

Bengeo Golf Society

Captain: BRIAN WEST



Book to play, see the results, check your handicap is up to date, all via the web...
www.bengeogolfsociety.org.uk



GONE WEST.. Pictured clockwise: Hampered at Dave O'Brien's Captain's Day... Ticket to a free day... prize man in the Eclectic... Player of the Year 2008... Had to settle for runner-up at Old Fold Manor... Carried the bag and team-mates Chris Smith, John Richardson and Simon Purkiss at 2008 Xmas Scramble... Greensome Cup winner with son Martyn. And to cap it all, Brian is now Captain.

WE'VE got our own version of Monty Python's film – it's 'Monty' West's **Life of Brian**.

This is our tribute to Brian West who's bravely taken on the role of Captain, because Simon Purkiss has been obliged to step down (See panel).

Simon had only just invited Brian to be his Vice-Captain, so it was a shock elevation. But no one could be more worthy.

Not only has Brian been among our keenest supporters, but he has to travel right across London to get to our meetings – all the way from Lewisham.

That means a round trip of 62 miles to make his

Captain's Drive-in at **Ashridge** on Tuesday March 9.

Ashridge is among the top 100 courses, but they have agreed to charge us the same special winter rate as 2008. *But because money is*

Sorry from Simon... who had been vice-captain to Robert Clayton and then formally elected Captain at the AGM, wrote to the Committee saying: "Whilst I was initially excited at the prospect of becoming Captain for the coming year, I cannot get enough time off. So I think it only fair to allow somebody else to have that privilege, and to give it the 100% it deserves."

tight, we are subsidising this to the tune of £8 per head (see entry details on Page 2).

Next on our list is **Brookman's Park** which has been a sell-out three years on the trot. Captain Brian leads the way on Wednesday March 31.

That's followed by a brand new fixture, **The Millbrook**, which was recommended by Simon Purkiss. Built in 1980, it is located near Bed-

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First BGS meeting of 2009: **ASHRIDGE TUESDAY MARCH 9**

Little Gaddesden, Berkhamsted, HP4 1LY Pro: Peter Cherry 01442 842307 Sec: Martin Silver 01442 842244



PICTURESQUE... National Trust woodland, bags of wildlife, including roaming deer

ENTRIES at least seven days in advance of the event please. Email or ring Stan Kelley on 01992 586280 (Mobile 07702 363611)

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

COMPETITION: 18 holes Singles Stableford playing for the **Spring Plate** (holder: Damien Turley).

TEE TIMES: 9am from **two** start tees. Play from yellow tees as usual.

COST: We are **subsidising the price** to make it **£8** cheaper than last year at £63 – and that includes cost of prizes, ball sweep, Eclectic and tips; not forgetting coffee and bacon rolls

from 7.45am, plus the **4-course** luncheon.

MESSAGES may be left at the Pro Shop.

BUGGIES/TROLLEYS: No buggies available unfortunately.

HOW TO GET THERE: From M25 - Leave at exit 20, take the A41 (dual carriageway) towards Aylesbury. Leave A41 at the Chesham exit - A416. Follow signs to Berkhamsted. At traffic lights on junction with Berkhamsted High Street turn left. After a mile or so you reach Northchurch. Turn right by School and Church onto B4506 (called New Road) sign posted Ashridge. After approximately 3 miles, Club is on the right hand side.

From M1 Exit 8 and go straight across all

roundabouts until reaching the 'magic roundabout' in centre of Hemel Hempstead. Turn right around roundabout and take the A4146 to Leighton Buzzard. Stay on this road for about 7 miles, going over narrow bridge at Water End, until reaching mini-roundabout at Dagnall. Turn left onto B4506. Up the hill into Ringshall and Club entrance is sign-posted about 1/2 mile further on left. Follow private road to clubhouse and car park.

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-ford. Our visit is Thursday May 6, and what's more we've managed to negotiate a really good deal for the first our string of 27 holes events.

We're then off to **Old Fold Manor** on Friday June 4. This course had some of the quickest greens around, so no wonder it's used as an eliminator for the big event in the UK, The Open.

It's then a return to one of the best courses in Essex, **Saffron Walden** on Thursday July 1. And that's followed by another class act, **John O'Gaunt**, where we play both courses as usual on Thursday August 5.

But it gets better, because the next venue is **Aspley Guise & Woburn Sands** on Wednesday September 1. Looks easy, but manages to bite you back every time.

October is usually a weekend away, but that decision will be put to those attending our first meeting.

We then play another **new** course on Monday November 1. We'll be going back to Gog Magog, but we've booked their **Wandlebury** course instead of the old course.

Chesfield Downs came to our rescue for our **Xmas Scramble**. And their price was so good – even providing buggies at a really cheap rate – that we simply had to book it again for Friday December 3. But this time *all* of our meals will be in the clubhouse.

BGS WEBSITE

Our website has been out of date for some while, that's because Phil Houston is giving it a brand new look.

It might still take a couple of weeks to complete, but everything will be



GLASS ACT... Pairs champ Simon Purkiss, Singles champ John Richardson (centre) and runner-up Andy Alexander.

so much easier to follow, especially your handicap – and the track record of how badly(?) we've all played.

SPONSORSHIP

Our thanks go out to Paul Jezard for sponsoring our **Ball Sweep** last year, plus providing the **Player of the Year** prizes.

Those prizes should have been available in December, but a communication problem means they won't now be presented until March 9 at Ashridge.

Sadly, it looks as though Paul's company, SHC Bars of Grantham, cannot repeat the sponsorship this year.

FIRST DONATION

Robert Groves' bank had overpaid his membership by £7, but he has generously donated that to the Captain's charities. Brian's charities are the RNLI and GOSH (Gt Ormond

and remained in hospital for three-and-a-half months.

Thanks for your continued support Sid.

KNEESY DOES IT

Mick Piggon is about to have two artificial knees, while our 2001 captain **Bob Pegg** is hoping for a hip-op before the month is out.

AGM NOTES

Just 13 out of 52 players remained for the AGM, which means 39 disappeared right after receiving their Xmas Scramble prizes.

Treasurer Robert Clayton made a plea for members to get to venues earlier in 2010, so that the man collecting the money can also play without having to worry about collecting money again afterwards.

Several alternative venues were put forward for our 'away weekend', but voting was 10-3 in favour of returning to Dunston Hall.

Phil Houston announced that he is re-designing our web site. He also asked that an ann-

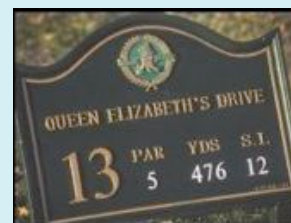
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IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ROYALTY

SET amongst thousands of acres of National Trust woodland, Ashridge features among the top 100 courses in the UK. What's more the R&A has again appointed Ashridge an 'Open Championship' Regional Qualifying course for 2009.

Ashridge launches our 2009 season on Tuesday March 9. It never has temporary greens or temp tees – and we'll be favoured with two start tees yet again.

There's a bit of history attached to almost every hole. Bernard Darwin wrote: "The romantic and traditional names have not been



lost... Witchcraft Bottom, Nobs Crook, Thunderbell, Princess Riding – that's the 13th now named 'Queen Elizabeth's Drive' – a long avenue with a stately monument at the end of it. (See the tee plate above).

WELCOME

...to two more members of Mill Green Golf Club – Roger Butcher and Mick Worsley

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ual review of handicaps be made. This was supported by Phil Greenwold, captain of Mill Green.

Referred to Committee was a proposal to reduce the handicap "loadings" to last exactly 12 months, instead of the rest of the current year, plus the whole of the following year.

KO'd BY PAR-3

The McMullen Singles KO championship final went to extra holes after John Richardson and Andrew Alexander were all square after 18 holes at Abbotsley.

They again halved the first hole (their 19th). But at the short 150 yards 20th Andy was having to give John a shot.

Both had pars but the nett birdie secured the title for John.

LET DOWN BY A BAG

The much delayed **Concord Trophy Pairs** final was eventually played on November 26, at



CHEQUE THIS OUT... It was Eclectic pay-day for Ivan Pettit, winner Damien Turley and 2008 winner Roger Bukin.

very windy and cold Cambridge Meridian.

Craig Caswell and Steve Temple won the toss but hand-

ed the tee to Peterborough boys Simon Purkiss and Martyn West who promptly won the first hole. They went two-up on the

third and it stayed that way until Martyn and Simon also won the 11th.

Craig's bag broke at hole 2 so Steve had to give him his trolley.

Steve had started well but the obvious weight of his hefty trolley bag took its toll towards the end. But Craig was coming good – and they won 13, 14 and 15 to level the match.

That spurt was short-lived though, for the Peterborough boys won 16 and 17 to clinch the cup 2&1.

£1,120 FOR CHARITY

ROBERT Clayton has announced that his charity fund was boosted by £267.67 to £1112.11 at the Xmas Scramble.

"I'll round that up for the Sarcoma Trust," says our 2009 Captain Robert, "and I'll write to Laura Parcell's parents." (Laura died aged just 25 from the rare

Sarcoma cancer). **Stan**



TOP TRIO... Three teams go on parade with their bags full of Christmas goodies. Front row: **Terry Fuller, Wilf Emsley (guest), Martin Tipper, Andy Alexander and John Richardson.** Back row: **Dave O'Brien, Jeff Zimmer-Smith, Simon Purkiss, Massimo Dentice, Roger Bukin and Peter Zimmer-Smith.**

JUST five shots separated the 13 teams and there was a four-way tie for first place!

But what a shame that Chesfield Downs were unable to feed us in the clubhouse. However, they not only arranged for us to have our Xmas dinner in

the pub down the road, but also dropped the price for the day.

That allowed to spend even more on prizes, so the Xmas bags were bulging.

Amazingly, the drainage at Chesfield Downs was good that they

allowed buggies – and gave us a special discount rate of just £10.

The course was a tough nut to crack, but the BGS lads were up for it, for we had **four** teams leading the way on three-under par.

Winning after count-

back were: Terry Fuller, Martin Tipper, Martyn West and Wilf Emsley.

2nd: Simon Purkiss, Andy Alexander, Massimo Dentice and John Richardson.

3rd: Dave O'Brien, Peter and Jeff Zimmer-Smith, Roger Bukin. And

also on three-under were Gwyn Ellis, Craig Caswell, Richard and Glenn Fobbester.

All scores are on the bengeogolfsociety.org.uk website – or will be just as soon as Phil Houston finishes his mammoth job of re-designing it.