

E-Newsletter

 HASSRA North West



HASSRA NW e-newsletter

Welcome to the second e-newsletter of 2011 (And about time too, I hear you cry!) – thanks for all your contributions to and feedback on previous editions. In this edition you'll find a round up of events from around the region.



Nov 2011

Send your contributions for the next HASSRA NW E-Newsletter or send your comments on this edition to:

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Golf Taster Day

On 9 May 2011, 15 HASSRA members participated in a taster day at Bromborough Golf Club on the Wirral. This event was primarily aimed at those who were new to golf, or inexperienced, and we had two entries from people who had never picked a golf club up in their life- would they love it, or hate it?

We arrived at around 10.00am to be met with bright sunshine. Everyone found the venue ok, and we were all looking forward to some intense tuition on the practice ground with the two PGA golf professionals from Bromborough, Geoff and Alex.

The planned itinerary was two hours of teaching from around 11am, followed by lunch and then the option of 9 or 18 holes on the course for those who wanted to put the lessons and tips they had been given into practice. Unfortunately after about 45 minutes on the practice ground, the heavens opened and we spent the next 30 minutes under a couple of large oak trees whilst around us a couple of inches of water came down. This meant the tuition was suspended, but we did manage another 20 minutes or so after Noah had left in his ark!!

A quick lunch, and then it was back out onto the course for 12 of the group. Bromborough is a long tree lined course with water hazards and difficult greens to read. Some players found it quite challenging, but the extra tuition from Alex on how to play the holes, what clubs to use proved very successful.

Feedback from the event was very positive and it is hoped that there will be another taster day - details will be available on the HASSRA website. (Mike Lee, NW regional golf organiser)

Netball

I have been a HASSRA member for several years. About 6 years ago when I worked in Hordan House, Birkenhead the local HASSRA team gave a few of us some money to buy some bibs and a netball. Calling ourselves ARENA we started to play in the local league. Over the years the team has evolved and we still have HASSRA members.

Last season we came 4th in the Birkenhead 2nd Division. We have now become a club and have a second team in the fourth division. "Netball is a great sport, a competitive team game and I have a great social life from it. It needs full commitment to training and matches but is so rewarding."

Interested in netball? Just Google "Back to Netball" for sessions near you run by England Netball. Just give it a go!! (Joanne Heffey)

CSSC Sea Boat Regional Qualifier, Rhyl, 10th June 2011

After a hearty breakfast at the Imperial Hotel we met at the quayside at 7.15am for the draw to determine which boat we were fishing on and the actual position onboard. Shortly after the 8.00am departure we were passing the wind turbines to our right in our three chartered fishing vessels. HASSRA NW had entered two teams of three and we were split evenly with two competing on each boat. The weather was overcast and mild with a light breeze.



Alan Turner with an impressive Bull Huss Ian Brown with a Thornback Ray

The mackerel stop was first and we dangled the feathers at various depths to locate the quarry. This time they were just 8ft under the surface and in sufficient numbers for us to have taken enough for our days fishing in just a few minutes. We stayed at this position for the start of the match the object of which was to catch as many different species of sea fish with points being awarded according to their local rarity.

Dab were soon caught along with Whiting and Dogfish but unlike last year the Bull Huss were evident and a welcome addition to the list. Throughout the day this hard fighting fish kept appearing with specimens up to an impressive 12lb landed. Also the occasional Thornback Ray graced our boat including an eight-pounder caught by Ian Brown.

It was felt a move further out to a wreck was in order and all three boats agreed to motor to this new location. Whilst the other two boats had anchored Tony thought our catches would improve by fishing as the boat drifted past the wreck then moving back uptide to repeat the process.

Altogether 17 species of sea fish were caught on an enjoyable day's fishing. Tony looked after us with Cornish pasties, hot drinks and advice on tackle and methods. The weather improved and the sun shone for a while resulting in red faces and heads for one or two not wearing a cap! Thanks to Ashley Robertson for organising the event. Roll on next June!! (Alan Turner)

Trip to Ferrari's Restaurant

What a fabulous feast we had when 16 of us went to Ferrari's gourmet evening. Was it the food that was the attraction, was it the company, was it the price of just £25 for 4 courses and transport or ... was it the wine? Journey there was interesting – the community bus, of course – nightmare traffic on the motorway resulted in a dash across country lanes, and we still made it with time to spare to grab a bevvie before the meal started.

Ferraris sat all 16 of us around the same table – wise move! The wine flowed as did the conversation and the 4 courses of food were just sheer delights. Some poor individuals were not too keen on the merlot – of course they received assistance from their fellow diners but Mr Ferrari didn't want them to miss out so their white wine was topped up instead.

Journey home seemed to go quickly – but then I can't really remember! (Janet Wareing)



Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale Club at Ferrari's

REGIONAL CROWN GREEN BOWLS 2011

This year's event was held at The Grange Bowling Club, Latchford, Warrington on Tuesday 17th May. There were singles and pairs competitions to qualify for Inter Association finals on 16th Sept 2011; 14 competitors attended - down on previous years due to time off restraints.

The weather was grey and drizzly and all games were played in a friendly but competitive spirit.

SINGLES

The following players qualified through to semi-final stages: Martin Rawlinson (Preston) v Duncan Crabtree (Preston)
Veronica (Ronnie) Lyon (Retired) v Ian Burgess (Wallasey)

Crabtree played Lyon in the final with Lyon prevailing in a very tight match 21-19
Ronnie therefore retained the title she won in 2010 and qualifies for I/A finals (Derek Ainsworth is current I/A champion and therefore defends his title).

PAIRS

Seven pairs played through a knock out to reach semi-finals which were as follows;
Martin Rawlinson/Linda Hough v
David Waine/Duncan Crabtree

Heather Walsh/Alan Turner v Ian Burgess/Colin Parry

Both games were close with the finalists being;
Rawlinson/Hough and Burgess/Parry

The match again was close, competitive and with much banter, eventually Rawlinson/Hough came out on top by two shots - both finalists qualify for I/A finals.

Thanks to all who attended and that all matches were played in a tremendous but competitive spirit. Grange BC provided excellent facilities / buffet - a very good day was had by all!

Regional Crown Green Bowls 2011 - entries

| | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| D Waine | Preston |
| S Peters | CSA |
| A Turner | Retired |
| M Rawlinson | Preston |
| D Crabtree | Preston |
| J Chapman | Warrington |
| L Hough | Belle Vale |
| H Walsh | Assoc |
| C Parry | Birkenhead |
| E Rogers | Ormskirk (FTA-ill) |
| P Holden | Rochdale |
| V Lyon | Retired |
| S Rimmer | Ashworth(FTA-work) |
| I Burgess | Wallasey |
| A David | Preston |
| K Parkinson | Retired |
| (Ian Burgess) | |

Comedy Club Trip – Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale

A party of 36 fun seekers set out on the coach for our second visit to Manchester's Frog & Bucket Comedy Club in search of a few laughs, a few drinks and a cracking night out. We were soon in situ with excellent seats up on the balcony where we were out of the firing line – unlike last time!

The very funny compere got things off to a great start before he introduced the first act of the evening that soon had the packed crowd rolling in the aisles. After a short break to hit the bar, the second act – a weird looking bloke, did his best to maintain the high standard already set. I think it's fair to say that he was an 'acquired taste', but each to his own!

After all our glasses were recharged, the evenings headline act came on stage, and it soon became apparent why he was top of the bill. He delivered a quite brilliant stand up routine, rattling off a string of top quality original gags, which had the crowd crying with laughter and demanding an encore. Watch out for his name – Dave Longley. After the comedy show finished at about 11pm, the club DJ took over, and it was time for a boogie in between visits to the bar. A great time was had by all before the coach whisked us back to the not so bright lights of Burnley, where a few hard core members continued the party well into the night. (Chris Wright)

Regional Rounders

The HASSRA North West regional rounders competition took place on 22/05/11 at Preston Sports Arena. In challenging weather comprising of hail stone, rain, constant high winds and sunshine, this years event went ahead with vibrant enthusiasm.

Unlike the previous year's event where 12 teams battled in scorching sunshine, six teams turned up for what initially appeared to be a non-starter due to the weather.

The Liverpool team, captained by the ever competitive Ann O'Shea, reluctantly had to withdraw due to a lack of numbers which left:

Blackburn JC+, Preston, JC+ Trafford Tigers, Bootle and Burnley Pension Centre to do battle to win that coveted spot in Bristol for the Nationals.

The results were:

Preston 4 v Blackburn 6
Burnley 7 v Trafford Tigers 0
Trafford Tigers 2 ½ v Bootle 2
Burnley 8 ½ v Bootle 1 ½
Preston 4 v Trafford Tigers 4
Preston ½ v Burnley 4 ½
Blackburn 3 ½ v Trafford Tigers 3 ½
Blackburn ½ v Burnley 5 ½
Blackburn 2 v Bootle 3
Preston 3 v Bootle 7

The group table finished:

Burnley 8 points
Bootle 4 points (go through on rounders scored 13 ½)
Trafford 4 points (scored 10 rounders)
Blackburn 3 points
Preston 1 point

The final was contested between the top two in the group, Burnley PC v Bootle and ended Burnley 7 - Bootle 2.

The catch of the day was from Claire Patterson of Preston taking a high one handed catch in the outfield to dismiss Cath Waters Bootle, who sportingly applauded the catch along with rapturous applause from the crowd.

Finally the Bootle team know how to party and despite the weather, lit up the BBQ and opened a beer to round off an exciting days sport. (Steve Neary)

Some pictures from the Regional Rounders competition.



Burnley Rounders Team



Bootle Rounders Team

Charity Fashion Show for Pendleside Hospice

The great and the good from Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale gathered for another dabble in the world of high fashion. The hall was packed with discerning ladies all hoping to snap up this seasons must have clobber, although a few of us blokes managed to sneak in to see what all the fuss was about – some to keep an eye on some big spending wives! I can't say that ladies clothes are very high my list of interests but there was definitely something for everyone at this event!

As the evening progressed, the models paraded on the catwalk in all manner of frocks, tops, jackets & jeans, which the assembled throng were then clamouring to purchase from a couple of blokes who were doing the selling. A very professional and slick operation indeed, but even to my untrained eye, it did seem to be very good gear at very reasonable prices. We did our best to keep our ladies suitably refreshed with a selection of fine wines and to prevent any overheating in the buying frenzy that prevailed. The raffle went down well with the fashion company donating generous vouchers as prizes so for the lucky winners it was a very good night indeed. The show lasted for about three hours by which time just about everybody had sniffed out a bargain and enjoyed a glass or two of wine.

The fashion company kept all money from clothes sales (of which there was plenty!) and we kept the money from ticket sales and refreshments – a mutually lucrative arrangement. When we did all our sums, we had raised the best part of £450 for Pendleside Hospice, whilst about 100 people had a great night out – it doesn't get much better than that!

Many thanks to Janet Foster for sorting out the venue and to everyone who gave their time to serve on the bar or sell raffle tickets. (Chris Wright)



What's next?

Ramble on...

Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale had a couple of Sunday forays into the great outdoors for a ramble through the countryside this year. First up was a six mile circular stroll around Barrowford, Roughlee & Blacko in the glorious spring sunshine.

There were one or two steep climbs and a couple of dodgy dry stone walls to negotiate, which made it a fair test, but a great time was had by all.

They were out again, this time in the Ribble Valley for a tour in and around Whalley. The scenery was impressive and the weather was just about holding out until we were strolling past Blackburn Rovers training ground, when the heavens opened. Maybe the gods were trying to tell us something!

Anyway, the last couple of miles were a tag soggy, but it made the final destination of the Whalley Arms an even more welcome sight than normal!! (Chris Wright)

Special Event : Olympiad 2012



Urny

HASSRA NW are hosting the Special Event: Olympiad 2012 which will have an olympic theme and take place at Lancaster University on Friday 14th September 2012.

Urny, above, is the event's mascot. You'll be seeing a lot of him on promotional material and our communications about the Special Event. And of course, he'll be making an appearance on the day...

The Events

There will be a rounded set of events that will test knowledge, accuracy, skill, energy and stamina - providing something for everyone. Some of the events are more specialised while the two larger team competitions will allow people to 'have a go'.

The events are:

- Snooker and Pool
- Rounders
- General Knowledge Quiz
- It's a Knockout
- Archery

Check out the [Special Event: Olympiad 2012 website](#).

Cake Bake

HASSRA Trafford Quays club ran a 'Cake Bake' competition with prizes for the winners and the sales of the cakes going to a very worthwhile cause, our two chosen charities, Macmillan Nurses and St Ann's Hospice.

A panel of three judges assessed the nine entries based on different skill sets: 'taste', 'decoration' and 'best healthy option'. Following the judges markings, staff were able to buy a slice of cake.



Lovely cakes

Winners:

Best tasting - Steven Bell
Best Decorated - Shayne Johnson
Healthy Option - John Chattington

There was also a competition to guess how long it took to bake and decorate a cake kindly donated by Karen Stainton. The actual time was 3 hours 50 minutes and the winner of this was Alison Burrows with a closest guess of 3 hours 49 minutes.

Thank you to all who donated. To date, £202.00 has been raised towards our HASSRA charities. (Kevin Merrill)



Just a small slice...

Cake Bake

Camping Rally

August 5th saw 43 hearty souls head off to the wilds of North Yorkshire for the inaugural Trafford HASSRA Camping Rally. The group consisted of staff, family and friends ranging from camping virgins to 40 year veterans.

On arrival at the site in the picturesque village of Cononley just south of Skipton everyone remembered their survival skills. First priority shelter, second priority water and third priority food. So tents up, pubs located and local Chinese takeaway menu handed out!! Sorted.

Saturday morning saw everyone up and about in beautiful sunshine. Highlight of the day was a group BBQ in the evening and so the day itself was free to do whatever everyone wanted to do. Some people were heading to Lightwater Valley to use their £8 HASSRA tickets, some were heading up to the Embsey Steam Railway but most were jumping on to the local train into Skipton to explore the famous market and castle

However before setting off around 10 o'clock what was that distant rumbling we could hear. Was it the sound of 43 stomachs in anticipation to the evening's BBQ. No it wasn't! It was thunder and lightning down the valley. It got gradually closer until it arrived overhead with a vengeance...



This then set the tone for the rest of the day with heavy rain all day. But this did not deter our intrepid bunch making the most of the day.

Tea-time came and finally the rain stopped. Whilst waiting for everyone to arrive back some of us took over the local park for some fun and games whilst a few took over one of the local pubs to watch the mighty

Wigan Warriors defeat St Helens to reach Wembley in the rugby cup final. Needless to say by the final whistle there were a couple of very smiley faces coming back to the site.

BBQ time now and the charcoals lit. None of this gas cooker cheating for us. No mean task cooking 96 sausages and 88 burgers along with an assortment of fish, peppers and vegetables. Everyone mucked in, got the chairs and beers out and just enjoyed the ambiance. The evening finished with the kids (and a few adults) sitting round the campfire with marshmallows.



Sunday started similar to Saturday, with beautiful sunshine, but by 9 o'clock the rain had arrived again. People just got up and slowly we dispersed back home to catch up on some of the lost sleep from the weekend.

Everyone went home tired but happy having thoroughly enjoyed the weekend with the only real criticism being it needed to be longer. (Kevin Merrill)