



Captain:  
DAVID GRAINGE

First meeting:

**Brocket  
Hall**

Friday  
March 11

Entries to BGS  
Secretary  
Stan Kelley

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Illustration "Doctored" by Stan

LET'S get ready to prescribe a great welcome for our 2011 Captain David Grainge, for he'll be "driving in" at Brocket Hall.

David 'retired' three years back when he got an "offer I couldn't refuse" for his two Pharmacy (chemists) shops. But after six months he got bored, so went back to filling out prescriptions three days a week as a freelance.

"I must say I was saddened to hear about the death of Alan Lewis," (see overleaf) said David. "Alan sold five pharmacies so we had a lot in common, not to mention that we kept getting drawn against one another in the BGS knockouts."

Torn arm muscles prevented David from

playing golf after he retired, but he's now very handy at Gt Hadham Golf Club off his handicap of 12. But he'll be cut after scoring 38 points at Gog Magog in December.

It's Friday March 11 that David drives-in at **Brocket Hall**.

We are due to play the 'Top 100' Palmerston course—and we're getting a £10 discount thanks to member Dick Adams.

Next comes another top drawer course, **Porters Park**. That's Thursday March 31, which just

gets us into the winter rate – around half the normal £100.

**Saffron Walden**, is our next stop, which is fast becoming an old favourite. But then comes the first of three new (to us) venues **Whipsnade** on Tuesday June 7. Yes, it is next to the wild life park so don't go asking for your ball back from those gorillas!

We then have another new golf course, **Toot Hill**. This is one of the best layouts in Essex and boasts breathtaking views, so it should come as no surprise that David Grainge has selected this for his **Captain's Day** on Thursday July 7.

We then come to one of Bedfordshire's best, **John O'Gaunt** on Wednesday August 3.

Picturesque **Aspley Guise & Woburn Sands** is our next stop on Friday September 2.

And that's followed by

our first-ever Open Day at **Panshanger**, Welwyn Garden City. The date has still to be agreed, but the course manager is cutting the green fee to rock bottom in anticipation of a big turnout. That will not only make it by far our cheapest day of the year, but should lead to more members for the BGS.

It's back to the Old Course for our return to ever-ready **Gog Magog** on Friday November 4.

But our **Xmas Scramble** venue and date has

still to be decided. We'll discuss options during the next couple of months.

### HEART ATTACK

CLIVE Ackerman suffered a heart attack on Feb 1st while working out at his gym.

"I felt a bit of pain but thought nothing of it, so carried on working out," says Clive, "but it got worse while driving home, so my wife took me to hospital."

The result is that Clive had two stents inserted into arteries. "I'm feeling fine now and I will be allowed to drive again after four weeks – so I hope to be able to play at Brocket."

### BIONIC BRIAN

BRIAN West now has two bionic hips. He was back home on Friday February 18 – and reckons to be

*Continued overleaf*

**WHO WON A FREE DAY?**  
Who's grinning all the way to Brocket?  
– See P2

**WELCOME**  
...to Steve Hickey from Hatfield. Three times a guest of Craig Caswell and won now. So Steve hopes to improve by joining



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playing again by April.

"I'm already walking a great deal and doing all the exercises. The specialist says I can start playing golf again in April so I should be OK for the May meeting."

I reckon that calls for a celebration – like two shots cut!

### AGM NOTES

THE AGM was held immediately prior to the Xmas dinner. Vice-captain David Grainge was absent (unable to change to the new date due to snow) but his message of welcome to his new vice-captain was greeted unanimously.

Captain: Brian West, who had proudly attended every fixture in 2010, was "really pleased" to announce that his charity fund had been boosted to £1,500 following an unnamed donation, plus £160 donated by members during the Christmas dinner.

Secretary: Stan



**BROCKET BONANAZA...**  
*Mike Tucker has the winning ticket that shouts 'Free Day at Brocket!'*

Kelley said that attendances were falling a little, partly due to the recession and partly due to members getting older and suffering ill health. However, he hoped that the brand new Open Day in September would result in several new members.

Proposals: The Comm-

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## ALAN LEWIS



ALAN Lewis, who joined our Society together with Charles Wallis in 2002, has sadly died, aged 79.

In his early years Alan was a top rally driver, sponsored by the Royal Airforce. And during 20 years RAF service in differing countries, he became a chief technician.

In civvy street, Alan tried several jobs, including working at a chemist shop – and did so well that he ended up owning five of them.

He sold them on retirement, then spent a lot of time with his wife, Jean, and family. He then tried his hand at golf, getting a couple of lessons at Panshanger, before joining Whitehill.

Soon after he

switched to the brand new Mill Green Golf Club, where in 1995 he not only helped start a seniors section (The Millers) he became its first captain.

Alan and Charles Wallis both joined the BGS in 2002 after coming as guests at our 2001 Xmas Scramble. And they both attended practically every BGS day for the next four years, when illness curtailed Alan's activities.

He was really proud to have his

gross 1 h/cap grandson, Mark Rogers lead his Xmas Scramble team for three years, the last time being 2009 at Chesfield Downs.

Alan desperately wanted to play in December 2010, but despite buggies being allowed he was too ill. However, I represented BGS at the funeral – and I am delighted to report that young Mark now plans to join us.

Many more Mill Green members have happily followed in Alan and Charles' footsteps by joining the BGS.

And quite a lot of their Club members were amongst 100 mourners at the funeral on February 3rd – all paying their last respects by wearing the Millers tie.

Stan

# BROCKET HALL



**TOP 100 COURSE...** Brocket boasts two courses built on the estate owned by two former Prime Ministers – Lords Palmerston and Marlborough. We play the newer Palmerston, designed by the renowned Donald Steel, and is now rated in the "Top 100 Course Guide."



**ENTRIES** seven days in advance of the event please. Email via the website or ring Stan Kelley on 01992 586280 or Mobile 07702 36 36 11.

**Cancellation rule:** Minimum £20 penalty (full cost at some courses) for cancelling less than 3 days of event.

**COMPETITIONS:** 18 holes Singles Stableford playing for the **SPRING PLATE** (holder: Phil Houston).

**MEET** from 10.45am for coffee/tea and bacon. **TEE-OFF** from 11.32am, 1st tee Palmerston course.

## FRIDAY MARCH 11

### BROCKET HALL, LEMS福德, AL8 7XG

**PRO SHOP:**  
**01707 368739**

**COST:** Coffee & bacon rolls on arrival, two-course dinner, plus prizes, gratuity, Ball Sweep and Eclectic, £75 the lot.

**DRESS:** Shorts if you like, but keep

the noise down with those shivering kneecaps!!! Jackets 'n' BGS ties are a must for dinner as usual.

**BUGGIES.** available from the pro shop, but costly.

**HOW TO GET THERE:** The entrance is off Marford Road, Lemsford. See map above showing entrance.



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-ittee suggested we amend the Standard Scratch of courses by two shots, so that 34 points would amount to playing to handicap, rather than 36 points. The vote was then carried unanimously.

**Election of officers:** To a chorus of "well done Stan... well done Charles... well done Robert... well done Steve... well done David (Morris) and well done Dave (O'Brien)" all officers were re-elected.

### **CHARITY CASH IS A RECORD**



**LOADS OF MONEY...**  
Brian shows his huge collection for charity from Xmas dinner.

BRIAN West, our 2010 captain, raised a record £1,410 for charity – and has since personally boosted that to £1,500.

"Everyone should be congratulated on helping to reach such a massive total during the year," says Brian. "I sent cheques (for £750 each) to The Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) and Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children (GOSH).

Brian has received touching letters from the two charities. Alas, they are too long to publish here, but Brian will share them with you next month at Bocket Hall.



**CHAMPION...** Phil Greenwald gets ready to toast his Singles Championship victory, with a couple of whisky tumblers presented by Capt Brian.



**PAIRS CHAMPS...** Partner Ken Gordon was missing, so Steve Langridge has the trophy all to himself from Captain Brian. Steve and Ken also won back in 2006.



**PLAYER OF YEAR...** That's Steve Temple who pipped 2011 Captain David Grainge by just two points. Steve was also Player of the Year back in 2006.

## **EVERYONE A WINNER**



**BAGS GALORE...** There were bags of Xmas fayre prizes for everyone in Bengeo Golf Society's annual Xmas Scramble. This was staged at Chesfield Downs Golf Club where the winning four-man team went round five under par. Pictured with captain Brian West are L-R: Simon Purkiss, Bill Bridgwater, David Morris and Colin Andrews.

Runners-up with 67 (four under par) were Phil Greenwald, Tim Dent, John Tass and Brian West. Third with 68 were Gwyn Ellis, Harry Collins, John McNaughton and Richard Fobbester. Full results on the Society's website: [www.bengeogolfsociety.org.uk](http://www.bengeogolfsociety.org.uk)