



LET'S have a big turnout for captain Roger Butcher's 'rocket' drive-in on Tuesday March 5.

And here's hoping that the prestige **Ashridge** signals a much drier year than 2012.

Talking of drive-in, one of Ashridge's holes is aptly named "Queen Elizabeth Drive." Members will also enjoy a right royal £8 subsidy for Ashridge. Guests are not subsidised of course, but if they're quick to sign up then they will benefit from £20 subsidy for the coming months (annual subs are only £10 so members are on a win-win situation).

Brookman's Park has yet again agreed to peg their already keen price to the 2008 costings. So we promptly booked it for Thursday April 4.

Our next venue is the ever popular **John O'Gaunt** on Tuesday May 14.

Then on Thursday June 13 we visit a super new (to us) course **Leighton Buzzard**. That too comes at a great price - and so good that it's often compared to Woburn's Duchess course.

On Wednesday July 10 we're off to another 'new' one, **Canons Brook**. What's more they are celebrating a big anniversary by giving us

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HIGH FLIER... Wow! I said that balls could be made to go a long way - 2013 captain Roger Butcher, a high tech tools developer.



WELCOME to our new Captain, Roger Butcher - a technological whizkid (now retired) in charge of an international company called Trumpf.

He has a trump card where experience is concerned, for he's a recent captain of Mill Green Golf Club - and is still their Match Manager.

Roger enjoyed a great 2012 with the BGS, too, for he won the Anniversary Cup at Whipsnade, plus the Aphid Pairs with Tim Dent at Aspley Guise, and finished joint runner-up to Craig Caswell in the Eclectic



PRIZE GUYS... Shopping bags full of Xmas Fayre were enjoyed by everyone, led by (L-R) Simon Purkiss, Steve Foster, Richard Fobbester and Harry Bracher who scored three under par.

QUARTET UP TO SCRATCH

WE saw out the Old Year in style, with our Xmas week special at East Herts.

2012 was the wettest year on record - and snow spelt our third postponement - but it was certainly worth the wait, for we got a rare dry day.

It was teams-of-four as usual - all off scratch - and it was great to see Geoff Cooper (he's captain of East Herts) playing with us for the first time since suffering a debilitating stroke last January.

Two teams recorded a top score of three under par (gross 68), but winning on count-back were Simon Purkiss, Harry Bracher, Steve Foster and Richard Fobbester.

Beaten in countback were Gwyn Ellis, Geoff Cooper, Bob Pegg and Dan Todd. Third with a gross 69: John Hare, Stan Kelley, Graham Beetles and Mike Alldridge.

Full results on our website www.bengeogolfsociety.org.uk

First BGS meeting of 2013: **ASHRIDGE TUESDAY MARCH 5**

Little Gaddesden, Berkhamsted, HP4 1LY Pro: Peter Cherry 01442 842307 Sec: Steve Green 01442 842244



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



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

Cancellation rule: Minimum £20 penalty (full cost at some courses) for cancelling within three days of event (be sure to advise guests).

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

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

COST: We are **subsidising the price** to make it **£8** cheaper. £70 to members (£78 guests) includes cost of prizes, ball sweep, Eclectic, plus 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 but pull trolleys are.

HOW TO GET THERE: From M25 - Leave at exit 20, take the A41 (dual carriage-way) 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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a fabulous £20 discount! Thursday August 8 sees us return to tantalising **Toot Hill**. Then it's Captain's Day on Wednesday September 25 at **St Neots**, yet another subsidised venue.

Letchworth was not only in fantastic condition when we played there last November, but was also one of our cheapest venues, so there was no hesitation in booking it again for Wednesday November 6.

We complete our season with the great Xmas Scramble. But negotiations are still to be completed.

HUGE CHARITY DONATION

HAVING announced at the AGM that "I already have over £1,500" Craig Caswell is headed for a BGS record donation for his captain's charity, the Willow Foundation.

That's because we then added £115 from the Eclectic, £90 from the golf bag auction, plus a big table whip.

And to cap it all, Bob Wilson, founder of the Willow charity, has agreed to be photographed with Craig presenting an "outsize" cheque.

GOOD NEWS

Colin Andrews and five others failed to take up their charity auction bid for Dave O'Brien's generously donated holiday cottage. But the good news is that Brian West is now going to take it on.

That means David



FORMER captain Mike Alldridge put in a rare appearance and generously bid £90 (for charity) for this golf bag. It was donated by Sid Platten



IN THE MONEY... Tim Dent collects £60 from captain Craig Caswell after winning the Eclectic



FOR THE CHOP... Runner-up last year, Phil Greenwold went one better to win the Player of the Year trophy.



THAT'S MINE... Man with the winning ticket for a free day at Ashridge, that'll be Dave O'Brien



GLASS ACT.. It's a set of whisky tumblers for Singles champ Steve Langridge



RIGHT PAIR... Captain Craig congratulates Pairs champions Stan Kelley and Phil Greenwold.

Grainge's 2011 charity will get a further donation after all.

BGS WEBSITE HANDICAP correct?

Please check that we've got it right on the website. If it's not then please send an email or phone handicaps Secretary Steve

Langridge on 01438 718747.

The website will also have details of all the events for the coming season, complete with

links to all the clubs - all thanks to our website wizkid Phil Houston.

Stan