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THE GROVE
Tuesday, 27th
October



RED HOT: Neil White prepares to tee off on his Sun Trophy winning round at The Berkshire

PICTURE: IAN MCGILGORM

NEIL WHITE scorched The Berkshire Red with a superlative round to claim the Sun Challenge Trophy.

Refreshed by a Berkshire lunch, White then only fell short on countback from doing the double in the afternoon foursomes for the Sir George Sutton Salver.

White was far from the only player having a great time. There are wonderful days on the golf course, and then there's playing the Red and the Blue in some of the most glorious weather of the year.

As White teed off on the first on the Red there wasn't a cloud in the sky, nothing to dim his sparkling performance as he left his "unreliable woods" in the bag, plotted his way with irons past the heather and then, thanks to some outstanding putting, built on a birdie on the fourth to score an extremely impressive 40 points.

"The best course I have ever played, and the best round I have ever played, and in superb company," concluded a delighted White.

Neil, who's currently on a mission to play the top 100 courses in England (and whose blog on his Berkshire round can be read here: <https://www.thegolfpilgrim.com/post/the-berkshire-red>) finished three clear of Duncan

All White on Red and Blue

Farmer, who pipped the Beeb's Peter Solomons on countback – the top three all coming from Division One.

Division Two was clinched by the in-form Evan Samuel, whose 35 points confirmed his status as the poster-boy of knee operations. Dean Scoggins was just a point behind in second, on the same score as third placed Jonathan Baker, who's surely now rueing his decision to have only partial knee replacements this year.

Coronavirus restrictions served to constrain the traditional Berkshire lunch, and ruled out our evening AGM, but with a marquee now covering the whole of the terrace the club's set fair to weather the uncertain next few months/winter and spring/year(s) (delete as one's pessimism dictates). Other clubs could take note.

The afternoon foursomes on the Blue then gave us a view of The Berkshire's initiative on and around the courses: a massive programme of heather regeneration and scrub clearance opening up vistas not seen for decades.

However, as we know well from Walton Heath, swathes of heather tend not to lead to high scoring, with or without trees. No pairing broke par, but serial winner and graphics guru Nev Appleton, partnered by Paul Kelso, clinched the Sir George Sutton Salver with an excellent 35pts, edging out Jim Murray and Berkshire star Neil White on countback. Phil Harris and Chris Stevens were just two behind in third.

White, now in pole position for the Wryter Cup team heading to Hoylake, surely spoke for all when he reflected: "It was such a magical day."

THE GROVE GC
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Then our final 2020 fixture
THE BERKSHIRE
Tuesday, November 10

The Berkshire results

AM: Division One: 1st Neil White, 40pts, wins The Sun Challenge Trophy; 2nd Duncan Farmer, 37 (on countback); 3rd Peter Solomons, 37. Division Two: 1st Evan Samuel, 35pts; 2nd Dean Scoggins, 34 (on cb); 3rd Jono Baker, 34. Foursomes: 1st Nev Appleton & Paul Kelso, 35pts, win the Sir George Sutton Salver; 2nd Jim Murray & Neil White, 35 (on countback); 3rd Phil Harris & Chris Stevens, 33.

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HONoured:
Vice president
Peter Dazeley

What a Dazzler, BEM, PGS VP!

CELEBRATED photographer Peter Dazeley has been elevated to Vice President of the PGS, surely eclipsing the award of the British Empire Medal to Coombe Hill's finest three years ago.

Dazeley has been a member of the PGS for 50 years, has won the Sir Emsley Carr Trophy three times and has supported the society in numerous ways over the years, including through the Dazeley Trophy for past captains.

He even put up a car as the prize for a hole in one on his Captain's Day, demonstrating a shrewd sense of his colleagues' abilities on the golf course.

Dylan claims Gordon putter

2021 PGS captain Dylan Dronfield will lead from the front next year, after clinching the John Gordon Golden Putter at The Berkshire.

Dronfield, playing off a PGS handicap of just three, demonstrated his impressive consistency throughout the year to take the prize by five points from Colchester's Lee Smith, Rob Hewer claiming third.

Royal Ashdown's Hewer was confirmed as winner of the Trow-Stern Trophy, with Evan Samuel runner-up.

Dickson goes the Emsley Carr mile

TIM DICKSON is the 2020 Sir Emsley Carr Champion after a 36-hole final at Woking against Keith Ging.

The Golf Quarterly editor, playing off nine, started strongly to reach the turn of the first round just two over and by lunch had established a six-hole lead.

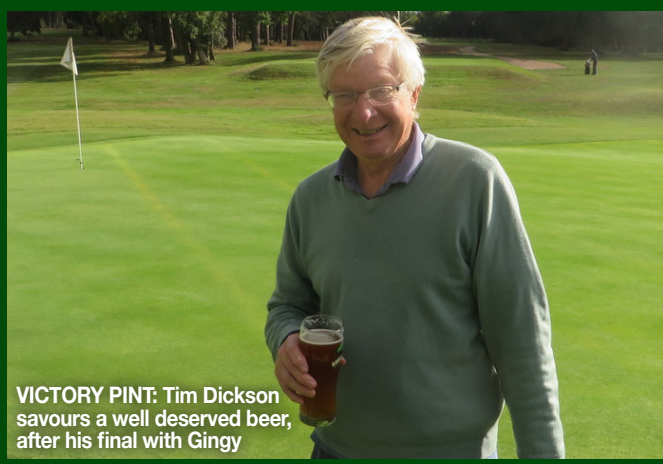
Fellow nine-handicapper Ging fought back through the afternoon but Dickson finally closed out the match 5&4 to claim the prestigious Sir Emsley Carr trophy.

Ging was magnanimous in defeat, reflecting simply: "I was well beaten

by a worthy winner," and he had high praise for Woking, saying: "It's a superb venue, I can't speak highly enough of the course itself. Our members would be thrilled by the sheer quality and ambience of the place."

The two finalists also discovered during the course of their day that they shared more than handicaps and a successful Emsley campaign.

Both had not only worked at the Newcastle Evening Chronicle at the same time but had also done stints in the North Shields district office. "Our recall of former colleagues was just about perfect," said Dickson.



VICTORY PINT: Tim Dickson savours a well deserved beer, after his final with Gingy

Annual Dinner cancelled

IN perhaps one of the least surprising developments of 2020, the AGM unanimously agreed that we should cancel this year's dinner.

Bringing together a group of above-average age in a central London hotel room for several hours on a winter's night during a pandemic didn't seem entirely wise, even if it were legal.

2021 captain Dylan Dronfield will build back better next November.

Handicaps and penalties...

AFTER a lengthy but entertaining discussion of PGS penalties at the AGM we decided to leave things as they are pending a review and report on the new World Handicapping System from PGS treasurer Paolo Minoli and our database supremo/doyen of cricket photography, Patrick Eager.

Frankly, the changeover to the World Handicapping System next month is going to present enough challenges without further complicating matters next year.

As those with Wryter Cup experience will be aware, the French have been using a slope system for many years so we may even borrow software from the APG.

Contrary to some reports, this would be a little more sophisticated than thinking of a number and adding three.

WEST HILL

Medal
Tuesday, March 9

REIGATE HEATH

Captains, Cttee & Seniors
Thursday, April 1

FULWELL

Monday, April 19

EFFINGHAM

Thursday, May 20

WALTON HEATH

President's & Guest Day
Tuesday, June 15

ASHRIDGE

Tuesday, July 20

LUFFENHAM HEATH

Captain's Day
Monday, August 23

THE BERKSHIRE

September TBC

ROYAL LIVERPOOL

XXX Wryter Cup
October 3 - 5

THE BERKSHIRE

Scramble & Auction
November TBC

2021 fixtures

AS we head to The Grove and The Berkshire, the PGS calendar for 2021 has now been confirmed.

Once again, PGS secretary Tim Allan has secured our regular stand-out venues, Walton Heath and The Berkshire, and we'll also be returning to the beautiful West Hill for our opening March medal.

April and May will be at Fulwell and Effingham, courses we were due to play this year but were unable to do so.

Tim's home club, the ever-popular Ashridge, will again host our July fixture and 2021 captain Dylan Dronfield will be hosting his day at Colt and Alison's Luffenham Heath in Rutland (you can read the history of this highly-rated heathland course here: www.luffenhamheath.org/history).

Thanks to VP Nic Brook, October's Wryter Cup will be held at Royal Liverpool/Hoylake, host of 13 Open Championships, including Arnaud Massy's sole French Major victory as recently as 1907.

SIXTH MEETING: TUESDAY, 27th OCTOBER

THE GROVE

COMPETITIONS

One round of Stableford singles in fourballs, from 9am.

ENTRIES

Entries are closed, as we were limited to 32 players.

COST

£99 per golfer.

Please pay in advance online, account 40749648, sort code 20 41 41

If you need to contact secy Tim Allan, phone 01494776914, or email: pgssecretary@gmail.com

DRESS CODE

No need to change, as we'll be staying outside. Smart casual.

CATERING

It won't be the usual lunch, and we should be eating outside. More details when Tim sends the startsheet.

TELEPHONE

Reception at the club is on 01923 807807.

HOW TO GET THERE

By Car

Clockwise on the M25: Leave at Junction 19, following the signs to Watford. At the first large roundabout take the third exit (A411 Hempstead Road towards Watford). After half a mile,

you'll see the entrance to The Grove on your right hand side

Anti-clockwise on the M25: Leave at Junction 20, following the signs to Watford. At the first large roundabout take the second exit (A411 Hempstead Road towards Watford). After half a mile, you'll see the entrance to The Grove on your right hand side.

North on the M1: Leave at Junction 5 and take the third exit (A41 to Aylesbury). After approximately a mile, you will come to a roundabout. Take the second exit (again the A41 to Aylesbury). After nearly two miles, you will come to a roundabout, take the first exit. After half a mile, you'll

see the entrance to The Grove on your right hand side.

South on the M1: Leave at Junction 6. At the t-junction at the end of the slip road, follow the road round to the left, following signs for North Watford A405. After approximately 1 1/2 miles, at a large roundabout, take the second exit (A41 to Aylesbury). At the next roundabout take the first exit. After half a mile, you'll see the entrance to The Grove on your right hand side.

POSTCODE for satnavs

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