



FLURRIES of snow and near zero temperatures should hopefully soon give way to more encouraging climates

Either way, expectations and changes for our new season must rank pretty high. But more of that later.

Nowhere is guaranteed to beat the weather, but **Gog Magog** gets pretty close – and that's why it's not only our first venue, but rates among the Top 100 Courses.

We're booked for the Old Course on Thursday March 1.

Captain Nick MacDermot will be delighted with that, for the opening hole will suit his Captain's Drive-in, because it's very wide and forgiving.

IT'S A TOP 100

also at **Ashridge** when we take over the course on Tuesday March 27. This is another good rain track – and their luncheon is also a bit special.

Ashridge's changing rooms are also well above average, with towels supplied.

We go nearer home with a rare return to **Mill Green** – and a great bargain price. But we'll keep details of that of that for nearer the time.

Mill Green is 'home' to many of our members, most of whom have been members

GREAT DRIVING NICK

NICK MacDermott's all oiled up and rarin' to go – both at work and play.

He will have had an enforced lay-off from golf for three months but come the 1st of March Nick will be delighted to tee off as our Bengeo Golf Society captain.

That's because he spends 14-16 hours a day delivering tankloads of household heating fuels, to

customers. Retiring captain Clive Ackerman, Peter Waters and former captain Damien Turley could all be future customers?

Nick's company is called Euro Fuels and employs two men, making it a team of three. "It's hard graft in the winter, but I get plenty time off in the summer for golf," exclaims Nick.

The charity Nick would like to support is Herts and Essex Air Ambulance. "They do a great job and are especially quick in dealing with major trauma and rescue operations."



www.bengeogolfsociety.org.uk

since it's opening in 1994. It was designed by Peter Allis and is getting better with every year of maturity.

The same could be said for **Canons Brook** which is agreeing to a price you just have to snap up.

We go there Wednesday June 6. It's rated the best course in the area. Designed by the

legendary Sir Henry Cotton and matured over 50 years.

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.

What's more, it's

chairman is our own member Chris Murray, who guarantees us a good deal for when we play there Monday July 16.

Not surprisingly Nick MacDermott (that's him depicted top of the page) is choosing Old Fold for his Captain's Day.

It's then off to a new-to-us venue and one



AXEMAN... Capt Clive finished last at Letchworth, but there was no stopping him winning the Player of the Year award

that has always proved too expensive before – **Abbridge**. We play it on Wednesday August 15.

Captain Nick is hugely disappointed he cannot make that date.

This is a superb 18 hole par 72 Championship course totalling 6704 yards, set in 240 acres of beautiful parklands, with breathtaking views of the Essex countryside.

Continued overleaf



BAGS OF FUN... It was bags of prizes all round at our Christmas Scramble, but the bitterly cold temperature meant scores were low. Yet no one could beat the level par scored by (L-R) Tim Dent, Steve Foster, Graham Beetles and John Hare. See Back Page for full results.

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Our next stop is the welcoming **Bishop's Stortford**, on Thursday September 27.

Good food and a good test, but it's big claim to fame of course is Charles Wallis crashing his buggy on the first tee.



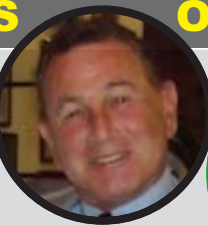


On Monday November 5 it's back to that great ever ready track of **Letchworth**.

And then it's the chef's special breakfast at **Knebworth** and Xmas celebration on Thursday December 3

All in all that's looking a mighty fine line-up for the season. But there's



XMAS BOX... There was a surprise in store for Colin Andrews at Knebworth, for he drew the FREE DAY ticket.

BENGEO'S		OLYMPIANS		
				
BHUPI PATEL.. he won our Singles championship, beating Stan in the final	DAVE O'BRIEN, joint winner of the Eclectic	CLIVE ACKERMAN our Captain and Player of the Year, plus joint winner of the Eclectic	STAN KELLEY Pairs champion with Simon Light	SIMON LIGHT who carried Stan in all the heats to clinch the Pairs championship

one big difference....

When Bengoe started way back in the 80s we always played 36 holes, except for the Christmas venue.

Then in the mid-90s we switched to 27 holes holes, but for 2018 we are experimenting with just 18 holes for ALL the fixtures.

However we'll continue buying the same number of prizes, which means there will be more to go around.

Now that can't be bad.

WHAT A SCRAMBLE

OUR Xmas Scramble attracted another great turnout of 39 players at Knebworth. The sun shone but the bitterly cold

wind meant that no one bettered par, although we did have a dead heat for first place.

1st 71 (level par): Tim Dent, Graham Beetles, John Hare, Steve Foster

2nd 71 (on countback): John Silverosa, Gary Sando, Dan Todd (no fourth man)

3rd 72: Dave O'Brien, Mick Rose, John Waters, Steve

Nisbett

4th 74: Chris Murray, Colin Andrews, Stan Kelley, Paul Buttle (G)

5th 74: Paul Morris, Andy Payne, Gordon Morris, Tony Morris (G)

6th 75: Capt Clive, Robert Clayton, Terry Fuller, Mike Moren

7th 77: Roger Butcher, Mike Barry, Dave Wheeler, Mick Millen

8th 80: Steve Langridge, Ray Whitehead, Bhupi Patel, Steve Hickey

9th 80: Gwyn Ellis, Robert Pegg, Michael Goddard, Lewis Goddard (G)

10th 84: David Grainge, Sid Platten, Ted Platten, Charles Wallis. *Stan*

Final payment call for 4* Staverton Park Golf Hotel

JUST in case you missed it, we've got a great weekend deal Sunday/Monday April 23/24 for a miserly £79 all in.

Two days golf, plus dinner, plus bed and breakfast at the 4-star Staverton Park Hotel, Daventry, *plus* a massive number of prizes – all for that £79.

You've already paid £35 deposit, but

it's now time to pay the balance. (Single rooms are £35 extra).

A couple of rooms are still available (Call Dave O'Brien on 07880 551311).

Playing Gog Magog? Then pay your balance to Dave there. Otherwise please pay into Dave's bank: Account 05014093 Sort Code: 60-22-03

THE GOG MAGOG

**THURSDAY
MAR 1**

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: Ted Platten).

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.

