



Tradlads Diary, Season 2010_11

We play here



It is almost impossible to remember how tragic a place this world is when one is playing golf.
~Robert Lynd

Part One

Weeks 1-18



Week One. Saturday 16/10/10.

Several regulars were unable to turn out as they were seconded to the annual Commerzbank Golf Society v EBRD Golf Society match. A fine performance saw Tradlads representatives win their matches to enable EBRD to remain unbeaten in the series.

Meanwhile, back at Trads....

With a turn out of only 8 players Penny had over booked and took some fearful flak from the management who had two blank prime time tees unfilled.

On the golf front Lenny, threatening to become more regular, turned up in his sponsored vehicle publicising the newly released film R E D in which Bruce Willis, John Malkovich, Morgan Freeman and Helen Mirren attempt to resurrect early characters in action movies.

He obviously took some inspiration from the celebrities to win the day with 39 points. A 0.6 cut will not, however, affect his playing handicap and he remains on 12 (11.8 from 12.4). Expect an early whinge from the Butler direction.

Keith the pro was runner up.

The following week Penny delivered a well aimed rant about letting her know by Wednesday evening whether you will be turning out or not the following Saturday. Let's hope this lasts after upsetting the club last week.

Columbus went around the world in 1492. That isn't a lot of strokes when you consider the course.

~Lee Trevino



A pro
driving



A driving
Pro!

Week Two. Saturday 23/10/10.

The rant seemed to have worked as one tee time was given back to Trads.

The secretary was away on family duties but a steady turnout of 11 players was achieved on a day which did not look too promising on the weather front.

Keith & Peter (Playing off 13 after his epic victory in the September medal), shared the spoils winning with 34 points.

Keith is taking an early lead in the money list with consistent performances.

The reason the pro tells you to keep your head down is so you can't see him laughing.

~Phyllis Diller



Week Three. Saturday 30/10/10.

Another tee time given back to Trads as Penny's efficiency proves successful. As does her golf.

Penny won the day with 39 points pipping Derek by one point.

Down to handicap marks of 16 & 7 respectively.

I bet Dave was glad he had Joe in the car as well on the way home.

The Secretary was again away on family duties and no one seems to be coming up with any gossip or grassing up of other player's misfortunes. Need to get back in the swing of things.

Keith the pro was a "no show" so did not increase his winnings. Dave Butler took longest drive despite Dr. Raj being in the field. Surprisingly nothing for Lloyd.

"After all, golf is only a game," said Millicent. Women say these things without thinking. It does not mean that there is a kink in their character. They simply don't realise what they are saying.
~P.G. Wodehouse, *Order by Golf*, 1922



Penny Clarke,
Ladies Captain

Week Four. Saturday 06/11/10.

The day did not look like being a good one for Penny. David Butler had cried off unwell late on Friday night so she was without a lift.

Step in Bob Jordan who made a diversion to Barnes to pick Penny up and ensure she kept up her unbroken attendance record.

Without Bob's kindness she would not have had a record start to her round. 5 straight pars broke her personal best. She extended it to eight a short while later. Surprisingly she failed to clear the ditch on 9 and the run came to an end.

Penny did however hang in there to record a net 69 for a second win in a row.

Being out first and therefore clubhouse leader, she was like a cat on a hot tin roof, hoping someone would beat her score so she did not suffer a further cut for winning two in a row.

It was not to be. No one could get closer than 4 shots (Bob & Keith net 73's).

Down to a handicap mark of 14 (13.5) for at least 9 weeks.

She just has to sort out the back nine.

They throw their clubs backwards, and that's wrong. You should always throw a club ahead of you so that you don't have to walk any extra distance to get it.

~Tommy Bolt, about the tempers of modern players



Week Five. Saturday 13/11/10.

Two points covered the top 9 players (31-33 points) in autumnal conditions, Peter & Kenny were the cream rising to the top.

Penny unfortunately did not sort out the back nine and a combination of the front nine and the handicappers axe also got to her as she brought up the rear, sadly not as one of those on 31 points either

Forget your opponents; always play against par.
~Sam Snead



Week 6 Saturday 20/11/10

So, two in a row for the great galoot Mr. Sealy. An extra handicap adjustment for him but it is good to see his determination to play to the lower handicap he achieved just before last years tour. He is obviously matching his power game to a short game and from 33 points last week to 34 this he is also capable of playing close to that 13 handicap.

This is the second time in the new season that someone has one two events in a row. What is this, a conspiracy to make the handicap secretary do more work?

Keith the pro picked up runners up spot for the third time this season. Is he working to a plan as well?

Sadly Lickle Joe was just out of the frame but there are encouraging signs for him with a 32 to thrash his dad (23). Had to check I didn't reverse the numbers on their scores but I didn't, his dad played crap! Joe Butler is officially the best golfer in his family. Well, this week anyway.

Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.



Week 7 Saturday 27/11/10

Tony Robinson?

Keith the pro got his sums wrong and found himself in the winners circle along with Robert White in a low scoring week. The low scores were hardly surprising given the extreme frost that saw no one able to keep a ball on the 3rd green.

Raj was only 1 point behind these two but made up for it with 5 out of 8 swindle prizes, including the rollover at the 6th following the aforementioned difficulties at the 3rd.

There was a dead bird on the 9th green, not a mark on it. It looked like it had just dropped out of the sky. I suppose these things happen, if I was flying and had a heart attack I suppose I would struggle to get to the next tree (for treatment ha ha).

Anyway, Lenny caused confusion and amusement by suggesting that it should be left by the edge of the green so that a deer could come and eat it.



Deerstalker



Deer stalker?

Now this was puzzling because everyone thought deer were herbivores that ate grass and stuff not carnivores that eat meat. Some reports out of the US (I googled it to make sure) suggest that deer do occasionally eat meat, making them omnivores, if it is served up on a plate (well, not literally but you get my drift) so Lenny may have been right after all.

Study: Deer are meat eaters

31 Tuesday, 20 October 2009 12:33  Mark England, LSONews.



Still think it was wrong though. This deer is probably only sniffing.

The next celebrity in the Tradlads Hall of fame on the website is expected to be David Attenborough. Perhaps if he is patient he will get a rare picture of Richie running.

**Give me the fresh air, a beautiful partner, and a nice round of golf,
and you can keep the fresh air and the round of golf.**

~Jack Benny



Week 8 Saturday 11/12/10

It has happened again. For the 3rd time out of 8 weeks in the season someone has won for a 2nd week in a row.

This time it was Robert White causing me to take a chainsaw to his handicap and mess up all the calculations in my score sheets.

The course was played over the restricted distance due to the conditions after early winter snow had persisted, having caused the cancellation of last week's event. This may have led to the excellent scoring with 4 players returning 68 or better (Against a par of 70) but Rob's round of net 64 should also be viewed alongside the fact that after the fourth place score of 68, the next best net was 77 and the average on the day was 74.

Rob is now down to a handicap mark of 14 and all his efforts are starting to reap rewards.



Week 9 Saturday 01/01/11

A Happy New Year to everyone.

Well, it was always unlikely that anyone would be playing on Saturday the 25th but it would probably have been cancelled due to the snow which also claimed the 18th as well. This has been the worst winter for cancellations I can remember.

Anyway, New Years Day and the colour green had returned to replace all the white at Trads.

Paul Barnett took the honours; will he make it two in a row like Penny, Peter & Rob White before?

Andy Lewis would have shared top spot had he not been a.w.o.l. since the last season. Lloyd and Neil share runners up spot, the significance of which will become apparent in the next entry.

A female news anchor who, the day after it was supposed to have snowed and didn't, turned to the weatherman and asked, "So Bob, where's that eight inches you promised me last night?" Not only did HE have to leave the set, but half the crew did too, because they were laughing so hard!



Week 10 Saturday 08/01/11

Kenny takes top spot with 41 points, Keith the pro again in runners up spot on 40.

Lloyd was a seemingly distant 3rd, probably still cursing himself for not checking his score properly the week before. He would have been joint winner of week 9 instead of joint runner up if he had not agreed to a 4 for 2 at the 18th (off a 5 handicap). He was playing off 6 so it should have been 4 for 3.

Some tournaments would have seen a big DQ against his name for such an error but we are a kinder school and I did not think I would get the prize money off of him anyway!!. The handicap secretary was a flu victim.



If profanity had an influence on the flight of the ball, the game of golf would be played far better than it is.

~Horace G. Hutchinson



Week 11 Saturday 15/01/11

Kenny again. For the 4th time in 11 outings a winner has defended their title. Lenny, Keith (twice) and Paul are the only ones where you would have lost money backing them for a double.

It seems that last weeks two shot cut was not enough so here is another one for him! In a “Beware the injured golfer” moment, Dave Butler made a comeback (his wife kicked him out of the house) and took runners up spot. In windy conditions only these two broke 30 points with even Keith the pro struggling on 26.

Shocking news on the professional front with one golfer (Elliott Saltman) being suspended for repeatedly replacing his ball incorrectly in a 2nd tier tournament, gaining a maximum of 1cm per time and Padraig Harrington being disqualified from a tournament when he accidentally nudged his ball on the putting green whilst replacing it. It apparently rolled forward about 2 dimples and back 1½ dimples.

Elliott Saltman was reported by his playing partners. Why didn't they challenge him at the time and allow him to DQ himself?

Padraig was grassed up by a TV viewer who must be very sad.

I know rules are rules and the great thing about golf is the responsibility shown by players who often report breaches themselves (Ian Poulter in the play off of the final tournament of 2011 for example) but are these guys so good that these minimal gains make such a difference?

I suppose it sets the game aside from football where diving and stealing yards at free kicks & throw ins or placing the ball just outside the quadrant at corners are accepted practice, or cricket where batsman to not walk if they get a faint edge and fielders claim catches that have bounced.

Elliott Saltman apparently placed his marker in the “8 o'clock” position but put the ball back at the “6 o'clock” position. Now if he carried a dinner plate as a marker I could understand the gain and possible intention but were Elliott & Padraig really gaining, or seeking to gain an advantage?

The number of shots taken by an opponent who is out of sight is equal to the square root of the sum of the number of curses heard plus the number of swishes. ~Michael Green, *The Art of Coarse Golf*, 1975



Week 12 Saturday 22/01/11 John Candy?

It is becoming an Irish monopoly at the moment as the spoils went to the Emerald isle (at least the British bit) for the third week running.

This time it was Richie heading the field with a 41 pointer. He had told me that he didn't want to go above 28 again. He won't now after the 2.5 shot cut!

Can he maintain the pattern of the season and win for the second week running next time he is out? A decent win will see him off of a mark of 24 or lower.

If the Irish theme continues, Paddy should turn up again soon and win two weeks running.

Asked for a quote Richie said “fnqlfgnQER:m ,f;wefm; f;lm;lf l,f”w, we,”
Can you sing that Richie?

Back in Kenny's camp, he has earned the nickname “Kauto Kenny” after blowing a sizeable wedge on Kauto Star in the running of the postponed King George at Kempton.

To make matters worse he played like he had someone riding on his back all the way round!

**I never pray to God to make a putt. I pray to God to help me react good if I miss a putt.
~Chi Chi Rodriguez**



Week 13 Saturday 29/01/11 John Candy2?



Kauto Kenny should take my e-mails as advice for his betting as sure enough Richie won for the second week running! He had to share the spoils with Peter though so the odds would have been halved. Peter is putting in some consistent performances having seen his handicap slashed since August.

Peter will surely be waiting in the wings if Paddy doesn't turn up to make my predictions come true as I predicted that Paddy, if he turns up, should win this week and make it a double the next time he plays as well.

All these Irish victories are making it like the Eurovision Song Contest in the first half of the 90's when the competition found a regular home in Dublin.

Only a “Nil Point” at the 18th stopped Peter from “Doing a Norway” and breaking the Irish run of victories. (Secret Gardens “Nocturne” in 1995 stopped Ireland achieving 4 consecutive wins in case you were wondering). At least I won’t be comparing any of our society to Israel’s 1998 winners!

The only time my prayers are never answered is on the golf course.
~Billy Graham



Week 14 Saturday 05/02/11

Well, the Irish theme sort of continued as the secretary (Surname Smyth is Irish spelling of Smith- Northern Irish grandfather so I would not have had to pretend to sing the National Anthem if I had been picked to represent them at football.

Sadly, bad as they were in the early eighties even their scouting/desperation did not spread as wide as Carshalton 5th team captain in the Southern Amateur League!

Although, if it had done I like to think I would have been an automatic choice as a fox in the box is a rare commodity at that level!

LOL as they say!

Anyway, very windy conditions were tamed with a 38 pointer including successive tap in birdies at 10 & 11.

I now have to keep it going next week otherwise the abuse for protection of handicap at not getting an additional cut for winning two weeks running will be horrendous.

Keith the pro was runner up again. 5 times out of 14 competitions he has been the bridesmaid.

It's so bad I could putt off a tabletop and still leave the ball halfway down the leg.

~J.C. Snead, on his putting



Week 15 Saturday 12/02/11

What was this, the first signs of spring as we finished the round.

Roger “the dodger” Hinds was back from an injured back and eased his way to a net 67 to pick up the monthly stroke play prize. Guess who was runner up. 6 out of 15 now. What does he do? Stand at weddings waiting for the bouquet to be thrown by the bride?

The secretary came third with another “below par” performance protecting his honour and avoiding the handicap protection accusations.

The green streak of Irish winners has stopped for now. Is there to be a Trinidadian onslaught? Yes Roger revealed his heritage to be linked to that of Raj and Alan.

The three ball of Butler/Clarke & Smyth devoured the 16th in an amazing 28 strokes, 10, 11 & 7 respectively. Oh the joys of stroke play.

The 16th lived up to its’ reputation as a card destroyer as Dave Butler had seven pars and a bogey on the back nine to go with that 10!

We were lucky to get everyone out as 14 turned up when we only had three times, we cannot rely on Andy or Terry to fit us in every time. Someone will get disappointed one week.

Time for another rant e-mail.

**Duffers who consistently shank their balls are urged to buy and study *Shanks - No Thanks* by R.K. Hoffman, or in extreme cases, *M.S. Howard's excellent Tennis for Beginners*.
~Henry Beard, *Golfing*, 1985**



Week 16. Saturday 19/2/2011

Damned knee problem flared up again. At least I can trace this back to slipping on the mud pile that was Blue Mountain when Dr. Raj, Dave & I impersonated taxi drivers to get a special deal with Peter Sealy on Thursday.

Still, up early to get to Trads to draw the Spring Knockout. Wonder how many have read the e-mails about this?

Of our 20 regulars, 12 will get a bye to the last 16, 8 will be drawn to play a qualifier to see which four get added to the 12 to make a last 16. Simples!

Richie Murphy is there early so is enlisted to make the draw.

What does he do? He only draws me out as one of the eight to play a qualifier and even worse picks me against an in form Keith the Pro!

Cheers Richie.

Other unfortunates are Robert Lloyd v Bob Jordan, Roger Hinds v Paddy and Peter Sealy against Richie . Hah.

At least he didn’t draw himself out for a bye so he cannot be accused of favouritism.

The major beneficiary is Penny who gets a bye in the preliminary and is drawn to play against Andy Lewis in the last 16. Andy is currently in Botswana and unlikely to be back by the end of March, deadline day for the last 16, so she will probably progress to the last eight without hitting a ball!

On the playing front, Raj & Kenny shared first place in the absence of Keith the Pro, also out injured. Too much practice?
Richie had to withdraw after 9 holes with a recurrence of the rib injury that had kept him off the course the previous two weeks. No I hadn't done anything in retaliation for the draw. I am just amazed that anything got through his natural padding to damage the ribs in the first place!

My handicap? Woods and irons. ~Chris Codioli



Week 17 Saturday 26/02/11

Rain for 9 holes. Personally, I was hitting the ball so far left thought I had signed up for the communist party.

I was out in first group as I needed to get away, rain started half way down first and continued until 9th.

A reasonable first 9 given the conditions but I fell away to lose my Spring Knockout match against Keith the Pro, slicing in to the water at 10 for first time in years as the special "Wet" glove became too dry and lost grip, a bit like formula one tyre technology LOL.

My score collapsed as I chased a score knowing KO would be Mr Consistency.

I could have got away with it as KO did not even know about competition.

How does he get any business if he doesn't read e-mails when part of his advertising is his web site and my e-mails go to his web e-mail?

Keith goes on to play Lenny in the last 16.

Overall on the day Keith took first place with 38 points, effectively playing the course to gross par in what started out as horrible conditions.

A review of handicaps is due at the beginning of March and Keith's will be one that will attract attention. 3 wins and six runner up spots set him well out in the lead of whatever format, points or pounds, is used to assess player of the year and as a Society the idea should be to give everyone a chance. His performances have been over the worst of the winter as well.

Expectant father Raj is joint runner up with Lenny. Will Lenny turn up often enough to play his next round against Keith by the end of March?

Richie kept me off bottom place but completed his round so is hopefully on the mend. He had agreed to play his match against Peter today so joins me as a faller at the first hurdle.

Lloydy v Bob Jordan and Paddy v Roger Hinds remain to be completed in the preliminary round of the Spring Knockout.

Line of the week/year so far goes to the legend that is Lord Del of Belmont. His brother, Rasta Paul had turned up wearing a tie, mimicking the US golfer Ryan Moore but looking smarter because we all know that Paul Barnett is the Gok Wan of Tradlads. How does Ryan Moore manage to make golf clothing look so scruffy? Anyway, Del was not aware of his brother's clothing today but was aware that Paul had let a good round slip. When he saw how he was dressed he immediately quipped, "No wonder you choked!" brilliant. You had to be there. Unfortunately I wasn't!

You can't call it a sport. You don't run, jump, you don't shoot, you don't pass. All you have to do is buy some clothes that don't match.
~Steve Sax



Week 18 Saturday 5/03/11.

The "Week of the Long Knives".

A review of the handicaps was carried out and had resulted in Keith Orbell being reduced to scratch. Other handicaps came under review but Keith's was by far and away the standout performance.

Other performances have been strong but did not warrant adjustments as they had either seen quite heavy reductions already or were not regulars on the podium each week although Kenny is looking at a general play cut.

Roger Hinds may well warrant a review outside the normal twice yearly adjustments as he had been missing for a number of weeks since the turn of the year due to family commitments and is turning in impressive performances since his return. We are in fact having our asses kicked by an OAP as he won for the second time in three weeks! It was a nice day at Trads, albeit cold, and there was a good turnout this week.

However, it was a bit strange that the club saw fit to chase us up for slow play. The two leading groups were spoken to on the 17th! I was in the second group and had teed off when approached. At that point we were looking at a 4 ½ hour round which does not seem unreasonable on a winter Saturday when balls are being cleaned for preferred lies etc. yes the 3 ball behind us had lost a hole and there may have been a case for speaking to them. Keith Orbell is a teaching pro who sometimes works in the pro shop and was in the last group. If anyone should be aware of slow play it should be him and yet he said that there was no one immediately behind his group.

What point were they trying to make?

Yes we get cheaper green fees. But we are there all year round and a fair bit is spent in the bar and pro shop on top of the green fees.

Yes, we do have a reputation for slow play, but if they are trying to make a point for when it gets busier there are better ways of doing it and they should have an example, i.e. we were holding others up.

Anyway, Roger won and a tieless ~~Rastamouse~~ Rasta Paul did not choke and came runner up. Both broke par.

In the knockout cup, Robert White and Bernie had a close match, Robert moving in to the last eight by the narrowest margin.

Dave Butler had to come from behind to beat Kenny by just two points, having struggled round the front 9. He joins Robert in the last eight.

Interestingly, Dave will play either his son or Peter Sealy in the last eight.

Could be fireworks either way.

If your opponent is playing several shots in vain attempts to extricate himself from a bunker, do not stand near him and audibly count his strokes. It would be justifiable homicide if he wound up his pitiable exhibition by applying his niblick to your head.

~Harry Vardon



Tradlads Diary, Season 2010_11

Part Two - Weeks 19-28



Week 19 Saturday 12/03/11.

Kenny is becoming a regular and I am getting sick of the sight of his face beaming out at me as I write these.LOL

Kenny and Bob Jordan are both proving to be regulars in the winners circle and I need to think about general play adjustments to maintain fairness to everyone as mentioned last week.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch the club seem to be becoming a bit obsessive about the time we are taking.

It was a stableford this week and we got round in times of between 4:15 & 4:25 depending whose watch you look at. We were not noticeably holding anyone up but the pro-shop still had a dig at Lloydly when he went in to spend some money with them after 9 holes.

We do have a reputation for slow play but are aware of this and trying to do something about it.

I have had to put out a mail about not taking it for granted that you can just turn up and expect to play. The club are getting busy now and may not be so amenable over tee times & let us add in another group or book four times and only use three.

For slow play there are some simple things we can do,

1. Like not leave bags in front of greens,
2. Not wait on the tee for the winner of the previous hole to get the honour if they have been delayed,
3. Mark our cards up on the next tee (after our shot if we are teeing first) etc.
4. Be ready to play our shot when it is our turn, not have to walk to the ball from where the previous player played (unless in the line of fire of course),
5. Not wait until other players have putted to start lining our own putts up (unless we are on someone else's line of course).
6. Repair someone else's pitch mark if we are passing it.

These are all simple things that should not affect our game and help keep the pro-shop Nazis off our backs.

To more humble things.

Bob Jordan eliminated Lloydly from the Spring knockout employing his handicap to good effect.

The summer knockout will be true match play off of full handicap difference.

This diary has not, this year, been all about Dave who willingly let the boy inside the man be the subject of 2010, not that he had any choice.

However, week 19 should go down as a red letter day and would have been manna from heaven.

New Driver- Check

“This will be the last driver I ever buy” comment-Check

Previous last ever driver survived 3 weeks- Check

Can I get a free drop from here please?- Ch... er, hold on a minute, no. Rubbish tee shot on the 6th, luckily hit the red marker in front of the pond by the ladies tee, shot back across and behind the ladies tee in to some mud (casual water?) and a tyre track. This was so obvious I may have even offered it to him if he hadn't shot up to play it before we got there. Perhaps he was worried we might make him play the hole in time honoured fashion with his trousers down!

Anyway, the shot out the mud/tyre track fizzed in to the ditch.

Dave scratched the hole and finished up runner up by two points.

The driver went well though.

At the 11th,” Neil, Neil, I nearly went in the bunker”.

“What “One of them two fairway bunkers?” I asked knowing full well he meant the one in front of the green.

“No, no the one in front of the green” he said excitedly.

I know Dave, I know!

Anyway he thinned the chip and nearly missed the green, the ball stopping six inches from the fringe at the back of the green. Somehow this was good enough for the exocet prize.

Oh well, look out for the Taylor Made R11, coming to an eBay site near you in a week or two.

Actually, the only time I ever took out a one-iron was to kill a tarantula. And it took a seven to do that.

~Jim Murray



Week 20 Saturday 19/03/11

A really heavy frost gave way to a beautiful spring day.

Having been spiked the week before, the greens had been sanded this week and although there were fewer bobbles, putting was still a bit of a lottery as the greens changed pace as they dried out and the sand stopped sticking to the ball.

It is something they have to do and we have to put up with, and, as they say, it is the same for everybody.

Robert White decided to show off in front of his son, Chris, with a weekly win on 38 points.

Chris was sporting a shorter hairstyle but had a problem with his stance where he was falling to his left due to the amount of ironwork in his earlobe!

In the Spring Knockout this week saw the end of the Barnett interest in the competition as Derek was seen off by Dr. Raj and Roger Hinds beat Paul having never been behind after a 20 foot downhill putt to save par at the first.

The match remained close throughout though with Roger's short game coming to the rescue several times including a birdie at 10 to increase his lead when Paul looked likely to at least share the spoils,

The best part came at 14 when Roger's second clung to the edge of the green but was about as far from the hole as he could be whilst on the green. Having hit a great drive, Paul followed up with a towering approach which settled less than a foot from the pin. A tap in birdie was followed by a four putt from Roger. The scores were tight.

Roger pulled away though when he birdied the short 15th after Paul had tugged a wedge in to the rough behind the 14th green.

The Spring knockout has really provoked some interest and Paul made an interesting observation when he said that playing a match with his opponent in the group really made a difference to the way he played and also that he noticed a tenseness in his shoulders for the first half of the round.

We seem to have placated the club for now on the issue of slow play only for another problem to arise.

The club claimed that one person had not paid a green fee.

This was disputed with one of our group saying that when he paid the equipment was playing up and he was not issued a receipt.

This will mean that in future, everyone will have to sign in as they pay their green fees so that the club can check on who has & hasn't paid.

It will also mean that Penny & I won't be able to prepare cards in advance for late runners for the draw.

I know that many players arrive and chat in the car park before paying their green fees and swindle monies. It is very easy to get distracted I know with so much going on but hopefully we can nip this in the bud and enjoy a hassle free summer.

Society funds have had to be used to make up the shortfall to the club.

Nostalgia isn't what it used to be.

Yeah, after each of my downhill putts.

~Homero Blancas, asked if he had any uphill putts

Week 21 Saturday 26/03/11



The new sign in procedure was put in place although the club initially seemed to have forgotten, even after all the fuss from last week.

16 players booked with Penny and all 16 turned up in good time, well, more or less. Special requests were accommodated (need to go out in first group etc.) so the draw could be made in good time for everyone to have a warm up/practice. The only stragglers were Joe & Lenny. Lenny was giving Joe a driving lesson on the way to golf. This may or may not have included a stop at the Silvermere driving range.

Lenny was due to play his match with Keith the pro and was scared of being in the same group as Keith. Not the strong & confident Lenny I thought he was.

After Joe's tee shot at the first I hope Lenny's teaching was kept to cars. He won't be in business long otherwise!

Joe started off like a house on fire though, 11 points from 3 holes off of his special beginners handicap of 32. That won't last long.

He must know someone who works in a takeaway who gave him chipping lessons!

Oh and never go camping with him. With his pitching you will be putting the tent up on your own.

Lloyd returned to the winner's enclosure after apparently not having won for over a year and seen bandits win off of dodgy handicaps in all that time. His words.

Was he forgetting the 5th of May 2010? Nearly a year.

Oh. "What about the 19th of May 2010?" I hear you say. (Protecting his handicap by not winning twice in a row?).

Oh, and what about the 9th of October 2010 I hear you say even louder.

So Lloyd wins for the 4th time in a year. Might have to look at his handicap! Luckily he is no longer a fair-weather golfer.

But the really good news was the fact that the victory was shared with Marcus Bernard.

Tradlads operate a special handicap maximum of 32 for beginners to try and provide a stimulus to new disciples of the great game of golf.

To actually see someone win, or at least share a win, whilst still learning the game will hopefully provide a real encouragement to him and we will hopefully see a lot more of Marcus.

He will, of course, be cut to the normal male handicap maximum of 28 from now on, never to go above!

The realities of golf!

We can't have these upstarts getting carried away, & in any case, we don't want Lloydly whinging about having to wait another year to win because of bandits on dodgy handicaps.

A golfer's diet: live on greens as much as possible.
~Author Unknown



Week 22 Saturday 2/4/11

A weekend when Five went wild at Brocket Hall, well, sort of, and Keith the pro was required to work in the Pro Shop, Paul the Rasta Man cruised to victory by a margin of 9 strokes from Roger Hinds.

Paul's net 68 would have been a winning score most weeks and it is more of a surprise that the gap between first & second was so wide.

Nice to see Marcus maintaining some form off of his new handicap.

Whilst Raj was winning longest drive at Brocket Hall, Richie took the opportunity to win the fiver at Trads. The 13th may prove quite a challenge now it has been made a longest drive hole, requiring accuracy and distance, like the 5th which poses the challenge of playing for position with an iron or taking on the lake to try and find the wider part of the fairway.

These greens are so fast I have to hold my putter over the ball and hit it with the shadow.
~Sam Snead



Week 23 Saturday 9/4/11

Masters weekend and Leonardo took the honours, the only player under par as spring warmth covered the course (No cheap puns on Lenny the Master, Old master etcetera, I am far too good for that). There were 6 runners up this week, Marcus, the Roberts, White & Lloyd, Paul B, Peter Sealy and Keith the pro.

In the Spring Knockout, the big (only) match was between Joe Butler and Peter Sealy. In what was to be a horrible prelude to Rory McIlroy's collapse in Augusta, Joe was competing and in with a chance for 9 holes, but folded completely in the sun and the TV cameras stopped showing him as there were so many others in with a chance (Lenny + 12 others, if you look at how close the results were behind Lenny) took the attention. Well, we can dream but this would have been the way things would have worked out.

I'm hitting the woods just great, but I'm having a terrible time getting out of them.

~Harry Toscano



Week 24 Saturday 16/4/11

Two wins in three weeks for Rasta Paul and he was one of the six sharing second place last week. Lloyd will be on his case!

A warmish day again at Trads and surprisingly a lowish 34 points was the winning score.

I am not sure why the scores were so low generally. I know personally I am really struggling with a new driver and this is affecting confidence in the rest of the game but, strange mistress as golf is, two big drives at 17 & 18 leading to pars restored some belief and I cannot wait until next week! Only thing is, they were with the old driver which was carried as insurance. It looks like the new driver won't be getting the trip to La Manga over the Royal Wedding weekend I promised it if it started behaving itself.

In the knockout, Lenny eased past Penny who was playing her first match in the competition following a bye in the first round and the absence of Andy Lewis who is working abroad.

Lenny will now probably play Robert White in the 2nd semi final as it looks like he will get a walkover against GT who has not played in April. Robert is away for the next two weeks. GT has not contacted anyone to say that he has needed to be away or to make arrangements to play the match or request a carry over.

This is unfortunate but there are still two weeks left for GT.

The remaining quarter finals are Peter Sealy against Dave Butler which will certainly be a clash of styles and personalities, and Roger against Dr. Raj.

Mention of Dr. Raj nicely links us back to the Masters (this stuff is not just thrown together, oh no).

23 points at the turn, Raj completely folded. So much so that holes 10, 11, 12 are now to be known as Singh's corner (He didn't have a prayer- Amen). 13 & 14 were not big friends to him either.

So in week 23 we had a preview of Rory McIlroy's final round at Augusta and in week 24 we get the action replay.

On a personal note I am a bit concerned that I may have a stalker. This person is younger than me and I find that they are copying me in so many ways. I go bald, they go bald, I get a Ford Mondeo diesel, they get a Ford Mondeo diesel, I play rubbish, they play rubbish. What next? Will they stop chopping and changing their woods and putters?



Week 25 Saturday 23/4/11

I play in the low 80s. If it's any hotter than that, I won't play. ~Joe E. Lewis

Easter weekend and the south of England was in the grip of a heat wave. Sun on a bank holiday in England. Incredible.

Rob White brought along two Norwegian friends who were in the UK on a golfing break. They already have excellent English and this was enhanced by Robert Lloyd who treated them to some new golf terms encompassing some of the baser nouns, verbs and adjectives, in some cases converting the nouns to verbs to adjectives.

Erling and Ketil enjoyed themselves immensely.

In the Spring Knockout, Raj dissected Roger Hinds returning a 40 pointer and also winning a longest drive at the 13th. The change of longest drive holes to 5 & 13 was meant to test his nerve and shot making. With the temporary closure of the 5th tee (Everybody plays from the ladies) changing the entire aspect of that hole it was down to the 13th to provide the sterner challenge. Seems like his nerve & shot making are strong enough.

The other match played saw Dave Butler controversially overcome Peter Sealy, denying Peter the chance to change his driver whilst Peter was in the lead but not happy with his performance.

This is a correct application of the rules and one that you can be sure that Lloyd will be enforcing if he ever sees Dave trying to change clubs/ settings mid-round.

Dave and Raj will meet each other in the first semi-final and the second will be contested by Lenny and Robert White. Robert advanced by means of a walkover against G.T. who seems to have disappeared for a while.

The banter has started between David and Raj.

Watch this space for the outcome.

Do not argue with an idiot. He will drag you down to his level and beat you with experience.

Week 26. 30th April 2011



2Years? Nearer 2 weeks!

I was away on one of the City Boy jollies with Rob White so Penny was in charge and her note with the results put it quite succinctly:

“Well done to “I haven’t won for 2 years” Lloyd”.

Lloyd celebrated his second win in 5 weeks. Kenny will be on my case again. I will have to refer KK to the constitution again.

There was a three way tie for runner up spot between Bob Jordan, Del Boy and Richie, all with 34 points against Lloyd’s 35.

Bob J is making a habit of runners up spot, he is getting as good at it as Keith the Pro. Warning to Bob J, we have Keith off of scratch!!!LOL

Penny also indicated that there was a rules dispute at the 13th where someone (No names mentioned) lost a ball with their second shot over the green.

There were no marker posts for the ditch in this area and nothing to specifically define the limit of the course. I believe the ditch is a border of the course as this is just inside the public footpath.

The ball was not found and Penny's mail indicated an agreement that a provisional ball should have been played, and should be in future, before moving away from the second shot.

The provisional would remain in play, and all the normal rules would apply to the provisional ball, until either the original was found or the provisional was holed out. The provisional remains in play until past the point where the original was potentially lost.

This appears to be covered by rule 27.1 and 20.5. The penalty for a lost ball would in this instance be the same as a ball hit out of bounds. If the ball had been found it could have been dropped within two club lengths etc.

However, Rob White has an example from a club competition (Sittingbourne and Milton Regis) where he was faced with a similar instance on the 2nd hole of a 36 hole competition and was disqualified because he did not play a provisional at the time and was told he should have returned to the tee to play the entire hole again.

No one can find this rule. There will be more debate and Rob will be challenging the club ruling (made by someone with a Dutch sounding name, what do the Dutch know about golf?).

However, in the meantime here are the rules that seem to apply and which indicate that if a provisional was not played you can return to the position from which the shot was played under stroke & distance rules.

<http://www.theinternetgolfclub.com/rules-balllost.html>

27-1. Ball Lost or Out of Bounds

If a ball is lost outside a water hazard or is out of bounds, the player shall play a ball, **under penalty of one stroke**, as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was last played (see Rule 20-5).

Penalty for Breach of Rule 27-1

Match play-Loss of hole; Stroke play-Two strokes.

<http://www.theinternetgolfclub.com/rules-liftingdropping.html>

20-5. Playing Next Stroke from Where Previous Stroke Played

When, under the Rules, a player elects or is required to play his next stroke from where a previous stroke was played, he shall proceed as follows: if the stroke is to be played from the teeing ground, the ball to be played shall be played from anywhere within the teeing ground and may be teed; if the stroke is to be played from through the green or a hazard, it shall be dropped; if the stroke is to be played on the putting green, it shall be placed.

Penalty for Breach of Rule 20-5:

Match play-Loss of hole; Stroke play-Two strokes.

We also have this covered in our constitution rule 11d which covers pace of play and assuming it was the second shot lost the player could have played a 5th shot from the place where everyone agreed that the ball might reasonably have been found. The provisional ball from the original place would have been the 4th shot.

Golf balls are attracted to water as unerringly as the eye of a middle-aged man to a female bosom. ~Michael Green, *The Art of Coarse Golf*, 1967

Week 27. 7th May 2011



Seve- An Inspiration

**Steve Ryder covering the US Masters:
"Ballesteros felt much better today after a 69."**

The drive down to Trads was miserable. The weather was depressing as the news that Seve Ballesteros had lost his battle against a brain tumour.

Seve was an inspirational golfer and gave hope to golfers everywhere that no situation is impossible.

How many cards have been ruined as we tried to play a shot from a ridiculous situation rather than chop back to the fairway just because Seve would have done it?

It is tough when one of your heroes passes away.

Back to more seemingly mundane matters.

The monthly strokeplay was held over due to the forecast as it looked like we might not get a full round in and it is easier to work stableford points out in a restricted round rather than net scores.

So, I suppose unsurprisingly, the sun came out to give a lovely warm day. Expect rain next week.



Dave Butler took his first win of the season with 42 points, 6 clear of Paul Barnett and Neil Smyth. Indeed it was Dave's first victory since the 24th April 2010. Has he found clubs that will suit him?

In the Spring Knockout, Dave beat Raj 42-33 and Robert White beat Lenny Stevens 29-27. Dave & Rob now meet in the final and I am sure the mind games have started already.

Monday, 9th of May and it has started as Dave sent out this mail. (Via the reply to all button)

well done to rob the grinder white his new name as he never lost his temper once shame lenny never knew what buttons to press now its a battle of the 2 best golfers at trad lads to play for the coveted prize i think thats why raj went to pieces me i stayed in the moment lol one of the boys said it short legs against fat legs i think thats harsh on rob although they do seem the same all the way from thigh to ankle lmao

What I think he meant was:

Well done to Rob "The Grinder" White, his new name as he never lost his temper once. It was a shame. Lenny never knew which buttons to press. Now it's a battle of the 2 best golfers at Tradlads to play for the coveted prize. I think that's why Raj went to pieces. Me? I stayed in the moment. Lol. One of the boys said it."Short legs against fat legs!" I think that's harsh on Rob although they do seem the same all the way from thigh to ankle. Lmao (Not sure what that last bit is. A town in Vietnam I think. Maybe it is a reference to all the population there having funny shaped legs.

He also blogged on our website:

dave the giant killer butler has just posted a new comment on your blog post "First Post!":

Comment: well boys , just goes to prove david and goliath was true .your very own third smallest after rodger and paul took out the big gun feeling very proud to have beaten, no hammered ,no thrashed the best golfer in my view to prove me and my buddy paul are no 1 n 2 or 2n1 we dont care didnt see lloydies gang in the winning circle this week lol but all jokes aside raj was very gracious in defeat and it was a pleasure to play along with him he had a bad day driving putting to be honest he was shit lol and anyway luck will always shine through yours always davy boy xxx
Email: boydieboy@btinternet.com

What I think he meant was:

Dave "The Giant Killer" Butler has just posted a new comment on your blog post "First Post!":

Comment:

Well boys , it just goes to prove that David and Goliath was true .
Your very own third smallest, after Roger and Paul, took out the big gun (Raj). I am feeling very proud to have beaten, no hammered ,no thrashed the best golfer (in my view), to prove my buddy Paul & I are no. 1 & 2 (or 2n1 we don't care). I didn't see Lloyd's gang in the winning circle this week. Lol. But, all jokes aside, Raj was very gracious in defeat and it was a pleasure to play along with him. He had a bad day driving & putting. To be honest, he was shit! Lol. and anyway luck will always shine through.
Yours always, Davy Boy xxx
Email: boydieboy@btinternet.com

Don't play too much golf. Two rounds a day are plenty.
~Harry Vardon

Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit.
Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.



Week 28. 14th May 2011

Well, what a strange week. As the erudite Mr. Butler put it:

“Well you couldnt write it mate Rodger saved my arse today I thought I was about to be hammered and in walks mighty atom lol”

Sent from my iPhone

Did you notice how his iPhone capitalised the “I”. Shame they don’t insert full stops and commas!

Anyway, the story behind this was that Dave, having qualified for the final of the Spring Knockout last week and winning week 27 in the course of it, nearly won again which would have meant an additional cut for winning two weeks running. As it is, he lost 0.8 and will be giving Rob White a handy start next week.

So well done to Roger Hinds for the win with a net 66.

There was some discussion after I left about exocets and longest drive holes.

The upshot is that they should be drawn out each week and if the longest drive comes on a short par 4, so be it as the longer hitters may need to take an iron to avoid running out of fairway.

If the exocet is on a par 5 it will be nearest the pin in 3 instead of 2.

This could be interesting.

Golf is so popular simply because it is the best game in the world at which to be bad.

~A.A. Milne



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Part Three - Weeks 29-38



Week 29. 21th May 2011

Weekly playing matters first.

The weekly prize was taken by Derek Barnett on 39 points with Dave Butler on 38 and Neil Smyth on 37 (having hit 2 balls out of bounds off the tee on 16- finding the 1st ball perfectly playable with a stance but still o-o-b- those markers are too far in and this was the second time in 4 weeks this has happened).

Still, well done to Derek who I am sure could relate a story of his own about shots left out on the course.

As decided, a draw was made for the nearest the pins and exocets. This, bizarrely resulted in:

Exocet, Hole 4, a previous exocet and longest drive hole.

Longest Drive, Hole 7, a previous exocet hole.

Exocet. Hole 11, the existing exocet hole.

Longest Drive. Hole 13, the existing longest drive hole!

Best laid plans and all that.

The major playing issue of the day was the final of the Spring Knockout between Dave Butler and Robert “The Grinder” White. Despite expectations, there was little winding up going on and the match was played in commendable spirit. Quite what it would have been like if Dave hadn’t been five points up at the turn I am not sure.

Rob’s chance to catch up was round 10/11/12 where he was receiving shots and Dave didn’t, but he was unable to take any significant advantage as Dave only accumulated 3 points over these holes and Dave maintained his lead throughout the back 9.

So, congratulations to Dave, the inaugural winner, and well done to Rob for making the final.

The draw for the Summer Matchplay was made by Dave and Rob, (Dave drawing the home player!) and it threw up one intriguing qualifier between the brothers Roger Hinds and Bob Jordan. Sibling rivalry to the fore.

Grinder and I are off to Gentleman Jim’s next week, if the Grinder can get to the airport on time!

**One under a tree, one under a bush, one under the water.
~Lee Trevino, describing how he was one under during a tournament**



Week 30. 28th May 2011

Lloydy “ I haven’t won this century” takes the day again in apparently windy conditions, just holding off Penny who saw a return to form. Chance to get this photo out again though.

Lloydy and Dave are continuing their war of words in the blogosphere on the web. I wonder how many people are reading the abuse they are sending at each other.

Meanwhile the Grinder was playing his socks off in the South of France.

We also enjoyed a street party at Jim’s. Slightly awkward moment when Rob had been talking to one of Jim’s neighbours and his “wife” and introduced me to them.

Now we had been thinking that the bloke was old enough to be her father and how lucky was he? The dirty pervert. She was foxy and was certainly dancing with him in a sexy enough manner to suggest that they may only recently be wed. Anyway, I joined their conversation and she told me she was going to Edinburgh with her school this summer.

Blimey, I thought, they have young teachers in France and I remembered (fondly) some of my own French teachers. Miss McDowell and Mrs. Hawley (yes Haw not Whoreley!)

Anyway, the evening progressed and I realised that Rob's own French teachers had not told him the words for wife and daughter!

She was Appât de prison. (Jailbait!) and obviously loved her pere!

**Golf is like an 18-year-old girl with big boobs.
You know it's wrong but you can't keep away from her.
~Val Doonican**



Week 31. 4th June 2011

Well a week that started out looking like it would be extremely depleted with only 4 players turned out to be a steady 10. After his win last week Lloyd was thinking that he could have won 2 in a row and not get cut, however, there needs to be six players to make a competition and the two in a row rule would have been carried over to give him a chance to get his handicap down!

As stated though, there was a reasonable turn out and in one of those "It could only happen to Dave moments" Dave was one in ten.

Now Dave was due to attend his grand-daughters christening so that meant Penny had to ask Bob Jordan for a lift.

At the beginning of the week, Bob was not playing and Penny was looking forward to a night on the sauce on Friday, well, more sauce than usual.

But Bob had replaced the car damaged two weeks ago and had a white charger to collect Princess P.

And then a priest dropped dead. No christening. Dave could play. I laughed when I heard and felt terrible for laughing. So did Dave. So did Penny. So did Bob (but probably more so because he didn't have to make a big detour).

Keith and Bob won the day with net 70's. (Maybe Bob hadn't laughed & God was probably rewarding him).

This net 70, for Keith, meant he had actually played the course under par gross. Fantastic. I think this is the first time it has happened while I have been keeping records.

In the Summer Matchplay, Lloyd beat Penny and Bob came out top in a family affair against Roger (who could not win the medal competition for the 4th time in 5 attempts, not every medal comp this year as per another dodgy Lloyd stat!).

I am also attempting to organise a pairs competition.

To make the draw work this is limited to the 16 players who have turned out most regularly and is seeded so that the lowest handicap of the 16 (Keith the pro) is paired with the highest (Richie) and so on.

It will be interesting to see how this works.

Through years of experience I have found that air offers less resistance than dirt.

~Jack Nicklaus, on why he tees his ball high.



Week 32. 11th June 2011.

God moves in mysterious ways.

Thursday 9/6/2011.

“Neil, sorry to call you at work. I am not going to be able to play Saturday. Can you pick Penny up? I got home Saturday, was having a cup of tea and started to feel rough. I have been in bed all week and when I wasn’t in bed I was on the toilet. I must have lost two stone.

See what happens when you laugh a priest dying.

Did no one see the big black crow and Rottweiler following Dave around?

They must have been back there this week. I didn’t see them but as I was driving home my throat started closing up. I started getting earache (No Penny wasn’t in the car, I only had to give her a lift to golf, Bob was doing the return). Got home from a charity run on Sunday and 24 hours in bed.

God moves in mysterious ways indeed. Presumably Bob didn’t laugh after all or God interpreted his laugh as being relief at the fact that he hadn’t had to do the Penny run last week. Just Penny to go.

Anyway, on a more straightforward front. The golf.

Rob White and Paul Barnett shared the spoils, pipping Keith by one shot and stopping him moving in to plus territory on the handicap front for successive wins.

In true “Grinder” fashion, Rob also beat Paul in the Summer Matchplay halving at the last to record a one up win.

I beat Marcus by a seemingly comfortable 4&3 but giving him 12 shots was a challenge and meant I had to hole some tense putts for halves. I was glad to get it all over before the 16th as we all know how tough the finish is and although I parred the 16th for the first time in weeks I only scored 1 point on the last two holes.

The 18th again appeared as a longest drive and, into the wind, it looked like a nailed on fiver for Penny as it is virtually impossible to hit the fairway off the whites. The marker was left there and it looked like Penny had got it so everyone behind had a go. But no, she couldn’t hit it fifty yards from the red tees. Maybe it was the weight of expectation.

Two new members joined this week, John Newton & Jerry Dyer. Hopefully they will become regulars.



Week 33. 18th June 2011.

Getting fed up with this yet?

Only 10 booked in to play so 1 tee time given back on Wednesday.

Only 8 turned up which meant embarrassment with the club when we had needed to ask for an extra time last week and smacked bottles from Penny for the two who had said they were playing and did not turn up/phone.

The procedure of notifying Penny by Wednesday of is generally working well and hopefully these occasional blips will not cause too many problems.

The 8 that did play took a gamble on the weather and were duly rewarded as we only caught the edge of a couple of brief, light, showers. The drive home round the M25 suggested that the “Brief, light, showers” had been anything but brief or light.

Torrential comes to mind. The matrix signs on the motorways obviously cannot cope with “Chucking it down” or terms more basic and actually said “Fog” to suggest reduced visibility!

Battleship grey clouds loomed and I was told when I got back to Carshalton that one clap of thunder sounded like a bomb going off.

No thunder or lightning at Trads but we did have a bit of controversy.

When we played the same holes each week for the exocets and longest drives, it was easy for people in the first groups to remember to put out the markers on the holes, whether they qualified or not.

There is now a responsibility on the first group to remember which holes are in play (Penny marked the cards with the relevant holes). The longest drive was at the 7th and the second group saw the buggy from the first group returning from the 8th tee to place the marker where the longest drive from that group had played their 2nd from. Whilst trust remains a major part of the attraction of golf, in future, if the marker is forgotten at the time of the shot, then the prize is forfeited in the same way as forgetting to put your name down on the marker.

On the playing front, Jerry Dyer put in his second card. A real mixture of sublime and ridiculous but, as he was in Keith's group. Keith has something to work with and has picked up another customer. (Don't let Hoggy know!)

Lloydie took the honours so you get to see his teeth again at the head of this entry. I now need to look at his handicap, I seem to be using that photo a lot.

Paul, as usual, claimed to have played better but did not win.

What other people may find in poetry or art museums, I find in the flight of a good drive. ~Arnold Palmer



Week 34. 25th June 2011.

Smiler

So. The Butler is due to be making a return. He announced this with the usual bluster and boasts.

It seems that he will be arriving on a white charger as the only hope for Good (Everyone except Lloydie) over Evil (Lloydie, naturally).

The Butler blogged:

the trouble with lloydie is he can't keep it up let alone keep it going now I am back my boy wonder or Paul to you lot can begin to shine once more like the little ray of sunshine that he is being on his own with no support is bound to have an effect even on the great players like paul

What I think he meant was:

The trouble with Lloydie is he can't keep it up, let alone keep it going. Now I am back my boy wonder, or Paul to you lot, can begin to shine once more like the little

ray of sunshine that he is. Being on his own with no support is bound to have an effect. Even on the great players like Paul.

Dave had also suggested that he was coming back to win as no one else seemed capable of beating Lloydie. He is the big white hope.

One can only assume that Dave was having golf lessons during his time off as he certainly wasn't having English lessons!

By his own account, as well, he should be displaying a slimmer frame as his absence the first week was related to gastric health issues if you know what I mean!

Maybe he should be called the little white hope!

So, the Butler returned and wouldn't you know it, he nicked my longest drive at 17. I know words for people like that.

I thought Lloydie was up to his tricks (well, one week old tricks) as he came back in his buggy having forgotten to put out the marker as none of the good golfers managed to hit the fairway.

At least Dave had the decency not to beat my nearest the pin on 15 (I hate that hole and managed to 3 putt from 6 feet to find a different way to mess it up. I normally find or flirt with the ditch on the left. Last week, two shanks saw me needing to play a 3rd from nearer the 9th tee than the 15th green. That was different.

Thank god for stableford! Ball in pocket and a walk to the 16th tee. I suppose a three putt 4 was an improvement!

Lloydie let Roger win the day on 36 points so that he didn't get cut under the two in a row rule. Watch out for him next week.

Raj, having remembered to set his alarm this week, was just edged out on 35 points. John Newton put in a second card and returned 35 points off of a provisional 18 so he could be a dark horse for the future.

Saturday also saw the return of Alan Defreitas.

Now, I am not a fan of stereotypes but guess who turned up 1 hour after the first group had teed off (90 minutes late for check in).

And then Penny let him play through! The thought process behind that decision would be interesting!

"If I agreed with you we would both be wrong."



Week 35. 2nd July 2011.

Derek Barnett took the honours with an 80, net 72. The two Roberts, Lloyd & White ran him close with net 73. A Medal with no one below par. Conditions were not tough. Maybe it was the white tees, although some of the pins were a bit awkward.

John & Jerry completed their third cards.

The handicaps were a bit bizarre. John came in with a handicap of 16 which seemed perfectly reasonable.

Jerry came out as a 28. That did not seem right, but check & double check and by our rules it was correct.

This caused consternation in some quarters but Jerry generously requested to play off of 20.

That should also come down with his swing.

I can airmail the golf ball, but sometimes I don't put the right address on it.

~Jim Dent

Week 36 9th July 2011. Get pic of John

John Newton wins at the first time of asking with 38 points and a cut follows.

I was absent this week so did not know what happened and depended on gossip passing down for diary entries. Penny usually helps with an e-mail containing score and gossip.

As most will know I keep eclectic scores to compare a Tradlads Stroke Index against the official card.

This requires me keeping everyone's scores for each hole played each week.

This can become quite difficult at times.

This week, for example, Derek's card showed him with an eagle at the first, several hole in ones (Why didn't Penny mention any of this?) and a quite blinding score until I realised that the points were where the score should be and the score was where the points should be.

Compare this with Keith's card.

Front 9 Points on the left and scores on the right, back 9 scores on the left and points on the right. Surely the cards are simple enough to fill in?

The best wood in most amateurs' bags is the pencil.

~Author Unknown



Week 37 16th July 2011.

The forecast was awful as I left Dorset at 5:30 to drive to Trads. The weather on the journey matched the forecast but as I pulled in to the car park it stopped raining. We so often get away with it.

The front nine was not too bad, a bit of on/off action with the waterproofs but on the back nine it became steady and heavy and we came off after 15 holes as the 16th takes you ¼ mile further away from the clubhouse and there was no sign of it getting any easier.

Once again failure to put names on the markers (or even put a marker down) cost people fivers. I was one beneficiary. The first group had forgotten to put a marker down and Rasta Paul did not put a temporary one down. Penny was the other beneficiary as Keith had driven to within six inches of the end of the fairway at 11 but not put his name down. Penny was the only player in the last group to hit the fairway so won the fiver which rolled up as the second longest drive was not played.

The burning question though from the weekend.

Why, with the forecast and obvious rain were the sprinklers on until midday on several greens. Putting on the 6th required timing to judge the swing of the sprinkler spray as well as the swing on the putt!

If you're caught on a golf course during a storm and are afraid of lightning, hold up a 1-iron. Not even God can hit a 1-iron.

~Lee Trevino

Part 4

The Open

With obvious references to the passing of a European Golfing legend and a dose of reality from one of his compatriots that it is time to move on (Miguel Angel Jimi Hendrix if you were wondering) The Open got underway with particularly gloomy predictions for obscene weather at the weekend.

The weather, and more particularly the wind, is the defence and great challenge of a links course.

Thursday opened up as a dull day but had a magical pairing of Young & Old Tom. Those of you who know anything of the great game's history will know that Young Tom & Old Tom Morris were multiple winners of The Open in its' early days of the

late 19th Century. This time round Old Tom (Watson) was a multiple winner in the late 20th century and Young Tom (Lewis) was an amateur just making his way in the game and playing his first open. He was destined to become the winner of the Silver Medal seeing off a privileged American although both come from families with links to the game. As with so many of these “New kids on the block” they have been swinging clubs since they could walk and The Open is just one stop on the way to a pre-destined future of fame & fortune and for some, glory.

Day one would belong to Young Tom as he led the field on 5 under alongside another Tom, the Great Dane, Thomas Bjorn, who would otherwise have had the headlines to himself having been a late entrant after others had withdrawn and evoked memories of the dramas on the 16th in 2003 when he threw away a certain.

Friday saw the barometer set fair and predictions of low scores as the course would not have the weather to defend it.

So what happened?

A bearded American led on 4 under alongside the drinking man’s golfer Darren Clarke.

Questions were raised, not could Darren do it but how would he throw it away and who was the last winner with a beard. I never heard the answer to the beard question but was certainly not prepared to risk any money at this stage on Darren “Patsy Cline” Clarke.

Thomas Bjorn hung in there to be one off the lead and Young Tom slid from the heights of day one but remained comfortably placed for the silver medal if not the real thing.

The day though, for us romantics, belonged once more to Old Tom who aced the 6th with a four iron. What is it about him and this championship?

He even had the grace, when questioned about previous holes in one to say that he had recorded one in the US Open at Baltusrol but this was his first in THE OPEN.

Yes Americans, it is THE OPEN, not The British Open but THE OPEN. Geddit.

Tom Watson is a gentleman and if a yank was to win it well.....

What happened to the two best players in the world?

Day three and Saturday proved to be as ghastly as predicted.

Scenes of broken umbrellas, waterproofs, gunmetal grey skies and abandoned stands as the wind and the rain did their worst and the scores started to head towards the eighties.

Rory McIlroy cannot cope in these conditions and was beaten by his own mindset as much as anything, but Darren used his years of experience and also took advantage of the later tee time for the leaders to take an outright lead on 5 under, one shot ahead of Dustin Johnson who has had his own Patsy Cline moments on day four of the majors. Danish Tom was one further behind alongside another young gun in the colour blind Ricky Fowler of the over sized cap.

The leaders after day two had enjoyed drier less windy conditions but they probably deserved it as no one else had taken advantage of the benign weather on Friday.

It is said that Saturday is moving day but Darren was going nowhere.

Sunday, day four and how will Darren blow it?

An early chance came at the first but a 12 foot putt saved par and as Alliss said that was far better than a glass of Alka Seltzer to settle the nerves.

The contenders jabbed but none could land a crucial blow.

Sergio had a dart at him but could not maintain his burst. Big Phil put in a spectacular burst, at one time sharing the lead, but come the turn and he faded.

How many of us has that happened to?

Danish Tom harboured hopes of bringing home the bacon (sorry, couldn't resist) but could never apply any real pressure and Dustin Johnson was the only one hanging in there.

The 14th had devoured many hopes, proving to be a blot on the landscape for many cards. But this was mainly off of the tee.

Clarke and Johnson were both safe after their shots.

The pressure got to Johnson though as he tried to power a shot in to the green but only succeeded in slicing out of bounds. Strategy bust - Clarke walked away from the green with a four shot cushion.

And still I expected the worst!

The 16th was negotiated with a tee shot to the heart of the green (Oh how Danish Tom must have wished he could roll back the years and do the same thing).

The lead was cut to three at the 17th as the par putt showed the ball to be scared of the dark.

What disasters awaited Dazza on the 18th. Not an easy hole by any stretch but a bogey with the final shot, after a comical aside to the galleries, from 2 inches and Darren Clarke was the most popular winner in memory, amongst fans and professionals alike.

Big Phil continues to climb in my estimation and I am sure that his comment that if he could not win the Claret Jug he could not think of anyone better spoke for so many.

I thought there would be tears like the K Club, but apart from a brief gathering moment in the TV interview as he recalled his wife Heather, he held it together. The press conference on Monday was a classic. Still drunk, the last drink having been taken at 8:30 a.m.

He has a future and now a major past and as Miguel said at the start of the tournament, we have to move on.

Darren has certainly done that.

I'll shoot my age if I have to live to be 105.

~Bob Hope



W38 Saturday July 23rd.

I was at home nursing a hangover after too many Becks at my firm's summer party. (Interesting to note that at the time I thought I had got home there were positive sightings of me at the party). Oh dear. I know it was a long night. I hate Becks as well.

I was glad I didn't try and make it to golf for the normal time as it seems our tee off times had been brought forward to accommodate a couple of societies but the club had not thought to remind Penny when she checked the numbers on Thursday.

Once again any thoughts of standing and respect we might have thought we had with the club management are wiped away.

We have block bookings every Saturday for just after 8 o'clock and Penny lets the club know if we can give back any times due to short attendance or if we need to request an additional slot.

This was all done as usual and reconfirmed on the Friday.

Surprising then to be told on arrival that our tee times had been brought forward for this week to 7:30 and anyone not ready would not get a game.

Penny and I keep asking for players to arrive early so that we can get the cards & draw sorted out and maybe even have a practice putt or two but there are always stragglers.

They have slotted in extra times in the past as the extra income is in their interest. The troops rallied round and some of the usual administration stuff had to be done afterwards.

It would have been nice, courteous even, to have given Penny a reminder when she spoke to them in the week that the times were brought forward.

They also decided to charge for trolleys when they have normally been letting a few out free.

What have we done to upset them?

On the golf front, another win for Derek. Lord Del of Belmont protesting when told he had won twice in a row and would be facing a cut, claiming that he could not have done as he was absent last week.

Wrong on all fronts, he had come second the last time he played, winning the time before that.

However, the two in a row counts even if you miss a week.

Next week is the Secretary's Shield where Roger Hinds will be defending. Lord Del of Belmont must fancy his chances if he is trying/ wanting to protect his handicap.

Anyway, Penny ranted.

This is her rant:

"I know I should have remembered being told by the club over 3 months ago that 1 week in July we would be teeing off at 7:30 instead of our usual 8:00, and funny how having spoken to the club on Friday about our "8:00" slot that they didn't even bother to mention that we were actually teeing off at 7:30, that's courtesy for you. Anyway, thanks to all of you for rallying around to make sure that we got out and didn't miss out on a game (in John the Manager's words "either you get out now or you don't play", nice touch to the society that has been playing at Trads probably since before he was born, slight exaggeration but I don't care). When I asked for 2 coins for the trolleys "I've got 400 players out today, I'm going to have to charge you for it", so of course I said (as calmly as I could) we are here every week and they come once in a blue moon, thanks a lot, so after seeing rage in my eyes, reluctantly he gave Paul and I them for free. Then I find out that he's charged everyone else for them! Money grabbing *****!

Rant over, but we should seriously think about looking elsewhere. I know it would be very hard to get the same deal at prime time, but you never know."

They have us over a barrel as we could not get flexible morning slots anywhere else without paying in advance as we enjoy at Trads, but, on the other hand we probably average £500+ per week all year round which must be nice for their cash flow.

We also now have a Max & Paddy in the society so I am sure we will be able to work some jokes in there.

If you think it's hard to meet new people, try picking up the wrong golf ball.

~Jack Lemmon



Lloyd is due to play at The Oxfordshire in the Trilby Tour again next week and had arranged a practice round on Sunday. He and Hulky were looking for revenge over Dave Butler and me after beatings there (narrowly) and at the Buckinghamshire (heavily) last year.

Dave as usual was making promises for me to keep.

Five down after five and six down after seven. Things were not looking good for Dave and me.

They flew out of the traps and Hulky had been whingeing that his short game was letting him down. He had played in the morning at The Burstead and said it was rubbish (the short game, I haven't p[layed at burstead for a while). Well, he must have

left that short game at The Burstead and brought his best short game to The Oxfordshire.

The final result was 5 & 3 so I think that Dave & I can claim a moral victory in that we were winning for the next 8 holes and to have saved embarrassment in that way was surely the true story of the day.

Friday 29/7/2011- The Oxfordshire- Trilby Tour.



**Real golfers, no matter what the provocation, never strike a caddie with the driver. The sand wedge is far more effective.
~Huxtable Pippey**

With an 8:20 tee time an early start was required.
5:30 at Chessington for the drive to Thame. M25 & M40 clear. No problem and arrival for registration, breakfast and a practice in a comfortable manner.
The tour has obviously made cutbacks this year as the Caddy's boiler suits were short sleeved this year and the caps were black nylon. Still it wasn't too warm.



On the practice range Lloyd was spraying it around. The balls were disappearing off his clubs in a Prince of Wales feather formation. The ones that went in the air that was!

It's okay, he said, I am always like this on the range and I thought back to how he kept pinging his drives down the fairways on Sunday.

Walking back from the range we were joined by Dave Butler who had made the effort to lend some moral support to Lloyd.

A few practice putts and then round to the tee in good time to be interviewed by Sky Sports ahead of the off.

A better start than last year with a point at the first, both his playing partners in the lake and Lloyd was the only one putting out for points.

However, it was not until the 6th that a fairway was found and a bunker shot airmailed over the green at the 5th had left us off the pace.

However, he parred each of the holes where he received shots and those 9 points contributed to a total of 16 at the turn and was only three off the pace.

Unfortunately, a failure to score at the tenth and bunkers off the tee at 12 & 13 started to weigh heavy and two wedges in to the water at the eighth sealed his fate. 29 points would not make the final.

An enjoyable day though, but it would have been a real struggle if he had done well and we had needed to hang around for a playoff. We had our lunch and left at about 2pm. The last group were just teeing off. Both player and caddy would have stiffened right up if we had had to wait around all that time.

It is very strange to see the stresses that playing in such a tournament can put on a player.

We know Lloyd as a strong, positive, accurate player. Not the golfer with the stiff drives, hesitant chipping and "unpositive" putts on display Friday.

And this was the second time he had done this.

What must Darren Clarke have been feeling on the Sunday at Royal St. Georges or Rory at Augusta?



Oh, and it got hot. The boiler suit and nylon cap combined to become a sweat suit and the bleeding M25 was a car park going home!

We even had a rules query on treatment of Water/ Lateral hazards.

The answer is in here.

<http://www.theinternetgolfclub.com/rules-waterhazard.html>

And finally Dave Butler became a great caddy from “Outside the ropes”. I hear Tiger has a vacancy.

Art said he wanted to get more distance. I told him to hit it and run backward.

~Ken Venturi, on Art Rosenbaum



Tradlads Diary, Season 2010_11

Part Four - Weeks 38 to 49

Week 39 Saturday 30/7/2011
Secretary's Shield: Holder Roger Hinds



Well, after last weeks shenanigans it was always bound to happen. Friday afternoon and Penny had 16 players saying "Yes, I will be there". It was one of our major weekends so a higher turnout was always possible.

So, all our four tee times were fully booked and after last week when she was categorically told that no late comers would be able to play as the club was so busy, we were fully booked.

The club was busy again.

So (2), Friday night, Raj phones Penny, "Do you have a space?"
"No, sorry" they won't let us add any in. Trads down £25 plus any food/drink that Raj would have bought.

So (3). 7:30am G.T. phones Penny. Hi Penny, Is there room for me?
GT was late anyway but that's a story for another time.
"Sorry" says Pen, but we don't have any spare spaces as we've used up all 16, you won't be able to play.
Trads down £50 plus extras.

So (4). We tee off over 20 minutes late. There hadn't been any weather delays. Had they squeezed a couple of extra green fees in?
I doubt we will ever know.

The problem we have now is that if someone says they are going to play and doesn't show up & if someone else suddenly has a chance to play and enquires on a Friday night, we might be full on the Friday but have a vacancy on Saturday too late to do anything about it or notify the player wishing to play.

Trads will be down £25 if this happens.

Obviously if we only have 14 confirmed for 4 tee times we have a couple of vacancies but 8, 12, 16 etc. means no way.

We need to find a way of penalising no shows.

Apparently the charging for trolleys last week (it seems so long ago now) was because the auditors had turned up and they had to be seen to be doing things properly.

Anyway, the Golf.

Secretary's Shield day. Full handicap, stableford off of Tradlads stroke indexes.

Scores kept for each hole all year and averaged out to find out how our gross scores work out for each hole.

For example, S.I. 1 on the card for the club is the 4th hole. For us it is the 13th and the 4th only ranks 7.

These holes change each year in this competition but 13 normally plays tougher than the others.

As mentioned above, Lord Fauntleroy Del of Belmont is in good form and must have fancied his chances when he handed in a 38 pointer.

However, it was Bob Jordan who took the honours with a fine 41 points. He will be cut from 19 (18.5) to 17 as a result.



Will this be significant in his match play tie against Keith the Pro? Should he have played the match Saturday when Keith was strapped up and Bob was in form?

Bob was press ganged in to a new gang with people who need to bathe in reflected glory!



Del came runner up with 38 points and will also be cut and will join Raj & Lloydie on 7. He even had the cheek to query his new handicap!

Three sevens, isn't that supposed to be lucky?

Charmless was also round in his buggy trying to get us to speed up. We had 2 balls and three balls in front of us and had teed off late because of the club.

Do they expect us to run round to keep up with the smaller groups and make up the time we started late?

Anyway, needless to say, Mr. Butler was at his playful best with his version of events on the Trilby Tour.

Someone had to find a way of filling in the 20 minute delay.

Captains Cup, Full Handicap Stroke play, is due for Saturday 20th August.

I'm not saying my golf game went bad, but if I grew tomatoes, they'd come up sliced.

~Attributed to both Miller Barber and Lee Trevino

Week 40 Saturday 5/8/2011



The Blackpaul Tower is thankfully kept under wraps.

Well it is a play on words that grew from a football lottery ticket draw at Old Thorns, but Blackpool took the honours with 41 points. How Ian Holloway would have wished for such a score in the premiership last year.

Anyway, Little Lloydie Paul was mashing up the field when only Big Lloydie got close (37 points).

A question has to be asked.

Just what has Dave Butler done to belong to his gang of three with Paul & Bob? They are both winners.

With the season drawing to a close, Lloydie is leading the points race, 7.5 points ahead of Keith the Pro.

Paul is in 3rd but is 37 points off the pace. He will need two wins with Lloydie nowhere in one and no better than 3rd in the other.

He has also been cut 1 shot for his win this week.

On the money list, Keith is £75 ahead of Lloydie.

I have a tip that can take five strokes off anyone's golf game: it's called an eraser.
~Arnold Palmer



Week 41 13/8/2011

I arrived back at the clubhouse to find a hot debate over Rasta's handicap as his card (Someone had lost his group's and we guessed the handicaps on the first tee).

The debate was significant as Paul had scored 37 points off of a mark of 9 but believed he should be off of 10 after last week's win not 9.

Two others, Lloydie and encouragingly, Max were in the hutch on 37. Three out of four groups had finished.

No one in my group could match it so it was a three way tie or a clear win for Paul.

The correct handicap was 10. Paul therefore had 38 points if he had not totally blown out the 10th (S/I.10)

A winner again, Rasta Paul, will receive a further cut and will be playing off of 8 in the Captains Cup. He now needs to break 80 to hit par.

Lloydie is chugging along in the points table but Rasta has steamed past on the money list as the season nears a close.

Money

Keith £537.50

Paul £510

Lloydie £487.50

Points

Lloydie- 170

Keith- 155

Paul- 145

Nice to see Max in the money at the first attempt.

He can expect some heat from Butler any time soon.

Talking of Mr. B.

He was on about his fantastic gang again. I still don't know what he has done to qualify.

It is like Arsenal not winning anything for 6 years but playing in the "Champions" league each of those years.

Well, they are hanging in there a bit this year so will we see a similar demise on Dave's part?

You're never too old to learn something stupid.

PGA Championship.

Bit of a strange one this year.

Rory crocked himself on the third hole. Europe's other big guns did not really challenge although Lee Westwood and Luke Donald were theoretically in with a shout on the last day.

It was won by an American with a back to front name. Keegan Bradley. I will mention it here as we may never hear from him again. What is it with these Yanks and their names?

However, most significant of all, was the number of players wearing red on the last round. It was looking like Wimbledon Common or Chingford out there.

Red on the last day, of course, used to be Tiger's trademark.

I suppose that all the others feel safe now packing red for Sunday as they know that Tiger's last round of a tournament is now the Friday so there won't be any clash or accusations of disrespect!

Golf is like a love affair. If you don't take it seriously, it's no fun; if you do take it seriously, it breaks your heart.

~Arthur Daley

Week 42 20/8/2011- Captains Cup



So the pattern continues, no one has yet won either of the majors twice and nor has anyone won both of the competitions albeit in separate years.

This year Baldev Bahra stepped up to claim the cup but this was only managed on countback against Bob Jordan.

Both players finished on net 68. Bob came that close to completing the “Double” of the majors.

Four players returned scores under par. Paul Barnett has timed his recent success badly as he would also have returned a 68 if he was still playing off of his mark of 11 from three weeks ago.

In a field of 19, 7 of us failed to break 80, including Keith the pro who struggled to an amazing 86. I think that is by a long way the worst he has scored whilst with our group.

My personal tale of woe was for a front 9 of 42 and a chance of the title to be matched with a back 9 of 59 to sit alongside such illustrious names as Dr. Raj and Dave Butler on net 85.

Lloydie was claiming a back 9 collapse as well and from gross 2 under after 6 he posted a gross 83, 12 over for a net 76.

Golf is a strange mistress. He had said before the start that he has been playing well since the Trilby Tour.

If I hit it right, it's a slice. If I hit it left, it's a hook. If I hit it straight, it's a miracle.

~Author Unknown

As the season nears a close the money list shows:

Keith Orbell - £537.50

Paul Barnett - £510.00

Robert Lloyd – £492.5

The nearest challengers are Dr. Raj on £365 with Lord Del & Bob Jordan on £333.30. It is unlikely that any of these will be able to mount a strong enough challenge. If they do they will need to play very well as it will probably involve handicap cuts for multiple victories.

On the points list, where points are awarded for 1st, 2nd or third place finishes the leaderboard shows:

Robert Lloyd on 170

Keith Orbell on 155

Paul Barnett on 145.

This is a bit more cut and dried as even with 20 points for a win, 10 for 2nd and 5 for 3rd, the nearest challenger is Bob Jordan back on 112.5.

There are five Saturdays left in the season. Keith has a holiday booked!

Baldev has not yet been invited in to Dave’s “Winners” gang although it is claimed that there will be a letter in the post in the next week. That old one!

A "gimme" can best be defined as an agreement between two golfers, neither of whom can putt very well.

~Author Unknown

Week 43 27/8/2011- Insert Marcus Pic

Marcus returned to take the honours with 39 points ahead of Dr. Raj on 38 and our American visitor (more of which later!) on 37.

Obviously no change on the points front but Paul managed to win 3 swindle prizes, including a rollover to claim £20 and move to within £7.50 of Keith on the money list.

Baldev did not receive his letter but did say that even if he received one, from what he has seen of Dave's blogs he is not sure he would have understood it as it would have all been in lower case and would not have had any punctuation marks.

doyouwannabeinmygangmygangmygangdoyou wannabeinmygangmygangmygang might have worked for Gary Glitter's boys club but Baldev moves in higher circles.

Irene had dumped a few of her castoffs over the course this week with 4cm of rain on Friday but the course had coped very well with only the usual damp spots around 5 & 16 and 11 & 12 having trouble soaking it all up.

There was, however, a buggy ban. This did not please course manager Jonathon as buggies are an income earner for the club and to miss out on a Saturday hits then for a few hundred spondulics.

Even less impressed was Philip Wilson, the aforementioned American visitor.

"Don't you even have a 90 degree rule?" He complained.

"We don't even have a cart path" replied Paul Tedder, the club shop pro.

Welcome to English Saturday morning golf Philip where golf remains either a "Good Walk Spoiled" (Mark Twain) or the middle aged man's claim to regular exercise.

There was another writer, P. J. O'Rourke who said "Golf combines two favorite American pastimes: taking long walks and hitting things with a stick."

I have played several rounds of golf in America and do not recall walking once. The writer is a supposed "intellectual".

For an intellectual he does not know much about golf in America.

There are two things you can do with your head down - play golf and pray.

~Lee Trevino



Week 44 3/9/2011- Insert John Pic

A shared win for Lloydly and John Newton who shared a buggy and each were rewarded with a 69. Ooh er missus!

Paul (Or Sir Rasta Woods as he would like to be known – some hope) had had an early morning whinge about accusations of slow play in an e-mail I had put out about a weekend away.

It is refreshing to know that he reads the mails as it at least provoked a response. That was all he had to talk about though as a blank week saw him lose ground in the money list and points chart.

Has his purple patch come to an end.

In the Summer Matchplay, Lloydly and Dr. Raj had an fantastic battle. 3 up after 4 and still 3 up with 4 to play having exchanged the odd hole Raj must have been favourite.

Did he relax or was it that aura that we have seen on tour from Lloydly (When he stays all week) that saw an epic comeback..

Lloydly halved the match with a birdie at 18. Raj was round in net 71 to Lloydlies 69. They can do it all again next week in a replay. Can it be as good?

Back on the weekender.

Paul also sent an e-mail out himself about a potential venue and included two quotes.

"If you are a star, you should behave like one... I always have..."

also

"(on star quality)... I don't know what it is, but I've got it"

PB Sept 2011

As you can see, he claimed them as originals.

A simple google of the quotes throws up various instances of previous use, not least Noel Coward and Katharine Hepburn.

I wrote a song once. Unfortunately Lennon & McCartney wrote it first! And Jasper Carrott used that joke first.

Aaah, the power of the internet.

You only get one chance to make an impression.

Robert White also suggested that it is a bit presumptuous to confer stardom on oneself.

Particularly when you have had a blank wee.

POINTS & MONEYLIST COUNTDOWN.

Has John scuppered Lloydie's chance of the money list by sharing first place. It cost Lloydie £10 in the race but surely he will have enough points for that trophy.

Marcus pipped him to another £10 by claiming nearest the pin at 3 and the exocet at 17 to pinch those prizes from Lloydie's grasp. The exocet was a great shot. It was just a shame he missed the birdie.

Paul had a blank week enabling Keith to edge a fiver further away from him.

Lloydie is the form horse though.

Money List-	Keith Orbell	£542.50
	Paul Barnett	£530.00
	Robert Lloyd	£522.50

Points	Robert Lloyd	185
	Keith Orbell	155
	Paul Barnett	145

If I hit it right, it's a slice. If I hit it left, it's a hook. If I hit it straight, it's a miracle. ~Author Unknown



Week 45 10/9/2011-

Another week for me away from the lads as I gusted in the John O'Gaunt Mixed Invitational. Away from the lads was more like Howay the lads as the lady who invited me is a Geordie. My how she laughed when one of our playing partners asked if she came from Sunderland.

Well, on receiving the results from Penny I was surprised and impressed at the performance of one Mr. Rasta Woods (as I have been ordered to call him).

I thought maybe he had shot his bolt as he came nowhere last week, but, lo and behold, back there at the top of the pile sat PB. I am not going to write Mr. Rasta Woods every time.

Rasta headed off Robert Lloyd by one point (38 to 37) with Penny and Max in third on 36.

This means that Rasta is now top of the money chart on £590, £32.50 ahead of Keith and Lloyd. Keith claims second spot by virtue of playing fewer weeks.

In the points league, Lloyd held on to his lead although it was cut by 10 points. Keith does seem to have blown up these last few weeks, mainly due to a knackered back. I wish I could hit the ball as well as him when he has a bad back, let alone when he is fit.

There was a minor dispute in the Summer Matchplay over a ruling at the 4th. I put the following out and asked for comments but did not receive any so I suppose it will become a local rule for us.

For clarification.

On the 4th,

If you hit out of bounds on the 4th you can play 3 off of the tee or 4 from the mat.

I thought we had an understanding that if you hit in the trees on the left but past the temporary tee and the ball cannot be found, as long as your playing partners agree, the ball can be deemed to be in the water hazard. It is fairly open between the trees now so that was a reasonable assumption.

This is purely to speed things up.

Is this everyone else's understanding?

We can apply the same rule as a ball out of bounds and 4 off of the mat but the concession to play 3 from an agreed place near the stream was because of speed of play.

Or we could play a drop near the stream at an agreed place playing 4th shot.

These "Local rules" are always with speed of play in mind and to save players going back to the tee.

I was delayed with my group last week when Keith came back to the 17th to play a tee shot again when he could have played 4 from an agreed place where his group believed the ball was lost.

After all, by coming back to the tee and playing again his next shot would again be his 4th from close to where the original was lost.

Whatever is decided, the playing group must agree where the next shot should be played from.

A weekender was finally agreed.

Thanks to Max for chasing up quotes and Hulky for chasing up interest in my absence.

We have decided that TOWIE as we are off to Five Lakes Golf & Country Club for the weekend of the 8th & 9th of October, playing the Links and the Lakes courses.

Hopefully everyone has booked in for their spray tans and waxing before we go.

This will also be a prize giving weekend and as there was a climax at last years weekend away I have been asked to keep prizes rolling until the Saturday round.

No problem and a good idea and there was no opposition so the Rasta & Lloyd competition will be extended. (Not sure putting TOWIE and Climax so close together was a good idea).

An original 9 was agreed but a tenth added after the booking. I expect there will be more this weekend!

We had our own little “tweeting” war as Penny accused Rasta of playing like a girl, Dave B leapt to the defence of his number 2. Richie introduced a racist element in saying that Dave was being a racial stereotype, being Scottish and always playing 2nd Fiddle.

You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.



Week 46 17/9/2011-

Another guest came along to taste the delights of Tradlads Golf. He is/was a friend of Richie's and I am not sure whether he just wanted to be known as John Smith because:

- A) He struggled
- B) He did not want anyone finding his true whereabouts and his name popping up as a link in Google
- C) He is a friend of Richie!

Good to see Bernie back after several weeks out as a result of the discovery that the quickest way down from the top of a ladder is not the safest!

Whilst mentioning the Bernard clan, Marcus's year of discovery continued with his first ever birdie (at the 15th). The shock/joy got to him though as he then failed to score at any of the final three holes.

Dave took great delight in explaining to everyone that Lloyd and Raj were replaying their match because Raj had no backbone and crumbled to only halve the match as Lloyd birdied the 18th.

The replay was an anti-climax as Lloyd closed the match out at 14 to win 5 & 4. However, the Butler taunts were reversed on to himself as Dave crumbled from 3 up to lose at the 18th. The winner, one Peter Sealy, so often the butt of the Butler wit.

I was the leader in the clubhouse for a while on 35 points but one by one they came in, Keith 37 points, Kenny 37 points and then Jerry of the silky swing and shades 37 points. Oh how I laughed.

Keith's share of the lead took him to second place in the points table and also in to the lead on the money list.

Paul had a blank week and Lloyd picked up a fiver which only consolidated his third place, although he was grateful to Kenny and Jerry for sharing the win and diluting

Keiths points total. Keith is away next week so Paul & Lloyd have a chance to re-establish their places at the top of the tree.

Keith is not going on the weekender so they will also have another chance then to score vital points and money and it will be a hollow prize giving if the winner does not attend.

Points

Robert Lloyd-195, Keith Orbell 166.67, Paul Barnett 165

Money List- Keith Orbell £595.5 , Paul Barnett £590 , Robert Lloyd £562.5

If I hit it right, it's a slice. If I hit it left, it's a hook. If I hit it straight, it's a miracle. ~Author Unknown

Week 47 24/9/2011- Insert Winner Pic

An interesting week leading up to the Saturday. I received an e-mail from Jerry after his 37 pointer requesting that he be cut to a more reasonable 18 from the 20 mark he was off.

This seemed a generous offer as most players seem to cherish & protect their rating and pay lip service to their wishes to come down as a sign they are improving.

A couple o days later, after struggling round Kingswood the realisation dawned on him that he had been a bit hasty in suggesting 18 and sheepishly requested to be put back to the more realistic handicap.

Oh they come and doubt but usually it is in the numbers.

27 points off of 20 and the numbers win again.

In his last week but one with the Tradlads before doing his snowbird bit and returning to Florida, Philip Wilson won the day with a 43 pointer. Much more of that and the lads will be glad to see the back of him.

Now if Jerry had been racking up 43 pointers he would have been down to 18 with the potential of more to add.

The significant activity, though, was behind Philip as Robert Lloyd shared runner up with Max on a handicap protecting 36.

The significance is that Lloyd now has a seemingly impregnable lead in the points battle which finishes on the Saturday of the Five Lakes weekender. To beat him Paul would need to win W48 at Trads and also the Saturday at Five Lakes with Lloyd no better than 4th in both rounds.

Paul had a blank week and remains £5.50 behind the absent Keith Orbell. Keith is not on the weekender so only has one more week.

Lloyd is third in the money ranking but only £8.00 behind Keith. So £8.00 covers the first three in the rankings.

Another season at Trads is bubbling up to a climax.

Can Paul sort himself out quick enough so that we do not have awkward silences at Five Lakes as prizes are awarded to people who have not turned up?

Paul apparently manufactured an excuse, moaning about being put out with Roger, Philip and Bob. I think it must have been the fact that they were probably hurrying him along as he cannot keep up with pensioners pace. (Well, Roger & Philip's pace, I think Bob will deny that he is ready for a pipe and slippers yet).

US PGA Commentator - "One of the reasons Arnie (Arnold Palmer) is playing so well is that, before each tee shot, his wife takes out his balls and kisses them . Oh my god!!!! What have I just said?!!!!"



Week 48 1/10/2011-

The final week of the season at Trads ahead of the weekender at Five Lakes.

Penny phoned the club on Thursday as usual to make a request for a 5th tee time and ask Keith if he intended to play. "Yes", he said to both questions, I will just put it in the computer.

"Oh, there is nothing booked for you at all".

Cue frantic scrambling. We had to go out at 7:30 instead of our usual 8:08 and the club said they were extremely busy. We had to play stableford instead of the monthly medal originally planned as per a previous agreement with the club. Interesting though, that afterwards Lloyd observed that we play stableford to save time and some people are still holing out when they can't score. Something else to remind them about.

By Friday night we had all 20 slots taken. If anyone else turned up they would probably be unlucky due to all the over bookings.

Penny had asked everyone to be there by 7:00 and told them all it was stableford.

If anyone booked to play turned up late we would have to try and squeeze them in a back group. Penny had worked hard to sort this out for everyone but we know not everyone reads all the e-mails.

Saturday morning, right on cue, in walks Alan Defreitas. Had he told anyone he intended to play? Only Raj who wasn't playing.

This could be a wasted journey for the ditsy surgeon.

He was lucky. G.T. didn't turn up.

Kenny appeared about 7:40. He hadn't seen the e-mail and was only just on time for our usual tee time but he was put in the last group.

I had my Summer Matchplay Quarter Final with Bob Jordan so the change to stableford format was going to make things harder on the scoring of the two comps.

Part way round the questions started, is it strokeplay or stableford today?

My match was close, I was 3 up after 10 but Bob hit a streak of six successive pars, I only bogeyed them apart from 15- in line with my handicap but not good enough on the day. A missed put for a win on 17 proved the final nail in my coffin. Putting is not my strongest suit and it was exposed today after playing on very fast immaculate greens the previous week.

Oh, I could complain about his two 360 degree putts that hung on the edge and dropped while mine was scared of the dark, but that would be to deny him a spell of very good golf to turn a match around.

For the more serious matters, Lloyd and Rasta drew blanks. Lloyd has therefore won the points competition. Second place is still theoretically up for grabs at Five Lakes and Keith is not on the trip.

On the money list, despite withdrawing injured after 12 holes, Keith picked up a fiver to extend his lead to £13 over Lloyd and £8.50 over Paul.

Lloyd and Paul are both on the weekender.

How important for Lloyd will Philip Wilsons win or Max's share of runner up in Week 47 prove to be?

Philip has obviously hit form and despite being cut to 12 he still managed to take a runner up spot with Lenny on 35 points as Kauto Kenny returned to the winner's enclosure with an excellent 43 points in the best weather of the "Summer". (Kauto Kenny and winner's enclosure- If only Kenny eh?) -this stuff is not just thrown together you know.

Philip is now returning to Florida for the best of winter golf.

Ken Brown commentating on golfer Nick Faldo and his caddie Fanny Sunneson lining-up shots at the Scottish Open: "Some weeks Nick likes to use Fanny, other weeks he prefers to do it by himself."



Week 49 8/10/2011-

So the final week of the year was in fact a weekend. We were to have our now traditional (well, second) big weekend and this year Five Lakes Resort, near Colchester in Essex was the chosen venue. As usual with Tradlads, there will be tales to be told.

As with last year the Saturday, though, was what counted. Sunday was to be a free day with just the usual swindles to award.

The money and scores will count for nothing else.

Max took the honours with 40 points on the Links course. A fine effort and he seems to be improving all the time. After the glorious weather of last weekend it was back to October reality with wind and drizzle affecting the golf.

For the big prizes though, Lloyd claimed £15 in swindles to take top billing in both the money list and points competitions.

Paul crashed and burned with only 5 points on the back nine, but, as with last year the requirement was that you had to be on the weekender to pick up a trophy and, in the absence of Keith Orbell, Paul took the runner up spot in both season long competitions.

After Saturday's round I was heading back to my room when I overheard a hotel maintenance man receive a message that there was a call put out that there was no electricity in room 407.

Later that evening, Jerry Dyer, now known as The Electrician, or Sparky, or room 407's only resident, confessed that he had never before been to a hotel where he had to use his room key to operate the lights etc.

Lloyd reckons this must be the first time he has ever been on holiday!

Such naivety, but surely even more naïve is announcing it to anyone in Tradlads and particular letting the diarist know.

He is a keen new member of the society and is learning the hard way. Perhaps he should read all the other publications on the web site to understand what makes us tick. Or is he looking for his own personal series?

Which seamlessly moves me on to Mr Butler.

Now I have pretty much left him alone this year but when he is around life is never dull.

I was drawn to play with him on both Saturday and on the resorts prime course, The Lakes, on Sunday.

On Saturday, as a pair, we saw off Richie and Jerry courtesy of his nerves of steel Dennis Wise (nasty little 5 footer) at the last, getting up and down after a penalty drop for putting his second in the pond.

Cue great celebrations after Jerry, he is getting a reputation, had got gobby on the last tee before putting his drive in an area so dense Ghurkhas would think twice about going in.

On the Sunday it was run of the mill stuff for Dave after a night's drinking.

Until the 12th tee that is.

He managed to carve his drive so far right it cleared the trees and settled on the adjacent fairway.

The trees were so thick here, Raj's mate, Holiis Busson, suggested playing down that fairway and joining us back on the 12th when the opportunity arises. Well, Rob White, Hollis & I continued on our way down the 12th, ever mindful that Dave's ball might come flying in our direction at any time.

Well. We continued. And continued. We putted out and made our way to the 13th tee.

But where was Dave?

"Do you think you better phone him?" Suggested Hollis.

I did. "Dave, where are you?"

He answered. "You'll never believe it" he said (remember though, this is Dave after all).

I hit a lovely 3 iron. 200 yards straight on to the green, but when I got there, I couldn't see you. Then these three Brummies came along and asked me what I was doing and I told them and they told me I was on the 16th green!"

"I am making my way back now".

So the next time he upgrades his GPS he will also be subscribing to the Ordnance Survey maps as well.

His wonderful 200 yard three iron had taken him about 500 yards away from where he should have been!

So, a story about Dave ends the year.

I hope you have enjoyed the reminiscing.

I can get on with cutting Kenny at every opportunity and looking forward to the 2011/12 season

Born to golf. Forced to work. ~Author Unknown

Major Champions



And finally, a few more wise words

Behind every successful man is a woman.
Behind the fall of every successful man is usually a different woman.

You do not need a parachute to skydive.
You only need a parachute to skydive twice.

Ken Brown commentating on golfer Nick Faldo and his caddie Fanny Sunneson lining-up shots at the Scottish Open:
"Some weeks Nick likes to use Fanny, other weeks he prefers to do it by himself.

Pat Glenn- Weightlifting commentator –
"And this is Gregoriava from Bulgaria . I saw her snatch this morning and it was amazing!