

2015 was a disappointing year for Team Barrett on the competition front.

However I would like to heartily congratulate the lone team member on his unfailing efforts to feature in the prizes in 2015.

In Brief:

Singles competitions - stableford, strokeplay and matchplay all proved to be barren ground for success in 2015, notwithstanding an ever increasing handicap.

Similarly, participation in one-day, two-day and three-day events, mid week and week-end competitions, in various scrambles; in two-man, 3-man and 4-man team events; in fourball and foursome competitions, winter leagues, and so on, were all mined in an effort to bring an end to the prize - \*any prize\* - drought. Unfortunately, despite the application of a vigorous and never-ending enthusiasm, and a keen attention to late-night television golf, these opportunities proved to be futile exercises also.

Furthermore, adjustments to posture, alignment, grip (gloved and ungloved), tee-height, swing speed, arc and plane, - often on the same shot - failed to bring about the necessary improvement. Nor did changes to golf ball, driver, putter and every club in between, elicit the desired effect. Changing the trolley battery did bring some improvement and brief hope, but this too, dissipated quickly.

Dry, rainy and snowy weather, and days with winds from zephyrs to gusting gales, from North South, East and West all mitigated against delivery of a prize-winning score, and it is fair to say that winter and summer conditions were met, addressed and dealt with gallant failure by Team Barrett

So, on behalf of Team Barrett, I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all my very many team-mates and playing partners- if I may stretch the English language to use the expression - throughout the year for their encouragement, support, companionship, patience and particularly their fortitude, resilience, ball-finding ability and shot-counting capabilities, and for making my year such an enjoyable one.

A big thank you to Ger and his team in the pro-shop for exercising such restraint in never once suggesting that I hang onto my competition fee, despite what must have been an overwhelming desire to do so.

I would like to thank GUI for all their help in maintaining my handicap at its current level - by imposing a cap of 2 shots max return in the year they have allowed me continue with the illusion that there is a place on the golf course for me.

Finally, although in a small, somewhat elite group, I am aware that I am not alone in my despair. So I would suggest to the incoming committee that they include all non-winning returned cards in a raffle/draw for a box of 3 golf balls each week. As well as encouraging the return of cards, it could help alleviate some pain (and expense) incurred as a result of regular visits to out-of bounds, ponds, streams, trees, neighbouring roads and fields, and the car-parks (shhh!) etc.

It would also mean that I would have a genuine reason each week to look at the Results Section of the website!

Here's to next year and best of luck to yourself Declan.

Captain of Team Barrett  
Noel