

Bengeo Golf Society

Captain: DAVE O'BRIEN



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

Saffron
Walden



Ancient battleground of Old Fold



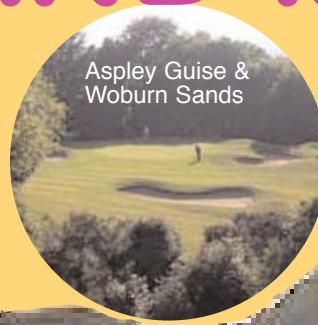
Immortalised tee at Ashridge

ALL THIS—AND ME!

Dunston
Hall



Aspley Guise &
Woburn Sands



Xmas at
East
Herts



New
holes at
Letchworth



What a great season, exclaims Captain Dave O'Brien

SPRING beckons and there's barely a month to go before new captain Dave O'Brien launches our 2008 season.

Tuesday March 11 is the date – and where better to stage the Captain's Drive-in than **Ashridge**.

But that's a mere taster, for we then have another superb delicacy lined up – **Brookman's Park** on Wednesday April 2. And what a great deal we've secured, just £40 all in!

Next stop is luscious **Letchworth** on the edge of Britain's first Garden City. That's on Thursday May 8 and will be the first of our summer series of 27 holers.

We then return to the ancient battle ground of **Old Fold Manor** on Wednesday June 18. This track just gets better and better, as endorsed by the R&A

who are again using it as a qualifier for The Open.

Dave O'Brien has chosen another hot favourite for his Captain's Day, **Saffron Walden** on Thursday July 17.

Then we make a welcome return to an old favourite. **John O'Gaunt** soared out of our price range, but thanks to another secretary change (plus some serious negotiating) we will test both courses on Thursday August 14.

On Wednesday September 3 we tread one of the prettiest courses around, **Aspley Guise and Woburn Sands**.

Then it's off to Norfolk for another special weekend at the 4-star **Dunston Hall Hotel**. They're pegging it to the same great price we enjoyed last year, but this time there will be no travelling though

for their own course surely won't be vandalised two years on the trot! But please note we will be playing there a week earlier, Sunday/Monday September 28/29 because they are hosting a ladies open event during the first weekend of October.

Our year ends with our Christmas Scramble – and a return visit to **East Herts** which scored a unanimous vote. That's booked for Monday December 8.

But that's not all, for we are waiting to hear from **Brocket Hall** for a return visit in early November.

£1,261 FOR CHARITY

MIKE Alldridge opened the AGM at East Herts by saying: "It was a great privilege to be have been Captain for 2007. "I have had tremendous support from the membership in raising £1,261 for my charity, the Air Training Corp for 13-18 year olds.

This will make a big contribution to a badly needed replacement bus."

**HANDICAP
CORRECT?**

Check yours on our
website. If it's wrong
then please call or
send an email

FAMOUS PRO HISTORY... THE PENALTY OF WINNING PRIZES... See Back Page

EVERY ONE A WINNER!



Venue change gets thumbs up

IT was sad to end our long run of Xmas Scrambles at Knebworth – especially for those unable to play a week later than planned at East Herts,

but it was a change that met with a unanimous demand – to make East Herts the permanent choice for this event.



IT'S IN THE BAG... Making off with the winners' spoils are (L to R) Barry Ruskin, Ivan Pettit, Scott Ruskin and Geoff Cooper who scored five under

Knebworth's new management limited our number to 40 players, but we had 51 starters for which East Herts offered us two teas and far better dining facilities.

The course is also a tougher nut to crack, but one team still managed gross five under par. It included two former captains, Barrie Ruskin (1984) and Geoff Cooper ((1988) plus Ivan Pettit and Barrie's son Scott Ruskin.

Runners-up on four under par were the Peterborough quartet of Martyn West, Peter Zimmer-Smith, John Richardson and guest Paul Jezzard. And one point behind in third place were 2001 captain Bob Pegg, Colin Andrews and two East Herts guests Roy Stoddart and Michael Morris.

But all 51 players were winners of course, because everyone went home with a bagful of Xmas goodies.



TICKETS TO ASHRIDGE... Peter Waters (left) and Dick Adams' guest Mike Furby won a free day to Ashridge.



LONG TRIPPERS... Peterborough's Peter Zimmer-Smith, Martyn West, John Richardson and Paul Jezzard made it pay with second.

First BGS meeting of 2008: **ASHRIDGE** TUESDAY MARCH 11

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: **Bob Pegg**).

TEE TIMES: 8.30am from **two** start tees. Play from yellow tees as usual.

COST: £64 inclusive of prize table, coffee from 7.45am, plus **4-course** luncheon.

MESSAGES may be left at the Pro Shop.

BUGGIES/TROLLEYS: No buggies available unfortunately, but they do have electric trolleys for hire, £10.

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. Private road to clubhouse and car park.

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.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

The AGM agreed to change the scoring system from Stableford points to positional points, i.e: 1pt be awarded for winning, or 10pts for 10th or joint 10th and so on.

The change was proposed by the Committee which reported: "The PoY scoring system of Stableford points was unfair because we had venues won with as high as 43 points and as low as 33 points. The difference in points obviously reflects the degree of difficulty between courses, but the reward for winning was vastly different – a margin of 10 points.

"One positional point for winning each event would be much fairer," the Committee said. "The PoY would continue to be based on the best five results out of eight venues, but in the event of a tie then the best four results would be used as a decider."

WELCOME.. to Roy Stoddart, member at East Herts. He helped 2001 captain Bob Pegg claim third place in the Xmas Scramble – and enjoyed it so much that he promptly asked to join the BGS.

PRICE OF WINNING

NEWCOMERS may like to know that you get cut two shots for winning and one shot for second or third. But note that such cuts are a *loading* against your normal handicap.

These cuts last for the remainder of the current year plus the whole of the following year. But you don't get cut for winning nine-hole or team events.

Ashridge beckons

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



WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS... Steve Temple (centre) won the Eclectic with 54pts. Tied second on 52pts are Colin Andrews (left) and Mike Alldridge, who promoted the competition to raise funds for his charity. Then came four players tied on 51pts: David Morris, Gordon Morris, Steve Langridge and Stan Kelley.

course until 2009.

Ashridge launches our 2008 season on Tuesday March 11. It never has temporary greens or tees and, as last year, we'll be getting two start tees.

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 Page 1).

FAMOUS PRO HISTORY

Ashridge first came to prominence in the late 1930's following the appointment of Henry Cotton as resident Club Professional. 'Sir' Henry Cotton, as he was to become, was



COTTON beat them all in 1937



HAY was on BBC with Peter Allis

the best golfer of his era, winning *three* Open Championships including the Open at Carnoustie in 1937 when he was up against the entire US Ryder Cup team.

Cotton played in only one US Open during his best years, and was denied more opportunities by World War II, in which he served in the Royal Air Force. He organised exhibition matches with other professionals to raise money for the Red Cross.

At war's end, he returned to win The Open again in 1948. After retiring Cotton built Canons Brook golf course at Harlow, plus Portugal's famous Penina.

From 1964, Alex Hay, the BBC TV broadcaster and author spent 12 years as Professional at Ashridge and still remains a welcomed honorary member of the Club. *Stan*