



Press Golfing Society

MARCH 2024 NEWSLETTER

www.pressgs.co.uk

WORP FACTOR WOW!

**First meeting:
Worplesdon,
Thursday,
March 14**
Medal round and
Sir Emsley Carr
qualifier

**SURREY
STAR:** The
5th hole at
Worplesdon

WINTER is nearly over, the crocuses are in bloom and the PGS is ready to come out of hibernation for the start of another season of tip-top golf. You never know, it may even stop raining for a day or two.

We have a first-class roster of society days at some of the best courses the country has to offer, showing that the PGS is in fine fettle in its 120th year.

Teeing off with our medal round at Worplesdon in March, the season will be book-ended by another trip to the Surrey course, which will host the Christmas Scramble because the Berkshire is closing its clubhouse for redevelopment. In between, we'll complete a hat-trick of Ws with visits to Woking and West Hill, plus there will be President's Day at Walton Heath, a summer trip to Ashridge and a return to the Berkshire in September before the builders move in.

Northwood in Middlesex will host our April meeting, while Tony Smith will take us to the heart of the Sussex countryside for his Captain's Day at Mannings Heath.

On top of that, there's the Captain's Reunion Day at The Addington as well as a super calendar of matches beginning with Northcliffe fixture and culminating in two overseas trips in the autumn – first against the APG in the Wryter Cup in Normandy, and then in the European Journalists' Nations Cup in Portugal in November.

With the 120th anniversary of the PGS's first-ever meeting falling in October, there are plans afoot to mark the occasion with a gathering at Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese – watch this space.

And, finally, the



matchplay competition for the Sir Emsley Carr Trophy (below) will run throughout the year after qualification at Worplesdon, with Nick Jones hoping to defend his title.

One word of warning – after some dropouts last year, the rules for playing ties in the Emsley Carr will be strictly enforced. Matches must be played within the allotted time frame and anyone who drops out of a tie will concede the match and be ineligible for this year's Wryter Cup and next year's Emsley contest. Full rules are available on the PGS website.

There's no getting away from the fact that prices have gone up in the world of golf and society days are sadly no exception.

But the PGS days – including a subsidy for the Berkshire – offer great value for money and Colin Hancock has worked wonders to secure a calendar of competitive deals. It's truly a treat to play all – or just some – of these courses and it will be a pleasure to welcome you to any and every PGS event.



Captain Smudge takes the helm...

WELCOME to the 120th season of the PGS.

I'm honoured to be your captain this year and I am hugely looking forward to seeing so many of you at our meetings and matches.

We have a wonderful calendar lined up and I sometimes have to pinch myself when I look at the quality of the courses we are able to play, thanks largely to the magnificent work of secretary Tim Allan and fixtures maestro Colin Hancock. I'm also proud to be welcoming you to my home club, Mannings Heath, West Sussex, on August 20.

My predecessor, John Quinn, brilliantly led our team to Wryter Cup victory over the French at Gullane and I massively want us to claim back-to-back wins when we defend the cup in Granville in late September, so please find that groove in 2024.

We also have more international action in November when Jonny Bramley will lead a PGS team to the European Journalists' Nations Cup in Portugal.

While we love to beat our friends from across the Channel, I believe the society is much more than that. We all like to mingle with men and women from our profession who love golf and to tell the inane, sometimes serious,

often preposterous, but always entertaining stories that bring joy to a PGS outing.

In my more challenged moments the PGS has been there to raise my spirits and take me to a happy place (even if I'm swinging like a rusty barn door) and I have forged some firm friendships. On that note, I must thank Rob Hewer for asking me to be his vice-captain before he headed to Singapore and thank you also to Jamie Weir for agreeing to be my vice-captain. I would love to spread the PGS joy even further and encourage you to invite golfers from your office or contacts book. It would be great if we could attract more ladies to join us.

Apart from my early days as a reporter I've always been in print production, which may not have the glamour of the glitzy parts of our industry but I have still done some amazing things. I have been squiffy at Buckingham Palace, danced on stage with Chuck Berry and served chicken soup to Frank Sinatra at the Royal Albert Hall. I've also seen West Ham win a European trophy.

But being captain of the PGS is going to be one of the experiences I will be most proud of. Here's to another memorable year. Play well. **9**



Nursey's galacticos face NGS

FORMER Mirror staffer James Nursey will lead the PGS in the season-opening match against the Northcliffe Golfing Society on the Suffolk coast at Aldeburgh and Thorpeness.

The PGS is on a hot streak having scored a hat-trick of wins last year and will be aiming to close the overall tally in the fixture, with the PGS trailing 11-14 in victories. The NGS has a new backroom team following Garth Burden's retirement as society secretary in December. The match will be played over two days on March 4-5, with foursomes at Aldeburgh followed by singles at Thorpeness.

Nursey, who now freelances for the Mirror and Golf Monthly, said: 'We have a side packed with experience so I am sure it will be an enjoyable trip and hopefully we can win the trophy, too.'

'I am pleased with the deal we have got to stay and play at Thorpeness, but they must have known they would make a lot of money from the bar takings judging by our line-up, which includes quite a few PGS heavyweights, though I prefer to use the term "galacticos".'

■ MEMBERS will be saddened to learn of the deaths of Joe Wood's wife, Nita, and Liz Kahn's husband, David.

Nita died on January 2, just three days before Joe's 95th birthday. She will be fondly remembered by all who met her on PGS trips and events, including during Joe's captain's year in 1989. She was with Joe and daughter Caroline for the Captain's Reunion Day at Royal Blackheath last May.

Liz became the first woman to captain the PGS in 1994. She and David had been together for 64 years. The PGS committee and members extend our sincere condolences to Joe, Liz and their families.



SHORT DRIVE TO THE SEA: The rolling links of Granville

Wryter heads to Normandy

THE XXXIII edition of the Wryter Cup will be held at the seaside resort of Granville in Normandy from Sunday, September 29 to Tuesday, October 1.

After our victory at Gullane last year, Captain Tony Smith will be aiming to record the first PGS win over the French press on foreign soil since Le Touquet in 2016.

Granville lies on the west of the Cherbourg peninsula and is in easy reach of the ferry at Caen and about five hours' drive from the Channel Tunnel.

With sensational views over the

PGS to defend Cup on stylish links in Dior's home town

bay of Mont-Saint-Michel and the Chausey islands on the horizon, the links dates back to 1912, but it was put on the map in the 1920s when it was redesigned by Harry Colt (of Sunningdale and

St George's Hill fame) and Hugh Alison. Recent renovations on the par-72, 6,546-yard track have seen the planting of traditional fescue grasses and the restoration of bunkers.

The club also has a nine-hole course – the perfect place to practice the chipping and putting that will ensure Wryter Cup glory against the APG.

And with Granville being the birthplace of Christian Dior – the town boasts a museum to the couturier – there will be no better place for a stylish victory.

Bubbles' Obidos call to arms

THE successful PGS's team debut in the European Journalists' Nations Cup in Italy last year has spurred us on to accept the invitation to this year's event at the wonderful Royal Obidos Golf Club in Portugal.

Teams of 10 players from all over Europe will contest the event from November 11-15 at Obidos and the challenging Praia d'el Rey course.

Partners are very welcome to attend and there is a separate guest competition for non-team members – last year's event was memorable for its great food, wine and a wonderful atmosphere! The bar at Royal Obidos also makes a spectacularly good G&T,



LA DOLCE VITA: Last year's PGS team in Italy

as witnessed by newsletter editor Felix Duckworth on a trip with the Northcliffe Golfing Society a few years ago.

No doubt captain Jonny Bramley will look favourably on those who played in the last Nations Cup but, keen to field the most competitive PGS team

he can, he's hoping for further interest from the society's members.

More details about the event, including accommodation and costs, can be found on the PGS website. Please email Jonny at jonathanbramley63@gmail.com if you would like to be considered for selection.

FIRST MEETING: THURSDAY, MARCH 14

MEDAL ROUND

Lord Riddell Memorial Trophy (best net score)

Holder: Nick Jones with a net 68 (-1).

Best gross score 2023: Andrew Porter (78).

■ Arrival from 8am (clubhouse opens 7.30am). Playing in three-balls from 9am off 1st and 15th (blue tees).

■ The first 16 qualify for the Sir Emsley Carr Memorial Trophy knockout with the draw made after the



prizegiving. If you **do not** wish to play in the Emsley Carr, tell Tim in advance or at the start of the day.

COST

£110 per golfer, including coffee, bacon roll, 18 holes medal round and carvery lunch. Dress code for lunch is jacket & tie.

ENTRIES

Follow the sign-up link on www.pressgs.co.uk

PRIZES

First three in Div 1, and first three in Div 2. There's also a bottle of champagne for best gross score.

TELEPHONE

Club number is 01483 472277.

HOW TO GET THERE

By Car: From the M3, exit J3 and take first left, A322 to Lightwater and Guildford. Go four miles and when you pass West Hill GC on the left, just after the next S-bend is the sign for Heath House Road and Worplesdon GC.

WORPLESDON

The club is halfway down on the right. From the A3, exit at Guildford and follow slip road, turn left at traffic lights and then immediately right. Follow until you see signs for A322 to Bagshot. Drive for four miles and the small sign for Worplesdon GC is on the right.

By Train: Waterloo to Woking 25mins and a 15-mins taxi. Or Waterloo to Worplesdon 33mins. Two mins' drive from the club, but no taxi rank.

POSTCODE for satnavs

GU22 0RA

Press Golfing Society fixtures 2024



SOCIETY DAYS

THURSDAY, MARCH 14 WORPLESDON

worplesdongc.co.uk

Medal round for 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)

The Calamity Jane Putter holder

Hugh Whittow (Singles Stableford,
all players)

TUESDAY, MAY 14 WOKING

wokinggolfclub.co.uk

Mirror Trophy (Singles Stableford):

holder Nick Cherrie

Wilkinson Sword (Greensomes

Stableford): holders Tim Allan &

Colin Hancock

TUESDAY, JUNE 11 President's Day

& Guest Day

WALTON HEATH

waltonheath.com

President's prizes for singles,
foursomes and guests.

Reg Hinder Memorial Trophy

(Singles Stableford): holder

Neil Darbyshire

Foursomes holders: Jim Murray &

guest Hugo Tudor

TUESDAY, JULY 16 ASHRIDGE

ashridgegolfclub.ltd.uk

PGS Memorial Salver (Singles

Stableford): holder Nick Jones

Sir Harry Brittain Trophy

(Greensomes Stableford): holders

Jonathan Baker & Colin Hancock

TUESDAY, AUGUST 20 Captain's Day

MANNINGS HEATH

manningsheath.com

Billennium Bowl (Singles

Stableford): holder Mike Allen,

Harold Lewis Weight for Age

Trophy: holder Rick Evans

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 THE BERKSHIRE

theberkshire.co.uk

The Sun Challenge Trophy

(Singles Stableford): holder Jonny

Bramley

Sir George Sutton Salver

(Greensomes Stableford) - holders

Nev Appleton & Jonny Bramley

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29 WEST HILL

westhillgc.co.uk

Peggy White Vase (Singles

Stableford): holder Mike Waker

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18 WORPLESDON

worplesdongc.co.uk

Christmas Scramble and
charity auction

MATCHES

MARCH 4&5

Thorpeness and Aldeburgh
v Northcliffe GS

thorpeness.co.uk and

aldeburghgolfclub.co.uk

Match captain James Nursey

THORPENESS



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

SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 1

Granville, Normandy

XXXIII Wryter Cup

golfdegranville.com

PGS captain Tony Smith

NOVEMBER 11-15

R. Obidos & Praia d'El Rey

European Nations Cup

royalobidos.com and

praia-del-rey.com

Match captain Jonny Bramley