

## Golden Boot Challenge

After a wet and windy journey it was a relief to see the sunshine as we approached our destination, West Hall Farm near Sherborne. There we were greeted by Marina on gate duty and the site's llamas. It was obviously going to be fun!

The fun started with an evening in the local skittle alley. Many of us had never played so viewed the event with a certain amount of trepidation. The ladies were playing the men so guess who won!....yes, the ladies were clear victors with Lesley proving to be the star of the show.



On day two the boy girl split was further emphasised as the ladies embarked on a 6 mile walk led by Marina whilst the gentlemen played the first part of the Golden Boot Challenge. There was a mix of golfers and non-golfers. It was not always clear which was which.

The sun shone and the golf was a real pleasure. There were so many highlights but seeing Bob Lukins (a non-golfer) sink a 30-foot putt for a birdie on the sixth was special.

We awoke to glorious sunshine on our final morning so it was with a spring in our step that the walkers headed off for a 3-mile ramble around the surrounding countryside. Not only the ladies this time as Richard joined us. (He was the photographer).



Meanwhile there was more golf under blue skies and lighter winds. So the quality of the play was even better. Of many highlights one piece of magic stood out. This was when a mighty shot went straight into the water. However there followed a Barnes Wallis moment as the ball bounced off the surface and onwards to the safety of grass. The ball striker was happier than his opponents.

At close of play we were kept in the dark about who had won. There was much calculating to be done.

After a speedy lunch we were off on our next adventure. This time it was a treasure trail around Sherborne. We were hunting in groups of three or four but it was still quite a challenge. In the end only half a point separated the first two teams. The hunt had taken us to parts of Sherborne, which we wouldn't normally have seen and, although we were exhausted at the finish, we all agreed it had been a fun thing to do.

We all met up at a famous pub, the Digby Tap to hand in our answers before having our final meal at the nearby fish and chip restaurant. Speeches and presentations were saved until we got back to the site and could have a get together in the site's barn.



And so finally the Golden Boot Challenge trophy was presented. Bob Lukins received the reward on behalf of Les Skinner and himself. Les had joined us for the golf but was not able to be with us for the other activities as he was looking after Jo who is still recovering from her fall. We did manage to make phone contact (just) and wish both of them well. However at this stage we were a bit rowdy.

So, final thoughts! How could we have crammed so much into such a short time? How can we organise another rally where we don't have to cook at all? Can we do it again please?

And finally, thank you to Steve, Marina, Catie and John for making it all happen.