

NEWSLETTER 24th JULY, 2020



JAMIE'S BLOG

I hope you are keeping safe and well and managing to play some good golf!

After a frustrating four months of no events, I'm delighted to say our first event of the year on Friday, 17th July, at Brocket Hall for the Variety Pro Invitational was a great success - and almost worth the wait!

This event - and next week's at Bearwood Lakes - were both sold out within a few days, which is fantastic, and our new Variety Mixed Challenge Trophy at The Grove on the 8th August has just one team space left - and with Dame Laura Davies and Philip Price as the respective Team Captains, it promises to be a very special event.

These events of course, wouldn't be possible to run without our amazing sponsors and members for supporting them. So, to you all, I salute you and can't stress how much your support is appreciated.

I have included some information from our first event at Brocket Hall, along with the August Prize Draw prizes on offer and also some more information regarding the upcoming events and how to enter.

I look forward to seeing you all at an event soon.

A GLORIOUS DAY IN THE SUN AT BROCKET HALL...

The Variety Pro-Invitational was played on the Palmerston Course at Brocket Hall on Friday 17th July. The event was kindly sponsored by long-standing member, John Griffin.

The weather was sensational with a stellar field of Professionals playing from the Ladies European Tour, European Tour, European Seniors Tour and European Challenge Tour, headlined by Solheim Cup and World Hall of Famer, Dame Laura Davies. The event was an immediate sell-out with seventeen teams competing, each team made up of three Variety Golf amateur members accompanied by a Tour Professional.

For the second year running The Tom Hilliard Trophy (lowest Pro score on the day) was being played for in memory of former Variety Golf Chairman, Tom Hilliard OBE, who sadly passed away in March, 2019.

The trophy was won by European Tour member Richard Bland with a scintillating score of 7-under, winning by three shots from fellow European Tour members Matt Southgate and Dale Whitnell, both with scores of 4-under. The leading Ladies Professional score came from former Solheim Cup star Trish Johnson who shot a very respectable 2-under and finished tied in 4th place.



The 2020 Variety Pro-Invitational Team Score was won with a fantastic 96 points by members Terry Berry, Ian Watson and Robin Stock accompanied by Richard Bland (pictured left).

Runners-up with 90 points were Martin Rose, Michael French and Tony Rosenberg, playing with European Tour Professional, Andrew Marshall.

The event was a huge success played in glorious weather at a first-class venue whose catering team made a great contribution on the day. At the Prize Presentation afterwards, Variety Golf Captain and *Strictly Come Dancing* star, Len Goodman, presented a Variety Sunshine Coach to the Tree House School based in Muswell Hill, which is part of the newly formed Charity 'Ambitious About Autism'. The Coach was sponsored by the Members of Variety Golf.



Above: Richard Bland, with sponsor, John Griffin and Captain, Len Goodman. Left: Dame Laura Davies with Len Goodman

A NOTE FROM CHAIRMAN PIP



For reasons we all know only too well, it's been a difficult six months - not least, because it is still impossible to predict how things are going to pan out for the second half of the year, let alone into 2021.

I believe that by any standards our society has performed remarkably well. Although

Brocket Hall was our first golfing event, we have achieved a great deal during the period when golf clubs were closed. We have launched our new website which, amongst other features, at last provides a simple and streamlined way for us to book and pay for events; we have started our popular 100 Club Monthly Draw (which alone will raise enough by the end of the year to pay for a Sunshine Coach) and brought in well in excess of £100,000 through the generosity of our members who responded so magnificently to my letter in March when the full significance of the effect of Covid 19 and its likely effect on our finances first came to light.

So, to all of you, a huge 'thank you'. But I would also take

this opportunity to express our appreciation to Jamie. He has worked incredibly hard, virtually single-handedly, through this difficult time to come up with innovative and imaginative ideas for new events, as well as organising them brilliantly and offering us even more in terms of value for money than we have ever enjoyed before – not to mention repeatedly re-arranging our schedule for the rest of the year. As our Director of Golf he is totally committed and, in my experience, quite exceptional.

So far, so good - but, as for the rest of the year, we will have to wait to see. However, one thing now seems pretty certain – we will not be able to hold our Annual Dinner in December, at least not in any recognisable shape or form. Whatever the eventual outcome (and we can't quite bring ourselves to cancel it yet!), as by far our most profitable event, it will leave a huge hole in our fundraising. Our ambition is to present a Sunshine Coach every month for the rest of the year. To do that we will need all the support we can get.

So, again, thank you for your loyalty and help to date. As you will see below, we have a lot of golf coming up and I hope you are looking forward to it as much as I am.



Here are the prizes on offer for the July Prize Draw

1st Prize - Apple I-Pad (Kindly donated by Joe Hemani)

2nd Prize – Fourball at the London Club
(Kindly Donated by The London Club)

3rd Prize – Entry for Two People in the Variety Pairs Event at Hankley Common on 26th August

4th Prize – £100 Gift Voucher at 'Complete Golfer' Golf Store

5th Prize – Dozen Titliest Golf Balls & Variety Golf Hat

For those of you who haven't yet set up your monthly entry as a direct debit, please make sure it reaches us by August 1st as I will be drawing the winners on the 2nd August.

Here are our account details if you wish to enter - and please include your surname as a reference and let me know.

Account No: 96808640 Sort Code: 60-18-20

DON'T FORGET - YOU GOT TO BE IN IT, TO WIN IT!

CURRENT SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR 2020

SUBJECT TO ALTERATION

29 th JULY	VARIETY GOLF TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP	BEARWOOD LAKES
8 th AUGUST	VARIETY LADIES & SENIORS TOUR PRO-AM	THE GROVE
26 th AUGUST	PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP	HANKLEY COMMON
1 st SEPTEMBER	CAPTAIN'S DAY	THE WILDERNESSE
15 th SEPTEMBER	AUTUMN MEETING	WEST HILL
24 th SEPTEMBER	PRESIDENT'S DAY	NEW ZEALAND CLUB
1 st OCTOBER	STRICTLY COME GOLFING	WORPLESDON
6 th OCTOBER	CHAIRMAN'S TROPHY	WOKING
14 th OCTOBER	SIR BRUCE FORSYTH TROPHY	THE BERKSHIRE
24 th OCTOBER	JAMIE'S CHARITY PRO-AM	THE GROVE
28 th OCTOBER	GRAND FINAL	THE LONDON CLUB

