



Press Golfing Society

JUNE 2021 NEWSLETTER

www.pressgs.co.uk

Picture: IAN MCLGORM

ADNAMS
SOUTHWOLD

CHEERS! Thanks to Adnams for supporting Cancer Research and the PGS this year. The first nearest the pin winner of the season was

our President, Philippa Kennedy, seen here receiving a magnum of Adnams Prosecco at Swinley Forest from captain Dylan Dronfield.

SWINLEY RESULTS

Division One (0-14): 1st Mark Lomas, net 61, wins The Lord Riddell Memorial Trophy; 2nd Adam Hunt, 67 (on countback); 3rd Chris Cutmore, 67.
Division Two: 1st Colin Hancock, net 65; 2nd Roderick Easdale, 67 3rd Russell Dewey, 71 (on cb).
Nearest the pin: Day One; Philippa Kennedy, Day Two; Jono Baker, Day Three; James Saville.

EFFINGHAM RESULTS

Division One (0-14): 1st Jonny Bramley, 33pts; 2nd Dean Scoggins, 32 (on countback); 3rd Dylan Dronfield, 32.
Division Two: 1st Kevin Price, 36pts, wins The Mirror Trophy; 2nd Mike Allen, 34; 3rd Nick Jones, 32 (on cb).
Greensomes: 1st Dean Scoggins & Mike Waker, 37pts, win the Wilkinson Sword; 2nd Steve Lewis & Mike Allen, 35; 3rd Jonny Bramley & Pip Clothier, 33 (on cb).
Nearest the pin: Day One; Colin Hancock, Day Two; Tony Smith.

Next up...
WALTON HEATH
Tuesday, 15th June
BRING A GUEST TO
PRESIDENT'S DAY

Desert Lomas storms Swinley

MARK LOMAS swept all aside with a scintillating net 61 in the first meeting of this delayed season at the sublime Swinley Forest. Lomas, just back from a posting to Dubai, demonstrated a gulf in class to claim the Lord Riddell Memorial Trophy by a clear four shots.

For the first, and hopefully last, time this PGS fixture had to be spread across three days, ranging from the 4th to the 24th of May. As Rick Evans observed, Colin Hancock was probably the longest-standing clubhouse leader in history after his net 65 set the pace in fierce conditions in the opening instalment of this traditional medal.

The Mail's Chris Cutmore, Adam Hunt and Roderick Easdale came close with two-under par 67s, but it was dessert king Lomas who

FIRST MEETING...OVER THREE DAYS

went a remarkable six better in the final round to rise to the top and savour the sweet taste of victory. "It was one of those days where everything just came together", Lomas reflected, toying with his treacle tart. "Hitting greens in regulation and sinking putts. It's the best round I've played and probably the best round I'll ever play!"

Harry Colt's Swinley looked magnificent beneath the looming thunderstorms and mercifully the worst held off until all were safely in. The club negotiated Covid restrictions equally adeptly, first in a marquee and by day three back inside the dining room, although sadly without the traditional steak and kidney pudding on the menu. Perhaps something to

look forward to when we return next October.

Swinley also saw the first of this season's nearest the pin series, arranged by Captain Dylan Dronfield with Adnams in aid of Cancer Research, a charity close to Dylan's heart. Day one was won by PGS President Philippa Kennedy, day two by Jonathan Baker with the only shot to hold the tricky 17th green and day three by new member James Saville.

But the meeting belonged to Lomas, who's hoping his current form carries him through to face the French at Hoylake.

"It's been seven years since I last played at Swinley and it was every bit as good as I remembered it. It's been great slotting back into the PGS and hard as it may be to believe, I've spent six years in Dubai dreaming of an overcast October back in the Wryter Cup team, so fingers crossed!"

The Price is right at Effingham

THE MIRROR'S Kevin Price rolled back the years and rolled in the putts at Effingham to take the Mirror Trophy in conditions ranging from the challenging to the downright brutal.

The meeting at Swinley avoided the worst of the forecast weather: that at Effingham didn't. Thursday's players had slightly the better of the conditions in the singles, but Price was still the only one to play to handicap, returning an excellent 36 points in strong winds.

"I had a landmark birthday this year so it was another special moment to be back at the top of the PGS leaderboard alongside the young guns", said Price, beneath darkening skies.

"I suppose it was my 'Mickelson' moment. It's

SECOND MEETING...OVER TWO DAYS

been thirteen long years since I last won a PGS singles event. It only took Phil eight years to win a big one again, but then he's never had to look after Jones and Trow."

Fellow Mirror man Mike Allen pushed Price closest with an impressive 34pts and Jonny 'Bubbles' Bramley was just one back to take Division One with 33.

Conditions on the Thursday deteriorated over lunch and only the brave ventured out to contest the Wilkinson Sword.

Despite the driving, torrential rain, the Sun's

Mike Waker, making his PGS debut, partnered colleague Dean Scoggins to a courageous 37pts and victory. Steve Lewis and Mike Allen were just two behind in second, and Bubbles Bramley and Pip Clothier fought through the downpour to third.

"As the rain and wind came, I did wonder if we'd get round", said Scoggins, but after Mike knocked in a birdie putt on the par 5 8th, we were staying out!"

Captain Dronfield's nearest the pin challenge was won by Colin Hancock on the Thursday (he still three-putted from ten feet, mind) and Tony Smith on day two.



WALTON HEATHPresident's & Guest Day
Tuesday, June 15**ROYAL MID-SURREY**v Stock Exchange GC
Tuesday, June 22**LAMBOURNE**v Northcliffe GS
Tuesday, June 29**RICHMOND**v Stage GS
Monday, July 5**ASHRIDGE**

Tuesday, July 20

ROYAL BLACKHEATHTriangular Hickory match
Thursday, July 29**REIGATE HEATH**Captains, Ctte & Seniors
Thursday, August 12**LUFFENHAM HEATH**Captain's Day
Monday, August 23**ROYAL ST GEORGE'S**v London Solicitors GS
Monday, September 13**THE BERKSHIRE**

Tuesday, September 21

ROYAL LIVERPOOLXXX Wryter Cup,
v Association de la Presse
et du Golf
October 3 - 5**THE GROVE**

Tuesday, October 26

THE BERKSHIREScramble & Auction
Tuesday, November 9

OUR good friends and sponsors **Golfbreaks** are putting on a couple of pairs events and are offering PGS members discount codes if you'd like to enter. The days are:

■ June 25, WOKEFIELD ESTATE.

golfpairs.com/products/wokefield -

Use code **WOKE15** to reduce the

entry fee to £39.99 per person

(includes coffee and bacon rolls +

BBQ post round).

■ July 23, WYKE GREEN GC. golfpairs.com/products/wyke-green - Use

code **WYKEPAIRS** to reduce this

entry fee to £33.99 per person

(includes coffee and bacon rolls).

Both events are pairs betterball

but you can sign up as a fourball and

play as a group. There are two superb

headline prizes, with Monte Rei up for

grabs at Wyke Green and Verdura at

Wokefield estate.

If you don't have an active

handicap you can still enter the golf

shake event by signing up to

golfshake at www.golfshake.com

Geoff Wheeler

GEOFF WHEELER, who has died after a long illness, aged 86, joined the PGS in 1983 when he was sports editor of (the now defunct) national news agency Exchange Telegraph (Extel).

An enthusiastic member from the beginning, Geoff won nine PGS trophies and played in four Wryter Cup matches. His successes included the Sir Emsley Carr Memorial Trophy in 1986 and the Sir Harry Brittain Coronation Trophy in 1998 in harness with the late Bob Hayes. He also won the Wilkinson Sword three times, and one year took it home on the train following the PGS dinner - an act that would no doubt trigger a terrorist 'scramble' today.

His career in sports journalism, spanning more than six decades, began in his home town of Cheltenham where he was indentured by the Gloucestershire Echo in 1952.

His local paper stint was punctuated by two years of national service before he moved to London as a 22-year-old. One of his early achievements as a wire reporter was to marshal Extel's reaction to the fast-breaking Munich air disaster of



February 1958. It wasn't long before he became the agency's football and cricket correspondent, and in 1966 he attached himself to the World Cup group featuring Brazil and Portugal rather than follow Alf Ramsey's England.

Geoff's talents earned him promotion to sports editor in the mid-1970s. A decade later he was made managing editor before leaving in 1986 after 30 years of loyal service.

A second career beckoned, largely due to the fellowship of the PGS of which, by then, Geoff was an integral part. He found a new home at News International and subbed on the sports desks of The Sun, News of the World and The Times for more than a quarter of a century. He crafted

his final 'Sunday for Monday' cricket round-up on The Times in 2013, at the age of 78.

Geoff clocked up more than 40 years as the Gloucestershire correspondent for Wisden. He played cricket for Tring Park for almost as long and was also a member of Redbourn Golf Club where his lowest handicap was 13. He is survived by Josie, his wife of 60-plus years, their son, daughter and three grand-daughters.

I would like to add a personal tribute to Geoff, one of the great friends of my life, but I can already hear him shouting across the divide: "Wrap it up, Trow. Keep it brief. No adjectives. Never be afraid of a full-stop."

Donations in Geoff's memory can be made by cheque to Rennie Grove Hospice, c/o J. Worley Funeral Directors Ltd, 48 Lawn Lane, Hemel Hempstead HP3 9HL.

- Paul Trow

Ken Saunders

Sadly, we've also lost another PGS stalwart, Ken Saunders, a former photographer with The Guardian, who's died at the age of 94. Ken was living in Epsom and was a playing member at Banstead.

WRYTER CUP

Royal Liverpool: Oct 3 - 5
Places after 3 qualifiers. Club hcps

Dylan Dronfield (Q)	7	28	4	39
Nevill Appleton	18	19	11	48
Colin Hancock	35	2	15	52
Neil White	1	35	18	54
Ben Monro-Davies	8	30	17	55
Khalid Javed	9	26	23	58
Felix Duckworth	20	15	24	59
Kevin Price	36	23	1	60
Jonathan Baker	13	44	13	70
Evan Samuel	10	26	29	75
Andy Glen	27	25	26	78

Mark Lomas	-	1	8	9
Duncan Farmer	4	8	-	12
Dean Scoggins	11	-	3	14
James Murray	12	9	-	21
Lee Smith	-	14	10	24
Jon Jones	-	10	20	30
Jonathan Bramley	-	27	5	32
Jamie Weir	5	29	-	34
Mike Allen	-	33	2	35
Russell Dewy	-	11	25	36
Hugh Whittow	16	24	-	40
John Quinn	33	-	9	42



■ CAPTAIN'S DAY is a bit different this year as the captain's home course is a good deal further away than most of us travel for a PGS meeting.

With that in mind, a few members are already booking in for an overnight stay on August 23rd.

Luffenham Heath is 10 minutes away from the beautiful market town of Stamford which has a good range of hotels and pubs.

If you're keen to stay over, send Dylan an email (dylan.dronfield@sky.com) and he can suggest options. Doubtless there'll be a night out on the town to be enjoyed...

Sir Emsley Carr knockout draw

Jon Jones v Andrew Porter
Duncan Farmer v Colin Hancock
Nick Cherrie v Hugh Whittow
(Cherrie bt Whittow, 1up)
Jim Murray v Felix Duckworth
(Duckworth bt Murray, 2up)
Chris Cutmore v Mark Lomas
Nic Brook v Lee Smith
Kevin Price v Peter Dazeley
(Dazeley bt Price, 4&3)
Adam Hunt v Roderick Easdale
Deadline for the first round is June 30

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THIRD MEETING: TUESDAY, 15th JUNE

COMPETITIONS

MORNING:

From 8am - Stableford singles on the Old Course for the Reg Hinder Memorial Trophy. Holder: Lee Smith.
From 9am - Foursomes Stableford on the New Course.

AFTERNOON:

Singles and foursomes from 1.30pm.



ENTRIES

Send to Tim Allan, on 01525 221559, including your guest's name and handicap. Or you can email Tim at: pgssecretary@gmail.com

COST

£135 per golfer, includes 36 holes coffee & bacon roll on arrival, plus two course lunch. Pay online acc 40749648, sort code 204141.

DRESS CODE

Smart casual. Please maintain social distancing and wear masks when moving around the clubhouse.

PRIZES

First three in Division 1, and first three in Div 2. First three pairs in the foursomes and the first six guests.

TELEPHONE

Messages can be left at the club on 01737 812380.

CADDIES

The Caddiemaster is on 01737 812974. Please give at least 24hrs notice.

WALTON HEATH

HOW TO GET THERE

By Car

The club is on the B2032 off the A217 shortly after Burgh Heath going south. Coming off the M25, exit at Junction 8.

By Train

Epsom is the best station. A taxi from there to the club should take approximately 10 minutes.

POSTCODE for satnavs

KT20 7TP