

Bengeo Golf Society

Captain: ROBERT CLAYTON



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

NEW captain, Robert Clayton is gearing up to hit us all for six!

He's got an impressive record – the leading wicket taker in the Saracens Hertfordshire League.

And Robert's now setting his sights on adding BGS cups to his trophy cabinet, starting with the Spring Plate at **Ashridge**, a top 100 course.

Robert will open the batting – the Captain's "Drive in" – on Tuesday March 10.

That's a great *hors d'oeuvre* for the BGS 2009 menu, for our next course is a return to tasty **Brookman's Park** on Wednesday April 1.

It's followed by another superb delicacy, **North Middlesex**. It was designed over 100 years ago by the great Willie Park Jnr, right after he created Sunningdale. Our first-ever visit will be Wednesday May 6.

Next stop is Wednesday June 3 at **Abbotsley**, who have agreed to us using their "members" dining room and facilities.

We then return to super **Saffron Walden** on Thursday July 2. It's rated among the cream of Essex.

But we then get to taste the icing on the cake where Bedfordshire clubs are concerned – **John O'Gaunt**. We test both of their courses on Thursday August 6.

CAPTAIN'S DAY follows at **Aspley Guise and Woburn Sands** on Wednesday September 2... Robert is bound to be bowling a few googlies!

Then it's off to Norfolk for special weekend at the **4-star Dunston Hall Hotel**. They've agreed to peg the price to the same fab deal (£85 all in) we enjoyed two years back. But it'll be subject to our course inspection in the spring (to make sure that it has recovered OK after the greens were vandalised). We play two rounds of golf **Sunday / Monday** September 27/28, with dinner, B&B on Sunday night, plus Monday lunch, all in the plush hotel.

We enjoyed a great day at **Gog Magog** last year so have pencilled in a return on Monday Nov 2. But they cannot accept our booking until they sort their new rates.

Our year ends with the Xmas Scramble but this, too, appears too early to book.

1,900 NOT OUT... Chairman for past 14 years of Watton at Stone Cricket Club, Robert has taken them from a village side playing friendlies to one with two teams in the Saracens Hertfordshire League. He is the club's leading wicket taker (over 1,900) "and despite my advancing years I hope to reach 2,000 in next two seasons".

Robert also won the league bowling award last season with 50 wickets at an average of 10. "It's as well my bowling continues to stand up as my fielding has certainly deteriorated with age, but I remain fully fit for the after cricket drinking as any worthwhile cricketer will tell you a match does not finish until closing time!"

£700 FOR CHARITY

Past captain Dave O'Brien was so delighted to raise well over £600 from our events, that he decided to make it up to £700.

Expect a picture soon of him paying over the cheque to the Catholic Children's Society. "I am on the fund raising committee in Hertfordshire, so

the money is ring fenced for Hertfordshire families and children in need, no matter what faith or even none," says Dave.

NEW PRIZE FORMAT

Instead of prizes for the top three, we will be grouping players into three handicap divisions, with one prize for each.

This follows a proposal put before the AGM and is initially for an undetermined trial period. The handicap groupings will reflect entries at each individual meeting. It does not effect the **Player of the Year** scoring system.

WE HAVE A SPONSOR

NEW member Paul Jezard, who owns SHC Bars of Grantham, has teamed up with Carlsberg to generously provide us with a whole year's supply balls for our

Continued overleaf



ELECTRIC ECLECTICS... Colin Andrews (left) was in the money for the second year running, but no one could touch Roger Bukin's 56 points. Brian West (right) was runner-up with 54, then Colin on 53 points. Prizes: £70, £40 and £20.

Picture rigged together by Stan Kelley

WHO WON A FREEBIE? Grinning all the way to Ashridge – See Page 2

First BGS meeting of 2009: **ASHRIDGE** TUESDAY MARCH 10

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: Peter Waters).

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

COST: £70 inclusive prize table, £6 ball sweep and tips, plus coffee from 7.45am, and **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. **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.

Continued from Page 1

sweep, plus trophies for our **Player of the Year**.

SHC are in the catering/bar business, having contracted for huge events like... World Touring Cars, Concerts and Carnivals, Farnborough Air Show and even Badminton Horse Trials.

BGS WEBSITE

PHIL Houston has bravely taken on running our website. He succeeds Tom Lavery who was forced to quit due to Pressure of work.

Tom, who has also quit as Handicaps Secretary, created the website from scratch - a huge task which is beyond most of us.

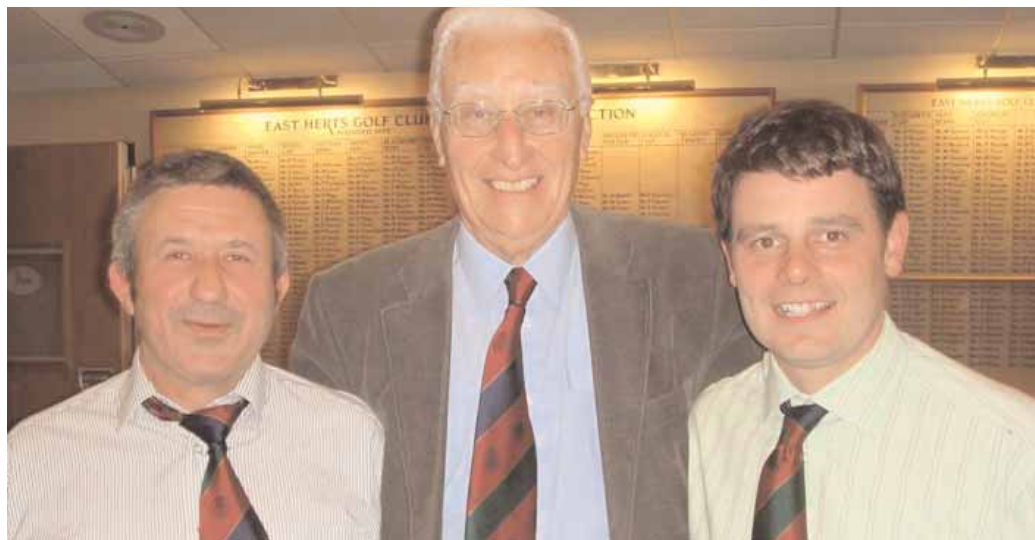
We are very lucky to have Phil Houston able and willing to take over the website. But we must now find a new man to take over those handicaps.

BRAIN TUMOUR

SID Platten has suffered a brain tumour, leaving him paralysed all down his right side.

He was taken to QELL Hospital back in May, was then transferred to the Royal Free, operated upon and remained hospitalised for three-and-a-half months.

"It was a Sunday. I got out of bed, then fell



WE THREE FREEBIES... The smiles say it all, John Richardson, Bill Bridgwater and Scott Ruskin each drew winning tickets at the BGS Xmas Scramble. And that means they're on a free day at Ashridge, all except the price of another lucky ticket of course.

over and couldn't get up again," said Sid (16.2.09). "I came out of hospital in a wheelchair and it was December before I could walk again - and that was only with a walking frame."

It was nearly the end of January before he could discard walking sticks, "and now I'm going to chance my luck at playing golf on Sunday," adds Sid. "And I'm hoping to get back with Bengoe by May, which is six months ahead of what the specialist reckoned."

Stan

WELCOME

..to Phillip Greenwold Mill Green Golf Club's new captain, who has already booked in for six of our venues, starting with Ashridge

ASHRIDGE BECKONS

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 10. It never has temporary greens or tees - and we're 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).



IT'S FINE NOT TO WEAR A HAT

All those not wearing a hat at our Xmas Scramble dinner were soon 'fined' – contributing to the Captain's charity

THERE were bags of Xmas fayre prizes for all 48 competitors in the BGS annual turkey trot

This was staged at the prestigious East Herts Golf Club where the top six teams amazingly tied on three under par.

With scores level on the back nine, the winners were only separated on the last six holes.

Five amazing birdies in those last six holes clinched it for Chris

Five teams tie in Xmas Scramble

Smith, John Richardson, Brian West and 3-handicap Simon Purkiss, who (at the AGM) went on to complete a truly memorable day by accepting the nomination of Vice-Captain.

Pipped at the post were reigning

champions Geoff Cooper, Barry Ruskin, Scott Ruskin, Ivan Pettit.

three other teams all with a gross 68, only separated on count-back, were: 3rd, Terry Fuller, Massimo Dentice and Dave O'Brien, Rod Homer.

4th, Steve Langridge, Richard Fobbester, Steve Foster, Barry Coombes (Guest). 5th, Andy Alexander, Brian Reid and Damien Turley 68.



PRESS PICTURE: This picture was prominently displayed in the Hertfordshire Mercury. Hanging on to their bags of goodies are winners (front row) Chris Smith, John Richardson, Brian West and Simon Purkiss. Runners-up (back row) Geoff Cooper, Barry Ruskin, Scott Ruskin and Ivan Pettit. Third: Rod Homer (third from left), Terry Fuller, Massimo Dentice and Dave O'Brien.