



APRIL 2023 NEWSLETTER

Press Golfing Society

www.pressgs.co.uk

2023 FIXTURES & MATCHES

THURSDAY, APRIL 20 PORTERS PARK

portersparkgolfclub.co.uk
News of the World Trophy and
the Sir Leicester Harmsworth
Memorial Trophy

FRIDAY, MAY 5 ROYAL BLACKHEATH

Captains' reunion, committee
members and seniors

TUESDAY, MAY 23 v Stock Exchange GS ROYAL MID SURREY

Match captain Patrick Eagar

TUESDAY, MAY 16 WOKING

TUESDAY, JUNE 13 WALTON HEATH

President's Day
& Guest Day

MONDAY, JULY 3 v The Stage GS RICHMOND

PGS match captain
Nick Cherrie

TUESDAY, JULY 18 ASHRIDGE

MONDAY, JULY 31 Hickory match v British Golf Collectors ROYAL BLACKHEATH

Match captain Nic Brook

MONDAY, AUGUST 14 ROYAL WINCHESTER

Captain's Day

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 v London Solicitors GS ROYAL ST GEORGE'S

Match captain Tom Crone

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 THE BERKSHIRE

OCTOBER 1-3 Gullane XXXII Wryter Cup

PGS captain John Quinn

OCTOBER 23-27 Chervò Golf San Vigilio, Italy, Nations Cup

Match captain Jonny Bramley

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31 WEST HILL

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14 THE BERKSHIRE

Christmas Scramble
and charity auction

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**KEEPING UP WITH
THE JONESY:** PGS
captain John Quinn
congratulates
Worplesdon winners
Nick Jones and
Andy Porter

Next up..
**Thursday
20th April
PORTERS
PARK**



Pictures: PATRICK EAGAR

In the Nick of time!

IT was a fairy tale sporting story worthy of any back page lead. So romantic, in fact, it would have seen most backbenches return it for basic fact checking.

But fake news it wasn't - in his 20th year as a PGS member, former Captain Nick Jones turned on the style to win his first ever singles competition on a memorable day at Worplesdon.

The Sun Sport sub-editor was the only player in the field of 46 to shoot under his handicap (gross 85, net 68) winning the Lord Riddell Memorial Trophy by three shots from a high quality group tied on net 71.

Jones, the society's captain in 2014, had been on a golfing trip to Scotland the previous week.

"Over dinner one evening I pondered whether I had played more PGS events without a win than anyone in the society's history. Messrs Allan, Minoli and Price tried to persuade me that my day would come.

"I have to say I was not convinced so I arrived at Worplesdon looking forward to a good lunch and no one was more surprised than me by my victory. I have to thank my playing partners, Ric Evans and Evan Samuel, for being such good company that I never realised I was scoring quite well. Ignorance is truly bliss."

The PGS season curtain-raiser returned to Worplesdon after a seven year hiatus and the condition of the course did not

After 20 years, Jonesy finally wins a PGS day

disappoint. Under an iron grey sky with occasional drizzle and a gentle breeze, the Surrey heathland had fared remarkably well after a miserable winter, with its greens running fast and true.

The only medal competition of the year is always a stern test, especially coming so early in the season. While nobody could keep pace with Jones, there were several

familiar PGS faces jostling for top position. Andy Porter was the pick of them, his gross 78 good enough to win the lowest gross score and claim Division One.

The Div One runner-up was the evergreen Khalid Javed, newly retired from the BBC, who shot a net 71 off 10, with Steve Lewis (net 72 off 9 third). The Division Two runner-up was James Saville (net 71 off 20), ahead of Ian Woods (net 71 off 17) on countback.

On a day of high emotions, the PGS also welcomed a new President with Peter Dazeley taking over duties from Philippa Kennedy, who's reluctantly stepped aside as she now spends more time in her native Ireland. Good luck Peter.

Worplesdon's class on the course was more than equalled off it and we all enjoyed a spectacular three course lunch in the clubhouse's oak-panelled dining room. As the last mouthfuls of crumble and custard were consumed, our new skipper, John Quinn, spoke of his excitement for the season ahead. A feeling doubtless shared by all present. It was a very special day, with a very popular (and surprised) winner.



PRESIDENTIAL:
Peter and Philippa



SEASON STARTER: Captain John Quinn holds court

GRIN JACKET: Jamie interviews Masters champion Jon Rahm



I DON'T know where to begin when talking about my first visit to Augusta. All my expectations when it came to its sheer beauty were surpassed and then some. We all know from the TV pictures how breathtaking the course itself, the clubhouse, the par three course, Butler Cabin etc all are.

But everything behind the scenes, which don't need to look nice for TV - the palatial press centre, the sprawling gift shop, the concession stands - are all equally stunning. There's not a blade of grass out of place, not a stray pine needle marring a pristine pathway. The whole place is golfing utopia.

On the Tuesday evening, in the setting sun, we spent an hour walking the entire back nine with the course virtually empty. Seeing Amen Corner in the flesh for the first time, the azaleas and dogwoods in full bloom, is an experience I'll never forget. It was idyllic.

On Thursday morning, I stood under the famous oak tree outside the clubhouse amongst hundreds of others and applauded Jack Nicklaus, Gary Player and Tom Watson onto the first tee box for the ceremonial

Behind the scenes at Augusta

Many PGS stalwarts have covered the Masters with distinction over the years, but 2023 saw Sky's Jamie Weir make his Augusta debut. We asked for a few first impressions.

opening drives. It was a hairs-standing-on-end moment.

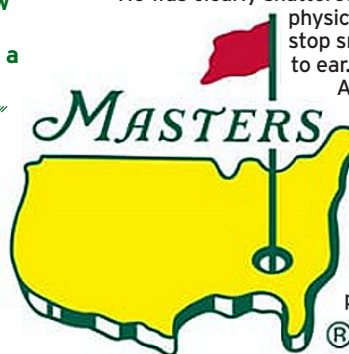
From a journalistic perspective, it was a week of big stories; Tiger remarkably making the cut, ultimately being forced to withdraw leading to speculation over his future; Rory's quest for the career grand slam hitting a brick wall once again as he completely

failed to even get out of the blocks; news early in the week about the DP World Tour winning its legal battle against the LIV rebels; three trees falling but miraculously missing any patrons; the weather; and a marathon final day with so many enthralling narratives.

Ultimately, we emerged with a fitting champion; a generational talent with such a deep appreciation for the history and traditions of the game, slipping into the green jacket on what would have been his idol Seve's 66th birthday. I had the privilege of speaking to Jon Rahm that night in the 'grill room'. He was clearly shattered, emotionally and

physically, but couldn't stop smiling from ear to ear.

An unforgettable, enthralling, exhausting, exhilarating first visit to Augusta. I cannot wait to get back next year. As much for the Georgia peach ice cream sandwiches as for the golf.



THE SIR EMSLEY CARR KNOCKOUT

Chris Cutmore v Nick Cherrie

Nick Jones beat Mark Lomas 3&2

James Nursey v Paul Kelso

James Saville v Ollie McCormack

Ian Woods v Evan Samuel

Steve Lewis v Jonny Bramley

Neale Adams v Andy Porter

Khalid Javed v Nev Appleton

ANDY PORTER'S lowest gross score at Worplesdon gives the Brunswick and former Telegraph man the chance of an unprecedented Emsley Carr hat-trick.

In the 118-year history of the knockout, several have won it three or more times (including our new President Peter Dazeley) but no-one has ever managed three consecutively.

Porter will face Neale Adams in the first round, the victor facing a heavyweight



clash with either Khalid Javed or Nev Appleton in round two.

Worplesdon winner Nick Jones is already off to a flyer, with a 3&2 victory in a tough tie against Manchester's Mark Lomas. Former PGS captain Ian Woods and Evan Samuel will play out their battle of wounded knees in west London, and Wryter Cup star Jonny Bramley goes in search of his first Emsley title as he takes on the 2018 winner Steve Lewis.

All other first round ties are to be played by May 14th, please.

Marathon man Dean

Hello all, unfortunately instead of playing golf, I'm running the London Marathon on April 23.

It's in honour of my dad Dave, who heroically fought pancreatic cancer in great pain for 14 months before we lost him a year ago. His strength has been the inspiration for the cold, wet, tired runs for months.

I've run more than 50 times since January 1, completing over 300 miles. I think I even smiled in one of them! Just for the record, that's about 80

times around Royal St. George's, where dad was an artisan member for three years (oh, how we'd have enjoyed more).

I'm aiming to get round in less time than a round on the PGA Tour.

All I need you to do is sign-up to the link below and donate whatever you can (I know times are tough).

Apologies for the begging messages, but I'm unashamedly trying to hit people's pay days! Thanks for reading. -Dean

<https://2023tcslondonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/dean-scoggins>



Porters Park is back

THE PGS returns to Porters Park next Thursday, after a break of nearly thirty years.

Created in 1899 in the grounds of Porters Mansion in Radlett, the club was one of the first on the northern edge of London. The course is believed to be the work of Carnoustie's Cuthbert Butchart (who later went on to oversee the

construction of West Hill) with further work by Charles Cotton.

Porters Park is classic parkland, with a meandering brook providing a natural water hazard on at least seven of the holes.

The course is free-draining, being built on loam, sand and gravel, and has a strong reputation for its conditioning. The club has hosted

Open Championship regional qualifying on six occasions.

For those who weren't around for Liz Khan's captain's day in 1994, it's a chance to sample one of the best courses in Hertfordshire.

■ Sign up via the PGS website (the link's on the right-hand side of the home page).

'ANDICAPS ON TOUR



PGS trio get a fireman's lift

THE Aberdeen Fire Brigade had to rescue three PGS stalwarts who got stuck in a Premier Inn lift!

Nick Jones, Paolo Minoli and Kevin Price were stranded in the lift after checking into the hotel during a recent trip to play Royal Aberdeen, Murcar and Cruden Bay with secretary Tim Allan.

The hotel reception knew nothing of their plight until Tim, who'd received a plaintive call from Nick, alerted them.

The fire crew arrived within minutes and the hapless three were released after spending 20 minutes in the lift.

Kevin said: "The worst thing about it was the poster in the lift, telling us we could relax with a beer in the hotel bar at the end of a long day! It goes without saying that's exactly what we did when our ordeal was over!"

SECOND MEETING: THURSDAY, 20th APRIL

AM Singles Stableford, playing in threes from 8am, for the News of the World Trophy. Holder: Christian Fraser.
PM Greensomes Stableford for the Sir Leicester Harmsworth Memorial Trophy, which was won last year by Jono Baker and Rick Evans.

ENTRIES

Via the PGS website
www.pressgs.co.uk

COST

£135 per golfer, including coffee, bacon roll and lunch. Payable in advance please to **PGS - PRESS GOLFING SOCIETY**; account number **40749648**; sort code **20-41-41**.

PRIZES

AM: First three in Division 1, and first three in Div. 2. **PM:** Best three greensome pairs.

TELEPHONE

You can leave a message at the club on 01923 854 127.

HOW TO GET THERE

By Car Via the M25: Exit at Junction 22, go straight across the roundabout taking the directions to Radlett. Go straight across the next roundabout along a country road to next roundabout, turn left. Sign to Shenley. Follow road to mini-roundabout.

Go straight across and up the hill. At the top of the hill turn right at roundabout and then first left into Radlett Lane.

Via M1 from the North Exit at Junction 7 onto the A414 (Hatfield). After about 2 miles at roundabout take the 3rd exit onto the A5183 and continue on this road to Radlett. Go straight across first mini-roundabout and left at the next mini-roundabout into Shenley Hill. Continue up the hill, across a mini-roundabout, and the entrance is to the Club is on the left on a bend.
M1 from the South Exit M1 at Junction

PORTERS PARK

5. Take the first exit onto the A41. At the roundabout take the 1st exit onto B462 signposted to Radlett. Follow this road, over two mini-roundabouts into Radlett. At the T-junction mini-roundabout turn right.

At the next mini-roundabout turn left into Shenley Hill. Continue up the hill, across a mini-roundabout, and the entrance is to the Club is on the left on a bend.

POSTCODE for satnavs

WD7 7AZ