

Lanhydrock Golf Day

By Emma Bungay

On 6th May, Derek Williamson and the Rotary Club of Bodmin held one of the largest charity golf events to take place at Lanhydrock. A total of 46 teams of 4 took to the course at Lanhydrock Hotel and Golf Course and played in a Texas Scramble format to compete for various prizes to raise money for the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

Derek has been motivated to raise money for, and awareness of, Motor Neurone Disease since losing his son and ex-wife to MND back in 2007. He also lost his sister-in-law to the disease 20 years prior to this. Since 2008, 7 years of golf events (both in Cornwall and Spain) have taken place and over £100,000 has been raised for Motor Neurone Disease.

Scott Mann, MP for North Cornwall, opened the golf day at 7.30am. Derek Williamson, Graham Bond (owner of the Lanhydrock Hotel), Peter Old and Andy Coppin (main sponsors provided by Bodmin Rotary) and Peter Robinson (President of Bodmin Rotary) were all in attendance at the opening.

The golf day was a great success. The teams enjoyed playing on the 4.5 mile course, and afterwards devoured a two course lunch for their efforts. On completing the course, golfers were given the option to take part in a challenge on the 19th hole to raise extra money for the charity. The challenge was to get closest to the pin in one swing. Derek's son, Mark Williamson won this challenge, with a distance of 28 inches from the hole, and won a large hamper filled with delicious Cornish fare.

Several members of the Cornwall branch of the Motor Neurone Disease Association were on hand to organize and draw the plentiful raffle, which in itself raised over £1,200 before being match-funded by Barclays.

A presentation was held in the evening of the golf day, and golfers waited with bated breath to see if they had won any of the prizes. Peter Williams, Vice President of Bodmin Rotary, thanked everyone for their participation and support; and Derek thanked everyone for a "fabulous day. The weather was good, the course was good, what more could we have asked for?" He then handed over to Scott Mann, who presented the winners with their prizes. Winners were as follows:-

- Ladies nearest the pin on 11th – Liz Lloyd
- Gents nearest the pin on 11th – David Lloyd
- Straightest drive on 18th – David Pooley
- Mixed second – Divotees plus Two
- Mixed first – The Fabulous Four
- Ladies second – Pink Ladies
- Ladies first – Heal
- Gents second – Divotees plus One
- Gents first – Back to the Kucher
- Overall first place winner – The Captain's Choice (with an overall score of 55.1)

After the event, it was announced that £6,500 was raised for the Motor Neurone Disease Association. The Cornwall branch of the MND Association would like to thank everyone who took part, especially Graham and Clare Bond, the owners of Lanhydrock Hotel and Golf Course, for their hospitality. We would also like to thank Bodmin Rotary Club for organising and running the golf event. Further thanks go to everyone who contributed to the raffle.