

## NARPO GOLF DAY 2019

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September saw this year's event being played at Builth Wells Golf Club. For the weeks leading up to this date the weather had been superb, and everyone had high hopes that the weather would hold out a little longer. Sadly, by the middle of the preceding week, it became apparent that the good weather was coming to an end and that rather than be basking in sunshine, the competitors would need to take swimming gear and flippers!

This gloomy forecast held until the morning of the competition and unfortunately three of the prospective entrants apparently did not possess flippers, so they made other arrangements for the big day.

The record entry of seventeen was therefore whittled down to fourteen which necessitated a slight tweaking of the draw without too much inconvenience. Entries came from far and wide, with members travelling from Warrington, Pembrokeshire, Carmarthen, Llanelli, Aberystwyth, Welshpool and Newtown, and we even had two players from Builth and Llandrindod!

On the journey to Builth, the majority must have wondered what they were letting themselves in for as they travelled through torrential rain and in some cases, flooded roads. However, their perseverance and optimism proved to be well founded, as the closer they got to the venue, the brighter the skies became. It turned out that Builth had had its fair share of the rain overnight and early morning, but by the time tee off had arrived, it had moved away from the area. It is fair to say that we could not believe our luck! One very heavy downpour of about seven minutes was all that we had to contend with.

We welcomed two members who were making their first appearance in the competition – Ian John and Mick Seal, who served in the Hertfordshire Constabulary, has relocated to Pembrokeshire on retirement and is now an additional member of our branch.

There were no stories of note (other than the quality of the golf on show) in the clubhouse afterwards, as it appears that everyone had been too busy performing the anti-rain dance – with success, so we'll move straight on to the prize winners. Gary Evans had taken the main prize for the last two years and remembered to bring the trophy with him this year! He was desperate to make it a hat trick of victories, although his wife had virtually told him that he would not be allowed back in the house if he won any more trophies for display. Steve Cole missed last year's event as he was in Australia visiting family. The rest obviously did him good, as he fought tooth and nail with Gary until the final hole. Both players ended up with an excellent thirty nine points – for the non golfers among you, thirty six points is the bench mark to aim for and any score around that figure points to a very creditable performance, so for two players to achieve thirty nine points is certainly no mean feat. The only way that the two could be separated was by scrutinising the score cards with a fine-

tooth comb, which revealed that Gary was the victor by virtue of better scoring over the last three holes – it was that close. Congratulations to Gary and commiserations to Steve! Other prize winners were Phil Small, Alan Jones, Huw Rees, Ian John and Mike Benbow.

We were very pleased to welcome our sponsor and branch member David Jones, who although unable to play for health reasons, was able to join us for the prize giving and meal.

Thanks must be given to David for his continued support, to Alan Jones and Phil Small who greatly assisted me in the scoring duties, to the green staff for the excellent condition of the course despite the recent extreme weather and to the catering staff for their hospitality and quality of the meal. All in all, a thoroughly good day, with the weather a bonus considering the forecast, which was very much enjoyed by all.

It was unanimously agreed to keep to the same venue at the same time of year. The exact date will be announced in due course.

**Phil Hopkins**