

His comedic roots lay in the 'Cambridge Footlights' where his contemporaries included John Cleese and the two men with whom he later collaborated on the TV show 'The Goodies' – Graeme Garden and Bill Oddie.

He began his broadcasting career on BBC radio, quickly developing a reputation as a performer and scriptwriter and was probably best known as a long-standing panellist on Radio 4's, 'I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue'.

Essentially a gentle and sensitive man, he once admitted leaving his own living room when the weekly results were announced on 'Strictly Come Dancing', as he couldn't bear seeing anyone thrown off the show.



LAUNCHING VARIETY GOLF'S NEW MONTHLY PRIZE DRAW...

We have put together an exciting new Monthly Prize Draw which commences from May 1st. So, May's prize draw entries will be accepted from tonight and we will close the entries at 5pm on May 1st. I will then pick out the monthly winners by video!

To automatically enter every month, we are asking for a minimum £20 monthly donation and, dependent on the number of entries received each month, we will draw out 3-4 winners. To ease administration at the present time we are limiting entry to the first 100 members participating.

Winning prizes will either be in cash, entries into future Variety Golf Events, a fourball at one of our great golf courses, VG logo clothing or Titliest Pro V1X golf balls. A really fun way to raise money for Sunshine Coaches at this time.

To be eligible in time for the May draw and onwards, we will need payment of £20 per month starting on May 1st and on the 1st day of each month thereafter. This can most easily be done by direct debit, BACS or you can pay by card over the phone. You can, of course, enter twice three times to double or treble your chances!

Please see our account details overleaf – and join in the fun!

Please do stay in touch with us during this difficult time. It is very encouraging to hear from you as we continue to make every possible effort to raise funds for our very special children and their families who are suffering just as much – if not more – than we are. They need us and our help now as much as ever. As always, thank you for support.



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