

# COURSE NEWS



This year the Board & Management Committee have continued to invest heavily on the course and equipment.

5 years ago the Club signed a Partnering Agreement with Oakley's Ltd, who are the UK supplier of Toro equipment, which is the recognised market leader in greens machinery. Since then the club have invested over £179,000 in new course equipment, replacing the utility vehicle and all of the course mowers.

In May this year, as part of the Club's Equipment Replacement Programme we took delivery of a new Toro 3250D Green's Mower, at a cost of £36,500.

All of this has been achieved along side the continued improvements to the course.

Back in May work began on a major project to improve the course drainage and paths.

The project includes laying/refurbishing approximately 2 miles of paths and the installation of an additional 6,200 metres of drainage at a budgeted cost of £35,000.

Drainage work is now complete, and we hope to have the paths completed by the end of October.

The Management Committee sanctioned this expenditure with the firm intention of helping to ensure all year round golf and use of buggies for members.



# CLUB NEWS

The course continues to do its own talking, and has become widely recognised as one of the best in Staffordshire; and boy can it present a challenge! This year we hosted the Staffordshire Junior Strokeplay Championship, drawing compliments from players, organisers and officials alike. Staffordshire County Secretary, Malcolm Eustace said; *"What a great day at Barlaston, the club should be very proud of itself for providing both a great course & test of golf"*

Tom Alford a member of Branston Golf & Country Club went on to be crowned champion. Tom shot rounds of 67 and 69, finishing two under par; however, that doesn't tell the whole story: the runner up finished some 12 shots back!

Tom is pictured receiving the trophy from President, Michael Bailey.



We have also had our own success stories. The Captain, Jeff Goodwin and Club Professional, Darren Martin represented the club in the SkyCaddie PGA Pro-Captain's Challenge.

The competition has 10 regional finals, played at courses throughout the country, with only the winners progressing to the final. Playing at Coxmoor Golf Club, they finished with 49 stableford points, winning their regional heat by 2 points. They now play against the other 9 regional winners in Majorca for a prize fund of £22,000.

The Captain and Darren are photographed (far left) reflecting on a great round.

More success came when Terry Adnams won through to represent Europe against the USA for the Fightmaster Cup (named after an American Don Fightmaster). This is the Ryder Cup for One Armed Golfers, with a 2 year qualification period, played to the exact same format.

This time Walmer & Kingsdown Golf Club in Kent had the honour of hosting the event. Played over 3 days, the result was much the same as the better known Ryder Cup, played at Le National in Paris this year, with Europe winning 17 points to 11. Terry is pictured (above) with a previous member of Barlaston, Andy Clarke who was his caddy for the tournament, Terry said *"It was the best week of my life and now I'm desperate to compete in America in 2020"*. We all hope you get there Terry.

When it comes to raising money for good causes, members of Barlaston are pretty good at that too. For the latest fund raiser, "Pink Day", the Ladies' Section enlisted the support of The Lord Mayor, Cllr Lilian Dodd. The ladies ran a number of fund raising activities including a Raffle, Name the Teddy, an Auction and our own Brian Scott dyed his hair pink; it's still hard to believe your thatch can be thicker dyed than natural, but there you go, some things can never be explained.

In all "Pink Day" in aid of breast cancer saw the ladies raise a fantastic £1374. On behalf of Ladies' Section the Lady Captain would like to extend her thanks to all members for their kind generosity.

