***2015 DSL Order Of Merit***

***Round 1***

***Crowborough Beacon***

Well at last I hear you all cry, the 2015 DSL Tour is underway, and the scramble, clawing, fighting and biting that is the race for the DSL Order of Merit Trophy has started. Crowborough Beacon was the venue for our first event in 2015. The Society has not very recently visited this top 100 golf course, and sadly we are unlikely to return. The greens were in a fairly poor state, although they had recently been dressed and prepared for the summer. The tee boxes were poor as well, but this seemed to suit many of our members, perhaps it made up for their less than perfect games.

The day started cold and there was a little bit of ground frost when we all turned up and the Club House. We had plenty of time to enjoy the spectacular views from the balcony, due primarily to the fact the Club House was locked until around 7.40am. However by tee time the sun was out and the day promised very much. But some promises are broken with shanks, fat shots, and putting ineptitude, but that’s enough about Jake’s game.

It was good to see some old faces returning to the DSL fold, Rod Brennan made a 250 mile round trip, and it was good to have one of the original members playing again, and playing very well too! Kevin ‘The Kid’ Mardell and Mike ‘The Rustler’ Russell also returned, and demonstrated that they have not lost that bandit touch.

**The Round;**

The society last played a course on the hills at Willingdon (The Goat Course), and Crowborough gave Willingdon a run for its money. The course was in need of some maintenance and throughout the day many a mutter of what could be done was heard. The 5th hole in particular was one such hole with its gently vertical fairway. Several members suggested oxygen tanks should be available greenside, some thought a chair lift from the tee, others a taxi service. The walk from the 16th tee to the 18th green also had a little slope to it too, many society members were sure they had seen the ghosts of Hilary and Sherpa Tensing using such an ascent as part of their training for the Everest climb.

Despite the gentle rolling of the fairways, the views were spectacular, although few of the society saw them, due to the ‘head down looking for my ball’ approach to almost every fairway and green. Outside entertainment was provided by members of the public, who decided that parking on the road across the fairway on the 7th was a great idea!? and performing a 25 point turn in front of the 13th tee also a good idea?

However, surprisingly scoring was good, with 15 of the 22 people within 8 points of each other. Clearly the winter months have provided an opportunity to work on the swing, the putting and ball finding abilities.

**The Results:**

All the cards were sorted and the results compiled to make some sort of sense, while the society consumed with some vigor an excellent cottage pie. There was a sense of anticipation and excitement emanating from our Handicap custodian, especially with the return of some serial bandits and new members, who are always good for a cut or two. However, our Grim Handicap Reaper was to be denied too much enjoyment, but this was tempered a little by a visit from Razor and Espen. The reaper very much enjoyed the negotiation and haggling Ray offered last time, and he was not to be disappointed.

Ray started with the emotional hard luck story from the last year’s knockout final, then smoothly moved into the excuse of bad weather over the winter, then tacked, literally, into the boat repairs and cleaning excuse. It was compelling, and very heart felt, and so our Handicap Reaper decided to laugh only for 1 hour after removing a further 1.2 from Razor’s handicap.

Not to be out done, Espen, a professional gambler, used his ‘poker face’ to try and unsettle the Reaper, then looked to use his bluffing skills, only to be dealt a crushing blow of 1.6 being removed from his handicap.

Whilst happy with his days’ work, our Handicap Reaper is still concerned about the number of people managing to avoid having a small cut by scoring in the 30-31 point zone, and even more alarmingly those who are starting to gain handicap points!!

**The Winner:**

It was very close fight for the 1st title of the year and those most important Order of Merit points. But on countback, with a 21 points haul on the back nine, which was as many a Jake managed over 18 holes! Espen stood up to claim the victory from Ray. Espen definitely had a game of 2 halves, who would have known that standing on the 10th tee with 12 points he would go on to win? Could this be the title charge already from Espen? Kings Hill will tell us.

**The Runner Up**;

Ray Smith (Razor) has made another great start to the 2015 Tour and he too showed his hand and has made an early charge for the title as he did in 2014. The question remains however, is his handicap still too high? Well according to Steve Parrish, who plays Ray in the 2nd round of the Knockout Competition, it is!

**The Cash Team Event**

1st and 2nd could not have gone to a bigger collection of Bandits. Both teams contained a returning bandit, no surprise there then, and both teams ended up over 6 points clear of 3rd. there was some inevitability to ‘The Kid’ being in the winning team, despite continued claims that he ‘has not played all last year’, and has ‘only just got back into golf’. But with 88 points, ‘The Kid’, Razor and last year’s captain Allan Gallard, claimed the 1st prize and title of ‘The 3 Amigos’

Mike Russell made a winning return too, and with this year’s captain, Colin Barber, and Richard Pearson, they claimed 2 place and title of ‘The 3 Blind Mice’

**The Longest Drive;**

Darren Sands won the longest drive, and still maintains that it was his first shot with his driver, not his second! None the less and despite many a slur on his height, and ability to hit the ball that far and stay on the right fairway, Darren claimed his bottle of wine with a big smile and two fingers up. Our serial winner, Michael Wakley-Smith, was apparently 50 yards further with his 3 iron, but unfortunately the fairway had run out!?

**The Nearest the Pin;**

A titanic battle raged for this coveted prize. Coveted because it shows everyone else that you can hit a 25 yard square of grass from less than 170 yards! Fred Farley led the early charge in the first group with a shot to about 12 feet. However, a newly invigorated Rod Brennan, returned to the DSL fold to claim the coveted prize, by about 3 inches. But that is all you need apparently.

**Captains Notes**

Colin would like to extend his thanks to the Society, as by the end of the day £97 had been ‘collected’ for his charity.

Furthermore Colin has decided that ‘Blob’ fines will be capped at £5. This will ensure that and even contribution is made by all members. I for one am relived, as I don’t know that I could continue to ‘donate’ and extra £10 each time.

A reminder that you will need to be wearing your ‘DSL’ shirt or suffer the fine consequences.

**Round 2 of the 2015 DSL Tour**

**Kings Hill on Friday 1st May, the timings for this event are;**

**9.30am - Bacon Rolls**

**10.30am 1st Tee**

**Please make every effort to be there.**

Jake Denney

Secretary, DSL GS

***2015 DSL Order Of Merit Standings***

After the first event it is difficult to pull any predictions from the result. There were a few remarks made about ‘dodgy handicaps’, but I think we have a good set up that allows everyone an opportunity to win.

However, the early runners have set the pace, let’s see over the Tour if they have thorough bred, or beach donkey abilities. The good thing is that with so few people in the first event, there are not to many points between 1st and last. Still time to make a move!

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Player** |  | **Handicap** | | **Points** |  |
| Surname | First Name | Started | Current | **OM** | **Sbfd** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Erichsen | Espen | 16.4 | 14.8 | **50** | **33** |
| Smith | Ray | 10.7 | 9.5 | **48** | **33** |
| Parrish | Steve | 5.5 | 5.6 | **46** | **29** |
| Brennan | Rod | 26.4 | 20.6 | **46** | **30** |
| W-Smith | Michael | -3.7 | -3.6 | **44** | **29** |
| Gallard | Allan | 7.8 | 7.9 | **42** | **28** |
| Pearson | Richard | 19.4 | 19.5 | **40** | **28** |
| Payne | Derek | 8 | 8.1 | **39** | **27** |
| Barber | Colin | 17.6 | 17.7 | **38** | **27** |
| Mardell | Kevin | 5.4 | 5.5 | **37** | **27** |
| Kember | Tony | 4.5 | 4.7 | **36** | **26** |
| Hook | Alan | 25.9 | 26.1 | **35** | **25** |
| Farley | Fred | 4 | 4.6 | **34** | **24** |
| Middleton | Shawn | 11.5 | 11.8 | **33** | **24** |
| Sands | Darren | 3.6 | 3.9 | **32** | **23** |
| Denney | Jake | -1.2 | -0.8 | **31** | **21** |
| Denney | Tom | 23.6 | 24.1 | **30** | **20** |
| Gibson | Richard | 22 | 22.5 | **29** | **19** |
| Reece | Martin | 25.1 | 25.6 | **28** | **18** |

***Crowborough - Results & Handicap Revisions***

***Any Tied Scores Are Sorted By Count Back***

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Pos | Name | H.Cap | S/Ford Score | Order of Merit Points | Adjustment | Winner | Runner Up | Rev. H.Cap |
| 1 | Espen Erichsen | 16.4 | 33 | 50 | -0.6 | -1 |  | 14.8 |
| 2 | Ray Smith | 10.7 | 33 | 48 | -0.6 |  | -0.6 | 9.5 |
| 3 | Rod Brennan | 20.6 | 30 | 46 | N/A |  |  | 20.6 |
| 4 | Steve Parrish | 5.5 | 29 | 44 | +0.1 |  |  | 5.6 |
| 5 | Michael W-Smith | -3.7 | 29 | 42 | +0.1 |  |  | -3.6 |
| 6 | Allan Gallard | 7.8 | 28 | 40 | +0.1 |  |  | 7.9 |
| 7 | Richard Pearson | 19.4 | 28 | 39 | +0.1 |  |  | 19.5 |
| 8 | Derek Payne | 8 | 27 | 38 | +0.1 |  |  | 8.1 |
| 9 | Colin Barber | 17.6 | 27 | 37 | +0.1 |  |  | 17.7 |
| 10 | Kevin Mardell | 5.4 | 27 | 36 | +0.1 |  |  | 5.5 |
| 11 | Tony Kember | 4.5 | 26 | 35 | +0.2 |  |  | 4.7 |
| 12 | Alan Hook | 25.9 | 25 | 34 | +0.2 |  |  | 26.1 |
| 13 | Fred Farley | 4.3 | 24 | 33 | +0.3 |  |  | 4.6 |
| 14 | Shawn Middleton | 11.5 | 24 | 32 | +0.3 |  |  | 11.8 |
| 15 | Darren Sands | 3.6 | 23 | 31 | +0.3 |  |  | 3.9 |
| 16 | Jake Denney | -1.2 | 21 | 30 | +0.4 |  |  | -0.8 |
| 17 | Tom Denney | 23.6 | 20 | 29 | +0.5 |  |  | 24.1 |
| 18 | Richard Gibson | 22 | 19 | 28 | +0.5 |  |  | 22.5 |
| 19 | Martin Reece | 25.1 | 18 | 27 | +0.5 |  |  | 25.6 |
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***As a reminder, the handicaps are adjusted as follows:***

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Stableford Score* | *Handicap Adjustment* | *Stableford Score* | *Handicap Adjustment* |
| *0-20* | *+0.5* | *36* | *-1.5* |
| *21-22* | *+0.4* | *37* | *-1.8* |
| *23-24* | *+0.3* | *38* | *-2.2* |
| *25-26* | *+0.2* | *39* | *-2.6* |
| *27-29* | *+0.1* | *40* | *-3.0* |
| ***30-31*** | ***No Change*** | *41* | *-3.5* |
| *32* | *-0.3* | *42* | *-4.0* |
| *33* | *-0.6* | *43+* | *-4.5* |
| *34* | *-0.9* |  |  |
| *35* | *-1.2* |  |  |

***In addition to the above: Winner -1 Runner Up -0.62015 DSL Knockout Trophy***

Well with only 3 matches actually taking place it was a quiet start to the 2015 Knockout Trophy. I say quiet, there was plenty of disagreement to the late change due to Norman being unable to make it, and how some people had now got to give more shots away. However the matches started and there was plenty of, stress, nail biting and nerves as both the 2014 Knockout winner and runner up were both in action.

Ray Smith, 33 points, beat Kevin “the Kid’ Mardell, 27 points

Michael Wakley-Smith, 29 points, beat Tom Denney, 20 points

Darren Sands, 23 points, beat Martin Reece, 18 points.

Following their titanic battles, and I think they were all sinking slowly by the 18th, Ray, Darren and Michael, face familiar foes in Round 2 at Kings Hill.

**Round 2 Draw – Kings Hill 1st May 2015**

Darren Sands (3.9) v Espen Erichsen (14.8)

Michael Wakley-Smith (-3.6) v Derek Payne (8.1)

Ray Smith (9.5) v Steve Parrish (5.6)

Rod Brennan (20.6) v Richard Gibson (22.5)

A battle with a combined age of 150, I think this result will depend on who’s sanatogen runs out first!

Jake Denney (-0.8) v Richard Pearson (19.5)

Colin Barber (17.7) v Shawn Middleton (11.8)

It must be noted however that our 2014 Captain, Allan Gallard, and Tony Kember have both managed to make it into the Quarter Finals without swinging a single club in the competition. Their opposition, Fred Farley and Alan Hook will both be out of the country for the next round. Mind you, Tony will face either Razor or Steve in the quarter final, with Alan facing either Richard Gibson or Rod Brennan.

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| MR 18 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  | JD |  |  |  |  |  | RS |  |
| JD |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | RS 33 |

***2015 DSL Tour Calendar***

We are required to provide confirmed numbers at least a week prior to each date or we will incur financial penalties, so please could you let us know as early as possible if you are not going to be able to make any of the dates.

Please make every effort to attend as many as you can, your continued support is appreciated.

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| **Date** | **Location** | **Details** | **Cost** |
| **25th March 2015** | **Crowborough Beacon** | **Brian Rudkin Shield**  **2015 Champion – Espen Erichsen 33 Points**  **2nd Ray Smith 33 Points (Countback)** | **(M) £55**  **(G) £60** |
| 1st May 2015 | Kings Hill | DSL Open Cup  2014 Champion – Ray Smith | (M) £45  (G) £50 |
| 12th June 2015 | Sweetwoods | Dave Gillett Shield  2014 Champion – Shawn Middleton | (M) £45  (G) £50 |
| 24th July 2014 | Chartham Park | DSL Masters Shield  2014 Champion – Allan Gallard | (M) £45  (G) £50 |
| 18th September 2014 | Parkwood | DSL Classic Trophy  2014 Champion – Darren Sands | (M) £45  (G) £50 |

***Society Etiquette and Rules***

To avoid any embarrassing moments for both members and the golf clubs, the society has the following rules. These are based on basic golf etiquette and common sense. There may be specific rules set by each of the courses and you will be informed of these in the newsletter preceding each event.

**Society Dress code:**

DSL Golf Society Shirt - There will be a fine for not wearing it. If you don’t have one please speak to a committee member.

Golf Shoes (soft spikes)

Trousers (Socks not white)

Peaked Cap or ‘Golf Hat’

Smart casual dress is required when in restaurants and clubhouses, no jeans, tracksuits or trainers.

**Course Etiquette:**

Keep Buggies to designated paths, fairways and rough.

Keep trolleys and or buggies off tees and greens.

Replace your divots.

Always rake bunkers.

Repair ball pitch marks on the greens.

Play ‘Ready Golf’ – If you are ready and it is safe to do so play your shot.

Avoid slow play. **(PICK UP IF YOU CAN NOT SCORE)**