



Press Golfing Society

DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

www.pressgs.co.uk

Pictures: PATRICK EAGAR

Here's
to a very
happy New Year!
See you on
the fairways
in 2024.



TOP LOT:
Auctioneer
Ian McIlgorm
persuades us
to spend



BERKSHOWER: Rain
stops play on The Red,
while (top left) Scramble
winners Paul Harrison,
Dylan Dronfield, guest
Dominic Gesua and
Ben Monro-Davies are
congratulated by
captain John Quinn

Swinging in the rain

LIGHT drizzle, said the forecast: perhaps the occasional shower, it suggested. Sadly the forecast was wrong, and for the first time in living memory the PGS Scramble was cut short by rain.

The air was damp and fairways soft as the packed field of 76 players set off on one of the highlights of the PGS calendar. Despite a little casual water, the course was perfectly playable. Then the light drizzle began, almost imperceptibly becoming persistent rain.

Gradually the puddles on the fairways became larger and more numerous. Then they started to appear and spread on greens, until putting became near impossible. Eventually, with most groups having played 10 or 11 holes, The Berkshire succumbed to the inevitable and sounded the hooter to close the course.

Rain-drenched players wound their way from all parts of the course back to the warmth and dry of the clubhouse (well, all bar the one group that didn't hear the hooter and continued for another hour or so). The prospect of an excellent Berkshire lunch had never seemed so appealing.

At least they'd got some golf in to justify the refreshment. The Northcliffe Scramble the day before had to be abandoned in the clubhouse

Great day & auction at The Berkshire... despite the deluge

without a drive being struck after a night of torrential rain.

Following consultations with the club pro, secretary Tim Allan decided to run the competition as a nine-hole stableford. It provided an incredibly tight result, with just one point separating the first four teams

The winners, with 25 points, were Dylan Dronfield, Ben Monro-Davies, Paul Harrison and guest Dominic Gesua.

Second, on countback, were Khalid Javed, Jeremy Thompson, Lawrence Lee and Nick Toksvig.

Just a point behind were the third and fourth placed teams of Nic Brook, Tim Dickson, Tom Crone and Charles Collier-Wright; and Chris Stevens, Felix Duckworth and guests Ian Johnstone and Bob Hughes.

THE Scramble was followed by the traditional auction for the Journalists' Charity, which with the expert cajoling of Ian McIlgorm raised just under £6,000.

The charity's Chief Executive, James Brindle, has sent the following note to PGS treasurer Paolo Minoli:-

Dear Paolo,

I hope you're well and the PGS is in strong health?

Thank you very much indeed for your recent donation to the Journalists' Charity made on behalf of the society. Your continuing support for the charity during these challenging times is very much appreciated.

It sounds like you had a good day this year, I hope the weather was kind!

Once again, on behalf of the officers and trustees of the charity, thank you for your support which we all value immensely.

Wishing you and your fellow society members all the very best for the festive season.

James

**- James Brindle Chief Executive,
Journalists' Charity**



Jean-Louis Aragon

TRIBUTES have been paid to the APG's Jean-Louis Aragon, who's died at the age of 71.

Aragon, who played in nearly 20 Wryter Cups, wrote across a range of subjects during his 17 years at Le Monde, including cycling, golf and rugby. He also played double bass in jazz bands and spent time as a restaurateur.

Jean-Louis was Jono Baker's opposing Wryter Cup captain in Le Touquet. "He made a memorable and hilarious speech", recalled Baker, "about how the French could never hope to defeat the might of the British Empire. I also drew him in the singles and he was a joy to play with: a delightful, charming man."

2012 Captain Ian McIlgorm added, "I remember with great affection days playing with him in the Wryter Cup and especially his highly amusing speech in which his confusion of Samuel and Harry Colt was attributed to 'fucking Wikipedia'. Genius."

PGS Secretary Tim Allan played in many Wryter Cups with Jean-Louis. "His warmth and generous spirit were obvious to all. He truly understood the spirit of the Wryter Cup and that the most important thing by far in golf is the friendships you make, not the trophies you win. He will be very much missed by all of us."

JOHN GORDON GOLDEN ...PORTER

BRUNSWICK'S Andrew Porter has been crowned the PGS Golfer of 2023, having swept to victory in the John Gordon Golden Putter.

Porter finished five points clear of the other standout player of the season, Nick Jones, with Jonny Bramley and Khalid Javed in joint third.

The Putter is awarded to the player with the three best results from all the season's singles competitions and Porter's first, second and third-place finishes proved too good for the chasing pack.

"I'm delighted to have won after somehow managing to put together three decent rounds," said Porter. "The highlight was obviously at Porters Park, in my Herts backyard: that brought back a lot of lovely memories. But playing well at Quinny's day at Winchester to get into his Wryter Cup team was very satisfying too as it led to such a terrific week at Gullane."

Full results on pressgs.co.uk



SUNRISE: West Hill proved a happy hunting ground for The Sun's Mike Waker

Jones' Wake-up call inspires Mike

THE SUN'S grip on the PGS season continued into the final meeting, with Mike Waker picking up from Nick Jones to claim the Peggy White Vase at West Hill.

This was the Surrey club's debut as an autumn venue and, on a glorious day, with greens soft but true after days of torrential rain, the course was in terrific condition.

The combination of forgiving greens and nothing more than a gentle breeze inevitably led to good scoring and a tight battle for the final singles trophy of the PGS year.

Unusually, serial 2023 winner and racing aficionado Nick Jones wasn't one of those in the mix: instead it was his Sun stablemate Waker (right) who edged ahead over the final stretch to claim his maiden singles victory.

"I'd like to say that sitting next to Jonesy at work and listening to the constant tales of his

wins this year inspired me to victory", reflected Waker, nodding towards the heavily-raced veteran, "but what it actually made me realise is that anyone who turns up can win a PGS event."

Waker's 37 points was matched by golf pilgrim Neil White, who took the Division One prize. Khalid Javed returned from Doha to good effect to claim second with 36, one point ahead of the Beeb's Andy Glen.

In Division Two, Colin Hancock finished second to Waker on 35pts, with 2024 PGS captain Tony Smith in third just a point behind.

But the day belonged to Waker and his debut victory. And as he celebrated in the bar he could look forward to defending his trophy as a course and distance winner, with the wonderful West Hill having been confirmed for the October meeting in 2024.



FROM MIGHTY QUINN TO SMUDGER

OUTGOING PGS Captain John Quinn celebrated a successful season at the annual dinner, this year held at the Sloane Club in Chelsea.

Before handing out this year's silverware, Quinn recalled two highlights of his year, his Captain's day at Royal Winchester and winning back the Wryter Cup at Gullane. PGS President Peter Dazeley paid tribute to the Society's 14 Secretaries through its 112-year history and former PGS Captain, Liz Khan (1994), recollected her fight for women to gain admission to the PGS.

Finally, Quinn handed over the chains of office to the

2024 Captain, Tony Smith, who's picked Sky's Jamie Weir to be his Vice-Captain.

"I'm honoured to be taking up the captaincy and thrilled to think about the year ahead," said Smith. "Although the Wryter Cup is seen by many as our biggest prize I'd like to think that every PGS day is special and I look forward to seeing as many members as possible at the wonderful courses we're privileged to play."

PICTURE SPECIAL: SEE PAGE 3

Portuguese double Bubble in 2024



THE PGS is to send a team to the European Team Championships for journalists in Portugal next year. The tournament will be held at Royal Obidos from November 11-15.

Jonny Bramley will again captain the team, after a successful debut at the European Nations Cup at Chervo Golf San Vigilio near Lake Garda this October. The PGS finished a

creditable sixth out of the 11 teams from across Europe taking part (the German team emerged as the clear winners).

Highlights included a first-ever hole-in-one for Andi White during the practice round and two superb tournament rounds from Bramley and Nev Appleton, who finished as the third best pairing out of the 54 competing.



Peter Dazeley



John Quinn & Colin Hancock



Liz Kahn



Jonny Bramley



John and Sheena Quinn

75th Annual Dinner

PGS captain John Quinn hosted a splendid evening at The Sloane Club to celebrate his fabulous year, before handing over the chain of office to Tony Smith. Well done John! Photographers Patrick Eagar and Ian McIlgorm were there to help us record the occasion.



Paolo Minoli



Nick Jones



Tim Allan



More Silvo for Jones, please!



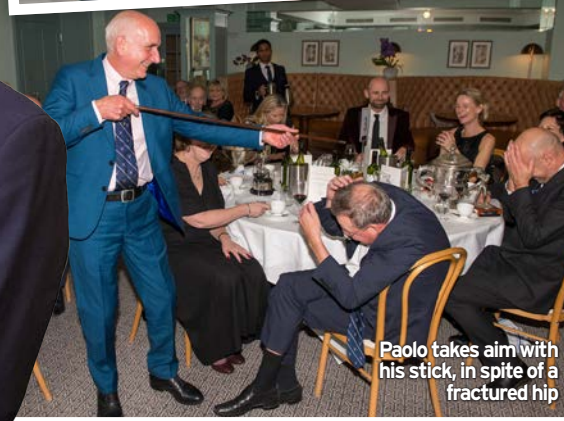
New captain Tony Smith



Andrew Porter



Quinn, Bramley and Nev Appleton



Paolo takes aim with his stick, in spite of a fractured hip

MAIL man Felix Duckworth will be taking on the delivery of the Newsletter from January. My best wishes to Felix and thanks to Nic Brook and Tim Allan for all their work and advice over the past few years. Thanks too to everyone who's contributed articles and, of course, to anyone who's taken the time to read it. - CH
 Newsletter edited by Colin Hancock colinahancock@googlemail.com Secretary Tim Allan pgssecretary@gmail.com

Press Golfing Society fixtures 2024



FOREBEARS: 2024 marks the 120th anniversary of the society's formation in October 1904. Here George Riddell, one of our earliest members who went on - as Lord Riddell - to become our first president, tees off on 12th at Furzedown that year. The balls were painted red to show up in the snow.

SOCIETY DAYS

THURSDAY, MARCH 14 WORPLESDON

worplesdongc.co.uk

Medal round

Lord Riddell Trophy - holder Nick Jones

The top 16 players qualify for the

Sir Emsley Carr knockout

- holder Nick Jones

MONDAY, APRIL 15 NORTHWOOD

northwoodgolf.co.uk

News of the World Trophy (Singles

Stableford) - holder Andrew Porter

Sir Leicester Harmsworth Memorial
Trophy (Greensomes Stableford)

- holders Jonny Bramley & Ben Todd

TUESDAY, APRIL 30 THE ADDINGTON

addingtongolf.com

Captains' reunion, committee
and seniors

Dazeley Past Captains' Trophy - holder

Paolo Minoli (Singles Stableford, past

captains only) and the Calamity Jane

Putter - holder Hugh Whittow (Singles

Stableford, all players)

TUESDAY, MAY 14 WOKING

wokinggolfclub.co.uk

Mirror Trophy - holder Nick Cherrie

(Singles Stableford), Wilkinson Sword

- holders Tim Allan & Colin Hancock

(Greensomes Stableford)

TUESDAY, JUNE 11 President's Day & Guest Day WALTON HEATH

waltonheath.com

Reg Hinder Memorial Trophy - holder

Neil Darbyshire (Singles Stableford)

President's prizes (Singles stableford;
foursomes; guests). Foursomes winners

in 2023: Jim Murray & guest Hugo Tudor

TUESDAY, JULY 16 ASHRIDGE

ashridgegolfclub.ltd.uk

PGS Memorial Salver

- holder Nick Jones (Singles
Stableford)

Sir Harry Brittain Trophy - holders

Jonathan Baker & Colin Hancock

(Greensomes Stableford)

TUESDAY, AUGUST 20 Captain's Day MANNINGS HEATH

manningsheath.com

Billennium Bowl - holder Mike Allen

(Singles Stableford), Harold Lewis

Weight for Age Trophy - holder Rick

Evans and Captain's Day prizes

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 THE BERKSHIRE

theberkshire.co.uk

The Sun Challenge Trophy - holder

Jonny Bramley (Singles Stableford)

Sir George Sutton Salver - holders Nev
Appleton & Jonny Bramley (Greensomes
Stableford) PLUS AGM

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29 WEST HILL

westhillgc.co.uk

Peggy White Vase - holder Mike Waker
(Singles Stableford)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19 THE BERKSHIRE

theberkshire.co.uk

Christmas Scramble and auction

MATCHES

MARCH 4&5 Thorpeness and Aldeburgh v Northcliffe GS

thorpeness.co.uk and
aldeburghgolfclub.co.uk

Match captain James Nursey



ALDEBURGH

TUESDAY, MAY 21 v Stock Exchange GS Royal Mid Surrey

rmsgc.co.uk

Match captain Patrick Eagar

MONDAY, JULY 1 v The Stage GS Richmond

therichmondgolfclub.com

Match captain Nick Cherrie

MONDAY, JULY 29 v British Golf Collectors Hickory match

Royal Blackheath
royalblackheath.com

Match captain Nic Brook

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 v London Solicitors GS Royal St George's

royalstgeorges.com

Match captain Tom Crone

OCTOBER 6-8

TBC

XXXIII Wryter Cup

PGS captain Tony Smith

NOVEMBER 11-15

Royal Obidos and

Praia d'El Rey, Portugal

European Press Cup

royalobidos.com and

praia-del-rey.com

Match captain Jonny Bramley