

NEWSLETTER – 3rd NOVEMBER, 2020



JAMIE'S BLOG

I hope you are keeping safe and well. On behalf of Variety Golf, the Children's Charity, thank you so much for supporting us this year.

It's obviously been a challenging twelve months and with the start of our season delayed until the middle of July, we've had a jam-packed schedule. Having said that, every event has been a 'sell out' and I am delighted to say that we are on course to have presented twelve Sunshine Coaches in the six months from July to December. An amazing result bearing in mind the challenges we have had to overcome.

Rather than just give up when the Covid problem was first announced, we have worked on the basis of planning our events in advance knowing that we might have to re-schedule or even cancel them later. This has worked well for us and we intend to carry on working in the same way during the winter months and into 2021. I know we can rely on you for the same magnificent support going forward.

As things stand, we still have our Christmas Lunch, hosted by our President, Jimmy Tarbuck, at the Richmond Club on December 9th and, in the light of the second lockdown announced this week, we can only hope it will still happen. We have two Sunshine Coaches lined up to present and, if all goes well, it will be a really fun occasion and help to round up our year's fundraising on a high note. Again, thank you all very much and I hope to see you very soon.

Jamie's Charity Pro-Am at the Grove

The event was a complete sell out with 24 teams on a two-tee start, with each team consisting of three amateurs accompanied by a Tour Professional from either the European Tour, Seniors Tour or Ladies European Tour. We were so lucky with the weather, as the rain came in just 20 mins after the last game finished – so it was timed to perfection! Perhaps somebody upstairs is really looking down on us!

With everybody's support, we exceeded our expectations and managed to raise £17,352 from the online auction, plus an additional £3,760 to make a grand total of £21,112 raised at the event!

I am delighted to say that, with the funds raised from this event together with my 2019 Charity Pro-Am, we will be presenting another Sunshine Coach to a Special Needs School very soon.

The team prize was won with an outstanding score of 97 points by Team Professional from the European Tour, David Dixon, playing with Daniel West, Lenny Rosso and Christian Matthews (all good friends of mine for many years from Moor Park GC). I was especially pleased to see



Richard McEvoy won the Pro Individual with a round of 66 another old friend of mine from the European Tour, Richard McEvoy, win the leading Pro Individual Trophy with a sensational 66 (-6 under par). A couple of years ago Richard won his maiden Tour title at the 2018 Porsche European Open, beating Bryson DeChambeau down the stretch!



<https://youtu.be/04Rs9BF1dYU>

NOVEMBER PRIZE DRAW WINNERS

Our Captain, Len Goodman, drew out the names at the prizegiving of our last official event of the season, The Sir Bruce Forsyth Trophy at Sunningdale.

The five prize winners were:

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| 1 | Apple I-Pad (<i>kindly sponsored by Joe Hemani</i>) | David Murrell |
| 2 | Golf for 3 at Sandy Lodge GC with Jamie Little | Stuart Bell |
| 3 | 9-Hole Playing lesson with Samantha Head | Wally Downes |
| 4 | £100 Gift Voucher at Complete Golfer | Steve Daniels |
| 5 | Two Dozen Titliest Pro V1 Variety Golf Balls | Steve Coppell |

The Sir Bruce Forsyth Trophy



Gavin Hawes receives the Sir Bruce Forsyth Trophy from Lady Wilnelia Forsyth in front of the clubhouse

RESULTS

Best Team: 84 Points – David Harris, Michael Dick, Martin Archer & Harry Redknapp

Individual Scores:

1st Place and Winner of the Sir Bruce Forsyth

Trophy: Gavin Hawes (39 Points)

2nd Place: Jeremy Curtis (36 Points)

3rd Place: Daniel Sims (35 Points) & Eddy Garty (35 Points)

Captain Len Goodman looks on as Lady Forsyth Presents the Sunshine Coach to Willow Dene School

This year our Sir Bruce Forsyth Trophy was played at Sunningdale on the famous Old Course. This very special event was kindly sponsored by Daniel Sims.

Once again we were honoured to have Lady Wilnelia Forsyth both playing and also presenting the Sir Bruce Forsyth Trophy. Despite some rain in the morning, the course was in superb condition and we were thoroughly looked after by Sunningdale.

Lady Wilnelia also presented a Sunshine Coach to Willow Dene School, the only special school in Greenwich which meets the needs of children aged 2-16. It was a wonderful finale to our season and we are delighted to confirm that we will be back at Sunningdale next year for the Sir Bruce Forsyth Trophy.



VARIETY GOLF – “WINTER POP-UPS”

Here's a new idea! We thought we'd run some 'Pop-Up' events to keep us swinging during the Winter months.

These won't be like our normal events - they'll be arranged at short notice to take advantage of any spells of sunshine we might be lucky enough to get between now and when our proper season starts next March.

You might only get a few days' notice but, if you're free, you'll be welcome! We'll just charge the best group green fee we can negotiate with a bit on top to make sure our charity makes a small



profit – no frills, no meals, no auctions, no entertainment, no prizes - just 18 holes at one of our great golf courses.

I'll let you know by e-mail when these opportunities 'pop-up' - all you have to do is tell me you'd like to play, pay and turn up!

Numbers could be anything from ten to thirty, we might be playing in two or four-balls, it doesn't matter - and, anyway, we won't know until we try!

So, keep your eyes on the weather forecasts and look out for your first 'Winter Pop-Up' invitation. As soon as there is a dry spell, you'll be the first to hear.

We finished off the season in style with both events raising a total of just over £42,000. These funds will go towards a further two Sunshine Coaches to be presented at the start of next season. Our 2021 schedule of events will be confirmed in the next few weeks. Further details can be found on our website: www.varietygolf.org.uk



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