

Next meetings?

SADLY we've had no choice but to cancel both the next meeting at Fulwell on April 20th and the Captains' Reunion at Reigate Heath ten days later, although we may be able to re-arrange the Reunion for later in the year.

Clearly all scheduled 2020 meetings and matches are 'to be confirmed'. We'll keep everyone up to date by email and on the website. In the meantime, please do everything you can to stay safe.

2020 FIXTURES

FULWELL

Monday, April 20

REIGATE HEATH

Captains' Reunion & Seniors
Thursday, April 30

ROYAL MID-SURREY

PGS v SEGS
Tuesday, May 12

EFFINGHAM

Thursday, May 21

WALTON HEATH

President's & Guest Day
Tuesday, June 16

RICHMOND

The Stage GS v PGS
Monday, July 13

ASHRIDGE

Tuesday, July 21

ROYAL BLACKHEATH

Hickory Match v BGCS
Monday, July 27

ROYAL ASHDOWN FOREST

Captain's Day
Monday, August 17

THE BERKSHIRE

Tuesday, September 22

GRANVILLE

XXX Wryter Cup
October 4 - 6

THE GROVE

Tuesday, October 27

THE BERKSHIRE

Scramble & Auction
Tuesday, November 10

West Hill results

Division One 1st Andy Glen, 72, net 68, wins the Lord Riddell Memorial Trophy, 2nd Tim Dickson, 69, 3rd Glen Bevis, 70.

Division Two 1st Rick Evans, net 73 (on countback), 2nd Paul Kelso, 3rd Bryan Nickless, 75.

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SCENE AT WEST HILL:
PGS pre-lockdown



THREE WISE MEN: Bryan Nickless, Lee Smith and Hugh Whittow in those halcyon days before social distancing

Birdie blitz Glen hits the summit on the Hill



GOLD MEDAL GLEN: Captain Colin Hancock and winner Andy

ANDY GLEN mined his rich vein of form to clinch yet another title in the first PGS meeting of the season at West Hill.

The current holder of the Golden Putter, Mirror Trophy and Sun Challenge Trophy blazed to a net 68 and a one-shot victory in the traditional March medal.

West Hill was resplendent in the gloriously warm sunshine. If we are indeed engaged in some form of war, this was a sumptuous slice of an Edwardian summer.

Politicians and officials were mobilising beyond the budding trees and heather but within the PGS cocoon the air hung silent and still.

Glen took full advantage of the stunning conditions. An early birdie blitz from the 2nd to the 5th left him a rather professional three under after five. "I've never had four birdies in a row before" he reflected, "then I bottled it. It was just lovely to play in shirt-

sleeves for the first time this year."

The Beeb and Bearwood man's gross 72, net 68, put him one clear of Tim Dickson, whose level-par 69 would have triumphed on many another occasion. The Sun's Glen Bevis finished just one further back on a net 70.

In Division Two Maidenhead veteran Rick Evans overcame the absence of his carer (Jonathan Baker recovering from a knee operation) to shoot a sparkling net 73 and claim victory on countback from Paul Kelso. Woburn ever-green Bryan 'The Duke' Nickless was third, a couple of shots behind.

After a fine lunch and the Emsley Carr draw, news began to filter through from the world beyond.

Who knows when we'll be able to play golf again, let alone come together for another PGS meeting?

But a wonderful morning's golf on a beautiful Surrey heathland course reminded everyone why that day can't come soon enough.

Long mile ahead for the Emsley Carr

THE draw for our prestigious Sir Emsley Carr knockout was held immediately after lunch at West Hill.

As ever, it threw up some intriguing ties, although whether and when these can be played rests with even higher powers than Paolo and Tim.

Among the standout match-ups, Glen Bevis is due to play Nadine Dorries' close personal friend, Ross Slater; last year's Captain Khalid Javed will be



mightily miffed if some virus stops him taking on the consistently impressive Ben Monro-Davies at Sunningdale; and in the battle of Rishi Sunak's favourite freelancers, Royal Ashdown's finest, Rob Hewer, will play Duncan Farmer. One high-calibre tie has already been settled: Keith Ging inflicting a narrow, rare defeat on the trophy collecting Andy Glen.

Glen Bevis v Ross Slater
Rick Evans v Bryan Nickless
Lee Smith v Roderick Easdale
Dean Scoggins v Tim Dickson
Keith Ging v Andy Glen
Ben Monro-Davies v Khalid Javed
Duncan Farmer v Rob Hewer
Paul Kelso v Simon Taylor

WE'RE delighted to announce a fantastic new PGS sponsorship deal with **golfbreaks.com**, one of the world's largest and longest-established golf holiday firms.

Big thanks to Jamie Weir, who arranged the deal just before the pandemic broke out – and we're pleased to tell you they are happy to continue with it, even though their business is facing challenging times.

We've offered honorary membership to Nik Hayes, golfbreaks' head of commercial, and to James Somerside, golfbreaks' head of commercial marketing.

A big welcome to

Golfbreaks.com

We look forward to them joining us as soon as we resume. They've also been offered a team in our Scramble.

The sponsorship will help us keep costs down at some of our more prestigious meetings.

Our intention was to offer you some of their best

deals and to feature at least one in every newsletter – for obvious reasons, that plan is on hold for a little while!

We'll also be asking them to help us find venues for some of our matches and possibly future tours.

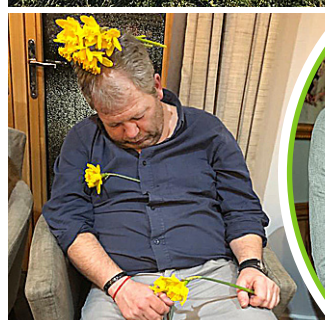
If you're thinking about a future golf trip, do check out **golfbreaks.com**



BENCHMARK:
Jamie Weir and
Ben Monro-Davies



REMEMBERED:
Memorial at Prince's to
former PGS fighter ace
Laddie Lucas' Spitfire
emergency landing site



GO FOURTH:
NGS captain
Nick Stevens
with Jonny
Bramley



Deal breaker

JONNY BRAMLEY'S PGS team came agonisingly close to regaining the Lord Northcliffe Challenge Cup on the Kent coast in our first, and possibly last, match of the year.

Despite some inspirational captaincy and a fine fightback, Bramley's brave band of 16 finally lost out 7.5 to 8.5 as the final game went to the Northcliffe Golf Society.

Played on the historic links of Prince's and Royal Cinque Ports in those heady pre-coronavirus crisis days of early March, the PGS were looking to reverse a trend of three straight losses.

Braving fresh Storm Jorge winds on the Sunday, both teams strung together some fine golf but the Northcliffe took a precious overnight lead of 5-3. Wins for housewives' favourite Jamie Weir & Ben Monro-Davies, Rob Hower & Tony Smith and Jim Murray & Ross Slater kept the PGS in touch.

A stirring late-night captain's speech had the well-fuelled PGS boys chomping at the bit for day two at

Deal. There were some lively St David's Day celebrations and Rob Hower embraced daffodils in his sleep (most of which was taken in the bar) as he dreamt of partnering the indomitable Welshman Hugh Whittow the next morning.

A brilliant resurgence saw the PGS apparently 7.5-6.5 up with two matches left out on the course. An excited team gathered at the 18th and saw match 15 go to the NGS but all was not lost. Chinese whispers had us up in match 16.

Body language gave nothing away as the second shots were played in but, sadly, the match had already ended 5&3 and the NGS took their fourth straight victory.

Captain Bramley said: "I am immensely proud of my team who put in a stellar performance after out-performing the NGS in the bar the night before. Special mentions for the undefeated Rob Hower with his own unique St David's Day tribute and also unbeaten Ross Slater who failed to make it to his own bedroom."

The overall scores for the Lord Northcliffe Challenge Cup stand at NGS 14, PGS 8 with two matches halved.

Get-together at The Grove

MIDST the gloomy outlook, we have one new meeting this year: a round and lunch at The Grove, the highly-acclaimed Kyle Phillips design that's hosted many European Tour and WGC events.

This was planned before things took a serious turn for the worse to see if there's an appetite for a single-round October meeting to be added to our regular calendar.

Secretary Tim's negotiated a great deal of bacon roll, coffee, 18 holes and lunch all for £99. This year the meeting won't count towards any of our season-long (here's hoping) competitions, nor for the Wryter Cup table, but Tuesday, October 27th should be a great late-season get-together, God and Government permitting.



So captain, apart from the floods and the pestilence, how's your year going so far?

Our new taste of victory!

OUR West Hill winners toasted victory with a new vintage – wine direct from a vineyard near Carcassonne!

We've done a great deal with Nick McKay, who is committee member Brian Lee's uncle, to supply most of our prizes this year. He makes and sells the wine direct from his own vineyard at his south of France home and normally supplies top restaurants in the UK.

The wines are a red Pinot Noir, a pale dry Rosé and a Chablis-style Chardonnay – all tasted and tested by your committee, of course!

If you'd like to buy direct from Nick yourself, then just email nick@domneuve.com for more information.

Our thanks to Chris Stevens who arranged the prizes for many years – and will keep doing the Scramble prizes for us.