



Press Golfing Society

FEBRUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER

www.pressgs.co.uk



The Lord Riddell Memorial Trophy

2018 FIXTURES

New Zealand (medal)
Thursday 8th March

Ferndown
Match v Northcliffe
25th & 26th March

Temple
Monday 23rd April

Royal Mid Surrey
Match v SEGS
Tuesday 8th May

Reigate Heath
Captains' reunion
Thursday 10th May

Walton Heath
President's Day,
Tuesday 29th May

Richmond
Match v The Stage
Monday 4th June

Hadley Wood
Monday 2nd July

Ashridge
Tuesday 24th July

Fulwell
Captain's Day
Monday 20th August

Muswell Hill
Phil Sheldon Trophy
TBC

Royal St George's
Match v LSGS
Monday 10th September

The Berkshire (AGM)
Tuesday 25th September

XXVIII Wryter Cup
Match v APG
Chantilly, 1-3 October

The Berkshire
Scramble
Tuesday 13th November

Newsletter edited
by TIM ALLAN
pgssecretary@gmail.com

Pictures: IAN MCGORM & PATRICK EAGAR



CAPTAINS FANTASTIC: Ian Woods takes the chain of office from 2017 captain Jonny Bramley after the November prize-giving dinner

Next up...
NEW ZEALAND
THURSDAY
8th MARCH
Medal and
Sir Emsley Carr
qualifier

New Zealand here we come!

WHAT do PGS golfers have in common with Ben Stokes? Those who immediately conjure up images involving drunken behaviour are wrong, and are flirting with contempt of court proceedings.

The correct answer of course, is that we are ready to cast aside months of sporting hibernation and do battle with New Zealand.

But while Mr Stokes has to fly to the other side of the world to cast off the cobwebs, we only have to travel just beyond the M25.

It's a great honour to be your captain, and also a huge relief not to be fretting about Wryter Cup qualification points. Last year every meeting was tinged with tension before I finally squeaked into the team at Wyke Green. It guaranteed I would be able to play a part in the highlight of 2017, helping Jonny Bramley retain the trophy at Royal Portrush.

This year's Wryter Cup will be at Chantilly, starting the day after the Ryder Cup at Paris National. What a



SUPER SCRAMBLERS: Joe Tidy, Dylan Dronfield, Jeremy Thompson and Ben Munro-Davies celebrate victory at The Berkshire

week of golf it promises to be. The French will be determined to win, having drawn once and lost twice in recent matches. I hope that all of you who want to be part of the team perform brilliantly in the months ahead and book your place early.

After New Zealand, we head to Temple for the first time, where I know we will be warmly welcomed. It's a great venue, and thanks to the negotiating skills of our hard-working secretary Tim Allan, we will be playing there for a very reason-

able price. I'm particularly looking forward to introducing you to another course making its PGS debut this year. Captain's Day will be at my club, Fulwell, in south-west London. 23 new bunkers have been constructed during the winter, and the course already has an excellent reputation for the quality of its greens. I hope this, as well as its convenient location (Fulwell station is near enough that even I could reach it with a driver), will ensure a big turnout. -Ian Woods, captain

Monty boomer!

WE did Monty Court proud with a stellar performance in the charity auction on Scramble day.

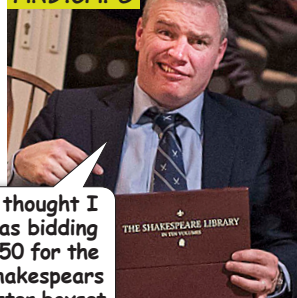
After more than 40 years as our charity auctioneer, Monty decided to hand up his gavel last year. We reckon he's helped us raise at least £150,000 for the Journalists' Charity over that time. Now in his 90th year, Monty was due to be with

us at The Berkshire but sadly a bout of asthma left him in hospital. Monty is now out of hospital and recovering well at home.

He'd have been proud of Ian McGorm, who took charge of the auction this year and helped us raise £5,500 - almost certainly a record and a magnificent effort.

Well played all of you!

'ANDICAPS



I thought I was bidding £50 for the Shakespears Sister boxset

Dave Berresford 1943–2018

THE PGS Essex car crew lost one of their finest last month with the passing of Dave Berresford, our 1995 captain. Here his Billericay pal, fellow captain David Hamilton, pays tribute to the former SunSport legend.

DAVE BERRESFORD always looked forward to a round of golf – and so did everyone who was lucky enough to play with him.

He was great company on the course and embodied all that is best about the game and about the PGS. The friendships and the camaraderie always mattered more than the score.

While his handicap may have risen to 20 at his beloved Chelmsford Golf Club, he was off scratch when it came to journalism.

A few minutes working with him at The Sun sports desk was enough for you to know that Berres, as all his colleagues called him, was a top-class professional.

Dave was born in London but the family moved around in his early years with his father's work. It was when they were living in the Lincolnshire town of Brigg that Dave left school and began his newspaper career on the Lincolnshire Times.

He followed that with spells on the Hull Daily Mail and the Notts Guardian Journal before joining The Sun when it launched in November 1969.

He met his future wife Joan at a party in London and they moved to Billericay in the year they were married, 1972.

Dave had a profound fear of flying, so all their foreign holidays involved a long drive, often to France.

He was fluent in French – a great asset during his many Wryter Cups and on his holiday. When he and Joan once found themselves at a hostelry in central France, Dave joined in the communal singing and then treated the audience to a rendition of every verse of La Marseillaise. He didn't have to buy another drink all night!

In the year of his PGS captaincy, Dave's fear of flying came to the fore again. He wanted to attend the annual shindig to Portugal and had reluctantly agreed to travel by plane. However, no sooner had he done so than the Lockerbie disaster happened – and that meant another long car journey.

Richard Orchard, one-time PGS member and former Sun colleague, says: I remember

how much he loved his grub (and the pub). At break time he would often dash down to the canteen for a sandwich to eat on the way to the boozier. In the pub he would have a hot meal washed down by three pints. Then on the way back he would often buy a bag of chips which he would scoff en route to the office. A very full Berres was a very happy Berres.

I also recall when he was chief sub he asked myself and Rick Parry out for a second break one (supposedly) quiet night. When we rolled back in we got an almighty bollocking from Steve Wolstencroft who was late man in charge because a story had broken and there was no bugger there to sub it.

Berres was a smashing bloke, a genial man among the vipers' nest that was SunSport. He was particularly kind to journalists just starting out on The Sun. He would often message you to say 'great job' after you had subbed a complicated spread. And somehow that meant you didn't



HONOURED: In 2006 Dave & Joan jointly received the Vic Woodman Trophy in recognition of their great support for the Wryter Cup

mind so much when he asked 'Do you mind holding the fort for a while' as he disappeared out the door with Sleaman and Dave Clem for another hour (or two) in the Caxton/Old Rose/Town of Ramsgate/Sydney Smith . . .

Bob Hayes, PGS member and former Sun colleague, says: He was the calmest of chief subs and many a sub owed him a debt of gratitude, especially when they were new to the desk and learning their trade.

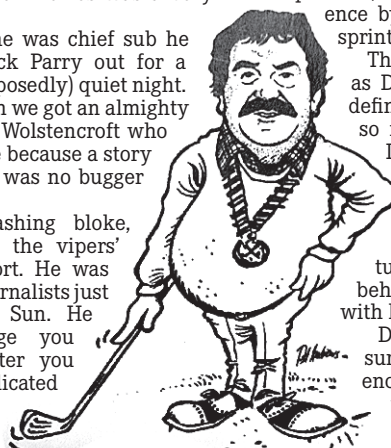
When sports editors and people on the stone were battering him with demands for late stories, Dave would coolly take the flak and leave the sweating sub to put the final touches to a story or headline. He was unflappable.

Dave would often regale us of stories about his sporting friends, such as Nottingham Forest's Ian Storey-Moore.

When asked about his own sporting prowess, Dave stunned his audience by insisting he was a decent sprinter and was still pretty rapid!

That was quickly challenged as Dave, then in his 40s, had a definite middle-aged spread. Not so much Usain Bolt, more like Loosen Belt! The upshot was Dave and a few subs went outside the office and promptly had a 50-yard race on the road! Dave's turn of speed was a sight to behold. It all ended, as usual with him, in lots of (belly) laughs.

Did he win? We're not too sure but, to all of us fortunate enough to have known and worked with him, he was always a winner.



FIRST MEETING: THURSDAY, 8th MARCH

MEDAL ROUND

Lord Riddell Memorial Trophy (best nett score) Holder: Dylan Dronfield, nett 66. Dylan also won the gross score prize with a round of 71.

Play in threes from 8:15am. The top 16 qualify for the Sir Emsley Carr Memorial Trophy (below) knockout, with the draw being made after the prizegiving. If you don't wish to play in the Emsley Carr, please notify Tim, to give other members the chance to compete. Keith Malone, last year's "lucky reserve", went on to win our only matchplay event. The two



finalists gain automatic selection for the Wryter Cup at Chantilly.

COST

£78 per golfer, includes golf and lunch. Pay online acc 40749648 sort code 204141.

ENTRIES

Send to Tim Allan, on 01494776914. Or you can email Tim at: pgssecretary@gmail.com The start sheet is open from now until Thursday, March 1.

DRESS CODE

Jacket and tie in the clubhouse.

PRIZES

First three in Division 1, and first three in Div 2. There's also a bottle of champagne for the best gross score.

TELEPHONE

Messages can be left at the club on 01932 345049.

HOW TO GET THERE

By Train
Nearest station is West Byfleet, which is reached from Waterloo. Journey times from Waterloo 28-43mins.
By Car
J11 M25. Take A317 St Peter's Way. Left at the roundabout on to the

NEW ZEALAND

A320 Guildford Road. Turn left at the first roundabout after the McLaren F1 HQ, then left on to the A245 Woodham Way. Golf club entrance is on the left hand side.

ADDRESS

Woodham Lane, Woking, Addlestone, Surrey

POSTCODE for satnavs

KT15 3QD

Please be careful if travelling with a former PGS captain. Last year his 'pratnav' directions contributed to his threeball teeing off an hour late.