



STEPHENSON'S AUCTION & SUPPER

6.30pm Friday 7th February 2025



RUNNERS & RIDERS FORM GUIDE

2024 Order of Merit positions correct at the time of going to Press (Jan 2025)

Handicaps are WHS, not CH or PH as of Jan 2025

No woke pronouns were used in the publication of this document!!

**NO OTHER HUMAN ACTIVITY IS SO CONTINUOUSLY OR UNIVERSALLY BOUND UP WITH
CHANCE: Persistence in War**

Carl von Clausewitz; He must have played golf!!

Any runner (competitor) may contact the Syndicate head and purchase 25% or 50% of themselves **before** playing the first round of the draw.

THEY SAY ALL GOLFERS* SWEAR MORE PERFORMANCE THAN THEY ARE ABLE
(Cressida Act 2, Scene 3)

* lovers; but poetic license, and apologies to The Baird !

Lot	Name	H'cap	Observations!
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1 High Low (4)

1. 1	Max Dawson	6	Max has a thing or two to prove after going out in the second round last year. We asked; Has he got the steely nerves of a youthful contender or those of a novice tyro? Now we know! Max had a net 67, along with Panto Byrne in the Selby Cup, winning on a count-back, so he can play!! Big question is whether being cut by three shots since last year will hinder! Must be worth a close look..
	OOM 3		
	Gary Dawson	19	Gary is now riding on his son's coat tails and viewing the LIV circuit as a possible earner for Max and pension provider for himself! The spectacular run of 2022 is a distant memory and whilst he got to the third last year, he will need to reverse the don't do as I say; do as I do line that is pushed out by most aspiring Dads!
	James Bain	9	James was beaten by Dave Taylor in the third round and will be disappointed that he did not progress further than his father. It's not going to get any easier after having his handicap cut by a massive 4 shots since last year.
	Charles Bain	13	Charles has retained his charm and now has bragging rights over his son James, having got to the fourth round, where he came up against that very useful competitor Simon Kimble

2 Twenty twenty vision (6)

1. 2	Nick Morgan	19	A slight reduction in handicap and an improvement; last year he managed to make the fourth round where he was beaten by Jim Sharpe! Somewhat like his soccer team Spurs, he flatters to deceive.
	David Henderson	20	David came up with the phrase: Death by a 1000 golf thoughts after he went out in the third round last year to Mike Edwards. We said, he will probably struggle and he did!! Save your money!
	Mike Pearson	21	Man goes into his pub; Mike said we don't serve fruit here! The Member for House has obviously been distracted with halfway hut deliberations; location, menu content; beverage availability, staffing etc., as his progress in last year's competition never got off the ground. Will the proposed half way hut suffer a similar fate?
	John Miles	20	John almost feels obliged to enter; he must have little side wagers with his mates as to whether he can get past the second round. Out at the fist last year. He is still hoping to get a walk on part on the next series of Ted Lasso; filming at his locations in Richmond. May surprise his friends and get to the second round.
	Jonathan Beastall	21	Jonathan's handicap has drifted out by another shot yet he remains hopeful. There will be huge celebrations if he gets into the third round; one better than last year.
	Andy Pow	20	Three years on the bounce, poor old Andy has struggled at the second fence! Like many of his other tennis aficionados, he appears to struggle hitting a moving ball. Time would be better spent monitoring the quality (and supply) of the Guinness at the club.

3 Make mine a single

Alasdair Dunn OOM 9	5	Ally has very obviously recovered from his various health issues and is testament to the saying; ‘Beware the injured golfer’; last year he had the Midas touch (albeit silver not gold!) and was surrounded by three trophies at the Presentation dinner. After three losses in various finals; the boy done good, winning the Queen Victoria (not the pub!!) cup, the David Dorling and the Stephenson foursomes. Beaten by Ed Franklin in the 3rd round, last year, you can be sure he will try to add the Singles to his CV this year. With his handicap down by two on the previous two years, he remains a huge threat.
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4 High hopes (5)

Mark Thomas	11	Mark is back out to double figures and is reportedly addicted to brake fluid; he denies this, stating he can stop whenever he wants! Yet another premature exit, going out in the second round. Represented Wales with aplomb at athletics in his youth, but his athletic competitiveness has not crossed over to golf; nevertheless must be worth a punt.
Ben Priest	11	Ben is another golfer identifying as a Single figure handicap golfer. His handicap is slowly drifting in the wrong direction, which will make him a very dangerous opponent. The expression ‘wing and a prayer’ last year did not help and out at the third last year.
Tim Barber	11	Down one shot despite early departures in the last two years; he went out at the third fence. Last year we mentioned the difference between a barber and a hairdresser; the same applies to a chef and a cook; usually a couple of grand! Tim has dropped the John Travolta look and is thinking of a Tony Curtis or a Yul Brunner.
Rob Franklin	11	Unlike Brooklyn Beckham, Ben was NOT conceived at Franklin Gardens, nor was he named after FDR. Our Rob is a considered, thoughtful golfer who enjoys early morning banter and practice. His practice routine needs to change as he once again departed early; out at the 2 nd fence! He will be hoping progress along the lines of his namesake; Ed Franklin.
Sam Pannetier	11	A surprising exit in the second round and losing two shots this year. Shakespeare wrote; let life be short; else shame will be too long (in Henry V). An expression many of us could adopt after coming up against this formidable cross channel entrant. His golfing chum, Ed Franklin took him to one side and restored his confidence: A win in the Edgar Pohlman followed.

5 And a double for me (2)

David Lymburn	8	Cut by five shots over the last two years, despite only making the third round in 2023 and falling at the first last year. Beaten by an inspired Iain Sawers. David is setting up a petition, not for Scottish Independence but for the WHS to be banned ! David is always there or thereabouts, with net 70s not unusual.
David Hardman	8	David has made the money boxes in his first two ventures in to the Stephenson’s; A very classy competitor, who glides around the club house in his ‘sliders’. When he was a young man, his contemporaries idolised Maradona and followed football; David followed The Duck aka: Ángel Cabrera for inspiration. Cusses beautifully in fluent Spanish, as witnessed by Imti in the last 16 last year. A very dangerous opponent; best avoided!

6 A baker’s dozen (6)

Peter Stocks	12	Peter has not got Tourette's; the tics are missing! Some lively language apparent when he disappeared without trace after the pre-lim round last year. Plus his handicap is still decreasing and he finds it difficult to give away shots to higher handicappers. He will want to make better progress this year. Tip: tell him you are collecting for the Captain's swear box!
David Bradley	12	David is a regular in the Sunday roll but is yet to feature. His handicap betrays his nervousness in match play, having only reached the second round in his last two outings. He continues to support charity events, but having fallen at the second last year, despite having drifted out by three shots, keeps repeating the phrase, 'Charity begins at home'. If only his opponents would listen!
Craig Duffy	12	Craig again failed at the second, beaten by Jim Sharpe. Our misguided comments re: going through a bad spell were remarkably accurate. He could be worth a bid but is more likely to be seen looking for the Easter bunny out on the course.
Rob Woolner	12	Little is known of Rob or his form. His handicap indicates a useful player and rumour has it that when he gets out on the course (subject to her indoors giving him the OK) he can cause problems. Appears to be a first time entry, so no pedigree. Watch the bidding; someone will have the inside story!
Graham McDevitt	13	Dispatched Iain Sawers last year and thought, 'Single figure golfers; no worries mate!' then ran into the fearsome Simon Kimble in the last 16. End of story! Wished he was back in WaggaWagga (an aboriginal name, after the crows that gather there, a bit like the 7th fairway here at RGC; pronounced Wogga, it was also the home of Donald Bradman). An outsider who could be worth a punt, especially so if the lesson he won in the Xmas draw has any beneficial effect!
Steve Williams	13	Steve gave the Stephensons a miss last year and having looked at the results thought there were some easy pickings available. Another boy from the Principality, he will be wearing the Welsh flag with pride. A very competent golfer, who when on song (a very Welsh trait) will give Max Boyce (Have a listen to the song, Rhondda Grey on YT) a run for his money and will be hard to beat.

7 High rollers (2)

Stuart Rollings	8	A past Captain of WPGC and Chairman, beaten in the first round in 2023. Last year, he progressed at a canter to the second round and promptly fell. Has been warned by fellow members re; slow play. NOT on the course, but when entering his score into the WHS monitor! Has been timed out at almost 28 minutes! Should really be a contender this year but has taken over Captaincy of the Seniors; a huge distraction!
Paddy Griffith	8	Down by three shots over two years and now playing some excellent golf. He has obviously been watching his junior charges and picked up a thing or two. Led the Irish team to victory on the International Day, but missed out on the Presentation evening and will have booked his place for this year's event, despite falling at the second last year. The big Question: which competition?

8 A lonely man

Iain Sawers	6	Iain has maintained his swing, allegedly developed by AI. A first time entry and faller in 2022, he made a slightly improved showing in both '23 and '24 but still only managed to get to the 3rd round last year, beaten by Graham McDevitt.
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9 Four of a kind (4)

Justin Webb	9	Finished in the last eight in 2023 and we thought he would make good progress but he fell at the third. Very competitive and we still think one to watch. Has finished practicing with a wedge over the Arch and now tries to pitch a shot over the gates but below the arch; this has resulted in his handicap being cut by three..
Andy Williams	9	A surprising loss in the first round; beaten by Nimmo; may struggle off this handicap as down by two on last year. We thought that retirement and greater exposure to weekday golf would suit him but alas; no! In 1968 Andy (the original) released, The Impossible Dream which our Andy could be adopting as his theme song.
Jon Sykes	9	If there were a DYMO labelling machine handy, he would have a price on his head!! He has been absent, but now back with a vengeance. If (and a big if!) he makes the tee on time, on the day, you will be in for a tough game from this tenacious, competitive golfer. Best hope is that you meet him in the summer when fatherly duties may impinge on his golfing schedule. One to avoid!!
Stewart Robertson	9	Stewart went out in the second round last year. Rumour has it that he threw his match so that he could focus on the club competition named after him. He failed!! That's two early departures and he will be making a determined effort this year. Stewart is a bean counter who analyses everything in great detail and will be counting on luck rather than numbers. Worth a punt.

10 Unlucky for some (5)

Scott Ingram	13	You will recognize RGC's answer to Clark Kent (although he does not need a telephone box to utilize his super powers!) by his glasses and gentle demeanor. A prodigious striker of the ball and a very useful player; he will be sought after. One of the club's thoroughbreds and was expected to make the big boxes and duly obliged! A Semi-finalist in 2024 and was beaten by the eventual winner after a very close match. Raid the kiddie's money boxes or reach for the Kryptonite!
Colin J Smith	13	Colin has triumphed at last, having made the last eight last year where he met the eventual winner Ed Franklin. A gritty player who never stops trying and always capable of giving anyone a tough game.
Eamon Larkin	13	Eamon fell at the second last year and the first the previous year. Raises the question; does early Spring golf suit his game? If he gets through to the Summer rounds with proper greens, he will be difficult to play against. Form is against him but he is capable of going the whole way.
Mel Atkins	13	Mel had high hopes, a competitive handicap and a tour of Surrey Golf courses with the Vets (age, not animal related) where he excelled gave him high hopes. Unfortunately, he met Phil Glynn in the second round and decided to continue playing on other courses during the summer. Has to be a contender of this handicap.
Rob Hillman	13	Rob's first foray into the Stephenson's last year. He must have decided that the cricket in the summer was worth watching and duly capitulated in the third round. A proud Yorkshireman (is there any other?). Has developed his own version of the three club competition; he is a member of The Buckinghamshire, Goring & Streatley and The Richmond. Should there be an 'A' after his handicap?

11 An absent friend

	Stuart Graham	6 (A)	Having driven up from the South Coast in 202; only to go out in the pre-lims, Stuart did not play in last year's competition. Huge movement on his handicap over the last two years, going from 7 to 14, down to 12 and now back to 6. We thought the (A) stood for Absent or Amateur. Answers on a postcard please. Giving away a handful of shots to the field; Will the long drive back up to RGC yield results?
12 Dire Straits.. the A side (4)			
	Dermot Doherty	24	You will not find a nicer soul out on the course and feel guilty when you shake hands after your round BUT beware, if the weather stays fine and he can use a buggy, he can bite!! With the inclement British weather, even on a soft old day, Dermot is unlikely to progress. Out in the second round last year to his foursomes' partner.
	Ken Broe	23	Ken walked into an antique store and they would not let him leave! Believes that a clear conscience is the sign of a bad memory! He came up with the expression History repeats itself, first as a tragedy, then as a farce but said it applied to his golf! He was beaten by his old nemesis James Culverwell in the first round last year.
	Stephen Jefferies	23	Stephen is another outsider and off this handicap unlikely to raise any eyebrows. Best that can be said is that he is in excellent company in this group! Stephen is not related to the hanging judge (whose name was spelt Jeffreys) and off 23 is unlikely to cause the field much trouble
	Rob Glauerdt	24	One of the untouchables or should that read unpronounceables? In wonderful company with this group but money better spent elsewhere.
13 Dire Straits.. the B side (4)			
	Mark Sutton	23	Mark went out at the second last year and we said: Mark will struggle off this handicap and so it proved. Elon Musk is developing a 'Brain Chip' to help people walk; Mark could suggest a 'Golf chip' to help him play, but our suggestion of contacting Elon Musk obviously went unheeded. Unlikely to trouble the field.
	D Phil John	27	Phil was accused of using bad language recently, but it actually was his score in Welsh over 18 holes (un cant: 100) three over his handicap! Not likely to trouble the market and whilst a run out at Chepstow may look attractive, the Ffos Las track is more suited. Got to the third fence last year, despite losing several shots.
	Matthew Jordan	22	Matt is a player to avoid. Most players lose a ball around the course but Matt went one better; losing a leg!! Now an Honorary member of the one legged Society and holding up Ernest Jones as his idol; he next hopes to emulate Juan Arce (DP World Tour Pro). Matt is truly one of those golfers to watch with awe and probably avoid!
	George Luckraft	23	George's luck ran out; we said despite having more shots than the local Covid center; no chance! You heard it here: Out at the first ,but will be hoping for better in 2025.
14 Money for Nothing (4)			
	Keith Tabley	15	Keith had an early exit in 2023 and missed last year's competition. He said he wanted others to have a fair crack! He has been referred to as 'Aspirin' (a reference to his name being spelt incorrectly; who put the T next to the Y on a keyboard?). Nice company on the course and unlikely to progress; somewhat like Exeter Chiefs!!

Imti Arian OOM 6	15	We said Imti has gone out by three shots and will be much more comfortable playing off this mark. He was; getting to the Semis at last; beaten by Robert Reid. This year he is practicing with his wedge ripping up the old woodchip paths using his wedge. Can he perform off this new, and his previous handicap? Imti is still seeking a 'No Play Zone' around his car, thus taking up two spaces.
Ian Gibb Captain 2024	14	Our outgoing Captain is a no longer a Mister Nice Guy after playing host to so many members during his Captaincy; he was beaten by Scott Ingram in the 4th round. No disgrace there! Ian has benefitted from his partnership with the pro, Steve and will prove a handful. Don't let his easy going manner, charm and good looks (his words) may put you off; you will need to be on top of your game.
Andrew Jones	15	Possibly related to Tom and if he does hail from the Valleys; ask him to sing hymns and arias. You never know, it may put him off!

15 All by myself..

Finn Charlesworth	4	Finn remains fiercely competitive and is on a mission. Beaten by Dave Taylor in the second round last year and then let down by Guy Thefaut in the winter and suffering from a severe sense of humour failure as a result. He will be hoping Fulham's progress continues, even if there are suggestions that he is related to Haaland at Man City (by National ties only).
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16 Bolshie teenagers (5)

Richard Arnfield	16	A first round casualty in 2023, out in the 2nd last year, Richard plans his summer holidays well in advance! He has continued to represent the Black Labradors Matter campaign, taking the knee at the first tee and also holds the EDI brief: Equality (all owners), Diversity (different breeds) and Inclusion (mongrels and cross breeds to be included). The RSPCA have confirmed that he did not use his dog as a head cover but suggested the lack of a guide dog could be his problem! A Korean puppy has more chance of making it through to the summer rounds.
Julian Blackshaw	16	Julian has been thrown in with bunch of reprobates and will either sink or swim. Sixteen is a useful handicap for an unknown and he could spring a surprise or two.
Will Richardson	16	Will is recovering from having damaged his wrist and has been doing some manly wrist exercises to strengthen his grip! This looks like his first foray into the competitive world of the Stephenson; and is a relative unknown. One to watch!
Graham Juber	16	Graham has come down by three shots and diplomatically threw his game against the Captain last year, when he was beaten at the third. Apart from that minor blip, he has been in fine form being placed in a host of events; The Vets, Top Gun runner up (posted a nett 61) to name but two; all thanks to driving tips from the BSM..Oops, I mean Nick!!
Ian Ashpitel	16	Ian is still a favourite with the ladies, despite his loss of form last year. If he says he is going cruising, he means the boats and 'hello sailor' may just grab his attention. Ian attended Mime class at Drama school; expelled for some offence; that's saying something! Out in the 4 th round, a big disappointment after 2023, when the Ladies syndicate announced 'A star is Born' !

17 In with a prayer!!

	Richard Lord	7	Richard has been writing his autobiography, i.e.; things he should have won and done! Showed good early form winning the Gold Medal back in the Spring. He has stayed at 7, but the Stephenson is fast becoming his bête noir; out in the first round a couple of times. Last year, out in 2 nd beaten by James Terry. He is fed up with OAP's getting the better of him! He must come good soon; mind you his recent nuptials could affect his form.
18 The Sun child			
	Ben Sampson OOM 4	7	Down by two shots despite going out in the third round to Mark Van denberghe last year. Ben has had some atrocious luck in the Stephenson; going out to OAPs and other talented golfers; he has struggled to reach the third round. He will be hoping for a better draw this year. One of the few RGC academy products; he has played the course, both man and boy. Previously, we have said: His golf is generally pretty solid and he must surely do better; is match play his weakness? Watch the bidding.
19 Troublesome teens (6)			
	James Johnson	18	James had his moment in the spotlight when getting to the final two years ago. Last year he was out in the fourth round, beaten by Matt Dickinson. He may be distracted by Leicester's fall from grace and will also have his mind on the cricket. Has had his shot at fame; time for a rest!
	Hugh Bett	17	Ease and Grace are his bywords. Allegedly purchased his golf swing at IKEA as a flat pack and mislaid the assembly leaflet; as such his swing is not quite the finished product, but he makes do, using his shots wisely. One of the few gentlemen golfers at the club.
	Guy Thefaut	18	A shorter backswing than Joe Root and a blur of a swing. He went out in the 2 nd last year. RUIIS. Guy uses the App: What Three Words when he gets lost on the course (as he does, frequently), which we referred to last year as; Ferphuckssaake but this was classed as one word, so he has gone for Male, Pale and Stale.
	David Freeman	18	Another unknown quantity who, off this handicap could make a nuisance of himself. Watch the bids. If he does well, the Free part will go next year.
	Mark Nimmo OOM 2	17	Down from 22 a couple of years back and very useful on his day, as illustrated by his Order of Merit position (in Dec). Last year he went out in the 2 nd round beaten by Ashley Guymer; no disgrace there! Mark won the Higgins Cup in the Spring meeting
	James Lascelles	17	James took an early bath last year. His backers will be very disappointed but a close examination of his form shows wild swings of form. He was overheard telling one of our American members that Prêt a Manger could not be translated into eating one's pets, quoting Donald Trump. Could be sought after with this handicap.
20 The Unknowns (5)			
12. A	Clive Shaw	16	The Shaws were a Chinese dynasty who controlled the film and entertainment industry in Singapore & Hong Kong in the fifties. Head of the clan was Run Run haw and you will be hoping that Clive does not go on a prolonged run at your expense.

Peter Zellig	13	Zellig (vt) to enjoy without guilt also a business hub in Birmingham, known for its custard factory. So, make him feel guilty and do not end up with egg (or custard on your face)!
John Depasquale	13	Depasquale takes its origins from the French name Pascal, typically masculine it is thought to mean Easter Child. John will be hoping that he makes it past the Easter rounds in this competition.
Harrison Chesterton	18	Harrison Chesterton sounds like a comfortable piece of furniture but we are assured that our Harrison is a little more mobile. Not likely to progress off 18.
Antony Braithwaite	21	Antony is not related to our long past Captain, Jeffrey. Jeffrey could play golf and Antony off 21 could struggle here. Let's see!

21 Ten out of ten! (2)

Philip Glynn	10	Phil may not be the best looker and certainly isn't the most stylish in the Glynn household but he is the better golfer and is a formidable opponent. He has been asked to dress in less revealing lycra gear, but is oblivious to 'white noise'. A hugely consistent performer, who has made it to the last 16 over the last two years and the last 8 in 2022. Very disappointed to come up against Ed Franklin in the last 16 last year, a match described as the golfing equivalent of King Kong meets Godzilla! Out by two shots makes him extremely competitive.
Charles Peerless	10	Down by one, now back to 10. Won the George Barnett cup in the Spring; wait for it..... A faultless performance and you were expecting something else!! Is hoping the property market moves in the same upward direction as Chelsea FC, this pal of Ally Dunn is very useful.

22 A Running Flush (3)

Craig Thomson	7	Forget Eddie the Eagle; we now have Craig the Eagle. He has been cut by two since last year when he played off 9 and fell to Ashley Guymier at the third last year. He was second in the Cooper Salves and Gold Medal being beaten by David Cafferty. Then took his revenge in the Robertson where, on the 11th following his drive, he hit his second which nestled two feet from the pin! A danger as a stand-alone competitor and as a foursomes partner with Ian Banks alongside.
Jon Crossfield	8	Jon was known as Cross country, and then started slotting the ball down the middle. Nice for him, nasty for us mere mortals. Very little known about him but off 8, he has to be worth watching (and avoid playing)!
Conor Larkin	9	Conor can no longer rely on the bank of mum and dad; Heter & Eamon to be precise. With this handicap, you know you are in for a tough game. Our advice? Think Aristotle; Youth is easily deceived because it is quick to hope.

23 A high pair (2)

Mark Van denberghe	10	We said: Out to nine this year and the extra two shots will be valued. They were and he got to the Quarters, beaten by Scott Ingram. No shame there!! He has now picked up an extra shot and is out to double figures for the first time since Queen Victoria was on the throne! Had two rounds of net 66 in May & June last year, so play him in the winter. He remains competitive and is sure to give anyone a tough game.
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Maurizio D'Arrigo	10	Maurizio continues to make quicker and more dignified exits than Liz Truss and Boris Johnson; once again out at the second hurdle. The New York branch of the D'Arrigos clan are from the meatpacking district and supply half of NYC with fruit & veg?; well known for their philanthropy and support the Wounded Warrior project. Obviously not related to our Maurizio, who hails from Milan and gets his clubs from contacts in eBay. Like the Italian football team, lives off his reputation and should do well; Is there a Buy Now option? Watch the bidding!
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24 A perfect ten (2)

Paul Rowe	10	Paul went out in the 2nd round in 2024; beaten by his stablemate Patrick Overmeer. He is now taking more pride in his son's rowing achievements than his performance on the course; nevertheless still useful and one to avoid. Paul is quoted as saying golf, like Brain surgery is all in the mind. A deliberate, thoughtful player and best avoided.
Damien Hughes	10	Damien should not be confused with his namesake, and unlike David, this D Hughes can play! Beaten in the third last year by Ally Dunn, so no disgrace and will want to make amends. Honed his golfing skills in the bush around Melbourne before gracing our shores. If he mentions snaggers, chucks, tinnies and a Barbie he is not talking about the recent Pink film! As the say in Oz: You gotta be in it to win it!

25 A walk on the wild side (4)

Grahame Falconer	13	Grahame would have hoped to make progress after a couple of early exits. This year he came up against Grant Elner in the third round. As Member for Golfing activities he is proposing that Left handers must play with right handed clubs! Seems like a reasonable request to us. Grahame won the Sudbrook Trophy last year with a net 64 and he may make the big places, in similar fashion to his soccer club Partick Thistle.
Jeremy Glanville-Jones	14	Jeremy missed a few years due to ill health and his return was welcomed. He outperformed his critics by getting to the second round and will do better this year; the extra weight he is carrying will mean more mass behind the club and greater distance of the tee. At least that is what he thinks! Still deadly with his putter from within 12 inches!
Les Wong	14	Les has had some bad luck every year since he joined us from WPGC; now a firm stalwart at the club; he flatters to deceive; out at the second last year, following an even earlier dismissal the previous year. If it were not for bad luck, he would have no luck at all. He could do well if the draw is in his favour.
Adrian Fawcett	14	Arranged a Constipation Sufferer's meeting but he couldn't go! Adrian was an unexpected faller last year; only managing to get to the third round. Having been asked about his website which contains several /// in the address; he has removed the slashes from his website. Adrian could make a run this year.

26 A solitary man

Matt Dickinson	3 (A)	Matt's match last year in the 4 th round would have been worth the entry money! He played Simon Kimble who managed to get the better of him and will hope to make better progress this year. He has to give away a shed-load of shots playing off this handicap. Now a regular at St George's Hill, he may find our tighter, nicer and friendlier course a little more difficult to negotiate.,
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27 Adolescents (3)

Dave Butcher	17	DB cannot be abbreviated to Del Boy; his market trading connections are far more genteel, as you would expect from someone with impeccable Ham Common Market connections. Since retiring, Dave's golf has gone from strength to strength (he has dropped one shot) and his name, after over a 20 year wait now appears on an Honours Board. This year he wants his name up in lights as a single; could spring a pleasant surprise!
Robert Reid	17	Last year we noted that Bob has got to the last 16 for the previous two years and will want to progress even further. A definite each way chance and can play a bit. The Long Shot syndicate took this tip seriously and bid a modest amount. Rob beat some very good golfers en route to the Semi finals and has only come down one shot. Will be sought after again!
Roy Wyllie	17	The Wicked Wicky man is back; cutting short his sojourn in Thailand and after looking at the field last year, he fancies his chances. A wee nippie tasty at the 8 th , 11 th , 16 th are obligatory and will help you drown your sorrows at the hands of the best putter in the club (IHO). He is not to be confused with a Chelsea footballer (or pensioner) following his acquisition of a new Bentley, with go faster wheel trims.
Andrew Willson OUT	17	Andrew would be better off staying in bed, reading the Sunday papers rather than heading down to the club in the vague hope he can make a few bob of the Sunday roll-up boys. Made little progress there and ditto in the competition here; out early doors by Dave Murray

28 Still Waters (4)

Anthony Pireddu	11	Is very likely to be nicknamed 'Cold', as in 'cold molasses' which is a reference to his speed of play. Tony does not like the 'untidy roped' (anag!) areas on the course. Has to be difficult to play off this handicap and will be fancied by some.
Steve Deakin	11	Made his name way back as a winner in 2017, since when he has struggled or been absent. He last played in the 2022 Stephenson and his handicap has remained very constant (unlike his waistline) hovering around the 10/11 mark. A fierce competitor who will give all comers a tough game. When presented with a dilemma, his answer to everything is a 'a nice cup of tea'; useless on quiz nights!
Graham Valentine	11	Our poster boy in more ways than one! We mentioned deleting emails from Scotland prior to going to bed, as a warped form of foreplay north of the border, according to the SNP but think that will have changed now he is wedded!!! He has provided the artwork (again, my thanks) for this year's Auction poster, which thus far has not attracted any JSO protests. Out in the 3 rd round after disposing of the GM in the previous round. Graham didn't have to buy a drink for several months as a result! However we wondered if his recent nuptials distracted him?

Gary Toal	11	Partnered Kai Stengel to win the David White Vases? When asked which he preferred grass or the artificial stuff, he said he had never smoked the artificial stuff! Has now started practicing on artificial turf, which is leaving him with green skid marks! Yet another player to avoid.
29 Emerging adults (5)		
Gary Lowrey	19	Gary has now gone out by three which must suit him. A useful handicap for this gentleman golfer but did not help him last year; out in the second round. Still waiting for Aston Martin to come out with a decent electric rather than powder blue vehicle. Gary is definitely capable of making some headway.
Dave Murray	19	Dave auditioned for that 2023 Oscar nominated film; ‘Everything, Everywhere, All at once’ which very much describes his golf swing and drinking routine! This year he goes for the BAFTAs and his pals have coined the phrases ‘The Brutalist’ and ‘Wicked’ to describe his swing. Both, like Dave are box office material. Still an avid supporter of the Black Drinks Matter campaign and will hope to progress beyond the third this year.
Mike Edwards	19	Mike made decent progress compared to previous years and got to the 4 th round, where he met an inspired Mark Vandenberghe; end of story! Still hoping for a Stephenson rules change, when he can invite opponents to the Algarve and play on wide open courses. Has been to IKEA looking for ideas on his swing; you may see him assembling it in the car park.
Tony Venn	19	Out by two and out at the second last year. Tony is very unlikely to trouble the field and will do better watching Richmond RFC on a Saturday afternoon. Lovely company and unlikely to cause an upset.
Ron Lay Captain 2025	19	Mike was a surprise nominee from Donald Trump for the newly formed Ryder Cup revenue collection committee, who said; ‘You know, he’s going to be a great captain, a formidable captain, you haven’t seen anything like this guy before; he is terrific etc., etc...’ We have edited this, as it looked a lot like rambling! Mike declined due to a conflict of interest, stating that his position as Captain of RGC carried greater responsibility. He will be wearing the stars and stripes throughout and we have been told that he has a trump card; not sure if he will play it but he is likely to need it! Ron will benefit from accompanying Steve in the Capt & Pro matches and this could see him make more headway than last year where he fell at the second round.
30 Gary’s kin		
Luke Player	5	Luke’s handicap has plummeted; many members know his father, Gary and would rather be playing him. A first time entry to the Stephenson’s and it could all depend on the draw. Beware the dark horse!
31 The dirty dozen (5)		
Ashley Guymer	12	Ashley met a road bump last year in the shape of Graham McDevitt in the fourth round. A shame as he was only just out of third gear and cruising; like the electric car scene at McLaren, he could struggle but is convinced all will come good.

Tim Hutchence	12	Tim never forgot the time he slept on a memory foam mattress! Nor will he forget coming up against Grant Elner in the 4 th round last year. His handicap is back down to 12 and that will scare a lot of members; as will the sight of his bare knees as he goes for the 'legs eleven' title this year.
Jim Sharpe	12	Jim is back up to 12 (from 10 last year) and will be using those extra two shots wisely. Beaten by Charles Irving (Beware the injured golfer!) in the 5 th round and a useful performer who on his day will give you a hard time.
Peter Walsh	12	Peter aka Pedro has struggled to get beyond the third round in recent years which is a surprise. One of a select few to score an albatross at the 13 th . This left hooker can play a bit and if on song, very dangerous. He was beaten by his friend, Steve Dickens in the second round last year but went on to win the Halsbury Cup.
Charles Gale	12	Another useful handicapper, who could blow you away. Very little known about Charles but another one to look out for in the bidding.

32 The Southpaw

Ian Stidworthy	7	Beaten by Phil Glynn in the 4 th round in 2024 and still cut by two shots. Another one of those pesky kack-handed golfers who is worth avoiding. When asked about his golf, his reply usually includes ..'Oh, you know swings and roundabouts'; must stop thinking about work when on the course! Definitely one to avoid.
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33 An Englishman, an Irishman, a Welshman and a Scot (4)

Malcolm Robson	12	Malcolm lost out to David Hardman (best avoided) in the fourth round and after having had his handicap cut by six in two years, has nudged back out by one. Can he play off that in singles is the question? Has been following the Wayne Rooney diet and said his three favourite things are eating my family and not using commas.
Anthony Byrne	13	Panto was carrying an injury in 2023 and crashed out to the Hound, he refused to blame his injuries and thought 2024 would be better (with Hound away in the Bahamas); wrong!! Out in the first to Graham McDevitt. A prodigious hitter of the ball with an exaggerated follow through; a joy to watch and play against. Pipped by Max Dawson on a countback, after posting a net 67. Panto is dangerous if he keeps the ball in play.
Steve J Jones	13	Steve's performance last year was modelled on the WRFU's team and management performance: unimpressive! Does not like to be reminded of dead sheep out on the course, specifically...still ewe ! He has been cut by one and really should make better progress than a Lamborghini on Welsh roads. Like Welsh teams, good at home but away?
Gary Burns	12	Gary is a stand up sort of chap; thanks to his orthotic shoes! Could be dangerous this year; he has once again the joined the singles; back to living a celibate life and will be working out his frustrations on the course. Another Dunblane export who models himself on Wallace (a near neighbor) and just as feisty. Great company but dangerous as illustrated by his winning the inaugural Top Gun challenge; beaten by David Hardman in the third round and will be raring to go

34 The Bookies tip (2)

Mark Stocker OOM 1	9	Down by four shots over the last three years and showing great consistency. Always a fancied runner but a faller at the 3rd this year. Missed out on the OOM in 2023 but back with a bang, securing the number one slot in December last year. Mark invented the Cold Air balloon, but it never took off !
James Culverwell	9	James has dropped Burger King and is now sponsored by the House of the Golden Arches. He is down by three shots this year and was unlucky enough to meet Simon Kimble in the third round last year. James is still likely to conduct random drug tests, so if you have taken anything for those awful horse fly bites; anti-midge allergy tablets or any other lotion that can be interpreted as a beneficial salve; watch out! Lovely company but one to avoid!
35 Simply Simon		
Simon Kimble	6	A late entry this year and has fantastic form in this competition. Finals twice in succession and Quarter finals last year. Must be serious; has made the journey north of Watford to the SGGT centre in Derbyshire for a club fitting session and will be trying to recoup his expenses! Definitely one to steer clear of.
36 Double Trouble (2)		
William Boucher	8	Bill is a serious player; styles his swing and attire on Bing Crosby with a nod to Gene Hackman in The French Connection, courtesy of his pork pie hat. Surprising loss in the second round last and obviously does not like giving shots away. His progress will depend on the draw, but must be worth investing in unlike his preferred team: Man Utd !
James Hemmings	8	James could have made a huge difference last year when he should have met Richard Reid in the third round. He couldn't play and Richard got the walkover, going on to the Semi finals. No Order of Merit placing this year; has he still got what it takes?
37 The Magnificent Seven (7)		
Charles Irving	20	Never more aptly were the words; 'beware the injured golfer' more apposite. Charles came back with a bang after a couple of torrid years where he was unable to play. Obviously very content with this handicap, he managed to make the last eight (Quarters) in 2024 and the question remains as to whether his form has continued. He was beaten by Imti last year and his handicap has drifted by two shots.
John Cahill	23	John has encouraged members to attend Prostate examinations and has been given the thumbs up!! First round exit again and he was hoping for the part of an extra in Barbie II (..The follow up) otherwise would have tried harder. Still reeling from the SGS's comments re: more mince than a Sudbrooke hamburger and is asking James Culverwell for an opinion. Unlikely to progress.
Pascal Huser	20	Pascal's main claim to fame was his car's appearance in the Stage Show. Pascal auditioned when he thought there was a bedroom scene with Barbara! Pascal was the understudy, with the car the star! He is now negotiating an appearance fee with the GM. He is still the only member of the club who leaves his cars (the white one is a little larger) in his locker; they take up less room than his golf bag. Golf-wise; a nonstarter who may require a push. Out last year at the 2nd by Adrian Fawcett.

Nicholas Bailey	21	Nicholas is very unlucky in the draw; meeting winners and semi-finalist in previous years. Another early exit last year, out in the second round and will hope for better luck this year. Unlikely to progress.
Richard Fabian	22	Richard likes an early bath, when the water is still hot. Has booked his Easter break and will also have his summer holiday plans booked. Unlikely to make progress.
Chris Norman	22	Chris was told that a member had broken his leg in two places; he is desperately trying to avoid those places! A faller at the second last year, he could suffer a role reversal with his syndicate purchasers coming after him for their ill-advised investment. A unique change for Chris, whose nickname was the Chaser!
Tony Marks	22	Tony has gone out by one, which is not likely to help him. Consistently inconsistent and following his move to the Norfolk broads now finds the hill at the 17 th troublesome. Out in the second by Steve Jefferies last year.

38 Deep Waters

Elliot Lake	7	Last year we noted that Elliot had been unwell and may not be quite back to his usual high standards. A will he, won't he proposition....well, he was a won't and went out in the first round. His handicap is down by one, so giving away a few shots. As they say in the financial pages; your investment may be at risk...
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39 Two Pairs (4)

James Terry	16	James aka Edgeways (as in, try getting a word in...) will have been disappointed at going out in the third round to Scott Ingram; no disgrace there! We did say the trick is to try and keep him quiet; more rabbit than Sandy's in Twickenham. On his day, charming and dangerous and cannot be ruled out. Jamie scored over 40 points in three midweek Stableford last year; play him at the weekend!!
Glynn Theobald	15	Glynn, like his golf generally makes slow and steady progress at a serene pace in this competition. Last year he met Charles Irving, whose three shot advantage was telling. He will want to go at least one step further this year.
Gonzalo Pangaro	15	We hope that his portfolios are doing better than his progress in this competition. Three times a faller at the second and really should do better. Possible distracted by Argentinas's football failings. His theme song of 'Don't cry for me Argentina' could well apply to his golfing prowess. Rumoured to be following MacAllister at Liverpool, so not all bad news!
Aaron Resch	16	Aaron took a year off in 2023 and thought 2024 would be a good year; unfortunately he came up against an in-form (for once!) Dave Taylor. He is still negotiating with the GM re; running the half-way house and is convinced the new path from the 8 th green to the 9 th tee has been laid with all the amenities necessary to run a pop up joint! Out by one and can bite!

40 Sweet Sixteen (4)

Mark Jensen	16	What's the Hamlet line about something rotten in the state of Denmark? Well, we now have two Danes in the competition for the first time. The big question is which one, Mark or Ivan will end up as the Crufts Best of Breed ie Great Dane!! A first time entry and could be useful.
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Ivan Rosenschein	16	Ethelred wanted to pay the Vikings Danegeld to keep them at bay. It didn't work and this Danish invader will be hoping to wreak the same sort of havoc. Well known on the night club scene, this occasional DJ will want to remove you from his play list! An unknown quantity...
Henry John	16	Well John Henry was known as a Steel Driving Man who became a symbol of exploited (Very much a Welsh tale!) and has featured in several folk songs. Our Henry Iorwerth (Welsh trans: Lord, handsome) has developed into a strong character; named after a pub in Anglesey and is prominent in the game Old School Rune Scape (OSRS). Out at the second last year and will need to be at his best.
William Wells	16	Bill got to the last 16 and shocked just about everyone with his performance (apart from his talented son, who has been coaching him). A laid back sort of individual, who looks at ease on the course and you should not let his relaxed manner fool you. Could be useful of this handicap.

41 Mr Marmite

John Maguire	1	The Senior's club champion, despite falling at the second last year...beaten by Graham Valentine. John has seen his handicap increase by 100%, so he's not giving as many shots away! Little is known of his Army career but we have it on good authority that he served with the RAOC on bomb disposal or mine disposal. He is alleged to have said that he wanted to follow in someone's footsteps! Boom Boom !!
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42 The Fab Four (4)

Colin Thomson aka Tommy	16	Clarification here: Tommy is not from Dunblane, he is an Ayr Head. The association came about because of his foursome's partner, the impressive Ally Dunn and together they won the event. We said: he has more chance of walking across the pond in his bare feet than progressing! And he proved us right with a first round exit! Has now been spotted trying to walk on water across the Solent to his interest on the Isle of Wight. Capable of so much more!!
John Vigar	16	John is another member who finds it difficult to hit a stationary ball, after his time with the young England cricketers. Last year he was beaten by the postman (aka Tim Hutchence) and his reputation as Mr Nice Guy took a nose dive, following some well-rehearsed expletives!
David R Hughes	16	Last year we said; Can produce a surprise of this handicap. He did, he surprised us by falling at the first ! David can play a bit and must be worth a punt. May be distracted during the Spring but if Liverpool FC continue to do well, David will try to emulate them.
Jon Gash	16	We hoped that Jon would not live up to his surname; he did! We were told that Jon was one of the nicer imports from WPGC; which he proved by throwing his game against Iain Sawers at the second fence last year. .Has been seen being consoled by his fellow Park exiles.

43 Last of the summer wine (5)

Mike Stewart	17	Last year he was beaten in the second round by yours truly, and will be seeking revenge, probably via the Captain and Pro. This year he proudly represents the USA, the Land of the Fee, in this Ryder Cup year and may ask for appearance money. If he is not wearing his hat; get your wallet out....
Merv Edwards	17	Merv has had trouble sleeping and was told to count sheep; One, two, three, four, five...Hello Doreen !! He thought his arthritis was an early sign of rigor mortis. If he went on a web dating site; it would be carbon dating! Lost out to that supreme athlete, Tim Hutchence, who had to play out of his skin to achieve a narrow 5 & 4 victory in the third round! Has been spotted giving advice to anyone who will listen at Twickenham HQ on match days; fortunately often ignored! Save your pennies!!
David Taylor	18	David will tell you that past performance is no guide to future results and that your investment can go down as well as up. He is not just referring to the markets but his ability to progress. Reached the last 16 and rewarded his investors last year and can probably reach the same heights...if he avoids those three hour, four bottle lunches. If you want to unsettle him, mention Bath RFC's progress! One to watch.
Geoff McCaw	18	Out by three shots again; that's an extra six shots in two years! Has been somewhat haphazard over recent years and seems to have transferred all his golfing ability to his son (best avoided!). Disappeared without trace very early last year and will have been disappointed.
Jonathon Sherman	18	John tried to correct Donald Trump prior to the US elections: he told the campaign people that Prêt et Manger here in the UK did not mean we were eating our Pets! John has come down by four shots, due in part to his prodigious length off the tee, which will have an impact on his ability to make progress. He went out at the second last year and may struggle.

44 Roget's Foursome: Talented, special, awesome, terrific, outstanding, exceptional, brilliant, gifted...at least, that's what they think ! (4)

Daniel West OOM 5	14	Won the Prince Arthur of Connaught and the un-named trophy. Recorded a massive 46 points back in July last year, so likes the sun on his back. Dan was offered the job of noise inspector but turned it down!! Avoid this player if you want to progress!
Alan Shingler	14	Last year we were very positive about Alan's chances and referred to the video camera set up in his bedroom. This was not for anything adventurous, or X rated, but to video capture some proper golfers on the fourth tee. Must be worth another chance off this handicap, having gone out by two. A Quins supporter and a faller at the second last year. A surprising fall from grace
Will Porter	14	Will is the club's Harry Potter lookalike. When asked about his golf is reported as having quoted the Marquis de Sade, 'It is only by way of pain one arrives at pleasure'. I think that sums golf up for many of us! Let us hope that Will is able to achieve a pleasurable outcome on the course and make the big boxes!
Steve Dickens	14	Steve went out on the toss of a coin last year and has cancelled all family holidays, away days and long weekends, thus ensuring he is available to play whenever, including finals day! Cut by one shot since last year. Steve came up with that wonderful phrase; If you can change one thing every day; make sure it's your underwear! A silky swing and worth avoiding!

45 BAFTA entries (3)

Patrick Going	12	Patrick went out in the third last year, which surprised him and his backers. He will have one eye on the property market and hope things start to move in an upwardly mobile direction. He has a useful handicap and should be thereabouts but can he focus on his golf? Worth watching.
Anders Nielsen	12	Using two BAFTA entries here: 'A Complete Unknown' and could be 'A Real Pain'. Anders has to be useful of 12 and will attract a few bids from those in the know.
Steve Caplen	12	Steve is now in to his fourth Stephenson's and will once again hope to progress beyond the prelims. Last year, a faller at the third. History indicates a summer player who is not suited to Spring golf conditions. Steve refers to a golf handicap as an allocation of strokes on various holes that allow two golfers of differing abilities to play equally poorly on the same course! Must play better this year.

46 The Champ

Edward Franklin	12	Winner, winner chicken dinner!! Last year we said: <i>A winner of this competition in 2019 & 2020 and would probably have prevailed in 2021 had Covid not been amongst us. Will have considered last year a failure, and is almost certain to improve on that performance. A solid contender. Has ordered a chicken and an egg off Amazon and will let us know the result! Useful... Well the form book was correct and he was more than useful. Dive in to your Crypto vaults if you want a part of this spectacular buy! Last year's comments: Now out by two shots, which make him even more dangerous !</i>
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