

press release

17th October 2014



News article

Top disabled golfers return to Burhill

Friday 17th October 2014 – BGL FINAL Race to Burhill

15 finalists from the six BGL events held across the country throughout the season – covering an area from Nottingham to Bristol and across to Kent – battled it out in a closely fought final in the BGL Race to Burhill arranged in partnership with the Disabled Golf Association. To gain a coveted place in this complementary final, hosted by BGL's flagship course at Burhill, golfers had to finish in the top 3 at one of the qualifying events.

Once again the New Course was the chosen course, despite undergoing some structural work to the bunkers being relined, was as ever in superb condition. Players were welcomed by Gill Fee.

Prizes were presented by David Woodward, Burhill's General Manager, who spoke about BGL's commitment to disabled golf – in 3rd place on countback, one of several with 33points was junior Bobby David; 2nd with 34points was Ben Bowen; and the winner with 35points was Kevin White.

Position	Player	BGL Course qualified at	Stableford points
1	Kevin White (Spinal/Arthritis, Berks)	Hoebridge	35
2	Ben Bowen (ak-amputee, Cornwall)	Thornbury	34
3	Bobby David, junior (autism, Berks)	Thornbury	33
4	Rob Grant (MS, Hants)	Wycombe Heights	33
5	Mark Walters (ak-amputee, Kent)	Birchwood Park	33
6	Brian 'Barmy' Parsons (Parkinson's, Leics)	Birchwood Park	31
7	Paul Houghton (ak-amputee, Essex)	Wycombe Heights	31
8	Andy Greenhill (Mobility, Leics)	Ramsdale Park	31
9	Bernd Hintz (ak-amputee, London)	Wycombe Heights	31
10	Stan Bembenek (whole leg amputee, Berks)	Hoebridge	29
11	Alan Moulpied (ak-amputee, Sussex/Wales)	Hoebridge	29
12	Hannah Harris (MS, Herts)	Aldwickbury Park	24
13	Terry Kirby (Paralysed, Derbyshire)	Ramsdale	21
14	Clive Martin (Osteogenesis Imperfecta, Sussex)	Aldwickbury Park	21
15	Peter Hardy (Spinal, Hants)	Ramsdale	15

All of the BGL venues offer something special, Sue Robertson, Director for Disabled Golf Association said "Each BGL venue has something extra to offer. We have confidence in hosting an event for disabled and impaired golfers at any of BGL's venues that not only will

the quality of the golf be superb with a diversity of playing options, but everything about visiting a BGL venue makes the event run smoothly, from the welcome you get, choice of catering options and chance for our winners to take part in their Champion of Champion's day. We appreciate this is down to the dedication and commitment of staff and the whole ethos at BGL. It's always great to return to a venue and meet the same friendly faces."

DGA is a pan-disability, not-for-profit organization, membership is free. More information is at disabledgolf.org.uk and fb.com/disabledgolf with events scheduled all over the country.

About the Disabled Golf Association

Our main aims are to promote the game of golf as a pathway to a healthier lifestyle and greater social inclusion for those who are disabled, irrespective of age, gender or disability. This includes providing the means to make it easier for the disabled player to access the facilities both on and off the course. We aim to provide information about equipment to permit that increased accessibility, this can be done by means of single-seater buggies specifically designed for the disabled player, bespoke club and prosthetic adaptation as well as supplying professional coaching at events from those who have been trained to teach the sport. We aim to attract not only those who have played in the past prior to an illness or injury, but also those who have never played the sport but are seeking the unique benefits of a sport which can be played by anyone either alone against the course, or in teams against each other.

We look to provide a playing environment where the clubs are disabled friendly and accessible and the courses are pre-vetted to ensure that they are capable of being played by those with limited mobility. We are helping to assist in the launching of coaching academies and training sessions throughout the UK. Also from our base in Gloucestershire we aim to provide information on courses, equipment and holiday resorts for the disabled golfer. We hope to offer all of these benefits for our members and others but also employment for those in the area who are disabled and can join us.

All our members are kept aware of the activities of the association by a comprehensive web site and active facebook site, which attract new members on a daily basis. We also actively seek and need the feedback from our members on such diverse subjects as new events, holiday resorts, new equipment, as well as opportunities to volunteer and assist in future direction.

In our first year in 2010 we achieved over 200 members with associates throughout Europe and have links with other disabled golfing organisations throughout the world. In 2010 we arranged or were involved with 12 events which is unique in the world of disabled golf, we have attracted a true cross section of disabilities and our members realise they can enjoy a friendly and enjoyable experience.

In 2011 we increased our membership to 500 and introduced a series of events for newcomers as well as those requesting competition plus a unique series of par-3 events for those with limited mobility. In July 2011 we were featured in a 4-page centre spread in Motability Lifestyle magazine which led to 100 new members in just one week! We held 24 events in 2011. In August 2011 DGS received notification of official registration as a shared-enterprise Community Interest Company.

By the close of the 2012 season (where we had 40 events) we had over 600 members, making us the largest pan-disabled not-for-profit golf organisation in the UK – and possibly the world! We took the opportunity to rebrand and change our name from Society to Association to reflect our national role in the UK.

In 2013 we held over 50 events throughout – England, Wales and Northern Ireland – and a whole series of taster sessions for those new to golf, supported by Sport England. We closed with over 800 members and with BGL, Glenbrae and Titleist as supporters. We made the decision to cease trading 31st December 2013 as DGS and England/Wales split to form two separate organisations as much to aide with funding streams, still very much working together – DGA in England and WDGA in Wales.

In 2014 we have events scheduled every week of the season in England – with 6 courses selected for the BGL Race to Burhill, 11 courses including a large number of Crown courses participating in the Order of Merit (OOM) and plenty more excellent courses providing DGA Local Events where we take golf to the places where people live; we also have a good number of charity events planned throughout the season having been chosen as Captain and Lady Captain charities in 2014. In Wales there are a further 8 OOM events planned. **Recognised officially by the Charities Aid Foundation as a charitable Community Interest Company (CIC) we have launched our new website disabledgolf.org.uk along with [justgiving](#) link.**

We are continuing with support from BGL, Titleist, Glenbrae and from MASS and added Crown Golf as supporters for DGA. New for 2014 is a partnership with IGEM South West, LIMBCARE, and with PACE Rehabilitation. DGA have an ongoing partnership with the Motor Accident Solicitors Society (MASS) who have chosen DGA as their charity of choice on an ongoing basis bringing much needed funding to support the infrastructure of the organisation.

About the Motor Accident Solicitors Society (MASS)

MASS is a non-profit making national association of solicitors who specialise in road traffic accidents, representing the accident victim. Formed in 1991, MASS promotes the highest standards of legal services through education and representation in the pursuit of justice for the victims of road traffic accidents. MASS comprises 190 solicitor firms that employ over 2,000 legal staff, throughout the UK. Collectively member firms conduct in excess of 600,000 road traffic accident personal injury claims each year. The victim, and what is in their best interests, must remain at the centre of the debate. Our goal in this debate is to both protect the rights and interests of consumers who are victims of genuine road traffic accidents as our constitutional objective.

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