

RICHARD FOBBESTER, Captain 2014



It was with great sadness that 16 BGS members attended Captain Richard Fobbester's funeral on Tuesday January 30.

Rather than flowers, his wife Pat asked for donations to "Starlight Children's Foundation." This is a charity which

grants wishes to terminally ill children by providing entertainment and many other "wishes" in hospitals and hospices.

The Fobbester funeral collection added up to a huge donation of £2,200.

Mrs Fobbester has forwarded

to us a letter from Starlight saying: "May we offer our sincere condolences. Your donation will help many seriously ill children and their families. We cannot thank you enough."

Richard would have been proud.



We are the champions

Pictured at our Xmas Scramble dinner are Singles champion David Grainge and Player of the Year Steve Langridge (above), both displaying their glassware presented to them by vice-captain Colin Andrews (centre).



It's "cheers" also from Pairs champions Gwyn Ellis (left) and Robert Clayton, while below are the top two teams from our Xmas Scramble



L-R back row: Champions Chris Ashbolt, Ted Platten, David Grainge and Steve Nisbett. Front row, runners-up: Sid Platten, Gary Sando, Deveney Daniel and Simon Purkiss



WE had a complaint (from an absentee) at the AGM, that we play the same venues every year.

In fact we have at least two new venues every year—and this year it's *three*.

But we open the new season with two tried and trusted all-weather courses. First of those is **Gog Magog**, famed for never closing for rain, due to the free draining chalk of the Gog Magog hills.

It's the perfect place for any nerves our new captain might have for his drive-in, for the opening hole is very wide and forgiving. Everyone will appreciate this 'top 100' venue – and the great price we have achieved to play on Friday March 6 (See Back Page).

ANOTHER TOP 100

It's another 'top 100 course' for our second venue, **Ashridge** on Wednesday April 1. But remember to go on a diet in preparation for their famous 4-course luncheon.

It's then off to the first of our new courses, **South Beds** on Thursday May 14.

It boasts two courses set in beautiful surroundings on the northern edge of Luton. Our morning nine holes will be on the ancient Warden Course which dates back to the 1800s. We play the Galley Hill course in the afternoon which again affords superb drainage of from the Galley Hills chalk.

Next it's the splendid turf of **Old Fold Manor**, so good it was recently used as an eliminator for The Open. Five years have elapsed since we last played Old Fold, which was designed by the famous Harry Colt.

EYE, EYE CAP'N



Charles Wallis, a main man of world-wide insurance is main man of BGS



COLIN Andrews should have been captain this year, but was unable to find a vice-captain, so agreed to allow Charles to captain in what he fears will be his last full year of playing.

What a glittered career it's been for Charles who claims to be a Cockney.

That's because he was born in Whittington Hospital, North London, almost on the spot from where Dick Whittington heard the sound of Bow Bells and turned back to become Lord Mayor of London.

Charles lived in that area for just under 30 years before moving to Bengo in 1963, a brand new house built on what used to be allotments owned by Bengo Working Men's Club. (That's also where our BGS was born in 1981).

His early career began at a City of London bank in 1951. He was then conscripted for National Service in the RAF, early in 1953. The dream of becoming a 'Biggles' did not however materialise. And following his basic training young Charles was posted to Group Headquarters, RAF Kidlington as an Accounts Clerk.

"I would much rather have trained as a radar operator, motor transport driver or physical training instructor – anything different from my civilian career," groans

Charles who also requested an "overseas posting so that I could travel abroad at the government's expense." All to no avail!

On being demobbed at the end of January 1955 he took the opportunity of getting temporary work at various companies to gain experience of alternative careers – "anything but banking."

One of his temporary jobs was at a smallish firm of Lloyd's Insurance Brokers – and they offered him a permanent position, which he accepted.

Charles went on to work for three Lloyds companies and was rapidly appointed financial director in all three.

In 1976 he rose to the pinnacle of international insurance by becoming an Underwriting Member at Lloyd's of London, covering everything from newspapers to shipping and aviation to space-ships.

In between all that Charles managed to be an all-round sportsman but he didn't find time for golf until the early 80s.

The best was yet to come though, for in 2001 Ralph Chambers introduced Charles to Bengo Golf Society.

Colt was also responsible for Sunningdale, Swinley Forest and Wentworth plus many others – no wonder the greens are so slick. Don't miss it on Wednesday June 10.

Then on July 7 we're off to another new course, **Bedford & County**. It's not really new for it is in fact more than 100 years old.

Continued overleaf

Continued from Page 1

Not surprisingly it's rated as one of Bedfordshire's premier courses.

Our run of top courses continues with a return to **John O'Gaunt** on Tuesday August 11. This is 18 holes on the main John O'Gaunt course, plus 11 holes on the Carthage.

We then return to **Aspley Guise and Woburn Sands** for the first time in four years. It celebrated its centenary last year so we join it on Wednesday September 23 at 101 years old.

Wednesday November 4 we return to **Letchworth**. The standard of the course and quality of greens are a real credit to its staff.

And finally we return to **Knebworth** for our great Xmas Scramble. The course and weather were superb last time, while the food was every bit as good as the previous year. However, we've moved the date to Monday December 7 to avoid clashing with their seniors.



NEW MEMBER

WELCOME to Solly Khosravi, introduced by Captain Charles Wallis. He is a member of both Mill Green and The Shire, handicap 15

TIED-UP... New member Peter Lacey being presented with his BGS tie by assistant treasurer Damien Turley

AND FINALLY...

Another quote from one of former treasurer Dennis Dawson's books:

A golfer was transported

to Heaven where he found it was a magnificent golf course, flanked by trees like a celestial Wentworth.

With his angel guide he set off and the first player he

LUCKY DRAW SPECIALIST



MIKE Barry's guest John Miller (above) seems to be a born winner, for he won free annual membership at Nazeing Golf Club as Mike's guest— and then won our free day ticket for Gog Magog

saw was shaping to cut the corner of a dog-leg of over 300 yards. "That shot will be a miracle," observed the newcomer, "who does he think he is, St Peter?"

The angel whispered: "He happens to be St Peter, but he thinks he is Rory McIlroy."

Stan

THE GOG MAGOG

**FRIDAY
MAR 6**

PRO:
01223 246058

OFFICE:
01223 247626

ENTRIES limited to 36 players, so please book early. 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 within 3 days of the event.

COMPETITIONS: 18 holes Singles Stableford, playing for the **Spring Plate** (holder: Steve Langridge).

MEET from 9.15am for tea/coffee. **TEE-OFF** from 10am, 1st tee Old Course.

COST: Same-again price of just £50, inclusive of prize table and Eclectic, raffle, ball sweep and gratuity for the waitress service.

Two-course lunch follows the 18 holes Spring Plate comp.

SHELFORD BOTTOM, CAMBRIDGE CB22 3AB



DRESS: Shorts if you like (those blue kneecaps will make a good picture!!!) Jackets 'n' BGS ties are a must for dinner as usual.

BUGGIES... available from the pro shop but they only have a few so book early – cost £22.50. Electric trolleys £8

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 from London via the M11/A11.

Watch out, the entrance is really close to the roundabout

