



Press Golfing Society

DECEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

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OUT OF THE WOODSIE: 2018
skipper Ian hands over the chain
of office to new captain Khalid



Picture: IAN McILGORM

Season's Greetings!

A FEW words from our 2019 captain KHALID JAVED.

HELLO fellow travellers!
First of all it's my duty and pleasure to thank Ian Woods for asking me to be VC and more important for his year as captain. We've had some great moments to look back on in 2018 and despite the result at the Wryter Cup, it was a truly memorable trip; full of fun, hedonism and spirit.

Looking ahead, picking up on a theme from Sir Nick's speech at our prize giving dinner, what the PGS needs more of are Lords and ladies. In other words more influential and well connected members to bring us sponsorship, many more women and a lot more diversity.

I always look forward to our PGS meetings. The winter break is long and bleak; the summers are joined up and planned around our days out.

You may think that sad but I embrace our golf fraternity like I would a good friend. I love hearing stories of past members and meetings. PGS grandees have told me about the long and deep history of our society; the personalities, the

prizes and illustrious presidents and captains. Of course we've been adding our own chapters in recent years too; building many more memories and myths to share.

It's often said that it's the character of the PGS that makes it so special rather than the places we play, although they obviously also help.

OK we can't do Sunningdale, Swinley or Wentworth any more, yet in 2019 we'll have the opportunity to visit Hoylake, Carnoustie, Walton Heath, Royal St George's, and of course The Berkshire again.

I would love it if I could fly us all over to Lahore for my captains day, where we could play at one of the three courses in Pakistan I know of, including the Royal Palm and Country Club.

It's a fantastic place; tree-lined, tight and challenging where you're transported to another world. In this busy, bustling ancient city it's quite a surreal experience a bit of a fantasy existence for the wealthy and well connected you might think but here you see a side of Pakistan that's not in the news. I've seen young, modern men and

women practising golf, enjoying a drink and escaping the social, cultural and religious restrictions in this extremely conservative country.

Instead for Captain's Day you are invited to play the only course designed by Seve in the UK - The Shire! You'll either love it or hate it, but it's a bit of a golfing wonderland owned by a hippy fashion designer who gave the golf establishment the finger!!!

We have much to look forward to next season. I know I'm going to relish it. The challenge of winning back the Wryter Cup is at the top of the list of targets. The first such competition after Brexit, so I really do hope we take back control.

But, as I say, it's not just the places we play but the way we play, socialise and the spirit (and the beer and the wine) that make for a great day out! I want to look back in a year, and, for me, success will be talking about the fun we had hanging out together.

So next time we meet let's raise a glass or two to many more rounds and having fun together.

2019 FIXTURES

WEST HILL (medal)
Monday, March 18

ROYAL LIVERPOOL
Match v Northcliffe GS
March 24 & 25

TEMPLE
Monday, April 29

REIGATE HEATH
Captains & committee
Thursday, May 9

ROYAL MID SURREY
Match v Stock Exchange GS
Tuesday, May 14

WALTON HEATH
President's Day,
Tuesday, May 28

EFFINGHAM
Thursday, June 27

ROYAL BLACKHEATH
Match v Golf Collectors
Wednesday, July 3

RICHMOND
Match v The Stage GS
Monday, July 8

ASHRIDGE
Tuesday, July 23

THE SHIRE
Captain's Day
Monday, August 19

ROYAL ST GEORGE'S
Match v London Solicitors GS
Monday, September 9

THE BERKSHIRE (AGM)
Tuesday, September 17

CARNOUSTIE
XXIX Wryter Cup
Match v APG
Sep 30 - Oct 2

THE BERKSHIRE
Scramble & Auction
Tuesday, Nov 12

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'ANDICAPS



Fast Carr for Steve

SUNSPORT'S Steve Lewis romped to Emsley Carr victory over 36 holes at Walton Heath.

The nine-handicapper, who played off four in the PGS for most of the season, ran out a 7&6 winner over his Mirror rival, Tony Smith. Steve, claiming

his first Emsley Carr, said: "It was a great match, played in exactly the right spirit. It certainly didn't feel like an easy win. Tony played very well, but I had one of those days when everything went right."

Both players qualified for the Wryter Cup team as a result of making the final.

Special thanks to Walton Heath, who did the boys proud with a very good rate on the green fee!





PRICELESS! Kev's watercolour proved to be an old master

Scramble auction hits £3,000



TOUGH GUYS: Winners Morgan, Ferguson, Woods and McIlgorm

MORE than 70 players turned out for our Christmas Scramble and auction at The Berkshire – and raised more than £3,300 for the Journalists' Charity.

They were blessed with perfect autumn golfing weather and a course recovering well from the ravages of the summer drought.

With every team handicapped at 10 per cent of the combined individual handicaps, the winning score was an astonishing 57.3, recorded by Ian Woods, Ian McIlgorm, Rod Ferguson and John Morgan off a gross 63.

Auction prizes were up to their usual spectacular standard,



OUR THANKS TO...

Paddy Power
BOOKMAKER

with a Callaway Rogue driver, tickets to the musical Hamilton and two opportunities to stay at La Manga among the highlights.

But the standout (or should that be stand-up?) moment of the auction was the sale of Kevin Price's golfing watercolour, which his wife Jane had ordered him not to come home with.

Mirror chief Lloyd Embley immediately led the call for anyone prepared to pay £5 to ensure Kevin kept the watercolour to stand up. Nearly a third of the audience duly got to their feet and another £95 was added to the charity coffers.

Jane's reaction hasn't been revealed, but Kev is still alive, and the watercolour intact....



Your handy guide to the new rules

THE R&A have announced some striking changes to the golfing rules in their efforts to speed up play, simplify and modernise the game.

We've picked out a dozen here, which could easily crop up, but this is by no means a definitive list, so do please consult the weightier tome of the R&A rulebook rather than this PGS newsletter!

- Search time for a lost ball is now 3 minutes and if you step on a ball whilst searching in the rough, it is no longer a penalty, just put it back where you found it.
- A ball plugged in the rough may now be picked up and cleaned.
- A drop is now taken from knee height, not shoulder height.
- A ball moved on the green by a practice putt, or by dropping the club/putter on it or after address, can be replaced without penalty.
- If your ball lands on the wrong green, you must now take a free drop so that your stance is no longer on the green, not just the ball.
- A caddy cannot help you line up a putt from behind. A one stroke penalty if they do.
- You can now putt out without removing the flag.

- Spike marks and damage on the green can be repaired without penalty.
- If you play a shot and the ball accidentally hits you or your equipment, there is no penalty.
- There is no penalty if you double hit whilst playing a stroke (usually chipping).
- A ball declared unplayable in a bunker can be dropped out of the bunker for a two-stroke penalty. It is still illegal to test the surface of the sand in a bunker, but you can rake away any holes or uneven surface if they affect your stance and remove loose impediments.
- You can now ground your club in Penalty Areas (PA) defined by red posts eg a lateral water hazard. You will also be able to take a sideways drop from a PA.

That's enough to be getting on with, but there are lots more! Remember to check the full list of changes in the new rule book or on the R&A website www.randa.org. Oh, and please play Ready Golf at all times in PGS meetings! –*Paolo Minoli*

Thank you, Ian!

AFTER more than 25 years of handbook service, Ian Doran will be hanging up his Apple Mac after the 2019 edition.

The former secretary has been instrumental in making the handbook what it is today – the Bible of the PGS and a hugely valuable resource for all members. We are all very grateful for his commitment over so many years.

Ian's standing down will leave a huge hole to fill, although he will be very happy to talk his successor through what needs to be done.

If anyone fancies doing it – and there is a small honorarium available – then do please email Tim Allan at pgssecretary@gmail.com