



Press Golfing Society

AUGUST 2020 NEWSLETTER

www.pressgs.co.uk

Next up...

ROYAL ASHDOWN FOREST

Monday, 17th August
Captain's & Guest Day
Please support the skipper!

Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club

Chapel Lane,
Forest Row,
East Sussex
RH18 5LR

Tel: 01342 822018
www.royalashdown.co.uk

Remaining fixtures
ROYAL ST GEORGE'S
Match v London Solicitors
Monday, September 14

THE BERKSHIRE
Tuesday, September 22

THE GROVE
Tuesday, October 27

73rd ANNUAL DINNER
Venue TBC
Friday, November 6

THE BERKSHIRE
Scramble & Auction
Tuesday, November 10

RICHMOND
Match v Stage GS - TBC

Walton Heath (July) results

Division One: 1st Paolo Minoli, 36pts; 2nd Lee Smith, 33; 3rd Rob Hewer, 32.

Division Two: 1st Ian Woods, 39pts, wins the PGS Memorial Salver; 2nd Jeremy Thompson, 38, (on countback); 3rd Evan Samuel, 38.

Foursomes: Rob Hewer & John Quinn, 30pts, win the Sir Harry Brittain Coronation Trophy; 2nd Felix Duckworth & Jon Jones, 29; Colin Hancock & Andy Glen, 27 (on countback).

Newsletter edited
by Colin Hancock
colinahancock@
googlemail.com

Secretary Tim Allan:
pgssecretary@gmail.com



TWEEDY DOES IT: PGS, Collectors and host club members "socially distance" at Royal Blackheath



PLUS-TWOS UP: Paolo & Bubbles ready for action

Hickory dickory knock ...and the PGS strikes one!

TURNING back the clock 100 years was no problem at Royal Blackheath for the dapper Press 'goffers' in July's hickory match against the British Golf Collectors' Society.

PGS luminaries Hilton, Darwin and Longhurst would have been proud of the way our heroes took to tweed and mashie-niblicks, winning three of our four foursomes to claim victory over both the BGCS and hosts Blackheath.

Thanks go to Brooky for helping organise the triangular match, and to Nick Jones; extolling his new-found love for "persimmon-porn" in his stirring closing speech.



Woods you believe it?

Sky man Ian has fun in the sun at Walton Heath II

FORMER Sky journo and author Ian Woods blazed his way round a sunburnt Walton Heath to claim victory in our third competition of this strange season.

The US-Open qualifying venue had offered to host us again in place of the scheduled Ashridge - and for once blue skies and fluffy white clouds replaced the traditional downpours. Lunch on the sunny terrace brought back a good measure of our customary conviviality.

The ball ran on and on, often through the bone-dry fairways and into the clinging heather. But Norn Ireland's in-form Woods (right) tamed the fiery bounce and came in with an excellent 39pts on the New Course, taking both Division Two and the PGS Memorial Salver in his first singles victory for eight years. Just a shot behind were Jeremy Thompson, claiming

second on countback, and Evan Samuel, who started his round with the rather professional-sounding birdie, birdie, par, eagle.

"The omens were good", said Woods. "It was the first anniversary of an Irishman winning The Open at Portrush and I was wearing the green shirt from Chantilly when I managed one of our rare victories." He later revealed that he'd then had three 40-pt rounds within the week (just in case our Secretary has made it to the fourth para).

Scoring in Division One was a little more solid, the smooth-swinging Paolo Minoli victorious by three on 36 pts. Last month's overall

winner, Lee Smith, had another good round to take second while Rob "I've never hit so many shots out of heather" Hewer came in third a further shot behind.

A combination of the lunch-time beers and lazy heat subdued things a little in the afternoon, the Walton Heath expert Hewer and John Quinn winning the Sir Harry Brittain Trophy with their 30pts on the Old Course. Felix Duckworth and Jon Jones took second a point back and Colin Hancock and Andy Glen were more than a little surprised to be in the prizes with 27pts.

A wonderful day, and a return to a little normality. Next up - Captain's Day at Royal Ashdown Forest. May the weather gods be this kind again.



PICTURES: IAN MCGORM & NIC BROOK

Glen Bevis
Ross Slater

Slater
v Nickless

Rick Evans
Bryan Nickless

Nickless

Lee Smith
Roderick Easdale

Easdale

Dean Scoggins
Tim Dickson

Dickson



Ging

Javed

Farmer

Kelso

Keith Ging
Andy Glen

Ben Monro-Davies
Khalid Javed

Duncan Farmer
Rob Hewer

Paul Kelso
Simon Taylor

Duke of Woburn blazes Emsley trail

Bryan 'The Duke' Nickless is the first of the elite 16 into the semi-finals of the Sir Emsley Carr Trophy.

Having sidestepped Maidenhead's Rick Evans in the first round, Nickless overcame Ross Slater, 2&1, in the quarters.

The Duke will play either Roderick Easdale or Tim Dickson, both of whom had impressive victories, over in-form Lee Smith and Dean Scoggins respectively.

The third quarter will see last year's captain Khalid take on Keith Ging, who just eased past Andy Glen in one of the standout first-round ties, with the fourth semi-finalist to be either Duncan Farmer or Paul Kelso. Reports from Royal Ashdown Forest suggest Kelso will have his work cut out, given the comprehensive victory Farmer secured against host Rob Hewer, who the same week played to scratch around Walton Heath Old.

JOHN GORDON PUTTER

COLCHESTER'S finest, Lee Smith, has one hand on the John Gordon Golden Putter. But as the race enters the final laps, PGS vice-captain Dylan Dronfield could still snatch the title from the Sun man's grasp.

This prestigious trophy goes to the player with the best three finishes across the calendar season off their PGS handicap. Just one strong finish at either



LEE-DER: Smithy

Royal Ashdown Forest or The Berkshire could turn the table for Dronfield, but he's not the only challenger in with a shout.

Rob Hewer, Evan Samuel and last year's captain Khalid Javed are all in great form and well-placed.

But it's Essex boy Smith, assisted by the Covid cancellation of his August holiday, in pole position.

Places after 3 qualifiers. PGS hcps

Lee Smith	8	1	6	15
Rob Hewer	12	6	8	26
Khalid Javed	13	10	16	39
Neil White	24	8	10	42
Ian Woods	31	13	1	45
Nevil Appleton	25	9	12	46
Andy Glen	1	27	19	47
Nic Brook	32	4	22	58
Tim Allan	26	16	18	60
Jonathan Bramley	30	7	25	62
John Quinn	28	25	13	66
Dylan Dronfield	4	5		9
Ben Monro-Davies	5	14		19
Evan Samuel	22	3		25

FULL RESULTS: www.presssgs.co.uk



CAPTAIN'S PICK
Royal Ashdown

Bring a guest (and Pooh sticks) to captain Colin's Royal rave-up

CAPTAIN'S DAY is next up – in the idyllic surroundings of Abe Mitchell's (and Winnie the Pooh's) Ashdown Forest.

There's not a bunker in view but Royal Ashdown is certainly no walk in the park, with its humps and hollows, streams, trees and heather.

And, because we lost our normal guest day to the pandemic, captain Colin Hancock has opened up his day to a limited number of guests! So do bring along a golfing pal and give him a day to remember.

We'll be playing singles on the Old Course, highly-ranked by all major magazines and sites but above all a wonderfully natural and tranquil test of golf. Writing of the Old in 1934, the renowned chronicler

of the game, Bernard Darwin, noted: "...two salient facts come to mind. It is not quite like any other of my acquaintance, and secondly, I never knew anyone who played on it and was not fond of it."

We'll also have an 11-hole scramble on the beautiful West, playing a special routing of the best and most scenic holes, several of which are considered the pick of either course.

There'll be refreshments throughout the day, a decent, albeit simple lunch in two separate, well-spaced and well-ventilated rooms, prizes for many and post-round drinks at a local. Captain Colin very much hopes you'll be able to join us in this very special part of the world.

Re-Wryte... 2020 Cup is cancelled

THE PGS and the French AGP have, reluctantly but perhaps inevitably, decided to cancel this year's Wryter Cup at Granville.

Both societies looked at ways in which the match might take place, particularly mindful of those who've played well to put themselves in line for a spot, but the uncertainties around travel and hospitality proved too great.

With a decision needed by the first

week of August in order to recover deposits, we and the French saw little option but to follow The Open, Wimbledon and the Olympics and wait for a better 2021.

But what a Wryter Cup that promises to be! Brooky's beloved Rotherpool (Hoylake) will host the 30th Wryterpool as Dylan Dronfield seeks to lead the PGS to our first victory since Royal Portrush and tie the series at 15-apiece.



TEST: Hoylake's new 15th

FOURTH MEETING: MONDAY, 17th AUGUST ROYAL ASHDOWN FOREST

COMPETITIONS MORNING:

From 9.00am – Stableford singles, in threes, on the Old Course for the captain's prize. Jim Murray defends the Billennium Bowl.

AFTERNOON: 11-hole scramble on the West course.



COST

£95 per golfer for AM singles, PM Scramble, breakfast roll on arrival, lunch and complimentary drinks and snacks from the drinks buggy through the day. (£80 for those playing the AM singles only). **Please pay in advance online, account 40749648, sort code 20 41 41**

CATERING

Bacon/sausage rolls on arrival, Ploughman's lunch plus dessert, buggy snacks and drinks throughout the day.

PRIZES

First three in Division 1, first three in Division 2, first three guests, first three scramble teams in the afternoon, longest drive and nearest the pin.

HOW TO GET THERE

By Car
The club is on Chapel Lane, just off the B2110. Coming off the M25 at junction 6, head south on the A22. In Forest Row, turn onto the B2110 and then soon after turn right into Chapel Lane.

By Train

East Grinstead is the closest main station. A taxi from there to the club should take approximately 10 minutes.

ENTRIES

Send to Tim Allan, on 01494776914, or you can email Tim at: pgssecretary@gmail.com

DRESS CODE

Change of shoes, please, when in the clubhouse, but clean golf-wear /casual fine.

TELEPHONE

Messages can be left at the club on 01432 822018.

POSTCODE for satnavs

RH18 5LR