



DECEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

Press Golfing Society

www.pressgs.co.uk

Pictures: PATRICK EAGAR



FIRST LADIES:
Liz Khan
& Philippa
Kennedy



PRESENTATIONS: Some of our 2022 trophy winners at the PGS 74th Annual Dinner. LtoR; Felix Duckworth, Jon Jones, Peter Dazeley, Jonny Bramley, Nic Brook, Andy Glen, Andrew Porter, Colin Hancock, Pat Mooney, Roderick Easdale, Tim Allan, Jono Baker, Nev Appleton, Hugh Whittow and Nick Cherrie.

Captain Colin looks back on '22

ABOVE all, thank you. Thanks for inviting me to join so many illustrious names in captaining this great Society; thanks for allowing me to resume the captaincy after Covid curtailed the 2020 season; and thanks for all the support from everyone during these strange times...and in particular from secretary Tim Allan, treasurer Paolo Minoli, President Philippa Kennedy and the whole PGS committee. I sincerely hope you feel I've done my best to sustain and strengthen the PGS in return.

Let's get the biggest disappointment out of the way. I desperately wanted to lead our superb Wryter Cup team to victory, but it was not to be. Having said that, we lost to an outstanding APG side, the spirit was excellent throughout and the core of that

team will regain the trophy next year or very soon after. And yet....

...Then yet again, if ever there were a time to count our blessings, it is now. We're all having, or have had, fascinating careers; we're incredibly fortunate to be able to play some of the best golf courses in the world; and we can all draw on the deep well of friendship and support that the PGS has to offer.

As I said in Bordeaux, we're here in the PGS through the grace of others. Of course there's a splash of nous and native cunning in there too, but I'm certainly ever-mindful that, for my part at least, without a lot of support and help from many others, none of this could have happened.

And so to the future. One of

the great strengths of the PGS is that it's continued to evolve. To take one example, we no longer have to own or edit newspapers to belong: even downtable subs and, whisper it, broadcasters and online journalists, can join our number.

As a result, we're currently adding new members at a rate of more than one a month. Long may this continue. Through the PGS I've had so many great experiences, met so many interesting people, had so much fun, that I very much hope that all this will still be on offer to a young journalist fifty years from now.

So, all the very best to our new captain, John Quinn; may you all have a great New Year and wonderful 2023; and, above all, thank you.

- Colin Hancock



2022 highlights: LtoR; A good lunch at Reigate Heath, Peter Dazeley putting in May, Ashridge temperatures hit 40C, and Captain's Day winners at Royal Ashdown.



TIGER TEE: Ian Woods stripes another drive down the middle



I MAC: Ian McGilgorm and playing partner Rod Ferguson selfie



CAPTAIN'S SPEECH: Colin does the honours for the final time

Smithy Scrambles to victory

THERE was no stopping Lee Smith as he led his team to Scramble victory, despite only turning up for thirteen and a half holes.

As dawn broke, news came through that Just Stop Oil protestors were blocking the M25. Former PGS Secretary Paolo Minoli rapidly rejigged the running order to help late arrivals, but Smith was nowhere to be seen as the hooter sounded to send teams off round the magnificent Berkshire Red.

With the first rain of the PGS season sweeping across the heather and pines, Smith's teammates – Neil Bennett, Duncan Farmer and Simon Taylor – were halfway down their fifth hole when a familiar, diminutive figure marched down the fairway to join them.

"I must admit I never thought I would get there, sitting in traffic for five and a half hours!" said the former Sun-man Smith. "I asked my team how many under par they were at that point and got a few terse looks."

But inspired by Smith's perseverance and demon putting, the team then stormed to a superb 59.9 points and victory, once Minoli's calculations had accounted for Smith's part-time play.

Remarkably, the Sky team of Jamie Weir, Paul Kelso, Dylan Dronfield and Dean Eaton took advantage of the brightening conditions to reach exactly the same score, but just lost out on countback. Nonetheless all seemed delighted with their second prize – jeroboams of rosé.

2023 captain John Quinn and Sheena Quinn, playing with Sky's Bruce McKellar and Marc Souter, took third, with the former and current BBC boys – Baker, Bramley, Evans and Glen – in



BAGS TO RICHES: The Berkshire winning team of Neil Bennett, Simon Taylor, Lee Smith and Duncan Farmer with PGS captain Colin Hancock

fourth, just two points behind the winners.

"In the end it was well worth it to help my team to a memorable win," reflected a well-refreshed Smith. "They gave me the rallying cry and the rest is history."

Teammate Neil Bennett was full of praise for Colchester's finest: "Justice was done, really. Lee sat in traffic for five and a half hours to get there but still yomped out to meet us, then holed everything in sight AND won the £10-note draw. Result all round!"

CHARITY OLD HEADS RAISE £5K

The traditional Scramble auction raised nearly £5,000 for the Journalists Charity.

Star MoS snapper Ian McGilgorm reminded us he has a way with words too, cajoling top bids for an attractive range of generously donated lots.

The most enticing prize was a fourball at the remarkable Old Head, in Kinsale, claimed by John Waples with his bid of well over £1000.

BERKSHIRE SCRAMBLE RESULTS

1st (in order of appearance...) Neil Bennett, Duncan Farmer, Simon Taylor and Lee Smith (win on countback). **2nd** Jamie Weir, Paul Kelso, Dylan Dronfield and Dean Eaton.

3rd John and Sheena Quinn, Bruce McKellar and Marc Souter. **4th** Jonno Baker, Jonny Bramley, Rick Evans and Andy Glen.



ON THE BERKSHIRE PODIUM: The runners up, and third place team members look all ready to party



MISTY EYED: Winners
Tim Allan and Mark Lomas congratulated by captain Colin



MYSTIFIED: Somewhere at Swinley



GOLDEN PUTTER KING: Mark Lomas
holes out, watched by Ollie McCormack



SKIES CLEAR: The 17th



SUNSHINE ON LINKS: Nic Brook, Tony Smith & Jono Baker on 18

Golf thriller in the mist

Swinley triumph for seccy Tim

PGS Secretary Tim Allan rolled back the years to stun Swinley Forest with a rare singles victory.

Allan had to wait a few minutes on the first tee for the autumnal mist to clear but rolled in the birdies as the sun broke through to claim the Peggy White Vase with a cultured 36 points at this temple of golf.

"Well, what a lovely way to spend a glorious day!" said a delighted Allan. "I didn't play all that well in the fog, but when the sun came out so did my golf game.... and to finish with a tap-in birdie was the icing on the cake."

"My golfing CV is not overly impressive, but to say I've won at Swinley will give me a very happy memory for years to come!"

The PGS seccy just edged out Mark Lomas and Rob Hower on countback. Lomas, whose focus was also on the Sir John Gordon Golden Putter, took first prize in Division One, with Singapore-bound Hower in second. Former PGS captain Khalid Javed was just a point behind in third. In Division Two, Ben

Griffiths scored an impressive 35 points to take second place behind Allan, with 2023 PGS captain John Quinn in third, a couple of points further back.

On a perfect day for golf, and after a wonderful Swinley lunch, the afternoon foursomes produced a tight

race to the line. At the conclusion of the 18th, it was the pairing of Neil White and Ian Woods who claimed first prize, just pipping Nev Appleton and Khalid Javed by a point, with Nick Toksvig and Mike Allen in third on countback.

"I owe my success entirely to Neil who not only makes me a better player but also a better person," said a reflectively modest Woods. "And I'm grateful that he left early meaning I took his wine home."

After two years back on the PGS rota, Swinley Forest will be taking a rest in 2023, but with such a gloriously successful meeting, secretary Allan won't be the only one hoping for a swift return to Colt's slice of golfing perfection.

SWINLEY RESULTS

Division One 1st Mark Lomas, 36pts, on countback, 2nd Rob Hower, 3rd Khalid Javed, 35.

Div Two 1st Tim Allan, 36pts, wins The Peggy White Vase on countback, 2nd Ben Griffiths, 35, 3rd John Quinn 33.

Greensomes 1st Neil White & Ian Woods, 2nd Nev Appleton & Khalid Javed, 3rd Nick Toksvig & Mike Allen.



Manchester lad Lomas wins the league

MANCHESTER'S Mark Lomas timed his run perfectly to claim the Sir John Gordon Golden Putter at Swinley.

PGS vice-president Nic Brook had led the field going into the final singles round of the season - and at least nine others took to Swinley's first tee with a chance of snatching the title from his grasp. But Lomas's excellent score of 36pts swept him past all challengers to take the Putter by a clear margin.

The Golden Putter is awarded to the player with the best three finishes from

the season's singles rounds and is thus regarded as one of the two premier titles of the PGS year (alongside the Sir Emsley Carr knockout trophy).

"To take home such a prestigious prize, with such an illustrious list of former winners, is a genuine honour," reflected a delighted Lomas. "It sits alongside the Wryter Cup wins at Porthcawl and Hoylake as the top sporting achievements in my life.

"To win it in the glorious sunshine of Swinley is particularly special, as it's

where I won my first PGS singles trophy. Clearly the prospect of the finest lunch on the PGS circuit is a powerful motivating factor!"

Brookie finished second in the table, with three of 2022's most consistent performers - Nev Appleton, Jonny Bramley and Evan Samuel - just a point further back.

The full finishing table can be viewed here: www.pressgsgs.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/GP-Final.pdf



TWO PUTT: Mark Lomas & Nic Brook

Bubbles up for Nations Cup trip to Lake Garda

THE PGS is to send a team to the 2023 Nations Cup in Italy next October. The tournament, played between European counterparts of the PGS, alternates each year with the European Masters for Golfplaying Journalists (tbh it probably sounds better in Italian).

Jonny 'Bubbles' Bramley will captain the side, and, as with all our other matches bar the Wryter Cup, Bramley will also select the 10-player team. All those who've played at least two of the 2023 society meetings will be eligible.

Next year's tournament will take place at Chervò Golf San Vigilio on Lake Garda, between the 23rd and 27th of October. The 2024 EMGJ will then be hosted by Portugal's Royal Obidos.

The PGS's decision to enter a team follows an invitation from the President of the European Committee of Golfplaying Journalists.



2023: Year of Captain Quinn

JOHN QUINN has taken over as the new PGS captain, assuming the role at this month's dinner at the National Liberal Club.

Royal Ashdown's Rob Hewer had been due to take over from outgoing captain Colin Hancock, but the late offer of a dream job on the Asian Tour means Hewer will now be moving to Singapore in January.

Captain Quinn, flaunting (©Mail Online) his chains of office in the Royal Horseguards bar, told curious American tourists: 'I'm really looking forward to my year and I'll try to follow the example of recent captains by making it as enjoyable as possible for everyone, especially myself!'

"The captaincy has come earlier than I could have expected or hoped for, and in rather unusual circumstances, but I promise everyone a great Captain's Day down at Royal Winchester!" Vice-captain Tony Smith will continue in that role through 2023 before taking over the captaincy next December.

I like the cut of your jib.

'ANDICAPS

Want to be captain?



Medal winner: Worplesdon will open our season in March

Three Ws to welcome and wow

THE PGS returns to wonderful Worplesdon next year - and that's just the March opener for a standout season of top-class venues.

In fact, we'll be playing all three of the famed Ws in a single year - with days at Woking and West Hill to follow in May and October respectively.

April will see the first PGS visit to Hertfordshire's Porters Park since Liz Khan's Captain's Day in '94. With many of our traditional hosts raising prices significantly, this will be one of the more affordable society days of the year.

President's Day at Walton Heath will be followed by the ever-popular Ashridge in July,

before Captain's Day moves to John Quinn's Royal Winchester in mid-August.

The glorious Berkshire will again be the venue for our September meeting and the November scramble, either side of the new autumn date for West Hill.

In terms of matches, this year's clash with the Northcliffe will be played at The Belfry in March, while the famed Gullane in East Lothian will host next year's Wryter Cup two weeks before we head to Italy for the Nations Cup near Lake Garda.

Details of all society days and matches are on page 7 and can be found on our website.



WRYTER CUP XXXI ...at Golf du Médoc

APG 22:10 PGS

With our thanks
to support from



Press Golfing Society

www.pressgs.co.uk



PGS TEAM: Colin Hancock (captain), Tim Allan, Nev Appleton, Jonny Bramley, Nic Brook, Pip Clothier, Felix Duckworth, Paul Harrison, Rob Hewer, Khalid Javed, Mark Lomas, Keith Malone, Andrew Porter, John Quinn, Evan Samuel, Hugh Whittow.

THE strongest French team in living memory took back the Wryter Cup in this year's match at Golf du Médoc.

The PGS also had a side full of quality, despite two late withdrawals and the best efforts of BA to disrupt travel plans. Top players Dylan Dronfield and Dean Scoggins had to pull out for professional and family reasons within 48-hours of the practice round, but PGS secretary Tim Allan and captain Colin Hancock worked swiftly to find fine replacements: Paul Harrison (see below) and Keith Malone playing a blinder just to make it to Médoc in time.

Then, with the PGS team restored to full strength, BA randomly cancelled their morning Bordeaux flight, forcing Pip Clothier and Rob Hewer to find a route via Madrid and Nic Brook to search for another airline. Thankfully, all made it, albeit not in time to practise.

The weather, too, came good; a sodden Saturday giving way to three days of gloriously warm sun.

Sadly, the French APG, fielding their lowest average handicap in the history of the match, slowly took control. Jonny Bramley and

Nev Appleton got the PGS off to a flying start in the opening foursomes, but the French took the session 5½ to 2½, then consolidated their lead in a tight fourballs to lead 10-6 overnight.

Despite some fine performances, the miracle of Médoc was not to be. The APG won the singles and claimed the Wryter Cup 22-10.

Rookie and late replacement,

Paul Harrison, had a debut of which to be proud with 1½ points, Felix Duckworth yet again proved his quality when it mattered with two commanding victories and Tim Allan battled hard for two halves on day 1, before sealing a singles win on the 18th.

But among many impressive performances, the standout was Nev Appleton's. With two points from the first day, Appleton took on Romain Muraille, a 5-handicapper who drove the ball 320yds. Muraille played five or six under handicap and recorded a hole-in-one, but Appleton forced him to the 18th and holed the winning putt.

Although the result was disappointing for the PGS, it was in every other aspect a fine Wryter Cup. The venue, weather, food and wine were superb and the spirit within and between the teams excellent.

Next year we head to Gullane to try to win back the trophy. Captain John Quinn was there in Medoc to see for himself how strong a group of players he could have to help him do just that.

Just on loan:
APG's Damien
Houles
receives the
Wryter Cup
from Colin
Hancock



Corked at Médoc

DAY 1 Morning foursomes

APG 5.5 v 2.5 PGS

	Doucet & Houles	Bramley & Appleton	3&2
5&3	Scimeca & Baraise	Lomas & Porter	
½	Michel & Lassaut	Allan & Harrison	½
5&4	Muraille & Colovic	Hewer & Hancock	
5&4	Meyer & Cara	Whittow & Malone	
	Lanaud & Largillier	Samuel & Quinn	3&2
4&3	Dessaint & Vey	Brook & Clothier	
2up	Payet & Chaudesaygues	Javed & Duckworth	

DAY 1 Afternoon fourballs

APG 4.5 v 3.5 PGS

	Michel & Houles	Appleton & Lomas	1up
	Meyer & Lanaud	Bramley & Harrison	3&2
4&3	Lassaut & Baraise	Hewer & Whittow	
1up	Doucet & Scimeca	Hancock & Samuel	
4&3	Colovic & Cara	Quinn & Malone	
½	Payet & Largillier	Allan & Brook	½
	Dessaint & Chaudesaygues	Duckworth & Porter	5&3
7&5	Muraille & Vey	Javed & Clothier	

DAY 2 Singles

APG 12 v 4 PGS

5&3	Francois Scimeca	Colin Hancock	
1up	Guillaume Baraise	Jonny Bramley	
1up	Christophe Lassaut	Andy Porter	
	Romain Muraille	Nev Appleton	1up
	Jean-Francois Dessaint	Tim Allan	1up
4&3	Guillaume Michel	Mark Lomas	
1up	Tristan Vey	Paul Harrison	
	Didier Largillier	Felix Duckworth	6&5
1up	Gilles Payet	Evan Samuel	
3&2	Denis Colovic	Nic Brook	
	Pierre Chaudesaygues	Rob Hewer	1up
4&3	Nicolas Doucet	Khalid Javed	
2&1	Remi Meyer	Hugh Whittow	
	Arnold Cara	John Quinn (conceded)	
8&6	Damien Houles	Pip Clothier	
4&3	Francois Lanaud	Keith Malone	

Overall result

APG 22 PGS 10

"DON'T worry about the pressure, just enjoy it" were the wise words ringing in my ears as, bathed in Golf du Médoc sunshine, I stood over my final putt on the 18th in the singles on day two.

Having answered the call for a last-minute replacement for a coveted Wryter Cup place four days earlier, heeding that advice was easier said than done.

I'd followed from afar the ups and downs of legendary Wryter Cups, and I knew what was at stake. And this was the French, at home. And I had been

struggling to find my B game, let alone my A. I also had the prospect of having to squeeze into slender Dylan's size 'S' kit. No-one wants that pressure!

I pushed my putt wide on the 18th to miss halving the match against Tristan Vey. Not because of pressure. Nor was it because I was scarred by seeing Rob and Quinnie in underpants and a chef's apron the night before.

No. I was super relaxed. Why? This was Bordeaux.

Anyone will tell you a good Bordeaux is about a good blend. While

by 4pm on Tuesday I'd drunk my own bodyweight in fine wine, it was a blend of a different kind responsible for helping me net (with a lot of help from Tim & Jonny) one and a half points in my rookie year: warm weather, delicious food and wine, great golf, a warm APG welcome and above all, a top drawer PGS team led by the indefatigable Colin Hancock.

For me, the 2022 Wryter Cup was the real deal. The anticipation of who your opponents will be, unrivalled camaraderie, extreme emotions of

elation and deep disappointment ... and of course the desire to bring home the silverware. Making the team was a bitter-sweet anomaly (thanks Dylan) this year, but one for which I'll be forever grateful. I'm now determined to earn my place in 2023.

- Paul Harrison



Press Golfing Society fixtures 2023

SOCIETY DAYS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29 WORPLESDON

worplesdongc.co.uk

Medal round

Lord Riddell Trophy - holder Pat Mooney

The top 16 players qualify for the

Sir Emsley Carr knockout

- holder Andrew Porter

THURSDAY, APRIL 20 PORTERS PARK

portersparkgolfclub.co.uk

News of the World Trophy (Singles

Stableford) - holder Christian Fraser

Sir Leicester Harmsworth Memorial

Trophy (Greensomes Stableford)

- holders Jono Baker & Rick Evans

FRIDAY, MAY 5 ROYAL BLACKHEATH

royalblackheath.com

Captains' reunion, committee
and seniors

Dazeley Past Captains' Trophy - holder

Colin Hancock (Singles Stableford, past

captains only) and the Calamity Jane

Putter - holder Hugh Whittow (Singles

Stableford, all players)

TUESDAY, MAY 16 WOKING

wokinggolfclub.co.uk

Mirror Trophy - holder Nick Cherrie

(Singles Stableford), Wilkinson Sword

- holders Felix Duckworth & Roderick

Easdale (Greensomes Stableford)

TUESDAY, JUNE 13 President's Day

& Guest Day

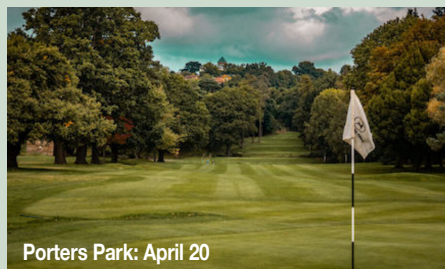
WALTON HEATH

waltonheath.com

Reg Hinder Memorial Trophy - holder

Nic Brook (Singles Stableford)

President's prizes (singles stableford);



Porters Park: April 20



Royal Blackheath: May 5



Woking: May 16



Ashridge: July 18



The Berkshire: September 19



West Hill: October 31

foursomes; guests). Foursomes winners
in 2022: Khalid Javed & Christian Fraser

TUESDAY, JULY 18 ASHRIDGE

ashridgegolfclub.ltd.uk

PGS Memorial Salver

- holder Jono Baker (Singles Stableford)

Sir Harry Brittain Trophy - holders

Graham Marsden & Jon Jones

(Greensomes Stableford)

MONDAY, AUGUST 14 Captain's Day

ROYAL WINCHESTER

royalwinchestergolfclub.com

Captain's Day

Billennium Bowl - holder Felix

Duckworth (Singles Stableford), Harold

Lewis Weight for Age Trophy - holder

Peter Dazeley and Captain's Day prizes

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 THE BERKSHIRE

theberkshire.co.uk

The Sun Challenge Trophy

- holder Andy Glen

(Singles Stableford)

Sir George Sutton Salver

- holders Andy Glen & Jim Murray

(Greensomes Stableford)

PLUS AGM

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31 WEST HILL

westhillgc.co.uk

Peggy White Vase - holder Tim Allan

(Singles Stableford)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14 THE BERKSHIRE

theberkshire.co.uk

Christmas Scramble and auction

MATCHES

MARCH 15 & 16

v Northcliffe GS

The Belfry

thebelfry.com

PGS match captain

Tony Smith

TUESDAY, MAY 23

v Stock Exchange GS

Royal Mid Surrey

rmsgc.co.uk

Match captain Patrick Eagar

MONDAY, JULY 3

v The Stage GS

Richmond

therichmondgolfclub.com

PGS match captain Nick Cherrie

MONDAY, JULY 31

Hickory match

v British Golf Collectors

Royal Blackheath

royalblackheath.com

Match captain Nic Brook



Gullane: October 1-3

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

v London Solicitors GS

Royal St George's

royalstgeorges.com

Match captain Tom Crone

OCTOBER 1-3

Gullane

XXXII Wryter Cup

gullanegolfclub.co.uk

PGS captain John Quinn

OCTOBER 23-27

Chervò Golf San Vigilio, Italy

Nations Cup

chervogolfsanvigilio.it

Match captain

Jonny Bramley