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It was famously designed by James Braid (look him up on the internet). But in 2000 the clubhouse was extensively redeveloped and refurbished And to celebrate it was then officially reopened by Sir Terry Wogan, who was an honorary member.

On the course, many of the humps and hollows that typified the James Braid design, have recently been restored (still on going) allowing the natural grasses and heather to re-grow.

We get to see it for ourselves on Thursday September 26.

We then return to the ever improving and hospitable **Letchworth**. That's on Monday November 4.

And we round off our season at **Knebworth** once more, for our ever popular Xmas Scramble.

That's on Monday December 2, when thoughts must always be to remember "winter warmers," big breakfasts and especially the hip flasks.

CAP'N STEVE PRESENTS...
Runners-up previous year Clive Ackerman and David Grainge won the Pairs title this time. John Waters (below) lifted the Single trophy, while Stan Kelley (below right) amazed himself by winning the Player of Year.



CLOSEST EVER SCRAMBLE

SADLY, flu forced me to miss it, but the scores were hot and the tightest ever Xmas Scramble.

It was countbacks all the way with only four points separating our nine teams in at Knebworth.

Taking top spot, on count-back...

1st Clive Ackerman, Steve Langridge and Steve Foster.

2nd gross 71: John Silverosa, David Grainge, Steve Nisbett and John Waters.

3rd (on c'back) gross 72: Tim Taylor, Mark Davis, Bob Hughes

3rd gross 72: Peter Waters, Mike Goddard, Damien Turley, Mike Dawson

5th (on c'back) gross 73: Gwyn Ellis, Colin Andrews, Ted Platten, Charles Wallis

6th (on c'back) gross 73: Roger Butcher, John Hare, Graham Beetles, Mick Millen

7th (on c'back) gross 73: Chris Murray, Robert Pegg, Paul Morris, Gordon Morris

8th (on c'back) gross 74: Harry Bracher, Ken Gordon, Ray Whitehead, Bhupi Patel

9th (on c'back) gross 74: Dave O'Brien, Dave Jolly, Mike Barry, Robert Clayton.

Stan

THE GOG MAGOG

**MONDAY
MAR 4**

PRO:

01223 246058

OFFICE:

01223 247626

ENTRIES limited to 36 players, so please book early. Email via BGS website or ring Stan Kelley on 01992 586280 Mobile 07702 36 36 11.

Cancellation rule: Minimum £20 penalty (full cost at some courses) for cancelling within three days of the event.

COMPETITIONS: 18 holes Singles Stableford, playing for the **Spring Plate** (holder: Robert Clayton).

MEET from 9.15am for tea/coffee. TEE-OFF from 10am, from 1st tee Old Course.

COST: £60. Price inclusive of prize table and Eclectic, raffle, ball sweep and gratuity for the waitress service. Two-course lunch follows the

SHELFORD BOTTOM, CAMBRIDGE CB22 3AB



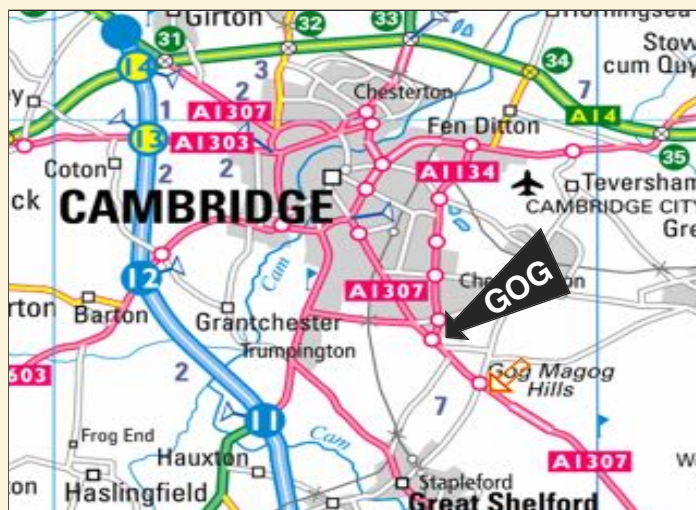
18 holes Spring Plate comp.

DRESS: Shorts if you dare (but blue kneecaps will attract a fine) Jackets 'n' BGS ties are a must for dinner as usual.

BUGGIES... available from the pro shop but they only have six, so book early – cost £24. Electric trolleys £10

HOW TO GET THERE: The Gog Magog Golf Club is situated on the A1307 some four miles south of the centre of Cambridge and is easily accessed via the M11/A11.

The entrance is really close to the roundabout, so be sure to **WATCH OUT** you don't miss it.



AS I write, the snow has just about melted and course should be opening (not that I've ventured further than nine holes since middle of November).

But the long range forecast is looking pretty good, after next week that is, which looks to be rather chilly and wet.

A bit of rain will not put a damper on our first venue, for that's **Gog Magog**. This will be our sixth time on the trot that Gog's hosted our Captain's Drive-in and in all that time it's never been closed for rain - no wonder it's our top choice.

We've booked Gog's Old Course for Monday March 4. Entry details Back Page.

TOP 100

Our next venue is such a hot favourite that we've been treading it's delightful fairways for almost 20 years now. That must also be why **Ashridge** is voted among the "Top One-hundred" courses.

We play there on Tuesday April 2, when we have two start tees.

Welcome to 2019 and fairways that promise to excite

No need to take towels as they are provided. But that's not all, for it's then upstairs to tackle Ashridge's legendary three-course luncheon.

Treasurer Robert Clayton fixed up a great deal to play his club, so that means we'll be off to **Mill Green** on Friday May 24.

This was designed by Peter Alliss and Clive Clark and opened in January 1994 - so that means Mill Green are celebrating it's 25th birthday.

The course starts gently but challenging woods on the back nine can ruin your score.

Our next venue is **Canons Brook** which was designed by the legendary Sir Henry Cotton and rated the best course in the area.

The club manageress has kindly agreed to peg their price to the same as last year which was already the cheap-

est summer venue we play.

We go there Wednesday June 19.

Next is the splendid turf of **Old Fold Manor**. It was designed by the famous Harry Colt, who also built Swinley Forest, Sunningdale, and Wentworth - no wonder the greens are so slick.

GUARANTEE

With its chairman being our own Chris Murray, we are guarantee a good deal for when we play there Monday July 16.

It's then off to a venue that many of you have been requesting, but which has proved too expensive - **Essendon Country Club**.

This is not only the



HE'S an internet techno whizkid dealing with data for companies like Google, Amazon and Netflix.

He is our 2019 captain
STEVE NISBETT



Steve started out in business 50 years ago at the age of 16, but he only took up golf 20 years back.

His first love was football and then squash at which he reached a high standard.

"I played football until I was 45 and also got good with squash, playing for Harlow sports centre. But I had to stop at 53 after both of my achilles tendons ruptured within five years of each other."

12 HANDICAP

Steve switched his attention to golf after retiring from football.

"I've been a member of several courses including Much Hadham, North Weald, Manor of Groves and Toot Hill. I got down to 12 handicap at one point but work got in the way so I had to stop playing regularly.

"I have two sons, Richard who has just started playing with Bengeo, and David who lives in LA with his wife.

PRO LESSONS

"I first introduced them to golf when they were six and seven. They had regular lessons with a pro at Canons Brook which is definitely a good way to learn."

After leaving school Steve Started out as an electrician. "I formed my own com-



pany back in the 70s.

"It was in the early 2000s that I got involved in the then new internet technology - not software - but where it all the information comes from when you go onto Google, Yahoo etc and later where all the smart phone data is stored, namely at Data Centres."

ACCESS BANK

Steve now works in a small team of technical engineers, making sure you can access your bank details on your phone, watch YouTube, stream films etc.

"All of that information you request goes through a data centre before you see it on your Smart Phone, Ipad, TV etc.," explains Steve

"I currently contract as an electrical consultant for one of the biggest Data Centre companies in the world. Some of our customers are Google, Netflix, Amazon."

So now we know who to blame when it all goes wrong!!!



CHEQUE IT OUT... It's taken a long while, but here we have 2018 captain Clive Ackerman presenting the BGS charity cheque to his chosen charity St Clare Hospice, Hastingwood, Harlow.

Receiving the £2036.51 cheque is Danni who delighted: "This is our biggest ever non-corporate donation," she told Clive.

St Clare's cares for hundreds of people across East Herts and the West Essex border. They provide free, compassionate care and support to adults with life-limiting illnesses.

4 STAR GOLF DEAL

We've a great weekend deal looming large in May.

Two days golf at the plush 4-star Magnolia Park Hotel, near Aylesbury, on Sunday-Monday May 12-13.

If you haven't already booked and paid the £35 deposit then get cracking.

Guests allowed.

top choice of captain Steve Nisbett, but also tops with the PGS Eastern Region. For three years on the trot the Pros staged their Singles Championship on their stunning New Course.

Not surprisingly therefore, Steve has selected Essendon for his Captain's Day.

We'll be playing the New Course on Tuesday August 27 - and, yes, we've of course negotiated a good deal.

Another track we've not played for many a year is **Mid Herts**.

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