



# Press Golfing Society

SEPTEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

www.pressgs.co.uk



**CAPTAIN'S CORKERS**  
Captain's Day champs Jeremy Thompson, Nev Appleton, John Quinn and Felix Duckworth celebrate with host Colin Hancock and his wife Lisa.

Picture: PAOLO MINOLI

## Special delivery from Mail-man Duckworth

FELIX DUCKWORTH posted a superb 33 points in tough conditions at Royal Ashdown Forest to win Captain's Day for a second successive year.

Duckworth's double, on two, very different, demanding layouts, proved the old adage about class and form and forced the man from the Mail into next month's Wryter Cup team after a testing year on and off the course.

As players reached the traditional captain's halfway refreshments it was clear that Royal Ashdown Forest was providing as stern a test as any this summer. Heat, humidity and a stiff breeze conspired with sunburnt fairways and fast greens to accentuate the slightest mistake and many tucked into their pork pie and bucks fizz believing their chance had gone.

What they couldn't know was that everyone was having to battle just as hard as them... and a steely mind was every bit as valuable as a silky swing.

In the end it was Duckworth who prevailed, three over handicap and only one shot ahead of RAF member Rob Hewer and John Quinn.

"It was a superb day organised by Colin and Lisa", reflected a beaming Duckworth.

"It was just a relief to get out on a golf course and knock a ball about. Sometimes playing

### NOTICE OF THE AGM

**OUR annual meeting takes place straight after The Berkshire prize-giving. It's open to all members and if there's anything you think should be on the agenda please contact secretary Tim Allan.**

without expectations is the best thing. RAF is a glorious course, full of character - and hills! I'm sure I only played half as well as I did because I was lucky enough to have Rob Hewer as a guide. Winning felt great - but getting a pick for the Wryter Cup was the icing on the cake!"

Hewer took second in Division One, with the impressively-consistent Nev Appleton just two shots behind in third.

John Quinn took the honours in Division Two, with Jeff Randall - former business maestro of Sky, The BBC, Sunday Times and Telegraph - two shots back in second. Former Express Editor Hugh Whittow claimed third on the same score. Andy Glen won longest drive, with another RAF member, Steve Killick, nearest the pin.

After a fine lunch, two-man scramble teams headed out for eleven holes in the afternoon

heat, and it was former Sky and ITN correspondent Jeremy Thompson, alongside that man Appleton again, who claimed first prize. Mark Lomas and Ollie McCormack were a shot back in second with Andy Glen and Jim Murray third.

Best (inadvertent) line of the day went to Hugh Whittow, playing alongside PGS secretary Tim Allan who was not enjoying the trials of Royal Ashdown Forest. "Never mind", comforted Hugh, "you can take it off the rota next year." *Note for new readers:* next year's captain, Rob Hewer, joined Royal Ashdown Forest two years ago.

### ROYAL ASHDOWN FOREST RESULTS

**Division One** 1st Felix Duckworth, 33pts, wins The Billennium Bowl, 2nd Rob Hewer, 32, 3rd Nev Appleton, 30. **Div Two** 1st John Quinn, 32pts, 2nd Jeff Randall, 30, on countback, 3rd Hugh Whittow, 30. **Longest drive** Andy Glen, **Nearest the pin** Steve Killick.

**AFTERNOON SCRAMBLE** 1st Jeremy Thompson & Nev Appleton, net 39, 2nd Mark Lomas & Ollie McCormack, 40, 3rd Andy Glen & Jim Murray, 43.

## SIR EMSLEY CARR MEMORIAL TROPHY

Andrew Porter v Nic Brook	Andrew Porter 7&6 v Jeremy Thompson w/o	Andrew Porter 2up	Andrew Porter 7/5
Pat Mooney v Jeremy Thompson	Colin Hancock 4&3 v Ross Slater 3&1	Colin Hancock 4&2	
Lee Smith v Nev Appleton	Lee Smith w/o v Ian McIlgorm 2&1	Ian McIlgorm 2&1	Andrew Porter 3/2
Colin Hancock v Rob Hewer	Nick Cherrie 2&1 v Peter Solomons 4&3	Peter Solomons 2&1	
Lee Smith v Nev Appleton	Lee Smith w/o v Ian McIlgorm 2&1	Ian McIlgorm 2&1	Ian McIlgorm
Mike Waker v Ross Slater	Lee Smith w/o v Ian McIlgorm 2&1	Ian McIlgorm 2&1	
Lee Smith v Nev Appleton	Lee Smith w/o v Ian McIlgorm 2&1	Ian McIlgorm 2&1	Ian McIlgorm
Lee Smith v Nev Appleton	Lee Smith w/o v Ian McIlgorm 2&1	Ian McIlgorm 2&1	



DEFENDING champion Andrew Porter has become the first player in 42 years to retain the Sir Emsley Carr trophy.

Brunswick's Porter completed a superb 3&2 victory over Ian McIlgorm in the 36 hole final at Woburn on Monday.

Porter began strongly on the Marquess course, with two birdies helping him reach the turn level par and three up. But big Mac, the Mail on Sunday's top photographer, fought back well to reduce the deficit to just one by lunch.

Both men were below handicap in what was already proving a high-quality final.

Porter resumed strongly on the Duchess course and some wonderful iron play took him five clear at the turn. McIlgorm pulled a couple back, but Porter, the Telegraph's former political editor, sealed his 3&2 victory without ever having been behind.

"Andrew was a deserved winner", said a magnanimous Mac. "Our thanks to Woburn: a great setting for a memorable match".

Porter now travels to France where he'll be a key player as the PGS seek to retain the Wryter Cup.

## JOHN GORDON PUTTER

Places after 5 qualifiers.	PGS HCPS			
Nic Brook	4	1	7	12
Dylan Dronfield	2	4	8	14
Nevil Appleton	4	10	5	19
Evan Samuel	9	4	7	20
Mark Lomas	3	16	2	21
Hugh Whittow	5	10	6	21
Rob Hewer	9	11	2	22
Nick Cherrie	17	1	8	26
Ian Woods	14	5	8	27
Phillip Clothier	8	3	18	29
Andy Glen	6	14	11	31
Jonathan Bramley	7	4	23	34
Christian Fraser	1	20	13	34
Nick Jones	20	8	6	34
Andrew Porter	2	18	16	36
Mike Waker	6	22	10	38
Dean Scoggins	2	3	-	5
Keith Ging	3	12	-	15
Phillippa Kennedy	7	4	-	16
Jeff Randall	21	4	-	25
Lee Smith	14	11	-	25
Peter Solomons	16	9	-	25

PGS Vice-President Nic Brook clings on to a slender lead in our golfer of the year stakes.

With just two qualifying meetings left (The Berkshire and Swinley Forest), last year's captain Dylan Dronfield leads a strong pursuit.

### PGS TEAM

Colin Hancock  
Tim Allan  
Nev Appleton  
Jonny Bramley  
Nic Brook  
Pip Clothier  
Dylan Dronfield  
Felix Duckworth  
Rob Hewer  
Khalid Javed  
Mark Lomas  
Andrew Porter  
John Quinn  
Evan Samuel  
Dean Scoggins  
Hugh Whittow  
RESERVES  
Andy Glen and  
Christian Fraser

### APG TEAM

Damien Houllès  
Guillaume Baraise  
Arnold Cara  
Pierre  
Chaudesaygues  
Denis Colovic  
Jean-François  
Dessaint  
Nicolas Doucet  
Didier Largillier  
François Lanaud  
Christophe Lassaut  
Rémi Meyer  
Guillaume Michel  
Romain Muraille  
Gilles Payet  
François Scimeca  
Tristan Vey

# We're Wryte on for Bordeaux



FELIX DUCKWORTH'S may have been the big move into Wryter Cup consideration but there was, as ever, plenty more late drama at Captain's Day. Nev Appleton secured the honour of being first qualifier, edging out Jonny Bramley with another excellent round.

Among those on the fringes before play started, Evan Samuel, Khalid Javed, John

Quinn and Hugh Whittow all claimed their places by right, with strong performances from Pip Clothier and next year's captain, Rob Hewer, earning wildcards.

The Beeb's Andy Glen and Christian Fraser narrowly missed out and were named as first and second reserves.

The Association de la Presse et du Golf, our French opponents, have elected

Damien Houllès, their President, to captain the team in Bordeaux. Damien will be leading an experienced side containing just one rookie, Roman Muraille, and plenty of seasoned Wryter Cup players

This will be our 31st match against the APG, and we'll be defending the trophy at Bordeaux's Golf du Médoc. Good luck lads!



## Wedding Bubbles!

FORMER PGS captain, Wryter Cup veteran and BBC Sport supremo Jonny 'Bubbles' Bramley finally met his match this month, when he married his long-time girlfriend (very long-time girlfriend, according to his new father-in-law), Suzanne (Suzi) Allen.

Bubbles very generously invited a selection of PGS malt-lovers (surely 'luminaries'? - Ed) along to the Presbyterian ceremony in a beautiful chapel on the shores of Strangford Loch. PGS star Nev Appleton MC'd the reception, with secretary Tim Allan and wife Kerry, VP Nic Brook and Lynne, former PGS captains Ian Woods and Ian McIlgorm with Vicky and Karen and PGS captain Colin Hancock and Lisa all there to celebrate with the happy couple.

Jonny hosted golf at stunning Ardglass the day before the wedding. To no-one's surprise, Bubbles himself and Nev Appleton took the PGS honours, with the golfing talent of the Bramley family, brother Chris, winning the overall day.

"Whilst it was typically wet Northern Irish weather for the day itself at least it was dry for the golf!", quipped our groom. "It was a wonderful day though despite the rain and it was great to see the PGS contingent boogying away on the dance floor until the very end!"

Jonny and Suzi then headed off for a brief honeymoon on the Amalfi coast, the Old Romantic Bubbles needing to get back for the PGS match against the London Solicitors at Royal St. George's.

Newsletter edited by  
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Next up  
**THE  
BERKSHIRE**  
Tuesday, 20th  
September

Picture: IAN MCGORM

# Beautiful Berkshire beckons

THE PGS returns to one of its spiritual homes next week, for the traditional September meeting at The Berkshire.

Founded in 1928, the club's Red and Blue courses were designed by Herbert Fowler, best known until then for his work at Walton Heath twenty-five years earlier. Fowler was fresh from redesigning the wonderful Cruden Bay\*, north of Aberdeen, and this time had nearly 400 acres of beautiful Crown Estate land with which to work.

Fowler became known for his sympathetic approach to landscapes, and he worked with the existing topography and vegetation at The Berkshire, weaving the holes through

the trees, streams and heather to create two outstandingly beautiful courses.

The great golf writer Bernard Darwin always has an apposite quote, and comparing Walton Heath to The Berkshire he wrote:

"[Fowler] has created his lasting monument in the Old Course at Walton Heath, which is still to my thinking unsurpassed as a real golfing battlefield for real golfers. Even so, I think Mr Fowler is a better golfing artist now than when he first exploited his genius on the big stretch of Walton heather. His art has mellowed with experience and has gained something in variety, in subtleness and in picturesque-

ness. Mr Fowler has made a very fine job of it and has added two courses to the select number of unquestionably first class inland courses."

We'll be playing singles on the Blue course in the morning, then, after one of the best lunches on the PGS calendar, greensomes on the Red, with its wonderful routing of six par threes, six par fours and six par fives. Sign up via the link on our [pressgs.co.uk](https://pressgs.co.uk)

\*Cruden Bay have recently come across some great footage of a 1914 semi-final there between Harry Vardon and Ted Ray (both of Jersey, both men Open and US Open champions) <https://movingimage.nls.uk/film/3007> (golf starts about 2.30 in).

## SEVENTH MEETING: TUESDAY, 20th SEPTEMBER

## THE BERKSHIRE

### COMPETITION

**MORNING:** From 8am. Singles Stableford in threeballs on The Blue course. Jonny Bramley defends The Sun Challenge Trophy.

**AFTERNOON:** Greensomes on The Red Course from 1.30pm. Khalid Javed & Jon Jones were the 2021 winners of The Sir George Sutton Salver.

### ENTRIES

Via the link on the PGS website ([pressgs.co.uk](https://pressgs.co.uk)) or in extremis email Tim Allan at [pgssecretary@gmail.com](mailto:pgssecretary@gmail.com). The AGM follows prize-giving.

### COST

£150 per golfer (subsidised). Pay online acc 40749648, sort code 204141.

### DRESS CODE

Jacket and tie when in the dining room, please.

### PRIZES

First three in Divisions 1&2, first three pairs in the afternoon.

### TELEPHONE

Messages can be left at reception on 01344 621495.

### HOW TO GET THERE

#### By Car

**APPROACHING FROM M4 (WEST)** Leave at exit 10 on to A329(M) to Bracknell. Take A322 (Bagshot); look for sharp left-hand turn onto A332 (Ascot). The Club is about half a mile on the left.

**APPROACHING FROM M4 (EAST)** Leave at exit 6 on to A332 (Windsor - Ascot). After leaving Ascot race course continue over the roundabout, The Club is about 2 miles on the right.

**APPROACHING FROM M3** Leave at exit 3 on to A322 (Bagshot - Bracknell);

look for the right-hand lane - A332 (Ascot). The Club is about half a mile on the left.

**APPROACHING FROM A30** Turn left at Cricketers Arms (Bagshot) onto A322, look for the right-hand lane - A332 (Ascot). The Club is about half a mile on the left.

#### By Train

Five minutes in a taxi from Ascot station.

**POSTCODE for satnavs**

**SL5 8AY**