



# Press Golfing Society

OCTOBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

www.pressgs.co.uk

THE ghost of Arnaud Massy fluttered over the darkening Hoylake links as the 30th Wryter Cup built to an almost unbearably-tense finish.

Just as Massy came from behind in the final round of Hoylake's 1907 Open to snatch victory from the home-grown stars, including Vardon and Taylor, so the APG team seemed on the verge of an incredible triumph after having fought back from a six-point deficit.

11-5 down after the opening singles, French captain Christophe Lassaut inevitably decided to top-load for the second day foursomes. His stars duly delivered, presenting their leader with the first five matches, even defeating such heavyweight PGS pairings as Appleton & Bramley and captain Dronfield & Monro-Davies. Crucially, the PGS took the remaining three, with the final Javed & Duckworth point against Geslin & Campi being a particularly hard-fought affair.

And so the afternoon fourballs, the PGS now holding a four point lead but the momentum with the French. As holders, the APG needed six of the eight points at stake to retain the Wryter Cup, the PGS two and a half points to win it back.

Again, Massy's countrymen struck early, taking the first three matches and edging ahead for the first time. Then two of the PGS stars of Hoylake, Felix Duckworth and Andrew Porter, combined to secure a comfortable point back.

The PGS now needed one and a half points from the final four matches still on the course for victory.

As the sun dipped and an autumnal chill settled across the famed Hoylake links, the PGS were down in two, level in one and just one-up in the fourth.

Secretary Tim Allan and Royal Liverpool member Nic Brook, both victorious in their singles matches, set off down the 18th with their precious one hole lead, just as Quinn and Easdale played up the 17th with the same advantage.

Captain Dronfield watched nervously on by the 17th green, knowing that if Allan and



## Joylake!

### Wryter Cup victory at Royal Liverpool for captain Dylan

Brook could hold on to win their match, then a half on 17 for Quinn and Easdale would ensure their half point overall and the Cup would be his.

As the latter pairing reached the 17th green, news came by text (WhatsApp having collapsed under the strain) that Brook had two putts from 15 feet on the 18th to secure the point. Two minutes later that victory was confirmed and all rested on Easdale and Quinn.

In excruciating tension, a series of chips and putts left Francois Lanaud with a downhill putt of around nine feet to win the 17th and force the match down 18. Guided by his Hoylake caddie, Lanaud set the putt on precisely the right line. It seemed certain to drop, but then, whether through the evening damp or perhaps the spectral hand of J.H. Taylor, the ball slowed and stopped half a revolution short of the cup.

Back in the warmth of Royal Liverpool's dining room, both captains gave generous speeches praising the spirit of this year's Wryter Cup, the outstanding hospitality of Royal Liverpool, and all those, past and present, who'd played a part in developing and continuing this wonderful competition.

Captain Dronfield even revealed that his grandfather had been awarded the Légion d'Honneur for his work in French literature and that he'd carried the medal in his golf bag through the week.

It was a fittingly unifying note on which to close a thrilling, hard-fought match, a resumption of the Wryter Cup made possible by the APG's commitment to the competition in difficult circumstances.

Felix Duckworth was the standout individual star for the PGS, with three victories from three, but every single member of a very strong team garnered at least a point. The side was led superbly by captain Dronfield after a challenging start to his year in charge, ensuring that Arnaud Massy remains not just the only Frenchman to win a Major Championship, but also the only player from his country to leave Hoylake with a trophy of such significance.

#### DAY 1 Singles

PGS 11 v 5 APG

2&1	Jonny Bramley	Francois Scimeca	
5&4	Nic Brook	Nicolas Doucet	
2&1	Dylan Dronfield	Damien Houles	
	Roderick Easdale	Guillaume Baraise	7&6
1/2	Nev Appleton	Christophe Lassaut	1/2
1/2	Lee Smith	Remi Meyer	1/2
	Andrew Porter	Francois Lanaud	3&2
3&2	Ben Monro-Davies	Jean-Francois Dessaint	
7&6	Tim Allan	Gilles Payet	
2&1	Russell Dewey	Pierre Chaudesaygues	
4&2	John Quinn	Didier Largillier	
	Dean Scoggins	Alan Geslin	5&4
2&1	Mark Lomas	Tristan Vey	
1/2	Duncan Farmer	Alex Campi	1/2
3&2	Felix Duckworth	Remi Gouriou	
1/2	Khalid Javed	Laurent Louet	1/2

#### DAY 2 Morning foursomes

PGS 3 v 5 APG

	Appleton & Bramley	Lassaut & Dessaint	4&2
	Dronfield & Monro-Davies	Doucet & Houles	5&4
	Smith & Brook	Scimeca & Baraise	1up
	Dewey & Quinn	Meyer & Lanaud	4&3
	Allan & Easdale	Vey & Louet	6&5
4&3	Farmer & Porter	Payet & Gouriou	
2&1	Scoggins & Lomas	Chaudesaygues & Largillier	3&2
2up	Javed & Duckworth	Geslin & Campi	

#### DAY 2 Afternoon fourballs

PGS 3 v 5 APG

	Appleton & Monro-Davies	Doucet & Houles	1up
	Dronfield & Bramley	Lassaut & Baraise	6&4
	Smith & Dewey	Scimeca & Dessaint	3&2
1up	Allan & Brook	Meyer & Vey	
2up	Easdale & Quinn	Lanaud & Gouriou	
	Farmer & Scoggins	Payet & Largillier	1up
2&1	Duckworth & Porter	Chaudesaygues & Louet	
	Javed & Lomas	Geslin & Campi	3&2

Overall result

PGS 17 APG 15





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WRYTER CUP XXX ...victory at Royal Liverpool

PGS 17:15 APG



With our thanks to support from



BRUNSWICK



**WINNING PGS TEAM:** Dylan Dronfield (captain), Tim Allan, Nevil Appleton, Jonny Bramley, Nic Brook, Russell Dewey, Felix Duckworth, Roderick Easdale, Duncan Farmer, Khalid Javed, Mark Lomas, Ben Monro-Davies, Andrew Porter, John Quinn, Dean Scoggins, Lee Smith.



# Bubbles blows away field on Berkshire Blue

## SIXTH MEETING: THE BERKSHIRE

Jonny 'Bubbles' Bramley blitzed Berkshire's Blue course to score a sensational 44pts and claim the Sun Challenge Trophy.

The Beeb's Bramley, a sage captain's pick for the Wryter Cup twelve days later, left his challengers light years behind with seven pars and three birdies in a round of just six over par gross.

"After scraping into the Wryter Cup team this year as Dylan's third pick I was determined to make a good start to qualifying for next year", reflected Bramley. "I just told myself to swing with rhythm and tempo. And that was the secret - I hit a lot of fairways and greens and sank three birdie putts into the bargain.

Not quite the best I've ever played but not far off. In fact I actually walked off the 18th a bit disappointed after dropping four shots in the last three holes."

Secretary Tim Allan had 'one of the rounds of his life' but still trailed by 6 on 38pts to take second in Division Two, with serial 2021 winner Nev Appleton third with a highly respectable 35pts.

As on almost every September Berkshire PGS day, the sun shone, the blue skies were flecked with wisps of cloud and the

sweeping banks of heather looked magnificently dangerous.

In the late summer heat, Division One provided plenty of its own drama and brought the race for the Sir John Gordon Golden Putter to the boil.

All three placings - Khalid Javed, captain Dylan Dronfield and Emsley Carr winner Andrew Porter - scored 36pts. At first it appeared that Dronfield might retain his title as the PGS champion golfer of the year, but then a re-examination of the cards showed Javed had in fact edged Division One and the Golden Putter on countback.

Quip of the day came from Jono Baker, forced to witness another abysmal round from Colin Hancock, married just four days earlier. As Hancock smashed a superbly pointless drive miles down the middle of 16, Baker observed wryly, 'That one has literally gone further than your honeymoon'.

But the final word remained with Bramley. Or perhaps rather with any Frenchman in the vicinity. And it wouldn't have been in any standard dictionary.



THE BERKSHIRE saw the culmination of captain Dylan's nearest the pin challenge, with former Beeb man Jonathan Baker taking the King Pin title.

Dronfield's initiative raised nearly £1,200 for Cancer Research. Many thanks to Adnams for donating the magnums of Prosecco for

**ADNAMS**  
SOUTHWOLD

each meeting, and particular congratulations to The Daily Mirror's Kevin Price who took the prize at Ashridge with his hole-in-one.

### 2021 WINNERS

Swinley 1 - Philippa Kennedy

Swinley 2 - Jono Baker  
Swinley 3 - James Saville  
Effingham 1 - Colin Hancock  
Effingham 2 - Tony Smith  
Ashridge - Kevin Price  
Luffenham Heath 1 - Graham Marsden  
Luffenham Heath 2 - Rob Hower  
The Berkshire - Ian McIlgorm  
KING PIN Jono Baker



## Dinner with Martin O'Neill

MARTIN O'NEILL has been confirmed as the guest speaker at Dylan Dronfield's captain's dinner next month. The double European Cup winner and manager of the Republic of Ireland, Celtic and Nottingham Forest will headline the event at the Royal Horseguards Hotel in Whitehall on Friday, November 5th. All this season's trophies will be awarded in a celebration of a tricky, but ultimately triumphant year for captain Dylan and the PGS. Partners are very welcome and tickets are £75 a head. Please reserve your tickets by emailing secretary Tim at [pgssecretary@gmail.com](mailto:pgssecretary@gmail.com)



## Rob leads charge to vice

PGS captain Dylan Dronfield has named next year's vice-captain - Royal Ashdown Forest's Rob Hower.

Hower will assume the captaincy following Colin Hancock, who's serving a second term in 2022 after the 2020 season was curtailed by the pandemic.

"Rob is perfect captain material", said Dronfield, "he will lead from the front on the golf course and, just as importantly he'll lead the charge in the bar afterwards (until he falls asleep). Rob lives his life with a smile on his face, loves his golf and loves the PGS."





ANDREW PORTER has won the prestigious Sir Emsley Carr Trophy, defeating Roderick Easdale in the final.

The Brunswick partner and former political editor ran out an 8&7 winner in the 36-hole match at West Hill, having edged past Felix Duckworth on the final hole of their semi-final.

Both finalists automatically qualified for the Wryter Cup team. A delighted Porter reflected: "I'm thrilled to have won the Emsley Carr after a series of hard matches with typically tough opponents. At Hoylake for the Wryter Cup Nic Brook showed me the medals won by Harold Hilton. A multiple Open champion as an amateur, this journalist won the Emsley Carr in 1905. Nothing brings home the rich heritage of the PGS more than that."



Jon Jones  
v Andrew Porter  
Duncan Farmer  
v Colin Hancock  
Nick Cherrie  
v Hugh Whittow  
Jim Murray  
v Felix Duckworth  
Chris Cutmore  
v Mark Lomas  
Nic Brook  
v Lee Smith  
Kevin Price  
v Peter Dazeley  
Adam Hunt  
v Roderick Easdale

Andrew Porter 5&4  
Duncan Farmer 5&4  
Nick Cherrie 1up  
Felix Duckworth 2up  
Chris Cutmore 2&1  
Nic Brook 4&3  
Peter Dazeley 4&3  
Roderick Easdale 3&2

## SIR EMSLEY CARR KNOCKOUT

Andrew Porter 19th

Felix Duckworth 19th

Chris Cutmore 1up

Roderick Easdale 6&5

Andrew Porter 1up



Roderick Easdale 2&1

Andrew Porter  
8&7

## DAVID HAMILTON

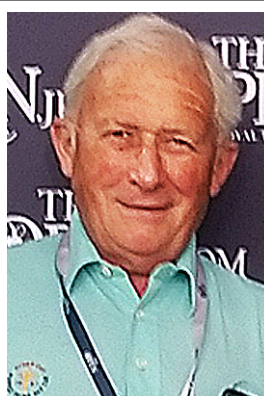
THE PGS has received the sad news that David Hamilton died on 18th October, aged 83. He'd been suffering from prostate cancer and pneumonia.

David was a wonderful secretary of the PGS between 1986-90 and kept a firm hand on the society: he became captain in 1992. He was also a great competitor, winning eight of our main trophies over four decades, including the John Gordon Golden Putter in 1984 and the Sir George Sutton Salver, partnering his great mate Dave Berresford.

David joined the Association of Golf Writers and served as AGW captain, giving his time unselfishly for many years in helping to arrange the AGW's annual dinner. He was made a life member in 2008.

Although a big fan of West Ham, he was a lovely man with whom I had the great pleasure of working at the long-gone Golf Illustrated magazine and at many other golf publications.

When covering the Open, we had many lovely, fun evenings playing golf together. RIP, David. -Peter Dazeley.



## RENTON LAIDLAW

RENTON LAIDLAW, golf journalist and broadcaster, has died at the age of 82.

A PGS member, Renton had not played with us for many years but was revered as one of the great golf commentators. The AGW website ([www.agwgolf.org](http://www.agwgolf.org)) has many tributes to him including this from Jack Nicklaus:

Through the years, I have had my favourite story-tellers in the game of golf - from Bernard Darwin to Herbert Warren Wind to some of today's writers. But there are also storytellers in this game whose voices stick with you as much as their own words. Renton Laidlaw was such a teller of golf's stories. He

was a truly important voice in our game's history, and we will miss him greatly! To reflect the depth of our relationship, Renton covered my first Open Championship in 1962 and my last in 2005. We lost Renton too soon, too quickly, but thanks to him we have countless memories too good for any of us to forget. -Jack.

## JOHN GORDON PUTTER

2019 captain Khalid Javed claimed the John Gordon Golden Putter in a dramatic final round at The Berkshire. Javed scored two more points than current captain Dylan Dronfield on the back nine to take Division One on countback.

That victory was just enough for Javed to edge ahead of Dronfield and Mark Lomas in the table and become the PGS champion golfer of the year for the third time.

"I'm chuffed to bits", said Javed, "it came as a surprise as I didn't feel I was in the running. As in all sporting victories there was a twist of fortune which led to a birdie on the 18th. Definitely a nice tale of the unexpected, especially as it's number three."



## FIXTURES

THE GROVE

Tuesday, October 26

73RD ANNUAL DINNER

Horseguards Hotel

Friday, November 5

THE BERKSHIRE

Scramble & Auction

Tuesday, November 9

Newsletter edited by

Colin Hancock

[colinahancock@googlemail.com](mailto:colinahancock@googlemail.com)

Secretary Tim Allan

[pgssecretary@gmail.com](mailto:pgssecretary@gmail.com)

## We need lots more at The Berkshire Scramble

WE'RE trying a hybrid online/in person PGS auction this year and Tim needs more lots!

After the success of last year's Covid-enforced online auction, we're trying to mix a digital auction with the usual post-Scramble auction at The Berkshire.

We'll put up 10 lots for the online auction, which all members can bid on in the week leading up to the Scramble at The Berkshire on November 9. They'll be emailed to the whole society and you can all bid away to your hearts' content.

Those lots, along with any others that the Scramble players bring along, will then go into the in-person auction at

The Berkshire. Obviously, the bidding on the 10 online lots will start at whatever highest bid has been received.

Anyone who can't be at the Scramble can also let us know what their highest price is on any lot and we will bid on their behalf.

To make all of this happen, we need a good selection of lots. We already have a Callaway driver and several rounds at top golf courses, a magnum of Krug champagne and some Jack Nicklaus memorabilia...but we need more!

Please email Tim [pgssecretary@gmail.com](mailto:pgssecretary@gmail.com) with your lots by October 31. If you can't find anything by then and you're coming to the Scramble, please bring something along to auction on the day.

## Fore! Society wedding belles

THERE was more good news away from Hoylake as two of our PGS stalwarts got married in the society weddings of the year.

Vice captain Colin Hancock wed Lisa, while Keith Malone & Jane also tied the knot.

Both couples are regular Wryter Cup players, so much so that Colin & Lisa cut short their honeymoon to travel to The Wirral to cheer on the teams.

Congratulations to both unbeatable pairings! Health and happiness, both off and on the fairways!



Picture: JOE SHORT