



APRIL 2017 NEWSLETTER

Press Golfing Society

www.pressgs.co.uk

Pictures: IAN McILGORM



CHOCKS AWAY:
Eagar and Harmsworth



WING KO'd:
A PGS pilot missed again

THE PGS squadron left at dawn.

Their mission? To conquer the Northcliffe Golfing Society in the annual skirmish. Their target? The wonderful Hotchkiss Course at Woodhall Spa in Lincolnshire, close to the home of the legendary Dam Busters squadron.

Led ably by Group Captain Patrick "Guy Gibson" Eagar and Flight Lieutenant Tim "Barnes Wallis" Allan, 14 brave PGS chaps went into battle.

Dam and blast

The aim of the real 617 squadron was, of course, way better than the PGS, whose bouncing bombs too often missed their target.

Northcliffe squadron leader Vyvyan Harmsworth regaled everyone in the officers' mess and then had the audacity to lift the trophy.

Thanks to Garth Burden who steered ground operations brilliantly.

There had been plenty of refuelling. Many went missing in action.

The manager of the Dower House hotel next to the course said afterwards: "The bar takings were excellent. Come back again soon."

Mission accomplished, then.

-Kevin Price

New season, New Zealand ...same old result

SKY newsman Dylan Dronfield showed he's no one-track pony by cantering to his third Lord Riddell victory in four years, despite the change of venue and a bumper field for this traditional medal opener.

The historic, discreet New Zealand Club hosted the PGS for the first time, replacing Worplesdon on the rota.

But Dylan, the peddler of sensationalist fiction who also writes novels about Tyneside serial killers, retained his sang-froid to shoot a gross 71, net 66. The classy iceman's three over was good enough to add the bubbly for the lowest gross score to the Lord Riddell trophy.

As Dylan chilled in the charming old clubhouse he voiced the thoughts of many, saying: "I'd never played at The New Zealand before and what a fantastic start to the PGS season it was. A wonderful course in remarkable condition for the time of year, good food and a decent club claret. What's not to love?"

The supposedly 'short' New Zealand course proved no pushover with some long par-4s and a 200-yard par 3 straight into a stiff breeze.

But the scoring in Division One was considerably warmer than the weather.

The Sun's Steve Lewis pushed



SOFA SO GOOD:
Hancock, captain Bramley and medal champ Dronfield

Dylan all the way with a gross 79, net 67, and our smooth-swinging Italian, Paolo Minoli, freed from the burdens of the secretary's office, strolled the heather-lined fairways to third place with a net 69.

In Division Two there were calls for an International Criminal Court inquiry into African handicaps as Colin Hancock, our man in

the Cape, played the back nine in three over to post a gross 85, net 66. (Dylan took the Lord Riddell on account of his being a proper golfer).

Former Observer sports editor Brian Oliver made a sparkling PGS debut to finish second with a net 73, edging Garth Burden into third.

-Colin Hancock

Next meeting
MONDAY
24th APRIL
BEARWOOD
LAKES GC

Bearwood Road,
Sindlesham, Berkshire,
RG41 4SJ

Walton Heath

President's & Guest Day
Tuesday 23rd May

The Stage GS

Richmond
Monday 26th June

Hadley Wood

Monday 3rd July

Phil Sheldon

Trophy
TBC

Ashridge

Tuesday 25th July

Wyke Green

Captain's Day
Tuesday 29th August

The Berkshire

AGM
Tuesday 19th September

PGS v LSGS

Royal St George's
Monday 25th September

APG v PGS

XXVII Wryter Cup
Royal Portrush
1-3 October

Annual Dinner

Dukes Hotel
Friday 10th November

The Berkshire

Scramble
Tuesday 14th November

NEW ZEALAND results

Division One 1st Dylan Dronfield, 71 net 66, wins best gross and the Lord Riddell trophy on countback, 2nd Steve Lewis, net 67, 3rd Paolo Minoli, net 69. **Division Two** 1st Colin Hancock, net 66, 2nd (after countback) Brian Oliver, net 73, 3rd Garth Burden, net 73.

Newsletter edited
by TIM ALLAN
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SECOND MEETING: MONDAY, 24th APRIL

BEARWOOD LAKES

COMPETITION

AM: Field limited to 40 players. News of the World Trophy – holder Chris Cutmore.
PM: Sir Leicester Harmsworth Memorial Trophy – holders Cornelius Bohane & Tim Allan.
Morning: Fourballs singles Stableford.
Afternoon: Greensomes Stableford.

ENTRIES

Send to Tim Allan, on 01494 776914 and 07785 275631. Or you can email Tim at secretary@pressgs.co.uk If your email entry hasn't been acknowledged, please call Tim. The start sheet is open from now until Wednesday, April 19.

COST

£100 per golfer, includes golf and lunch.
Pay online acc 40749648 sort 204141.

DRESS CODE

Smart casual

PRIZES

AM: First three in Division 1, and Division 2.
PM: First three pairs.



Competition is for The News of the World and Sir Leicester Harmsworth Memorial Trophies

TELEPHONE

Messages can be left at the club on 0118 979 7900.

WRYTER CUP, JOHN GORDON PUTTER and TROW STERN TROPHY

Bearwood Lakes is the third qualifier for the Wryter Cup match against the French Press in October

at Royal Portrush. Best three finishes from seven qualifiers count. Places are decided on Captain's Day in August. Club handicaps.

It is also the second qualifier of the year for The John Gordon golden putter. Best three finishes from seven qualifiers count, from now until The Berkshire meeting in September. PGS handicaps.

It is the first qualifier for the Trow Stern Trophy. This is awarded to the player with the highest cumulative Stableford total from now until September. PGS handicaps.

HOW TO GET THERE

By Train

The nearest station is Wokingham, direct line from Waterloo. The 05.50 arrives at 06.56; the 06.20 arrives at 07.26.

By Car

Tim will email directions to players nearer the time. (...alternatively, go with Gyneth. He always knows the way!)

POSTCODE for satnavs RG41 4SJ



Only a few places left for Bearwood

OUR next meeting is a rare chance to play the exclusive Bearwood Lakes course in Wokingham (quite how they let Andy Glen in, nobody knows!) and places are going fast.

The club never takes societies, so our trip there is officially the Andy Glen Golf Day. Unfortunately, that doesn't mean he's going to pay for everyone but he has negotiated a great deal to play a course which has won rave reviews since it opened 21 years ago.

It's just £100 a head for a round

of singles stableford in the morning for the News of the World trophy and greensomes in the afternoon for the Sir Leicester Harmsworth Memorial Trophy, with lunch.

Unusually for the PGS, we'll play fourball stableford in the singles round. As we went to press, there were just a few places left so if you fancy the opportunity of playing this Guy Hockley/Martin Hawtree-designed course, email secretary Tim Allan (secretary@pressgs.co.uk) as soon as possible.

SIR EMSLEY CARR MEMORIAL TROPHY

Deadline – first round: Monday May 1

» Club handicaps & full difference

Brian Oliver 14
Andy Glen 6

Craig MacKenzie 21
Hayley Barlow 9

Chris Stevens 18
Ross Slater 8

Lee Smith 10
Garth Burden 16

Colin Hancock 19
Ian McIlgorm 13

Colin Hancock

Nic Brook 12
Nick Jones 11

Peter Dazeley 12
Steve Lewis 12

Paolo Minoli 13
Jono Baker 15

Emsley Carr: Big Mac fried

DEFENDING Emsley Carr champion Ian McIlgorm crashed out in the opening round to Colin Hancock.

Big Mac, four down at one stage, fought bravely but had no answer to the sometimes brilliant Hancock, eventually losing 2&1 at Woodhall Spa.

The match was played after the second round of the Northcliffe match and an exceptionally heavy night in the bar, so if some of the golf was of less than sparkling quality that was only to be expected.

The rest of the

draw has thrown up some intriguing clashes.

Dylan Dronfield gave everyone else a chance by ruling himself unavailable, weakly citing his regular commute from somewhere near Norway.

There'll be a highly civilised contest between Minoli and last year's captain Jono Baker; while Craig MacKenzie will have his work cut out against Hayley Barlow, returning to PGS action after last year's sabbatical.

First round matches to be played by May 1st and results notified to secy Tim Allan.



'ANDICAPS



Eagar, old boy...
I thought you
said the PGS
would clean the
trophy this time?!