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| **Captain: Miles Wilkinson** | **Secretary: Peter Stocks** | **President: Billy Field** |

9 January 2024

Dear Member,

Happy New Year to you all I hope that you had a relaxing and enjoyable festive break.

I am truly honoured to be taking the role of Captain for this great society during 2024 and I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at the events throughout the coming year. It is great to see our membership flourishing and our events are an excellent opportunity to network within our fantastic industry. Thank you all for your continued support for the BAGS as your energy and commitment is the driving force behind its success.

I’m looking forward to this year and I do believe 2024 will be a positive year for our industry. Whilst there remains the backdrop of wider geo-political and global conflict issues, and a general election closer to home, the spectre of rising interest rates and inflation finally appears to be fading. Occupier markets continue to remain strong, and whilst the cost of debt will remain challenging there are now some interesting opportunities coning forward in the investment market. But before we start making grand plans to move our industry forward we need to get the 2024 year planners out and the BAGS events locked in. The events schedule is listed below for your information.

Looking back to 2023 I would like to extend my thanks to last year’s Captain, Nick Findlay, who showed great spirit and commitment through what was a difficult year for him following his back operation. Knowing how much he loves his golf it can’t have been easy attending the events and not being able to play. He continues to be a great ambassador for the BAGS and we look forward to welcoming him back to full fitness and playing in the events during the coming year.



Each year the Committee rotates one of the seats and I’m pleased to welcome Jason Warren to the Committee whilst also extending our sincere thanks to Tony Sweeney who retires. Tony has done a great job for the Committee over the years and has also won his fair share of events! Dan Whittingham becomes my Vice Captain and I look forward to working with him to organise the events throughout the coming year. Frank Hynes continues his diligent and essential role in keeping our numbers in check and chasing down payments which we are all grateful for. We now have the Metro Bank payment system set up on the website which I would encourage you all to use.

There has also been a change in President of the society. Billy Field has taken over the presidency of the BAGS, from Ray Gardner who stepped down at the end of 2023. A massive thanks to Ray for his many years of dedicated service to the society, from Captain to Secretary for 10 years then president. Many congratulations to Billy in taking over, a recognition of his long and continued service to the society.

So, on to the Captain’s Trip for this year. As mentioned at the annual luncheon, I’m very excited to announce that my Captain’s trip for 2024 will be held at Burnham & Berrow followed by the Manor House Course at Castle Combe. Burnham & Berrow is a championship links course overlooking the Bristol Channel in Somerset after which we will be heading back towards London to stay overnight at the 5-star Manor House Hotel in Castle Combe and playing the fantastic golf course the following day. The trip takes place over Tuesday 25th and Wednesday 26th June and I will be issuing joining details with more information very soon. Numbers are limited to 24 so please come back to me or Peter Stocks once you have seen full details of the trip if you would like to attend.

Secretary Mr Peter Stocks

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# BAGS Calendar of events 2024

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| BAGS v RICS match | Worplesdon GC | Weds 28th Feb |
| Past Captain’s Quad/Biennial Lunch Note, This is for the Current & Past Captains ONLY | RAF club | Thursday 29th Feb |
| Spring Meeting - The Dyke trophy | Berkshire GC | Thurs 21st March |
| BAGS v EPICS match | Ashridge GC | Tuesday16th April |
| Members Only meeting and AGM - The Captains Plate | New Zealand GC | Thursday 2nd May |
| BAGS v PICKS match | Woking GC | Tuesday 28th May |
| Summer Meeting - The Bunter Griffiths Trophy | Walton Heath GC | Thursday 13th June |
| Captain’s Away trip | Burnham and Berrow & Castle Coombe | Tuesday 25th and Weds 26th June |
| BAGS V BCO match | Kingswood GC | Thursday 5th Sept |
| Autumn Meeting - The Builder Trophy | Worplesdon GC | Weds 18th Sept |
| Ray Gardner Trophy meeting | West Surrey GC | Thursday 3rd Oct |
| Past Captains and Committee - The Schultz Trophy | Swinley Forest GC | Monday 11th Nov |
| Annual Lunch | RAF Club | Thursday 28th Nov |

Please do put these dates into your 2024 diaries and advise of your availability for selection for the BCO, RICS, Picks and EPICS matches. We need 12 people for the team matches and everyone is welcome to play so do please register your interest with Peter Stocks as soon as possible.



Finally, I wish you well for 2024 and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our Spring Meeting at the Berkshire GC on the Thursday 21st March 2024

Yours Sincerely

Miles Wilkinson

Captain

Secretary Mr Peter Stocks

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