



Press Golfing Society

MAY 2022 NEWSLETTER

www.pressgs.co.uk

Pictures: PAOLO MINOLI & JAMIE WEIR

TOP TABLE: PGS enjoy the bounty at Reigate Heath. Back row; Paolo Minoli, Jamie Weir, Rob Hewer, Hugh Whittow, Colin Hancock, Tony Smith. Front; Chester Stern and Nick Jones.



Wry time at Reigate

THE traditional past Captains and Committee meeting, now expanded to include all PGS members over 65, returned to Reigate Heath for the first time in two pandemic years. In a reflection of these unusual times, current (and past) PGS captain Colin Hancock (2020 and 2022) took the Dazeley Past Captains' Prize with 34 points, from Chester Stern (1999) in second.

In warm sunshine and a light breeze, Royal

Ascot captain Hugh Whittow also shot 34 points to win the Calamity Jane Putter for the best round from the rest of the field.

The highlight of the day, however, was the long and relaxed lunch, during which Stern and Whittow in particular entertained all present with a series of eye-opening anecdotes about former colleagues and employers. Some lines and images will be etched in the memories of all who heard them.

Last call for...
WOKING
Tuesday, 17th May
There's still time to
enter next week's
return to the
Surrey gem



THROUGH THE WINDMILL: Tony Smith stripes another one down the middle

Christian values return to the PGS

CHRISTIAN FRASER made a stunning start to his PGS playing career by claiming the News of The World Trophy at Effingham. On a cool, blustery day with greens that could euphemistically be termed 'tricky', the Beeb man's 37 points proved just too much for the rest of the field.

The Sun's Dean Scoggins pushed Fraser all the way, finishing with 36 points. That was enough to win Division One by a point from Mark Lomas, with Jonny 'Bubbles' Bramley taking third.

"It's very poor etiquette to win on your first appearance," reflected Fraser (right), who was a non-playing member of the PGS many years ago. "In mitigation I can only say I went home relieved that I had not embarrassed myself. It was a 'stop the rot' round."

In Division two, the ever-consistent Nev Appleton took second with 34 points, one ahead of the Mirror's Mike Allen.

After a decent lunch, scoring in the afternoon greensomes was record-breaking - just not in the right direction.

In 2018 former BBC Radio man Rick Evans won the greensomes at Ashridge, partnering the late PGS legend Bob Hayes, with a remarkable 50 pts. His score at Effingham with colleague and carer Jono Baker was rather less sparkling, but their 31pts proved enough to claim the Sir Leicester Harmsworth trophy. It was the lowest winning greensomes total in living memory.

PGS vice-captain Rob Hewer and Sky's Jamie Weir were left rueing a



number of missed chances, pipped on countback by just one point, with the pairing of John Quinn and Russell Dewey, two points further back, taking third.

"Never has so much been won for so few," quipped Baker, as the pair carried away their case of wine.

The day also saw the welcome return of former PGS captain Hayley Barlow, now released from the demanding world of broadcasting back into the gentler pastures of newspapers, and golf writer Bill Elliott, playing his first PGS meeting for several years after illness.

Members were also delighted to see PGS secretary Tim Allan back to full strength and playing, well ahead of schedule.

But the final word should rest with the victorious debutant, Fraser, already looking ahead to the next meeting: "What a day. I am immensely grateful for such a warm welcome to the society. So much so that I have taken the day off so I can play at Woking - off a much lower mark!!"



Next up...wonderful Woking, May 17th

THE PGS is to play a full society meeting at Woking for the first time in living memory and members still have a few days in which to sign up.

The first of the famous three Surrey heathland Ws (the neighbouring West Hill and Worplesdon following), Woking was designed by Tom Dunn and opened in 1893 on land leased from the London Necropolis Company.

Woking's strategic design and green

complexes are studied by golf architects to this day, and in recent years the club has undertaken an extensive programme of woodland management and heather regeneration to help restore some of the heathland views. The roof of the historic clubhouse was deemed 'in play' until relatively recently (there are photos of players up there attempting to knock their ball back on

to the 14th green) and the patio still is within bounds.

The famed golf writer, leading amateur and former PGS captain (1911) Bernard Darwin played much of his golf there and described it as "The best and pleasantest place to play golf that I have ever known".

To judge for yourself, register for our meeting by clicking on the link on the right of the PGS homepage.

Sir Emsley Carr knockout

REIGNING Emsley Carr champion Andrew Porter has made a great start to his title defence, with a 7&6 victory over PGS vice-president Nic Brook at Royal St George's. Porter, former Political Editor of the Telegraph turned Brunswick partner, will take on Jeremy Thompson in the quarter finals.

In the battle of the captains, Colin Hancock overcame V-C Rob Hewer at Royal Ashdown Forest to secure a tie against Ross Slater.

Andrew Porter v Nic Brook
(Porter bt Brook, 7&6)

Pat Mooney v Jeremy Thompson
(Jeremy Thompson, w/o)

Colin Hancock v Rob Hewer
(Hancock bt Hewer, 4&3)

Mike Waker v Ross Slater
(Slater bt Waker, 3&1)

Lee Smith v Nev Appleton
tbc

Ian McIlgorm v Bruce McKellar
(McIlgorm bt McKellar, 2&1)

Paul Kelso v Nick Cherrie
(Cherrie bt Kelso, 2&1)

Hugh Whittow v Peter Solomons
(Solomons bt Whittow, 4&3)

WRYTER CUP

Places after 3 qualifiers. Club hcps

FULL RESULTS: www.pressgs.co.uk

Nevil Appleton	2	7	4	13	Andrew Porter	6	1	-	7
Hugh Whittow	9	8	11	28	Dylan Dronfield	5	-	12	17
Jonathan Bramley	1	26	5	32	Dean Scoggins	16	-	1	17
Nick Jones	10	19	7	36	Tim Allan (Q)	3	-	17	20
Khalid Javed	4	20	21	45	Chris Stevens	19	-	8	27
Mike Waker	14	10	23	47	Ian McIlgorm	18	13	-	31
Colin Hancock (Q)	29	6	14	49	Andy Glen	11	23	-	34
Jonathan Baker	12	33	15	60	Mike Allen	-	37	6	43
Rick Evans	27	27	10	64	Neil White	-	32	16	48
James Murray	8	39	19	66	Duncan Farmer	20	30	-	50
Evan Samuel	28	25	22	75	Russell Dewey	-	43	9	52
Tony Smith	21	45	18	84	Ian Woods	23	29	-	52

Nev's Wryte-on

NEV APPLETON has become the first player to seal their place on this year's Wryter Cup team.

The graphics guru booked his ticket for Bordeaux with another fine performance at Effingham.

Former Express editor Hugh Whittow and veteran Wryter star Jonny Bramley are also well-placed, while matchplay machine Andrew Porter leads those players with two results counting thus far.

This year's Wryter Cup will be played at the rather beautiful Golf du Médoc,

Effingham results

Division One 1st Dean Scoggins, 36pts, 2nd Mark Lomas, 35, 3rd Jonny Bramley, 32 (on count-back).

Division Two 1st Christian Fraser, 37pts, wins the News of the World trophy, 2nd Nev Appleton, 34, 3rd Mike Allen, 33.

PM 1st Jonathan Baker & Rick Evans, 31 pts, win the Sir Leicester Harmsworth Memorial trophy, 2nd Rob Hewer & Jamie Weir, 31, 3rd John Quinn & Russell Dewey, 29.

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THIRD MEETING: TUESDAY, 17th MAY

WOKING

COMPETITIONS

Singles from 09.12 in threeballs for the Mirror Trophy (holder Kevin Price).

AFTERNOON: Greensomes from 14.24 for the Wilkinson Sword (holders - Mike Waker & Dean Scoggins).

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 noon Friday 13th May.

Any problems, email pgssecretary@gmail.com

COST

£150 per player, plus £5 for the ball-sweep. Morning only, with lunch £123 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 rolls from 08.00.

Three-course carvery lunch, tea and sandwiches following the afternoon round.

DRESS CODE

Jacket in the clubhouse after 10.30.

HOW TO GET THERE

By road: From the M3

Driving south on the M3, leave at junction 3 on the A322 towards Guildford. Keep on this road for approximately 4 miles. Go past West Hill Golf Course on the left and then take the next left, Heath House Road. Proceed along this road, past Worplesdon Golf Club. At the crossroads at the end, go straight across into Saunders Lane, then take an immediate left into Hook Heath Road. Proceed for 1 mile along Hook Heath Road. At the first crossroads, take the diagonal left hand turning into Hollybank Road. Go almost to the end of Hollybank Road, and then turn left into Golf Club Road. (Beware the speed bumps).

Go to the very end and then turn into Pond Road and Woking Golf Club is at the very end. Go up to the gates and they will open automatically.

From the A3

Driving south on the A3, leave at the Burpham/Jacob's Well exit.

Follow the signs towards Woking.

Join the A320 and go towards Woking. At the Mayford roundabout continue on the road towards Woking and then at the next roundabout turn left following the signs to St Johns. Go up Wych Hill Lane to the next roundabout, go straight over into Wych Hill, go past the Co-op and the Renault garage.

Proceed straight on along Hook Heath Avenue and take the turning left immediately before the single lane railway bridge into Hollybank Road and then turn immediately right into Golf Club Road.

By train: there are dDirect services on South West Trains from London Waterloo. Trains stop at either Woking or Brookwood, where taxis are available.

www.wokinggolfclub.co.uk

POSTCODE for satnavs

GU22 0JZ