



DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

# Press Golfing Society

www.pressgs.co.uk



PRESIDENTIAL: Nick, PGS captain at the time, and Philippa in 2004, our centenary year



PRESIDENT'S DAY HOST: Nick with Hugh Whittow



PGS DINNER DATE: Sir Nick & Lady Eve last year



HONOURED: Our new President Philippa

## It's President Kennedy

Thanks for the memories...

THE great Henry Cotton told Peter Alliss many years ago that once you get over 60 years of age you lose 10 yards off your drive every year.

Peter dismissed it at the time but of course it is true and may explain why I can rarely reach the ladies tee or the fairway these days!

After 10 proud years as the President of the PGS I feel the time is right for me to stand aside.

Fifty years ago when I first joined the society, I thought it was hard to meet new people, but after picking up the wrong golf ball on the 15th at Walton Heath belonging to the fearsome Sir John Junor I soon knew most of the members.

The PGS has always been fun. And the chance to play some magnificent courses – The Berkshire, Sunningdale, Wentworth, Royal St. George's and many others – irresistible.

And the PGS has weathered the media revolution brilliantly moving from a largely hot-metal membership to IT and the wider world of broadcasting journalism so successfully. The credit for this must be given to the likes of Tim Allan, Paolo Minoli and the Committee.

The highlights of my golfing career, such as they are, definitely bring back memories of winning in 1979 with Michael Cable the inaugural Wilkinson Sword

**PHILIPPA KENNEDY is our new President, taking over the reins from Sir Nick Lloyd who has stepped down after 10 years in the hotseat.**

**In an admirably smooth and uncontested transition of power, the first female news editor of the Daily Express will become our first female President.**

**Sir Nick has overseen a decade of growth for the society, even as the industry changed around us; a period in office surpassed only by Lord Riddell and Sir William Carr.**

**Our thanks to him and his company for their generous support of our President's Day at Walton Heath.**

Trophy at Wentworth, the Sir George Sutton Salver in 1996 and captaining in our Centenary Year the PGS team that swept aside the French in Scotland despite being up 'training' for most of the nights. Thank you for the memories, the camaraderie, and the honour of being your President.

And thank you to our partners, in my case Eve, for letting us play this wonderful game.

It is a joy to hand on the office of the President for the first time in the society's 116 year history to a woman. About time, too!

Good luck, Philippa.

- Sir Nick Lloyd

...and here's to many more!

**I'M absolutely thrilled to have been asked to be PGS President – the first woman to hold that office in 116 years.**

Nick Lloyd has been a terrific President over a period of 10 years: if I last that long I'll be surprised and delighted to be staggering around the golf course in my eighties.

Ian Doran, then PGS secretary, invited me to join, back in the days when I had only been playing for about six months. I think I played off a 31 handicap that eventually came down to 18 and is now heading back up again. So, you could say I haven't been chosen for my current golfing brilliance.

But then the PGS has always been so much more than the golf to me – wonderful days out in great company on some of the best courses in the UK, lifelong friendships including members of the French Wryter Cup teams, uproarious trips to Spain, Portugal and France, great camaraderie and Grade A gossip, as well as one or two five-star hangovers.

There was also the great privilege of being captain in 2002 and being called a 'mad Irish bitch' by one of the 'monkey boys' who shall be nameless, or should I say Priceless.

As they say where I come from "the craic is mighty".

Long may it continue.

- Philippa Kennedy, OBE



## All you need to know about handicaps...

AS I'm sure you're well aware, the new World Handicapping System has come into force – and will apply to all future PGS meetings.

■ If you have a club handicap index, please tell secretary Tim Allan what it is as soon as possible.

■ If you don't have a club, our new handicap committee (Paolo Minoli and Patrick Eagar, but other members welcome to join) will try to work one out for you.

■ If you haven't got a handicap index, and we can't calculate one for you, then you're welcome to play at any of our meetings but you won't be able to compete for the prizes.

The PGS committee will be meeting in February and the subject of handicaps will definitely come up, so watch this space!

## BID OF ALL RIGHT

PGS auction raises more than £6,000

OUR silent online auction raised more than £6,000, which will be split equally between the Journalists' Charity and the Cystic Fibrosis Trust.

This astonishing amount came from just 28 lots, which included a signed Matt cartoon, two stays at La Manga, a Callaway driver, lots of booze and golf... and, of course, the "Kevin Price watercolour".

The total is almost twice what we raised last year, so it's possible we will continue something online next year. It might be possible to mix an online auction with an in-person one, thus allowing all

PGS members to take part, rather than just those who play the Scramble.

Of course, our lovely Scramble day at The Berkshire fell victim to lockdown 2 – a huge shame but very little we could do about it. There will, I am sure, be better days ahead.

We're giving money to cystic fibrosis in memory of Bob Hayes, who died earlier this year. A PGS member for many years, his granddaughter suffers from the disease and he had been planning a sponsored walk when he fell ill. We hope our donation will be a fitting tribute to a lovely man.

# Glen's feeling Grovey!



IF ONLY! Ollie McCormack...



...drills home a putt on the 18th



...for a 7, and runner up spot



V-FOR VASE:  
Andy Glen  
victorious at  
The Grove



ALL SMILES: Snapper Phil Harris topped the Div 2 leaderboard



KNEE-SY DOES IT: Sore leg put paid to Ben Todd's chances (!)

PICTURES: IAN MCLGORM

## Andy wins in the wet with 33 points

ANDY GLEN emerged victorious at a wet and wild Grove to take the honours at our first one-round October meeting.

The Wokingham wizard coped best with the very tough conditions to finish with 33 points, one clear of Ollie McCormack, who racked up a seven on his final hole.

They were the only two players to get into the 30s, with Bob Watson making a rare PGS appearance to finish third in Division One on 28.

Andy said: "Yes, it was a very tough day but the course was fair and I did OK – holed a putt or two, which always helps."

Phil Harris led the way in Division Two, finishing with 29 points, ahead of Ian Woods on 27 and Sarah Dawkins marking her PGS singles debut with third place

on 26. It's testament to her grit and determination that she fought back brilliantly after scoring just eight points on the front nine.

It was a strange PGS day, as we all navigated our way round the various Covid restrictions, with some of us in Tier I and some in Tier 2.

Indeed, poor John Quinn drove up from Southampton only to have his NHS test and trace app fire an alert as he arrived – he had no choice but to return home and self-isolate! I'm delighted to tell you that he did not have Covid.

While The Grove feels very corporate indeed, there is no doubting the quality of the course and it held up superbly in the rain, wind and cold.

This meeting was supposed to test

the water and see if there was an appetite for a one-round meeting. It would normally have come hot on the heels of the Wryter Cup but, of course, Covid-19 put paid to that.

In the end, The Grove meeting was very well supported with a full field of 32 and a reserve list. We'll certainly try to do something similar next year.

Much to Andy's irritation, the results of this meeting don't count for the Wryter Cup or Golden Putter standings!

By way of consolation, he was awarded the Peggy White Vase, a PGS trophy which was lying dormant. It used to be awarded to the winner of the women's knockout, but we haven't held that for a few years – and have no plans to bring it back!



Luffenham Heath

## 2021 fixtures

### WEST HILL

Medal  
Tuesday, March 9

### FULWELL

Monday, April 19

### REIGATE HEATH

Captains, Ctte & Seniors  
Thursday, May 6

### 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

Tuesday, September 21

### THE BERKSHIRE

Scramble & Auction  
Tuesday, November 9

### THE GROVE

TBC

## Matches

### ROYAL MID-SURREY

v Stock Exchange GC  
Tuesday, May 11

### ROYAL BLACKHEATH

Triangular Hickory match  
Thursday, July 29

### ROYAL ST GEORGE'S

v London Solicitors GS  
Monday, September 13

### ROYAL LIVERPOOL

XXX Wryter Cup,  
v Association de la Presse  
et du Golf  
October 3 – 5

### RICHMOND

v Stage GS  
TBC

### MUSWELL HILL

SJA Phil Sheldon Trophy  
TBC

Match v Northcliffe GS  
TBC

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