



South Staffordshire Golf Club **News**

Winter 2009

Gentlemen's Prize Presentation Evening

The Annual Gentlemen's Prize Presentation Evening was held at the Club on Friday 27th November. Eighty Members attended and enjoyed a splendid meal, a speech from Captain Phil Jennings and the traditional speech from the Club Matchplay Champion (Mander Cup), Richard Hewitt.

Sam Benton was presented with his trophy as the Midland Boys Amateur Champion and the Captain was presented with the Dartmouth Bowl for the annual match between South Staffs and Brocton Hall.

There were some notable winners in the year.

Andy Ellis won the Club Scratch Championship, Richard Hewitt won the Club Matchplay Championship, Mark Guy and Phil Rogers won the Club Foursomes Matchplay Championship, Ian Guest won the Vardon Bowl and John Mackie won the Sievwright Bowl for the third year running.

The full list of the winners for the year are as follows:

SCRATCH CUP - Andy Ellis; **MANDER CUP** - Richard Hewitt; **VARDON BOWL** - Ian Guest; **TUCK CUP** - Mark Guy & Phil Rogers; **MEMBERS CHALLENGE** - Reece Ford-Jones; **CARVER CUP** - Jerry Duffy; **VETERANS CUP** - Jeff Turner; **CHAVASSE BOWL** - Steve Durnall; **DOUBLE DIAMOND CUP** - Ian Darlington; **PALMERS CROSS BOWL** - Anthony Thomas; **LADY PRESIDENT'S SALVER** - Simon Cartwright; **PRESIDENT'S SALVER** - John Bate; **AMERICA CUP** - Bob Barrett; **BILLINGHAM CUP** (Division 1 Final Medal) - Ian Guest; **DIVISION 2 FINAL MEDAL** - Simon Nightingale; **DIVISION 3 FINAL MEDAL** - Ian Houghton; **RAY BUTTERWORTH CUP** (Division 1 Final Stableford) - Phil Raybould; **DIVISION 2 FINAL STABLEFORD** - Robin Turnbull; **DIVISION 3 FINAL STABLEFORD** - Tim Percy; **COSFORD CUP** - Peter Watkins & Ray Jones; **SIEVWRIGHT BOWL** - John Mackie; **HOSPITAL CUP** - Peter Hammonds; **WENTWORTH WALKER CUP** - Anthony Thomas; **VICTOR HICKMAN BOWL** - Ian Guest; **CAPTAIN'S CUP** - Simon Cartwright & Duncan Lampitt; **JAMES BEATTIE SALVER** - Gareth Smith & Mark Brennan; **PRESIDENT'S PUTTER** - Ian Darlington; **FOURSOMES BOWL** - Barry Kibble & Nick Weaver; **ARMITAGE KETTLE** - Ian Guest & Ian Skidmore; **WINTER LEAGUE** - David Dornan & Anthony Thomas; **WAR MEMORIAL CUP** - Ian Ward. **JUNIOR TROPHIES:** **TOM SHARRARD CUP** - Sam Benton; **JAMES GORDON TROPHY** - Sam Benton; **JUNIOR CAPTAIN'S PUTTER** - Greg Jones.



Andy Ellis - Scratch Champion



Ricahrd Hewitt - Mander Cup



Ian Guest - Vardon Bowl



Club Chairman, Mike Harris presents Captain, Phil Jennings with the Dartmouth Bowl.

Dartmouth Bowl

The Dartmouth Bowl is one of the longest running competitions in club golf.

Played for each year between South Staffs and Brocton Hall, the event dates back to 1894 when the Earl of Dartmouth who was President of both clubs presented the Bowl as a trophy to be played for in its early years as an individual medal competition.

In 1938 the format was changed to a club team match played for annually and alternately at each club off club handicap.

As is often the case, home advantage proves to be crucial with South Staffs winning this year's event 12½ to 7½.



Sam Benton Midland Boys Amateur Champion

At the Prize Presentation Evening, South Staffs Junior Member Sam Benton was presented with his Midland Boys Amateur Championship Trophy.

Sam follows in some notable footsteps as champion including some past and present South Staffs members - **Kevin Hale** (1997), **Paul McGarry** (1974) and **Gerald Moore** (1968).

Other previous winners of this championship include **David Gilford** (1981) and **Sandy Lyle** (1972).

More Pictures from the Gentlemen's Prize Presentation Evening



Barry Kibble & Nick Weaver -
Foursomes Bowl



Duncan Lampitt & Simon
Cartwright - Captain's Cup



Peter Watkins & Ray Jones -
Cosford Cup



Bob Barrett -
America Cup



John Mackie -
Sievwright Bowl



Mark Guy & Phil Rogers - Tuck Cup



Anthony Thomas & David Dornan - Winter League



John Bate - President's Salver



Ian Ward - War Memorial Cup



Chairman, Mike Harris & Richard Maule-ffinck



Andy Ellis, Gareth Smith & Jeff Turner



Jerry Duffy, David Lycett & Mike Hughes



Roger Ashton & David Dornan



The Hewitts - Tom & Richard



Peter Baker, Simon Parr & Ian Skidmore

The Peter Baker Golf Academy

As Head Professional at South Staffs since the 1st November, Peter Baker has been welcoming Members to his Indoor Swing Clinic which is proving to be a great success.

Over 50 Members have so far taken advantage of Peter's expertise to improve their swings, and at the end of January he will be doing a putting clinic.

On the retail side, the new Ping G15 Golf Equipment is now in stock and demonstration clubs will be available in January/February. Gift Vouchers are now also available.

Baker on Tour

On the Challenge Tour, the win in Switzerland in July helped Peter to finish 11th on the Challenge Tour Order of Merit, which has enabled him to receive a coveted European Tour Card for the 2010 season.

At the time of writing Peter is playing in South Africa on the European Tour in the Alfred Dunhill Championship at Leopard Creek and the South African Open at Pearl Valley.



Captain's December Blog

The golfing season seems to have flown by yet again although it might have been more appropriate to have said floated away as the weather has at times been a real trial. However, activities have continued at the club and much praise must go to Rhys Thomas and his team for their tremendous efforts reclaiming bunkers time and again after heavy rainfall and presenting a golf course in such great condition.

The Scratch Team have had another successful season narrowly missing out on promotion to Division 1. A and B Teams and the Seniors have played their part as usual in the enjoyment of team golf at the Club and my thanks to Ian Guest, Kevin Threlfall, David Hadler and Terry Holbrook for all the work that they do.

The Juniors have also been active playing in the Staffordshire League and acquitting themselves well just losing to Penn GC the eventual winners.

The Junior Open attracted over 80 players and congratulations to George Ling from South Staffs who finished second with a gross 77 net 67 off the white tees. Greg Jones has captained the Juniors and enjoyed his Captain's Day which was won by Sam Carver

The Vardon Trophy was again a success and a home player, Ian Guest, now holds the trophy after a fine 74 on a difficult day for scoring. Similarly the Autumn Invitation attracted a full house and it is hoped our two Invitation days are now well established and will again attract full houses in the years to come.

Our President Paul Lewis had successful President's Day and American Foursomes proved an interesting challenge. Paul provided a wonderful display of prizes and the event was enjoyed by all who took part.

The Winter Pro Am took place at the end of November and despite the course only just being dry enough to play some great scoring took place. Peter Baker and Steve Carter pulled out all the stops and at least five players with European Tour experience played. Even the Captain managed a prize although his excellent pro Danny Greenwood, a quite useful Sandy Fraser and a determined Nick Weaver, together with two yardage measuring devices may have helped him a bit!

Peter Baker's taking over of the shop and the improved facilities will add much to our club and I would ask you all to support him as much as possible.

The Prize Presentation was a fitting occasion and it was lovely to see nearly all the prize winners present to receive their accolades. It was also a pleasure for me to present the prestigious trophy Midland Boys Champion to Sam Benton. I am sure we all wish him well in his future career.

Finally it just remains for me to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a great golfing New Year.
Philip Jennings - Captain SSGC

Competition Results

Turkey Competition

Saturday 12th December 2009

Prizes were presented to the top 12 teams.

- 1st:** Ian Guest & Ian Skidmore **42pts**
2nd: Henry Beaumont & Martin Spencer **41pts**
3rd: Sandy Fraser & Dave Thomas **40pts**
4th: Roger Ashton & John Mackie **40pts**
5th: Tom & Richard Hewitt **40pts**

Yuletide Pro-Am

Monday 30th November 2009

The annual Yuletide Pro-Am attracted a host of top Midlands Professionals amongst the 18 teams to South Staffs, including 3 former Ryder Cup Players; Peter Baker, David Gilford and Paul Broadhurst plus European Senior Tour's Martin Poxon.

Professional Event

- 1st:** Paul Wesselingh (Kedleston Park) **38pts**
2nd: Peter Baker (South Staffs) **37pts**
3rd: Phil Hinton (Chesterton Valley) **37pts**
4th: Danny Greenwood (Forest Pines) **37pts**
5th: Steve Carter (South Staffs) **35pts**
6th: Shaun Ball (South Staffs) **35pts**

Team Event with SSGC Players

- 1st:** Paul Wesselingh (Kedleston Park), Rhys Thomas **84pts**
2nd: Martin Poxon (European Tour), Martin Spencer, Henry Beaumont & Howard Percival **80pts**
3rd: Daniel Taylor (Swingers G.C.) **79pts**
4th: Tim Rouse (Northants County) **78pts**
5th: Danny Greenwood (Forest Pines), Philip Jennings, Sandy Fraser & Nick Weaver **77pts**

Men's Invitation Day

Saturday 19th September 2009

- 1st:** Ian Richardson & Rob Walsh **44pts**
2nd: Steve Corns & Kevin Bayliss **43pts**
3rd: Rob Fetch & John Homer **43pts**
4th: Shaun O'Donnell & J. Dealy **42pts**
5th: Paul Allsop & Graham Fletcher **41pts**
6th: Tom Gough & Matt Oliver **41pts**
7th: Mike Allport & Graham Lindley **41pts**
8th: John Mackie & Ross Taylor **40pts**

Harry Vardon Open

Sunday 23rd August 2009

The South Staffs Harry Vardon Men's Open was played in very testing conditions on Sunday 23rd August. Over 90 players from clubs throughout the area competed for the coveted Vardon Bowl presented to the Club by last years Men's and Ladies' Captains John and Helen Gough, in recognition of 100 years of golf on the club's Harry Vardon designed course.

Scores:

Best Gross Score: Ian Guest (SSGC) **74**

Single Figure Golfer Best Net:

Ian Guest (SSGC) **74-4-70**

Net Scores:

1st: Neil Shinebaum (Calderfields G.C.C.) **75-5-70**

2nd: Howard Percival (SSGC) **84-12-72**

3rd: Mark Guy (SSGC) **77-5-72**

4th: Keith Fletcher (Coventry Hearsall G.C.) **87-14-73**

5th: Adam White (SSGC) **76-3-73**

Best Stableford Score outside main prizes: Mike Perks (Penn G.C.) **34pts**

Wireless Internet Facility

The Club has recently had its computer system updated and as part of the system a Wifi internet facility is now available to Members in the TV/Card Room.

CLUBHOUSE CLOSURE

Please be informed the Clubhouse will close at 4pm on Christmas Eve and will be CLOSED on Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

We will re-open on Sunday 27th December. The clubhouse will also be closed on New Years Day.

If you wish to play on these days please collect any items required from your lockers as there will be no access to the club house.

We wish all our readers a Happy Christmas and New Year.