



APRIL 2022 NEWSLETTER

Press Golfing Society

www.pressgs.co.uk

Pictures: PATRICK EAGAR



MEDALLIST:
Captain Colin
Hancock with
West Hill
winner Pat
Mooney

IN FORM:
Andrew
Porter

WHAT ROUGH? Peter
Dazeley escapes trouble

Pat's Wembley Way win

WEMBLEY'S Pat Mooney was up for the cup in the opening medal of the PGS season.

Mooney's one-under net 68 snatched the Lord Riddell Memorial Trophy in extra-time countback from West Hill specialist Andrew Porter.

As the sun rose over frosted greens there was no doubting this was early March in Surrey and not late May down Wembley Way, but Mooney, returning from injury, played as if on hallowed home turf.

"I was delighted to win my first PGS trophy after a difficult period health-wise", reflected the former sports editor. "I drove the ball nicely and putted really well on West Hill's superb greens - with no three putts!"

Andrew Porter only narrowly missed out on a West Hill double, having won the Emsley Carr final on the course last autumn. Porter did, however, take the lowest gross of the day with his sparkling 76 confirming his standing as one of the form players of the PGS.

"Playing this superb course in the Emsley final last year certainly helped me", said Porter, "although it was about 25 degrees colder this

time! Always clubbing up on those big greens was one thing I remembered and somehow I kept a 6 off my card. Is that Sunday Express competition for club golfers still running?"

Porter also claimed the division one prize, edging out Keith Ging by a shot, with Paul Kelso a further three back.

Nic Brook took second behind Mooney in division two, one ahead of former Express Editor Hugh Whittow. James Nursey's 76 put him

second on countback behind Andrew Porter for the lowest gross of the day.

After a fine lunch the draw was made for this year's Emsley Carr knockout, the top 16 from West Hill qualifying. Defending champion Andrew Porter will play Nic Brook, while Pat Mooney takes on Jeremy Thompson. The full draw can be found on page 2 of this newsletter: Latest results at www.pressgs.co.uk/results-emsley-carr-draw/



EFFINGHAM: Clubhouse and 18th green

Next up... Effingham, April 22nd

HARRY COLT'S Effingham is next up for the PGS and members still have a few days left to sign up for our second meeting of the season.

Effingham Manor Golf Club, as it was formerly known, opened in 1927. The June 1931 edition of Golfing magazine described the course as a 'Surrey woodland paradise' and at just under 6,500 yards it was the second longest in the county.

Effingham House, now the clubhouse, was the home of General Oliver de Lancey (an American who fought for the British in the American War of Independence) and then later of the tobacco magnate

Charles Lambert. Early members included Sir Barnes Wallis and his wife.

The course is built on a chalk subsoil, ensuring it drains well (as those who played will remember, last year's rains tested this to the limit) and the club has recently restored all the bunkers to their original Colt design.

Assuming we don't get brutal winds and torrential rain two years running, it's bound to be a great day's golf on a classic course. To enter, just go to www.pressgs.co.uk/ and click on the link on the right of the home page.



A LONG-HELD dream to play the courses that had remained so tantalisingly out of reach. A stunning venue for the annual tussle between the Northcliffe and Press Golfing Societies.

A match made in Devon...

Sky's Jamie Weir visits the county regularly with his family and for many years has gazed longingly at the Saunton links without ever playing them. So it was a proud moment for him to bring this match to the East and West and experience their delights for the first time.

With assistance from Golfbreaks and James Somerside, the superb organisation included some classy embroidered sweaters courtesy of Glenmuir.

As players began to arrive, news filtered through that the long-standing NGS secretary Garth Burden had been struck with vertigo that morning and was unable to travel.

Immediately the NGS team was reduced to 14 as Garth's wife Jane had been on the team. Two of the NGS team thus had to play as singles, with a few additional shots to even things up.

While the rest of the country experienced torrential rain, North Devon was mercifully spared and it was fine links weather for mid-March on Saunton's superb West course.

Despite the NGS team being hampered by their reduced numbers they put up a good fight, ending the day with 2½ points. The first match out featured the famed cartoonist Mac (Stan McMurtry MBE) for the NGS. A sprightly 85 years old and contributing a birdie along the way, Mac and captain Brian Viner inflicted defeat on Jamie Weir and Nick Jones.



The standout PGS performance was from Nev Appleton and Jonny 'Bubbles' Bramley who defeated Lisa Heywood and Will Flint 7&5. However it's also worth mentioning the half point gained by Ian 'Woodsy' Woods and Neil 'Golf Pilgrim' White. Whilst it might not have quite matched Jack Nicklaus' gesture in 1969, 'The Concession' of Neil's 30 inch putt on the 18th green to halve the match was a great illustration of the spirit in which this contest was played.

After a convivial evening, day two dawned fair. With a mere 2½ points required to retain the trophy, the PGS were feeling confident as they faced the famed East course links.

West Ham fans Pip Clothier and Tony Smith were sent out first – their team had an appointment with Sevilla at the London Stadium in the Europa League Round of 16. With just a single opponent the match was surprisingly tight but the PGS prevailed – just as Kevin Price and Nick Jones did behind them. Match captain Jamie Weir and Bubbles Bramley were heavily beaten, leaving Weir as the only player in the PGS team without a point. But with Nic Brook and Jon 'JJ' Jones having already completed a 'dog licence' victory over their opponents the job was done and the PGS eventually triumphed with a resounding scoreline of 11½ to 4½.

After an emotional victory speech, skip Weir was presented with a Saunton flag signed by the team plus a personalised Mac cartoon.

A few hours later the West Ham contingent made it to the London Stadium to see Yarmolenko settle a thrilling match in extra time. A fine postscript to a splendid couple of days.

Sir Emsley Carr knockout draw

DOUBLE Emsley Carr champion, Peter Solomons, is still on course for a hat-trick in the PGS's prestigious knockout. Among this year's early results, Solomons – winner in 2009 and 2015 – defeated Royal Ascot captain, Hugh Whittow, 4&3.

Also through to the second round are Ross Slater, 3&1 winner against the Sun's Mike Waker, and Sunday Mirror man Nick Cherrie, who defeated Paul Kelso on Royal Ascot's 17th.

Andrew Porter v Nic Brook
Pat Mooney v Jeremy Thompson
Colin Hancock v Rob Hower
Mike Waker v Ross Slater
 (Slater bt Waker, 3&1)
Lee Smith v Nev Appleton
Ian McIlgorm v Bruce McKellar
Paul Kelso v Nick Cherrie
 (Cherrie bt Kelso, 2&1)
Hugh Whittow v Peter Solomons
 (Solomons bt Whittow, 4&3)

PGS rule change for handicaps

THE committee has decided to make a slight alteration to the maximum handicap rule for PGS competitions. Following a suggestion from Chester Stern, members will now be allowed to play off their WHS handicap, adjusted for slope, with no upper limit on shots given.

Similarly, there will no longer be any upper limits on shots given in green-somes and foursomes, ie teams of high handicappers may play off handicaps greater than 18.

There is no change to the rule which states that new members should play off a maximum WHS index of 24 for men and 30 for women.

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SECOND MEETING: FRIDAY, 22nd APRIL



MEDAL ROUND

Singles from 0830 in threeballs for the News of the World Trophy (holder Peter Solomons, left, from 2019).

AFTERNOON: Greensomes from 1430 for the Sir Leicester Harmsworth Trophy (holders – Andy Glen and Chris Stevens, again from the pre-pandemic era).

ENTRIES

Please enter through the website, pressgs.co.uk using the link on the right-hand side of the home page.
 Deadline for entries is 23.59 Wednesday 20th April.
 Any problems, email pgssecretary@gmail.com

COST

£100 per player, plus £5 for the ball-sweep. Pay online acc 40749648 sort code 204141.

PRIZES

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

CATERING

Tea, coffee and bacon baguettes from 07.30. Three-course carvery lunch, rolling from 12.45.

DRESS CODE

Smart casual, jacket and tie welcome but not required.

HOW TO GET THERE

By road: the club is on the A246

EFFINGHAM

between Leatherhead (5 miles) and Guildford (8 miles), and approximately 5 miles (8-10 minutes) from both J9 and J10 of the M25, just west of the traffic lights on the A246 at Effingham.

By train: there are direct services from London Waterloo and Guildford to Effingham Junction (2 miles), Bookham (2 miles), Horsley (3 miles) and Leatherhead (5 miles). There is a taxi firm at Leatherhead Station.

www.effinghamgolfclub.com

POSTCODE for satnavs

KT24 5PZ