



# Press Golfing Society

MAY 2024 NEWSLETTER

www.pressgs.co.uk

## BIG BEN STRIKES ONE HAIL OF A WIN

### Todd conquers squalls to top field at stormy Northwood

**H**AILSTORMS, gales, torrential rain – everything that Mother Nature could throw at us she did at the PGS's second meeting of the season at Northwood.

But not even a huge branch crashing to the ground seemed to disturb Ben Todd, who manages crises for Simon Cowell and averted his own on an apocalyptic day of weather.

Ben was the only player to hit his handicap and take home the Division 2 prize and the News of the World Trophy with 36 points. Having departed before the prize-giving to make a theatre date, he later quipped: 'I actually can't believe it. Sometimes in golf things just click. Clearly I owe any success/luck to my mentor Kevin Price... as long as he and Kevin Mitchell haven't drunk all my wine!'

Rick Evans, with 31 points, and Captain Tony Smith, on 30, filled the other Division 2 podium places.

Newsletter editor Felix Duckworth won Division 1 with a highly commendable 34 points, but the difficulty of the day was highlighted by the runner-up scores – Ian McIlgorm was second on 28 points and Duncan Farmer third on 25. In fact, there were no fewer than six players scoring 19 – and that wasn't the worst of the day! Felix agreed: 'It was tough, very wet and windy, but I liked the course – it was tight, fair and in good condition. I played "nervously" – the driver largely stayed in the bag all day.'

In marginally improved conditions in the afternoon Andy



Pictures: JONNY BRAMLEY; IAN MCILGORM; FELIX DUCKWORTH

**SNOW PROBLEM:** Ben Todd braves the inclement weather as hail and wind engulf Northwood's fairways

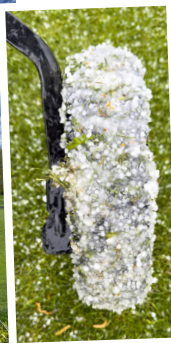
Glen and serial greensomes winner Colin Hancock took the Sir Leicester Harmsworth Trophy with 35 points ahead of secretary Tim Allan and Kevin Mitchell with 34 and Jono Baker and Roderick Easdale on 32. Colin thought that

he'd blown it by missing a 2ft putt on the last, but he hadn't reckoned on our secretary missing from six inches earlier on. We are sure his partner Kevin saw the funny side...

Northwood was a new addition to the PGS rota, intended to be a more

economic alternative to some of the other top courses we play. Despite the four seasons in one day, it played well and the general feeling about the venue was favourable, with the lunch also being well received. *Jonny Bramley*

## Fore seasons in one day... more pictures overleaf



**GOODBYE BLUE SKY:** After a bright start, both the singles and afternoon greensome rounds were hit by stinging rain and hail

■ LIKE greens across the country, plans to celebrate the society's 120th anniversary are firming up. Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese Tavern just off Fleet Street has been booked for a birthday lunch on Monday, October 21, and Tim and Nic Brook need to know numbers before handing over a deposit. We need a strong turnout of 40 or 50 to make it worthwhile, so if you'd like attend email Nic Brook at [nic.brook@hotmail.com](mailto:nic.brook@hotmail.com) as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, Tony Smith has booked the Brasserie Blanc on the South Bank for his Captain's Dinner on Friday, November 22. It's close to Waterloo Bridge and the Royal Festival Hall, so is easy to get to. And as part of chef Raymond Blanc's empire, it'll bring a little *je ne sais quoi* to proceedings – and will surely be the perfect place to celebrate bringing home the Wryter Cup from across the Channel.



# Third meeting: Woking Tuesday, May 14

THE wonderful Woking is next up for the society and Nick Cherrie has the chance to record a hat-trick of wins, having mastered the Surrey heathland for the past two years to win The Mirror Trophy. Singles will be from just after 9am, with greensomes in the afternoon to contest the Wilkinson Sword.

**SINGLES STABLEFORD**  
The Mirror Trophy  
Holder: Nick Cherrie

**GREENSOMES STABLEFORD**  
Wilkinson Sword  
Holders: Tim Allan & Colin Hancock

**COST**  
£178 per golfer or £183 with the ball sweep. Entry includes 36 holes of golf, bacon roll and coffee and tea on arrival, lunch and the prizes. Please pay in advance to Press Golfing Society; account number 40749648; sort code 20-41-41.

**ENTRIES**  
Follow the sign-up link at [pressgs.co.uk](http://pressgs.co.uk)

**PRIZES**  
First three in singles Division 1 and first three in Division 2. Best three pairs in greensomes.

**DRESS CODE**  
Jacket in the clubhouse after 10.30am

**TELEPHONE**  
You can leave a message at the club on 01483 760053.

**HOW TO GET THERE**  
By car: The club is on Pond Road, a mile or two west of Woking town centre. It's seven miles south of junction 3 on the M3, and about ten miles west of junction 10 and 11 on the M25. On arrival, the gates to the club car park will open automatically.

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

POSTCODE for satnavs  
**GU22 0JZ**



Pictures: PATRICK EAGAR, NIC BROOK

## It all Adds up for nifty Nick

NICK Jones continued his great run of form with victory in the Dazeley Trophy at The Addington on our Captains', Committee and Veterans' Day.

It's fair to say that none of the competitors tamed the old-school layout, which has undergone a dramatic transformation in recent years. Jones's winning score of 31 points in the competition for former captains reflects just how tough it played.

Jones said: "As everyone knows, I do all my best work at the 19th hole, so to win another trophy on the golf course is a massive surprise. It was great to play The Addington again, even if it is a bit of a nightmare to get to!"

Not so long ago, you could barely

see one hole from another at the venue near Croydon, but the clearance of more than 11,000 trees has made a massive difference to a club which has a great connection with the PGS.

Not only can you now see across the course, but you get several uninterrupted views across London, which only serve to make the playing experience even more enjoyable.

In the Calamity Jane Putter, which is open to those who aren't former captains, Neil Bennett took the honours with 28 points. *Tim Allan*

**IN BLOOM: The match-day squad – with Nic Brook and Jim Murray off camera – at The Addington. Inset, winner Nick Jones with Tony Smith and secretary Tim Allan**



## Sir Emsley Carr knockout

1st round (completed)	Quarter-finals (play by June 23)	Semi-finals (play by Aug 18)	Final (play by Sep 30)
Nic Brook	Nic Brook	-----	
Kevin Price	4&3		
Tim Allan	Tim Allan		
Jono Baker	5&4		
Peter Dazeley	Peter Dazeley		
Nev Appleton	19th		
Evan Samuel	Hugo Chambre		
Hugo Chambre	3&2		
Nick Cherrie	Nick Cherrie	-----	
Steve Lewis	1 up		
Ian Woods	Ian Woods		
Philip Johnston	2&1		
Neale Adams	Neale Adams		
Mike Waker	4&2		
Ross Slater	Kevin Mitchell		
Kevin Mitchell	2&1		

NEW boy Hugo Chambre booked his place in the second round of the Emsley after a hard-fought win against fellow Hampton Court member Evan Samuel.

Hugo will face President Peter Dazeley, who overcame last year's beaten finalist Nev Appleton on the

19th at Coombe Hill. Also through to the quarter-finals are secretary Tim Allan, who will now play Nic Brook. Ian Woods saw off former champion Steve Lewis to set up a tie against double Woking winner Nick Cherrie. Neale Adams beat the Sun's Mike Waker to play

Kevin Mitchell, who won a tight tie against Ross Slater.

Just a reminder – if you pull out, you'll be ineligible for this year's Wryter Cup at Granville and next year's Emsley Carr, so please arrange your ties as soon as possible. Play well!

# From Northwood to North Pole!

Pictures: IAN MCILGORM, JONNY BRAMLEY, NEV APPLETON



**EVER GREENSOMES:** Pairs winners Colin Hancock and Andy Glen with Captain Smith. Left, Nick Toksvig and Tony take shelter. Right, a storm-damaged tree and Ross Slater's icy putt



**BRIGHT WITH OCCASIONAL SHOWERS:** With spells of bright blue sky, you might have thought spring had sprung in mid-April in north London – until hail turned the greens white



## 'ANDICAPS... THE TALE OF TIM'S MISSED TIDDLER



# The best golf podcast par none...

by Ian Woods

NOT another bloody golf podcast!

Yes I know, there is no global shortage of people talking about golf on podcasts or YouTube videos. Some are great – and I listen to them every week. I particularly like the Chipping Forecast.

You can find more than a hundred others; loud Americans debating PGA versus LIV; many offering tips to improve your game; and some featuring thoughtful interviews with top professionals. But the podcast I'm doing with fellow PGS member Neil White is different because each one focuses on one of the top golf courses in the country, or even the world.

We've all played some fantastic courses, many through the PGS. It's always special to turn up at a famous course where you've watched the pros win tournaments, or which come highly recommended.

I've known Neil for 40 years and he's always been



**ON A MISSION:** Ian Woods and Neil White have launched their Golf Pilgrim podcast

a bit obsessive. For years we travelled the country watching Coventry City, but the journey always involved a particular route via pubs which were in CAMRA's Good Beer Guide. Neil had to tick off each bitter on offer – which often meant ordering multiple halves – and then mark them out of ten.

Then four years ago he announced he wanted to play the Top 100 Golf Courses. Not just in England, or the UK and Ireland, but the world. It seemed a tad over-ambitious but he's now up to 91 in England and has also ticked off a few

on the global list including Oakland Hills and St George's GCC in Toronto. He's off to Royal Melbourne later this year. All the reviews are on his website, [thegolfpilgrim.com](http://thegolfpilgrim.com), and he's now an official course rater for National Club Golfer.

A few months ago we decided to chat about those reviews in a podcast to give people a flavour of what it's like to play the courses. The podcasts are aimed at golfers who may be thinking of playing the courses already – and to give people some ideas where they could go for a game. It's not just about

the golf architecture and the trueness of the greens; it's also about how welcoming the club is, the quality of the food and whether it's value for money.

We've now published the first dozen or so and will be regularly adding to the list. We've already featured Carnoustie, Sunningdale Old, Midlands courses such as Beau Desert and Hollinwell, a couple of French tracks, and Pedrena in Spain where Seve Ballesteros learned to play. We did one at Worplesdon when we had our PGS medal round in March, and we will be doing ones for Woking, Walton Heath and the others. This month we will add Gleneagles (Kings and Queens), Woburn (Duchess, Huntercombe, and Rosapenna (St Patrick's Links).

It's a labour of love, we don't expect to get thousands of listeners, and we certainly won't make any money, but do have a listen and give us feedback. And if you like them, please share with your golf buddies. You can find The Golf Pilgrim on Apple Podcasts, Spotify and Amazon Music among others.



# 2024 results, fixtures & Wryter Cup standings

■ THE race to qualify for the Wryter Cup in Granville in Normandy is hotting up. Jonny Bramley leads the way, showing just how beneficial it is to leave work and practise your golf swing. Ian Woods, Nev Appleton and Mike Waker look certain to head to France, but there's stiff competition for the next qualifying places, even with Tony Smith and Tim Allan making the team automatically as captain and secretary. Northwood winner Ben Todd should jump towards the top of the league table with another good finish and there are several others who are on the cusp of being in contention. The list is compiled by adding together each golfer's best three finishing places in the qualifying events. The first qualifying event is the September meeting of the previous year; the last is Captain's Day. This makes eight events in total.

## Places after four qualifiers

Jonny Bramley	1	2	7	10
Ian Woods	3	3	4	10
Nev Appleton	2	9	1	12
Mike Waker	10	1	4	15
Nick Jones	7	5	11	23
Jonathan Baker	5	10	15	30
Tim Allan (Q)	12	12	9	33
Andy Glen	14	6	14	34
Felix Duckworth	11	24	2	37
Tony Smith (Q)	24	8	5	37
Colin Hancock	15	7	18	40
Kevin Price	11	14	15	40
Evan Samuel	16	18	10	44
Neil White	4	29	12	45
Rick Evans	22	26	3	51
Mike Allen	32	15	11	58
<b>Six best-placed with two qualifiers</b>				
Ben Todd	13	1	-	14
Hugh Whitton	4	21	-	25
Cornelius Bohane	16	10	-	26
Ross Slater	21	6	-	27
Steve Lewis	20	8	-	28
Hugo Chambré	14	17	-	31

## 'ANDICAPS... FOUR OF A KIND IN A CAPTAIN'S PARADISE



REUNION: A run of four consecutive captains attended the Addington – Nic Brook (1996), Patrick Eagar (1997), Chris Stevens (1998) and Chester Stern (1999) – though there might have been some photoshopping in this snap

## SOCIETY DAYS

**THURSDAY, MARCH 14**  
**WORPLESDON**

**Winner of Lord Riddell Trophy:**  
James Nursey (net 71, gross 75).  
Div 1: Nev Appleton (net 72), Ross Slater (73). Div 2: Ian Woods (72), Cornelius Bohane, Philip Johnston (74).

**MONDAY, APRIL 15**  
**NORTHWOOD**

northwoodgolf.co.uk  
**Winner News of the World Trophy:**  
Ben Todd (36pts, also 1st in Div 2).  
Div 1: Felix Duckworth (34), Ian McIlgorm (28), Duncan Farmer (25). Div 2: Rick Evans (31), Tony Smith (30).  
**Winners of Sir Leicester Harmsworth Memorial Trophy:**  
Andy Glen & Colin Hancock (35).  
Runners-up: Tim Allan & Kevin Mitchell (34), Jono Baker & Roderick Easdale (32).

**TUESDAY, APRIL 30**  
**THE ADDINGTON**

addingtongolf.com  
Captains' reunion, committee and seniors  
**Winner Dazeley Past Captains' Trophy:** Nick Jones (31pts)

**Winner Calamity Jane Putter:**  
Neil Bennett (28)

**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**

worpledongc.co.uk  
**Christmas Scramble and auction**

## MATCHES

**MARCH 4&5**  
**Thorpeness and Aldeburgh v Northcliffe GS**  
Result: 8-8 tie, PGS retain cup



RICHMOND

**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'EI Rey**  
**European Nations Cup**  
royalobidos.com and praia-del-rey.com  
Match captain Jonny Bramley