

BTRGS 2010 Winter Meeting Report

Date: 3 February 2010
Venue: Ipswich Golf Club, Purdis.
Format: Stableford – Progressive Aggregate Team Scoring

This event was advertised in mid December. As last year, the wintry conditions were not very conducive to getting a flood of acceptances, but 14 enthusiasts signed up plus requests for 2 guests. (More about this at the end of the report) However the big freeze then overtook events and the original date of 13th January was postponed and the new 3rd Feb date agreed.

The revised date looked in jeopardy and Ipswich had both courses closed immediately prior to our event, but luckily they opened the day before. On the day, it was a rather frosty start to the morning but warmed up nicely by the main tee-off time of 10.45. Some keen players played 9 holes on the small course before the main event, Paul Burke noting that they got round pretty quickly in less than 90 minutes.

For the main event, we played in very pleasant conditions, and most woolly hats and mittens were taken off. There was a little patch of ice at the top of the 10th green, but otherwise the greens were OK. Early on there were some hard bounces from some fairways, but overall the course conditions were pretty good considering the time of year.

The format was 3-ball teams, Stableford scoring with allowance of $\frac{3}{4}$ h/c. For the first 6 holes only the best of the 3 scores counts, for the next 6 holes the best 2 scores, and for the final 6 holes there was nowhere to hide – all 3 scores counted. I am indebted to Stephen Stokes (and I believe Stuart Wyse) for suggesting this format. It was a deceptively relaxed format, our Team's experiences being shared by many. We found the first 6 holes very pleasant, almost like a Texas Scramble atmosphere, and we were all playing quite well. We started to feel some pressure for the next 6 holes, culminating in a rather ignominious blob for all 3 of our team at the SI 16 par 3 10th! For the last 6 we all felt the heavy team responsibility (admittedly not quite Ryder Cup levels), and our group certainly had a more serious edge, with effusive apologies for bad shots. It was interesting to note that after 12 holes there was only a 2 point spread between the Teams, but a 16 point spread over the last 6 holes. The feedback on the format was pretty positive, and I think well suited to an early year event.

After a quick drink in the bar, we were served a Ham, Egg & Chips High Tea, followed by the presentation of prizes. The prize strategy was that all teams would win some form of prize, both as an early encouragement for the new season, and to be able to boast of a top-ten finish to spouses/work mates. The higher end prizes included Toblerone bars and other high quality confectionary. There were individual prizes for most gross birdies and a booby prize for most lost golf balls. The latter remained unclaimed as no one owned up to losing more than 1 ball. The formalities were concluded by about 16.30.

(This event, to date, has been semi-official, in that the BTRGS year is the calendar year. So no one is actually a BTRGS member until they have completed their forms in early spring. Hence there is no subsidy for this event. The Winter Meeting also appeals only to the hardest enthusiast, so we typically have a field of only 12 – 16 people. To ensure a viable number, for the past 2 years, I have said that a few guests could come along as well, and we had 2 guests last year and this – they pay the same amount as everyone else. This year the cost was £30 (plus £1 for prize fund), but this was a discretionary rate, the normal rate would have been £40. Next year we will be charged £40 for 9 holes on the 9-hole course, 18 holes and single course supper, and they will throw in coffee and a bacon bap before going off at 10.45. Arranging a small subsidy might be appropriate, although any guest will pay the full amount)

Results follow ...

Results

BTRGS 2010 Winter Meeting - "The Toblerone Masters"

Richard Wyndham

Andre Roden*
Steve Hughes

1-6	7-12	13-18	Total	Pos'n
15	20	37	72	1st

Jonathan Brown

Paul Burke
Tony Dann

14	21	34	69	2nd
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Tim Pittman

Chris Amor
Steve Willingham*

14	20	29	63	3rd
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Jon Hopkins

Carl Stagg
John Bates

15	20	28	63	4th
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Stephen Stokes

Stuart Wyse
Trevor Buck

15	18	23	56	5th
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