



MARCH 2022 NEWSLETTER

Press Golfing Society

www.pressgs.co.uk



Wryte! We have the bottle for a second Medoc

THERE should be no shortage of high-class refreshment at this year's Wryter Cup.

Our French colleagues in the APG have selected Bordeaux's Golf du Medoc for October's match, the venue for the contest back in 2000.

Ranked amongst the very best in France and Europe, the Chateaux course at Medoc was an early design by Bill Coore, opening in 1989. Coore then went on with Ben Crenshaw to develop one of the most highly-respected golf architect firms in the world.

The APG's Captain, Francois Scimeca, describes the course as playing 'like an inland links. The surroundings are very natural, with wide fairways and well-protected, undulating greens.'

As ever, the PGS team will be selected on the basis of this year's results, with the best three performances of each player counting. Both finalists in the Sir Emsley Carr knockout will also qualify.

In the words of Damien Houles, APG President: 'While the French can't provide the likes of Royal Liverpool, Carnoustie or Royal Portrush, we can offer a great golf course and the very best of French wine and food...and hopefully weather.'

So sign up for West Hill and give yourself every chance to head for the vineyards this October.

Hill start at West

PGS members still have a few days left to enter our opening fixture of the 2022 season at the very lovely West Hill.

It's the traditional single medal round for the Lord Riddell memorial trophy, with the top 16 qualifying for the prestigious Sir Emsley Carr knockout.

We last played this fixture in 2020, the day Boris Johnson announced covid restrictions were about to be introduced. A year later we'd gone into yet another lockdown and West Hill was but a memory of better times.

West Hill has firmly established itself in pretty much every top 100 list for the UK and Ireland. Golf Monthly summarised its appeal thus: 'Defined by its majestic trees and abundant heather, this is a delightful course that is consistently strong from start to finish'.

The course was built on land released by the London Necropolis Company, an unsuccessful venture to solve the problem of the capital's rapidly-filling cemeteries. The club was founded by Mrs Marguerite Lubbock, an excellent player who'd started at Pau in southern France (Arnaud Massy's home club before he moved to North



MEDAL CHANCE: Our opener at West Hill

Berwick and won the 1907 Open at Hoylake).

Depending on which story you'd care to choose, Lubbock started West Hill either as a gift to her golf-loving husband or because she wasn't allowed to play at other local courses on a Sunday. It was designed by Open champions Jack White and Willie Park Junior, with professional Cuthbert Butchart overseeing construction.

Little has changed, bar a lengthening of some holes, since its opening in 1909 and West Hill certainly sets the standard for a superb rota of courses for the PGS in 2022.

April sees a return to Colt's Effingham, then May takes the PGS to the wonderful Woking: the first time in living memory we've held a full meeting there. Our traditional President's Day at Walton Heath is followed by July's Ashridge meeting, hosted by PGS Secretary Tim Allan, then it's Captain's Day at Royal Ashdown Forest, The Berkshire in September, two rounds at Swinley Forest in October and finally the Scramble at the Berkshire in November.

All in all, a golfing calendar to whet the appetite in these uncertain times.

STUNNING SWINLEY
returns to our rota in
the autumn



Return to Swinley Forest

THE magnificent Swinley Forest will host our October meeting this year. In a change to the schedule, we'll be playing two rounds - singles in the morning and foursomes after a fine lunch - and we've decided that the October meeting will now count towards this year's Golden Putter and qualification for the 2023 Wryter Cup. Swinley is currently ranked in the top 40 courses in the UK and Ireland and it'll be a good opportunity to see how it plays in the autumn for a change.

Committee centurions

COMMITTEE stalwarts and former captains Ian McIlgorm, Jono Baker, Nick Cherrie and Khalid Javed, along with Brian Lee, have stepped down to make way for new blood after a combined 100 years (give or take) of service. Those continuing on the committee would like to express their sincere thanks for all their time and work helping to run and strengthen the PGS.

Scramble rule change

THE committee has decided to tweak the handicap rules for our traditional Berkshire Scramble in November to try to ensure fairness for all. From this year onwards, teams may only include one single-figure handicap player.

A return of captain Colin, and hope for a great season

LET'S try this again.

West Hill in 2020 provided a glorious, sun-drenched day of golf. Unfortunately, beyond the trees, the world was shifting in a way we still haven't fully understood.

After last year's enforced absence, I'm sure we're more eager than ever to hit that opening drive down the first ...and beyond that we have an outstanding schedule of society days and matches all the way through to our traditional Berkshire scramble. I really hope you can make as many of these as possible.

Last year's captain, Dylan Dronfield, deserves great credit for taking a tricky start to the season and turning 2021 into a triumph for the PGS. His captain's day at Luffenham Heath was a wonderful day (or two) out, and things went from excellent to outstanding as he led a young (well, younger) Wryter Cup team



Colin
& wife
Lisa

to a gripping 17th green victory over the French at Hoylake.

Our Wryter opponents will be desperate to get that cup back, and with the selection of Golf du Medoc it should be a great contest this October. We'll need to

take our strongest possible team so please keep October 2nd-4th free and do everything you can to qualify and earn yourself a late summer break to the vineyards.

I'm very grateful to the committee for inviting me to captain the PGS again this year - it really is a great honour. Thanks too to Tim and Paolo for all their work, past and continuing, and to Rob Hewer for agreeing to be my vice-captain. I know he's going to be an excellent captain in 2023 so you've only got another nine months or so to wait.

As I write, far to the east there's yet another reminder that there's a lot more important in this world than a missed putt on 16. But of course there's a great deal more to the PGS than golf, and I can't wait to see you all at West Hill next week.

Take care and stay safe.

- Colin Hancock, PGS captain



Super sec Tim's op and running after goin' loco

PGS secretary Tim Allan is recuperating well after an operation on an abdominal aortic aneurysm.

"It's been replaced by a piece of hosepipe", Tim explained with clinical precision (and yes, the summer hosepipe-ban gag has already been committed). Having been warned that the op. would be like being hit by a train, our Secretary reports that it was a pretty large locomotive.

Tim will be out of action for several months, targeting our meeting at his home-club Ashridge for a return, with an outside chance he'll make Woking in May. Until then, the provincial solicitors Minoli, Hancock and Hewer will be taking care of business. Blimey!

FIRST MEETING: TUESDAY, 8th MARCH

WEST HILL



WEIR THE CHAMPIONS!
Jamie winning at West Hill when we played in 2019

MEDAL ROUND

For the Lord Riddell Memorial Trophy (best nett score)

Holder: Andy Glen, nett 68. Play in threes from 9am. The top 16 qualify for the Sir Emsley Carr Memorial Trophy (right) knockout, with the draw being made after the prizegiving.

If you don't wish to play in the Emsley Carr, please notify Colin or Ian when signing-in.

ENTRIES

Entries close noon, Friday 4th March. Via the link on the home page of the website pressgs.co.uk or email pgssecretary@gmail.com

COST

Pay online acc 40749648

sort code 204141.

£90 per golfer (£95 with ball sweep), includes a great lunch and chance to catch up with PGS pals after the long winter hibernation.

PRIZES

First three in both divisions.

TELEPHONE

Messages can be left at reception on 01483 474365.

HOW TO GET THERE

By Train Brookwood Station is a ten minute walk from the clubhouse.

POSTCODE for satnavs

GU24 0BH



Press Golfing Society fixtures 2022

SOCIETY DAYS

TUESDAY, MARCH 8

WEST HILL

westhillgc.co.uk

Medal round

Lord Riddell Trophy -holder Mark Lomas

The top 16 players qualify for the

Sir Emsley Carr knockout

-holder Andrew Porter

FRIDAY, APRIL 22

EFFINGHAM

effinghamgolfclub.com

News of the World Trophy -holder

Peter Solomons (Singles Stableford)

Sir Leicester Harmsworth Memorial

Trophy (Greensomes Stableford)

THURSDAY, APRIL 28

REIGATE HEATH

reigateheathgc.com

Captains' reunion, committee and seniors

Dazeley Past Captains' Trophy -holder

Khalid Javed (Singles Stableford, past

captains only) and the Calamity Jane

Putter (Singles Stableford, all players)

TUESDAY, MAY 17

WOKING

wokinggolfclub.co.uk

Mirror Trophy -holder Kevin Price

(Singles Stableford)

Wilkinson Sword

-holders Dean Scoggins & Mike Waker

(Greensomes Stableford)

TUESDAY, JUNE 14

President's Day

& Guest Day

WALTON HEATH

waltonheath.com

Reg Hinder Memorial Trophy -holder

Nev Appleton (Singles Stableford)

President's prizes (singles stableford;

foursomes; guests)



BEAUCOUP BORDEAUX
Golf du Medoc awaits
the Wryter Cup team in
October

TUESDAY, JULY 19

ASHRIDGE

ashridgegolfclub.ltd.uk

PGS Memorial Salver

-holder Steve Lewis (Singles Stableford)

Sir Harry Brittain Trophy

-holders Andy Glen & Neil White

(Greensomes Stableford)

MONDAY, AUGUST 15

Captain's Day

ROYAL ASHDOWN FOREST

royalashdown.co.uk

Captain's Day

Billennium Bowl

-holder Felix Duckworth

(Singles Stableford)

Harold Lewis Weight for Age Trophy

-holder Jeremy Thompson

and Captain's Day prizes

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

THE BERKSHIRE

theberkshire.co.uk

The Sun Challenge Trophy

-holder Jonny Bramley

(Singles Stableford)

Sir George Sutton Salver

-holders Khalid Javed & Jon Jones

(Greensomes Stableford) PLUS AGM

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18

SWINLEY FOREST

swinleyfgc.co.uk

Peggy White Vase -holder John Quinn

(Singles Stableford)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

THE BERKSHIRE

theberkshire.co.uk

Christmas Scramble and auction

MATCHES

WEDS 16 & THURS 17 MARCH

v Northcliffe GS

Sauntton

sauntongolf.co.uk

PGS match captain Jamie Weir

TUESDAY, MAY 24

v Stock Exchange GS

Royal Mid Surrey

rmsgc.co.uk

PGS match captain Patrick Eagar

MONDAY, JULY 4

v The Stage GS

Richmond

therichmondgolfclub.com

PGS match captain Nick Cherrie

MONDAY, JULY 25

Hickory match v British Golf Collectors

Royal Blackheath

royalblackheath.com

PGS match captain Nic Brook

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

v London Solicitors GS

Royal St George's

royalstgeorges.com

PGS match captain Tom Crone

OCTOBER 2-4

Golf du Medoc, Bordeaux

XXXI Wryter Cup

golfdumedocresort.com/en/

PGS captain Colin Hancock