



# Press Golfing Society

SEPTEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

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Next up...  
**THE BERKSHIRE**  
Tuesday, 22nd  
September  
Plus the AGM  
First qualifier for  
Wryter Cup  
2021

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**The Berkshire  
Golf Club**

Swinley Road  
Ascot  
Berkshire SL5 8AY  
Tel: 01344 622 351  
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Remaining fixtures  
**ROYAL ST GEORGE'S**  
Match v London Solicitors  
Monday, September 14

**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

## Royal Ashdown Forest results

Division One: 1st Dylan Dronfield, 36pts, wins the Billenium Bowl; 2nd Khalid Javed, 36; 3rd Rob Hewer, 36 (all on countback). Division Two: 1st Nev Appleton, 35pts; 2nd Paul Trow, 33; 3rd Evan Samuel, 32. Guests: 1st David Nash, 34pts; 2nd Alan Butcher, 34 (cb); 3rd Craig Barwick, 33. Scramble: 1st Ian Woods, Nev Appleton, James McConnell & Neil White, 33.8; 2nd Khalid Javed, Gabriel Javed, John Quinn & Sheena Quinn, 33.8 (cb); 3rd James Murray, Andy Glen, David Nash & Hugo Tudor. Harold Lewis Weight for Age: Hugh Whittow

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**PODIUM PLACE:**  
RAF member Rob  
Hewer tied for 2nd



**LEADING THE DRON-**  
**FIELD:** Dylan with our  
captain, Colin Hancock

PICTURES: JONNY BRAMLEY

## Knockin' on Dylan's door Captain's Day RAF triumph for Dronfield

PLAYING in the land of Winnie the Pooh you might have expected Lee 'Tigger' Smith to continue his fine run of form but it was PGS vice-captain Dylan Dronfield, playing off just 4 who claimed the spoils with 36 points and a superb display around the challenging Sussex layout.

The course, which is famous for having no bunkers, was in glorious shape and provided a tough test with the heather in full bloom.

No one bettered handicap on the day and many of the field's hopes were left Blowin' In The Wind, leaving Sky News editor Dronfield victorious on countback over last year's captain Khalid Javed & Ashdown member Rob (Dylan) Hewer.

The day started with the forecast predicting a day of rain and thunderstorms. Undeterred captain Colin and his better half Lisa were perfect hosts and served a choice of bacon & sausage rolls from the front of their new Porsche. No one likes a snob and the rain duly arrived at 9.30 but after 20 minutes of biblical scenes it relented and polo shirts replaced the waterproofs in the increasingly-warm Sussex sunshine.

Dronfield started as he meant to go on with a birdie at the first while

playing partner Hewer was grateful for the house behind the green, using it as a backstop and making the most unlikely and undeserved par. Relentless, arrow-like consistency from tee to green continued for Dronfield, but it still took a degree in maths to work out that he had beaten Javed on countback over the back 3.

Nev Appleton was triumphant in division two with 35 points. That left him two clear of Paul Trow and the in-form Evan Samuel who continues to be a fine advert for new knees.

There was no need for countback as the Harold Lewis Weight for Age prize went to Hugh Whittow who apparently won on both measures. But it was back to the calculators as David Nash of Bearwood Lakes proved best of the guests, pipping Alan Butcher and Craig Barwick, with Damon Hill just missing a podium by a point. At this level it's all about fine margins.

Ashdown member Stephen Killick was on hand to ensure social

distancing and fun was had on the splendid balcony as lunch (and wine) refreshed the field.

The glorious backdrop and liquid refreshments proved too enticing for some and not quite everyone took their place for the afternoon

scramble, which saw the team of Ian Woods, Nev Appleton, James McConnell & Neil White go home with the top prizes. Again it was on countback, and again it was Khalid

Javed in second with his team of son Gabriel, John and Sheena Quinn ending with exactly the same score.

The day concluded with presentations from the balcony in the evening sunshine and it felt like a proper PGS event as the excellent bar staff were kept busy.

One of those choosing wine instead of the scramble was Kevin Price who successfully negotiated the steep slope from the bar to the putting green with a full glass in one hand and a bottle of red in the other. But for that it was the perfect day.

## Notice of the AGM

OUR AGM takes place straight after The Berkshire prize-giving, and is open to all members. If more than 30 wish to attend, we'll have to hold it by Zoom at a later date. Please advise secretary Tim Allan of any points you think should be on the agenda.





ALWAYS A WINNER: Bob with Paolo Minoli and Lee Smith, left, and Ian Woods & Rick Evans

# Bob Hayes... a PGS legend gone too soon



BOB HAYES was a brilliant journalist, a witty and knowledgeable friend and a much better golfer than he ever admitted.

His loss, at the terribly young age of 67, will be felt keenly by all who knew him.

I had the privilege of knowing Bob for more than 30 years, working closely with him at both the News of the World and The Sun. He was enormously kind to me when I first joined The Sun in 1994 and, indeed, throughout my career.

He was a man of many talents and accomplishments. He served on the backbench of The Sun's sportsdesk for many years, having joined the paper in 1986. He rose to become deputy sports editor and had an astonishing gift for headline-writing.

If anyone was ever struggling for a line, or in need of a witty pun, Bob would have the answer. His ability sometimes left you in utter amazement, knowing you could never be that good.

He loved football and was very proud of having been a ballboy at the 1966 World Cup Final. Born and bred in Shepherd's Bush, he was a lifelong QPR fan.

He was a gifted match reporter, priding himself on turning in just the right number of words so that his colleagues on the subs' desk didn't have too much to do.

He had a great affection for the lower reaches of the game, covering clubs like Wycombe, MK Dons and Northampton with distinction. He was a much-loved and respected member

of those press boxes and had friends at all levels of the game.

He made his living out of words, but had an equal ability with numbers. Give him the hardest multiplication sum you could imagine and Bob would fire back the answer in seconds. I once asked him how he did it, but he couldn't tell me. It was a gift you couldn't teach and came with effortless ease.

Beyond work, he had an encyclopaedic knowledge of music and a great love especially of country music. There are many people who have grown to love artists they were first introduced to by Bob.

As in many areas of his life, Bob was self-deprecating about his golf. He was a wonderful companion on the course, never getting down about the bad shots and always ready to smile about other people's good fortune. He had a fund of great stories and was no stranger to the winners' circle off a very competitive handicap.

He joined the PGS in 1992 and played in eight Wryter Cups. He won the News of the World Cup in 2011, and the Division Two honours at the 1996 Captain's Day and the 2007 President's Day.

It says much for him that he had far more success when playing with a partner than on his own. With Phil Leach, he won the Sun Challenge Trophy in 1999 and the Wilkinson Sword in 2002; with Chris Wright, the Sir Leicester Harmsworth Trophy in 2000 and, with Glen Bevis, the Sir George Sutton

Salver in 2009. He won the Sir Harry Brittain Coronation Trophy twice, first with Geoff Wheeler in 1998 and, memorably, with Rick Evans in 2018, when they scored an incredible 50 stableford points in the greensomes around Ashridge.

He also founded the annual Bun and Bone tournament, played between Bob's team of journalists and his brother-in-law Tony Butcher's team of BT colleagues. That began in 1994, with four a side at Woburn, where Bob was a member for many years, and grew into a 10 a side challenge.

Bob truly was a team man. He didn't enjoy the limelight, preferring the camaraderie he found in playing a supporting role. That was epitomised by the way he chose to keep the cancer which claimed his life quiet from everyone but close family.

It was for that family – wife Lynn, their three daughters and four grandchildren, one of whom, Megan, was born with cystic fibrosis – that he played his greatest supporting role. He put them first in every decision he made.

Bob was planning a sponsored walk up Snowdon in June this year to raise funds for research into cystic fibrosis but Covid-19 put paid to that long before he became ill. His family now plan to complete that walk next year.

His family will miss him most, but Bob leaves a massive hole in the lives of everyone who was fortunate enough to call him a friend. There will never be another like him. Rest in peace, Bob.

– Tim Allan

Today I can hear Bob calling out 'Hi Tom!' across the car park from a few meets years back. I knew it was him from his distinctive voice but had no bloody clue where he was. Every time he used to shout out, then hide! Great sense of humour. What a man.

– Tom Pilcher

Bob was one of the most talented wordsmiths, a great headline writer and a true gent. It was a pure pleasure working with him.

– Phil Leach

Can't believe we'll never see his lovely, smiling face again.

He was such a big part of the PGS and, of course The Sun.

– Philippa Kennedy

What a wonderful man we've lost. Always a fantastic, cheery companion on the course, in the pub, the newsroom and life in general.

– Keith Ging

I will never forget partnering Bob against the Northcliffe at the European in Ireland. He hit his tee shot onto the beach on the 14th, I think, and asked me if he could reach the green with a 4-iron. Go for it I said and he clipped the ball beautifully off the sand and it landed on the

middle of the green. He was almost in tears. What a great guy, a pleasure to have known him. Gone too soon.

– Ted Graham

Bob will certainly be missed both as a superb journalist and a very fine guy. I knew Bob well from The Sun and he was always an amiable companion over a pint or so. He was a pleasure to play golf with and had an uncanny knack of playing the 'impossible' shot!

– Ian Doran

I last saw Bob about 15 months ago. He was bubbling with pretty good golf and very good

banter. I never worked with him but those who did had nothing but praise for his talent.

– Tom Clarke

Shocking. I shall play some Mickey Newbury songs in his memory (Bob introduced me to him).

– Rick Evans

I played my first ever PGS round with Bob. He was, as always, self-deprecatingly funny, kind and welcoming. I remember an evening in the bar at Porthcawl as Bob, surrounded by some of the French, one with a 'phone calculator in hand, astounded

all by correctly answering every one of their fiendish mental arithmetic challenges within a second or two, a gentle smile as they confirmed each number.

– Colin Hancock

A lovely, witty guy who was always great company. I remember Bob finding his ball in the woods and saying: 'I've got a Chuck Berry here.' 'What's that?' I asked. 'No particular place to go.' An original joke that I shamelessly nicked and have repeated many times. A real loss to everyone who knew him.

– Chris Stevens

The current restrictions mean only Bob's family are able to attend his funeral. If you'd like to make a donation to the sponsored walk in his memory, go to: [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/teammegank](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/teammegank)



Glen Bevis  
Ross Slater

Rick Evans  
Bryan Nickless

Lee Smith  
Roderick Easdale

Dean Scoggins  
Tim Dickson

Slater  
v  
Nickless

Easdale  
v  
Dickson

Bryan  
Nickless

Tim  
Dickson



Duncan  
Farmer

Ging  
v  
Javed

Farmer  
v  
Kelso

Keith Ging  
Andy Glen

Ben Monro-Davies  
Khalid Javed

Duncan Farmer  
Rob Hewer

Paul Kelso  
Simon Taylor

## SIR EMSLEY CARR KNOCKOUT

THE PGS's prestigious knock-out for the Sir Emsley Carr trophy is now down to the final five.

The first semi-final will see Bryan 'The Duke' Nickless take on Tim Dickson, who just eased past Roderick Easdale on the final hole of their quarter.

The winner will play either Duncan Farmer or the victor of the high-calibre Keith Ging/Khalid Javed quarter-final.

## JOHN GORDON PUTTER

THE race for the Golden Putter reaches its final furlong on the Berkshire turf later this month.

As ever this classic challenge has sifted the thoroughbreds from the nags, with Group 1 entries Dylan Dronfield, Lee Smith and Rob Hewer hitting their stride as the challengers fall away.

2021 captain Dronfield heads the field after his sparkling run at Royal Ashdown Forest took the Captain's prize and Billenium Bowl, but Smith is poised to strike with Hewer relying on a late injection of pace.

Only a victory at The Berkshire will be good enough for Sky Racing's Hewer to beat the odds, while Smith needs a top three to give himself a chance of pipping Dronfield to the line.

### Places after 4 qualifiers. PGS hcps

Dylan Dronfield	4	5	1	10
Lee Smith	8	1	6	15
Rob Hewer	6	8	3	17
Nevil Appleton	9	12	4	25
Khalid Javed	13	10	2	25
Neil White	8	10	12	29
Ian Woods	13	1	16	30
Felix Duckworth	11	15	6	32
Evan Samuel	22	3	8	33
Andy Glen	1	19	16	36
Hugh Whittow	20	17	5	42
Nick Jones	21	14	12	47
John Quinn	25	13	12	50
Tim Allan	16	18	22	56

FULL RESULTS: [www.pressgs.co.uk](http://www.pressgs.co.uk)

## Win a Foxhills fourball with Golfbreaks



OUR friends at Golfbreaks are giving PGS members an exclusive chance to win a fourball at Foxhills.

All you need to do is sign up to our sponsor's newsletter here:-

[www.golfbreaks.com/en-gb/newsletter-signup/](http://www.golfbreaks.com/en-gb/newsletter-signup/)  
then email [nhayes@golfbreaks.com](mailto:nhayes@golfbreaks.com) with the subject

line, '**PGS all signed up!**' Nik will draw the winner in time for next month's newsletter.

And that's not all! Golfbreaks are generously offering us special PGS discounts to UK, European and long-haul destinations.

Terms at [www.pressgs.co.uk/golfbreaks-com/](http://www.pressgs.co.uk/golfbreaks-com/)

## FIFTH MEETING: TUESDAY, 22nd SEPTEMBER

## THE BERKSHIRE

### COMPETITIONS

#### MORNING:

Singles from 8am in threeballs on The Red course. Andy Glen defends The Sun Challenge Trophy.

#### AFTERNOON:

Foursomes on The Blue course from 1:30pm. Hugh Whittow & Evan Samuel were the 2019 winners of The Sir George Sutton Salver.

### ENTRIES

Limited to 40 players.  
Send to Tim Allan, on 01494776914, or you can email Tim at: [pgssecretary@gmail.com](mailto:pgssecretary@gmail.com)

### COST

£115 per golfer. Subsidised by [Golfbreaks.com](http://Golfbreaks.com)  
**Please pay in advance online, account 40749648, sort code 20 41 41**

### DRESS CODE

Change of shoes, please, when in the clubhouse. Smart casual.

### CATERING

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

### PRIZES

First three in Divisions 1 & 2. First three pairs in the afternoon.

### TELEPHONE

Reception at the club is on 01344 621 495.

### HOW TO GET THERE

#### By Car

**APPROACHING FROM M4 (WEST)** Leave at exit 10 on to A329(M) to Bracknell. Take A322 (Bagshot); look for sharp left-hand turn onto A332 (Ascot). The Club is about half a mile on the left.  
**APPROACHING FROM M4 (EAST)** Leave at exit 6 on to A332 (Windsor - Ascot). After leaving Ascot Race Course continue over the roundabout, The Club is about 2 miles on the right.  
**APPROACHING FROM M3** Leave at exit

3 on to A322 (Bagshot - Bracknell); look for the right-hand lane - A332 (Ascot). The Club is about half a mile on the left.

**APPROACHING FROM A30** Turn left at Cricketers Arms (Bagshot) onto A322, look for the right-hand lane - A332 (Ascot). The Club is about half a mile on the left.

#### By Train

Five minutes in a taxi from Ascot stn.

POSTCODE for satnavs

**SL5 8AY**