

Our new captain Mick sure is a smooth operator

A Surgeon's knot should Never give away.



MICHAEL MILLEN will be our new captain when he 'drives in' at our first venue of 2022. But did you know that he's partially responsible for your health?

How come? Well, he was one of a band of Commissioners (back room guys) who keep the NHS ticking.

All the NHS services – local GPs, medicines, re-



search, operations, even the buildings and all the equipment – are commissioned by Mick's CCGs (Clinical Commissioning Groups) who also decide which new treatments to fund.

He retired April 2020 after service 30 years in the NHS. Apart from golf Mick spends his time with his family doing U3A walks and enjoying life at his caravan in Hopton.

TOP SCOUT

He is also district chairman of the Scouts in East Herts. "We have 15 groups of scouts in our district," enthuses Mick, "but we've not been able to do much since the start of Covid."

In his year as captain Mike will be celebrating his 70th birthday, so has chosen the prestigious Porter Park for his Captain Day in July.

Mick only took up golf only a dozen or so years ago and was promptly introduced to the Bengeo Golf Society by the then captain Richard Fobbestor.

CUP WINNER

Silverware soon followed with Mick winning the Three Club Cup at South Beds, scoring 18 points for the nine holes. Mick joined Cheshunt Golf Club in 2009, then switched to Canons Brook. He then moved to Nazeing for a couple of years before returning to Canons Brook where he plays with Gary Sando.

That's not all, for he's just won their Andrew Murray trophy, a Special Stableford, with 39 points.

IT'S A NEW SEASON AND WE'VE LOTS OF NEW COURSES LINED UP

WHAT we desperately need is for 2022 to be a lot kinder and healthier than the last two years.

As requested at the AGM your committee has selected some cheaper venues but we've kept in mind the need for better drained courses for both ends of the season.

We therefore start with the chalks of **Cambridge-shire Country Club** at Bar Hill. The 5598-6750 yard, par 72 golf course has so far allowed buggies for most of the winter. The price is also really good (see Back Page).

We've booked Bar Hill for Wed March 16.

We then venture just into Essex to the highly rated

West Essex Golf Club.

Founded in 1900, the course was designed by the legendary James Braid. And it boasts a great looking clubhouse (see picture Back Page). We play it on Monday April 4.

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.

CHEAP AS CHIPS

Our next venue is **Canons Brook** which was designed by the legendary Sir Henry Cotton and rated the best course in the area.

We go there Wednesday June 8 and the club manageress has kindly agreed



Peter Allis and Clive Clark designed 22 courses, including two that we play this year.

to making it the cheapest summer venue we play. More of that a bit nearer the time of course.

No need to take towels to our next venue as they are provided.

That's **Porters Park** where we play July 15 This is a classic 6,529 yard parkland course constructed in 1899.

Its early design was influenced heavily by thrice Open champion JH Taylor and Charles Kenneth Cotton who became one of the UK's most distinguished post-war golf architects.

We associate our next stop with Xmas, for it's **Knebworth**.

It was rather wet back in December, so it was decided to see how it plays in the summer – we go there

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HE'S AMONG THE BEST OF BRITAIN

James Braid designed and built over 400 courses, including one that we'll be playing this year.

But did you know that he was paid only £4.13s 6d for his first creation at Theydon Bois in 1898. Braid won the Open five times but in 1901 – three years after winning his first – he moved from Scotland to Walton Heath where he was their Pro for 46 years until his death in 1950.



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 Tuesday August 9. But this time you won't have three teammates.

We're then off to **Mill Green** on Thursday September 22. And they've agreed similar great price to last time.

Mill Green was designed by Peter Alliss and Clive Clark, opening in January 1994.

The course cuts through lakes and woodland and benefits from USGA specifica-

tion greens, tees and approaches as well as a fully automated irrigation system.

The has completed a new renovation by re-modelling the bunkers, adding a new lake in front of the the par-5 7th green, plus much more.

FIREWORKS

Next is **Letchworth**, where you're sure of a great course in splendid condition for November.

Things go off with a



IT'S A JAMES BRAID...
The West Essex clubhouse has undergone extensive refurbishment and now has a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere, with stunning views from the patio and terrace

It was designed by the famous Peter Alliss and Clive Clark duo and is generally acclaimed as their top UK course design. We go there on Thursday Sept 26.

Stan

bang here, for we'll be playing there two days after Guy Fawkes day.

We then spend Xmas at **Cambridge Meridian** on Friday

December 2.

The Club sits in a 210 acre site between Comberton and Toft, just five miles west of

THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE

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WEDNESDAY MARCH 16

ENTRIES. Contact via email or ring Stan Kelley on 01992 586280 Mobile 07702 36 36.

Cancellation rule: Minimum £20 penalty (full cost at some courses) for cancelling within three days of the event.

COMPETITION: 18 holes Singles Stableford, playing for the **Spring Plate** (holder: Roger Butcher).

MEET from 9.15am for tea/coffee. **TEE-OFF** from 10am.

COST: £42 This price

is inclusive of prizes and gratuity for the waitress service but no ball sweep.

You get bacon roll, tea/coffee on arrival, and one course meal follows the 18 holes stableford comp.

DRESS: Shorts if you dare (but cold kneecaps will attract a fine). Jack-ets 'n' BGS ties are requested but not compulsory.

BUGGIES... Stan has reserved four, so order through him.

