



2024 Ponce de Leon - Players Guide

Welcome to the Ponce!

“The War on the Moor”

“Golf is a game, and talk and discussion is all to the interests of the game. Anything that keeps the game alive and prevents us being bored with it is an advantage. Anything that makes us think about it, talk about it, and dream about it is all to the good and prevents the game becoming dead.”

- Dr Alister MacKenzie

For the Twenty second consecutive year, the Ponce is all about Friendships Renewed, Friendships Strengthened.

The Tee is Yours,

Ross J Bryan Esq

2024 Captain, Team GB

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Pre-Ponce Logistics and check list

All players are staying at Rudding Park Hotel, check-in has been arranged per instructions given to your team captain prior to departure.

Hotel Address:

Rudding Park Hotel & Spa
Rudding Ln, Follifoot,
Harrogate, Yorkshire
HG3 1JH
United Kingdom

Hotel Reception:

+44 (0)1423 871 350

What 3 Words:

cope.remote.snacks

For players using ShipSticks or other services, please use the details below for delivery to the Observatory at the Golf Academy

FAO Marc Rice / Steph Jones

Golf Academy
Rudding Park Golf Club
Rudding Ln, Follifoot,
Harrogate, Yorkshire
HG3 1JH
United Kingdom

What 3 Words:

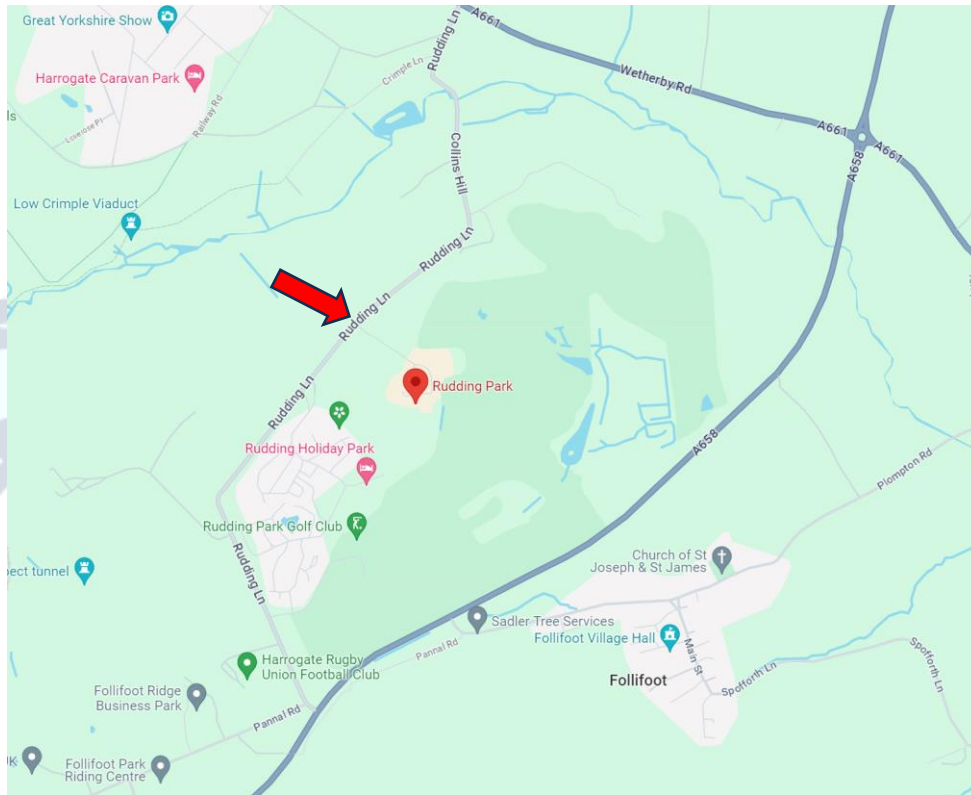
client.guards.hidden

Apart from the first/last night if you need, please do not store golf clubs in your room. For all players, golf clubs, trolleys etc will be stored at the golf clubhouse instead of in your rooms to save carrying through the hotel. The coach will collect/drop off from the golf clubhouse each day to allow for ease of storage - it is a short walk from the clubhouse to the hotel across the lawns/paths.

For those planning to arrive on Saturday 18th, I urge you to be at the hotel no later than 11am if you plan to play in the practice round for 18 holes as the tee is reserved until midday, plus you need to allow time to freshen up for the opening night ceremony.

TRAVEL BY CAR

For those driving, the postcode above is accurate (What 3 Words more precise of course), but make sure you look for the main hotel entrance, not the lodges or the golf club entrance per the map below (plenty of parking available):



TRAVEL BY TRAIN

For those using trains, there are both direct and those with only 1 change; you should have 3 options per hour during normal hours and service:

- London Kings Cross to Harrogate direct – c.3hrs
- London Kings Cross to Harrogate via York or Leeds - c.3hrs
- London Kings Cross to Leeds direct – c.2hours 15mins

For travellers from the USA, the best way to buy and store train tickets is with www.thetrainline.com or downloading the Trainline app. Book in advance as prices can move from £30 to £70+ for a single in standard class.

TAXIS from the station, are available from both Harrogate and Leeds. There is Uber in Leeds, but in Harrogate you are best to either use Uber Advance to book ahead, or just use a local firm waiting outside the station.

- Harrogate to Rudding Park – 8-10 mins
- Leeds to Rudding Park – 30-35 mins

GOLF EQUIPMENT

As we travel back to an era of pre-war golf courses, and private members' clubs, the resort style amenities will be noticeably absent. None of the clubs will have caddies on standby, you will have to

navigate holes and read putts by yourself/your pair. Electric carts are by medical exemption only and with Clay not in team USA, there won't be any carts! (We are sorry not to see Clay on this trip for his great entertainment value...Team GB are consoling themselves that one of the USA's star players is notably absent!).

If you do have a buggy/trolley you are welcome to bring it and we can store it in the hotel along with clubs, but please TAG OR MARK IT CLEARLY since several may be the same. Hire buggies/trolleys will be available at each club if you decide not to carry.

GOLF AND EVENT ATTIRE TO BRING/AVOID

Golf club attire rules will require collared shirts or high neck zips on sweaters for playing, better not risk the hoodie or t-shirt (this isn't LIV Golf!!!). Club houses will generally not require coat and tie, but DO NOT wear jeans or trainers to any of the clubs as they are not like some US resorts. If in doubt, think Yeaman's Hall/Royal St George's!

MONDAY 20th at Ganton GC - please travel in coat and tie, or bring with you as this is the required dress code for the dinner afterwards in the club.



Friday May 18th (Rudding Park arrival)



Reception has all the rooming details, but below is the current list. Any amicable swaps can be arranged ad hoc! When you check in, you should also be presented with a named bag with your PDL 2024 stash and other mementos.

THURSDAY/FRIDAY CHECK IN

ROOMING LISTS TO COME

SATURDAY CHECK IN

ROOMING LISTS TO COME

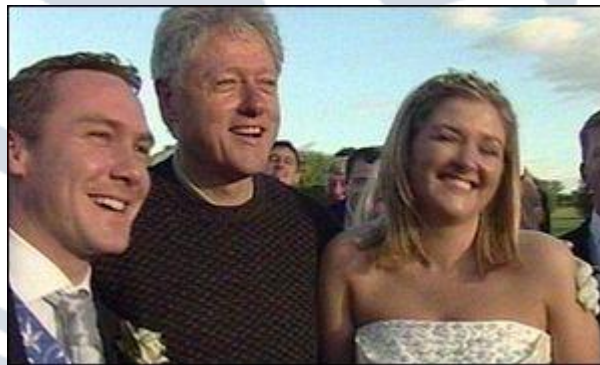
A Presidential interlude

In June 2001 a young couple were in the process of enjoying their wedding reception at Rudding Park, basking in the sunshine with all the guests out on the lawns sipping champagne. As you will soon find out, the lawns of the stately home form part of the golf course at the nearest point and thus the worlds of wedding and golf momentarily combined...



Wearing full golfing attire, the former US President halted a convoy of six golf buggies - each carrying security staff - to wish Justin and Rebecca Garnett good luck and appear in their wedding video.

Mr Clinton endured some friendly jibes from the other guests about the state of his own marriage. "He coped with it very well," said Mr Garnet, before President Clinton signed a menu, shaking hands with a few guests and returning to his golf.



Saturday May 19th (Rudding Park – Practice Round)

Following in the footsteps of the former POTUS, we will play our practice round at the Rudding Park course. The clubhouse is a short walk from the hotel entrance and clubs shipped would already be stored there. Perhaps worth getting there early to sort kit and ensure everything is in order prior to the actual tee times.

Formal pairings have not been arranged for the practice round due to the mixed arrival times of players on the Friday and Saturday. The working assumption is that those arriving Friday will definitely play, and those arriving Saturday morning will pick up some of the last times. Arrangements for groups can be made over breakfast on Saturday morning.

The tee is reserved for PDL 2024 from 11:04 until 12:01 allowing for 8x 4ball starts

Golf carts are allowed depending on the ground conditions and can be hired separately in the pro shop, but otherwise the round is included in the tour cost. Don't lose all your PDL 2024 balls on the practice round though!

If anyone wants to try and go out for 9 holes at a later time, that should be OK and is included in the costs. There is also a Trackman driving range if you don't have time but would like to hit a few before the kick off on Sunday (this would be at additional cost).

Saturday May 19th (Harewood House)

OPENING CEREMONIES

(ALL 32 PONCERS)

The coach will leave from outside hotel reception at 18:30, do please arrive a few minutes prior

Dress code: Coat & Tie

Venue: Harewood House

Harewood House is the home to the 1st Baron Harewood and is still in the hands of the Lascelles family today, some 250 years after it was completed. Construction took 12 years to complete and it remains one of the finest examples of Palladian architecture in Britain today.

When Edwin Lascelles started building Harewood House in 1759 he wanted nothing but the best for his new home. He employed the finest craftsmen of the time: York-born architect John Carr, fashionable interior designer Robert Adam, England's greatest furniture maker Thomas Chippendale and visionary landscape gardener Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. As you walk round the House, you can see Renaissance masterpieces, exquisite family portraits by Reynolds, Gainsborough, Lawrence and Richmond, as well as a fine collection of Sèvres china, among many other delights, which will be on view during our reception and dining experience.



Today Harewood is home to an astounding collection of paintings by masters of the Italian Renaissance, family portraits by Reynolds, Hoppner and Lawrence, and modern art collected by the current Earl and Countess. Edward 'Beau' Lascelles was a patron of JMW Turner, who came here as a young artist aged just 22 to paint the new house and its landscape.

In 1767, Thomas Chippendale, who would become the greatest and most famous English furniture maker, received the largest and most lucrative commission of his career, worth more than £10,000 (about £2.2m at today's value), to furnish the newly built Harewood House. Chippendale and his son not only provided sumptuous highly crafted pieces of furniture for the grandest rooms of the House but also simple, functional items such as garden benches in a project that spanned 30 years. Today, Harewood House is home to some of the most outstanding pieces of Chippendale furniture ever produced.

Edward 'Beau' Lascelles also amassed a collection of French and Oriental porcelain to rival that of his contemporary, the future King George IV.

The 22nd Ponce de Leon The 5th International Matches

May 18-23, 2024

This tournament is a 2 team contest:

TEAM GREAT BRITAIN versus **TEAM UNITED STATES**.

Each team will have 16 golfers, with rolling substitutions permitted if needed or necessary.

All 32 golfers will play 4 tournament rounds, and all matches count for the competition (unlike the Ryder Cup, there are no golfers who "sit out" for any rounds).

There will be 40 matches total contested - all of which are "Match-Play":

The Matches consist of: 8 Fourball Betterball Matches on Sunday at Alwoodley; 8 Fourball Betterball Matches on Monday at Ganton; 8 Foursomes Matches on Tuesday at Moor Allerton; and 16 Singles Matches on Wednesday at Moortown.

R&A Rules govern play, unless otherwise stated. Range-finding/ measurement devices are permitted during competitive play. Green-reading books are not permitted.

Each golfer's respective handicap has been agreed between the captains should there be any variance to the listed handicaps on the WHS system for global handicaps. Handicaps will be adjusted according to the WHS rating of each course, and will be used on a 100% basis for each of the betterball and singles matches.

In the case of the Tuesday Foursomes, take the slope adjusted handicap of each player, add together and divide by 2 for the team handicap. The team handicap difference then dictates how many strokes a team will receive in the match.

The winner of each match scores ONE POINT for their respective team and country. In the event of a tied match, the points are halved.

The Team who attains at least 20.5 points will win the Matches, and thus the Helmet (with the losing team buying the Champions Dinner). In the event of a tie (20-20), USA will retain the Helmet. However, for purposes of deciding the Champions Dinner wager if the final score is 20-20, the Team Captains shall appoint 2 golfers from their respective teams to participate in an impromptu sudden-death 4-man scramble (played off scratch) immediately following competitive play at Moortown, re-teeing on the 1st hole and playing 1 and 18 until a winner is achieved to break that dinner bet tie.

The War on the Moor

Gentlemen, a hearty Captain's welcome to my home county, to Yorkshire where the locals may be heard referring to it as 'God's own country'. If the chap upstairs is kind with the weather before and during the course of our tournament I hope you will get a feel for what those locals are talking about!

While many of you may associate British golf with the famous Open courses with links laid out in coastal dunes; the heaths and moors of inland Britain have also been a rich source of inspiration for many a great architect; and amongst the heather, the gorse and the rolling hills, below is a little sample of who is responsible for the challenges you will face on this sortie to the North of England.

The combined age of our host courses is 466 years.

I hope that over the coming days of our competition you will enjoy soaking in the history and the character of the courses, particularly enjoyed and experienced when walking the course allowing time to catch the sight lines and experience all the contours through your feet. Do also take a tour of the clubhouses and the memorabilia dotted around, giving an insight into the evolution of the game and the milestones at each course...with a curl of a smile as we lay down our own piece of history: the 2024 Ponce de Leon, "War on the Moor"!



Dr Alister Mackenzie - Alwoodley (Day 1), Moortown (Day 4)

Alister MacKenzie was born in Normanton, near Leeds, in 1870 to Scottish parents. After studying at Leeds and Cambridge Universities, he graduated with degrees in chemistry, medicine and science. A keen golfer, he was a member of Leeds Golf Club and joined his father's medical practice as a GP. MacKenzie served in the Boer War (1900-01).

MacKenzie had been a member of several golf clubs near Leeds, dating back as far as the late 1890s. These included Ilkley between 1890 and 1900 and Leeds Golf Club from 1900 to 1910. In 1907, he was one of the founding members of Alwoodley Golf Club, where he was both honorary secretary (1907-1909) and club captain (1912-1913), and he remained on its green committee until 1930.

The very first course designed by MacKenzie was Alwoodley in 1907, followed by Moortown in 1909. Both courses are found in North Leeds, with their respective clubhouses just half a mile apart.

He went on to design over 50 golf courses including Royal Melbourne, Cypress Point, Crystal Downs and the much venerated Augusta National.

Robert Trent Jones Sr - Moor Allerton (Day 3)

Robert Trent Jones was born on June 20, 1906, in Ince-in-Makerfield, England, to Welsh parents. At age five or six, Jones emigrated with his parents to the United States. He met Donald Ross as a youth and, taking up the game, recorded the best score of all the amateur golfers at the 1927 Canadian Open and set a course record at Rochester. While working as a golf professional, Jones attended Cornell University and designed their golf course.

Shortly after World War II, Jones got his first major assignment designing the Peachtree Golf Club in Atlanta in collaboration with golf legend Bobby Jones. At Bobby Jones' request, Jones redesigned the 11th and 16th holes at Augusta National Golf Club, also finding time to design a putting green for Dwight D Eisenhower at the White House, and a single hole at Camp David.

RTJ was a prolific full time course architect unlike Mackenzie, delivering over 500 courses in his lifetime including Spyglass Hill, Hazeltine, Congressional and a European favourite and another Ryder Cup venue, Valderrama.

As all Ponce competitors take to the first tee, you can revel in the fact that some great names have trodden the same turf in years before you. Our 2024 trip takes in 2 Ryder Cup host venues:

The first Ryder Cup played outside America - Moortown, 1929

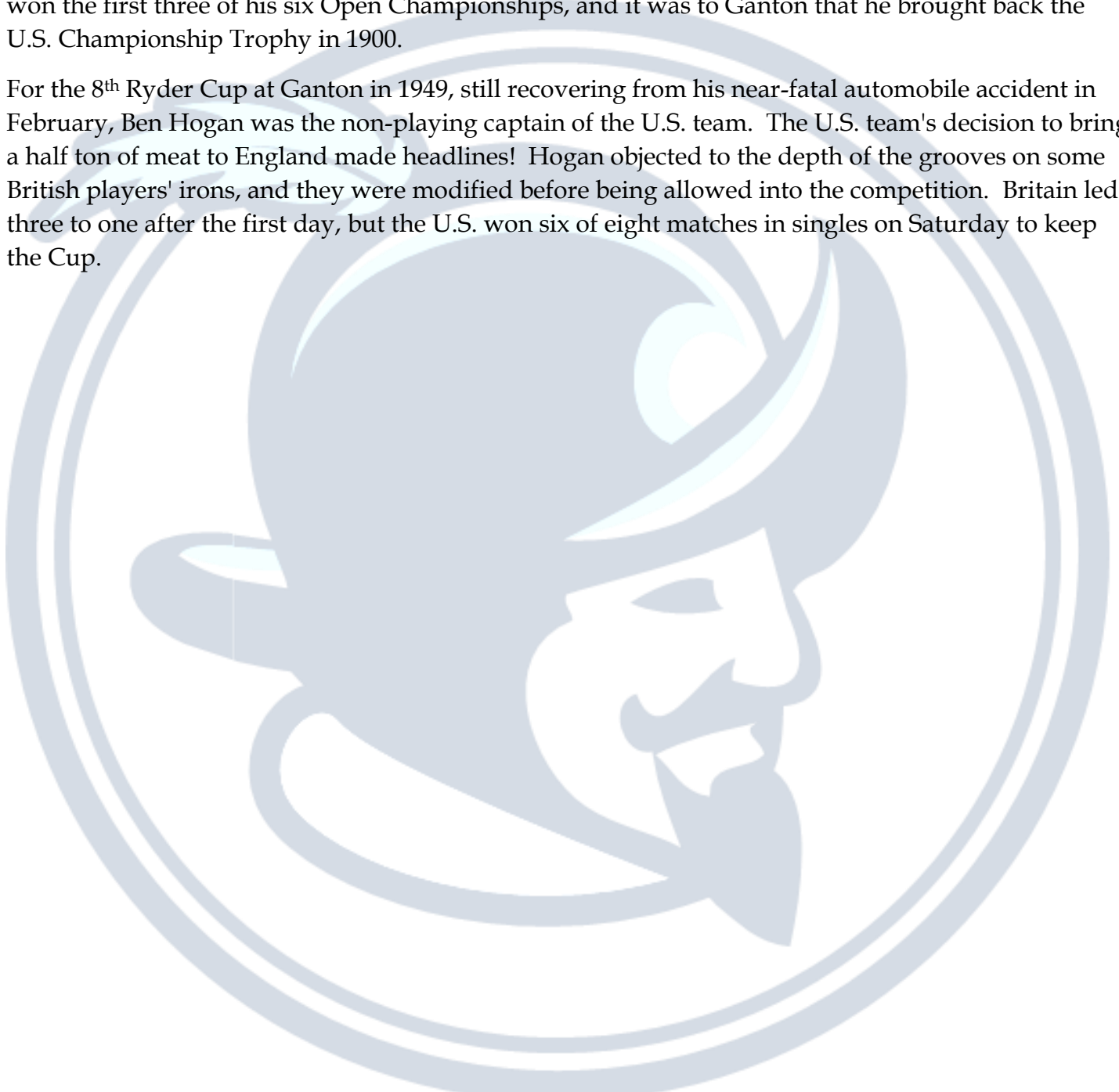
In 1929, Moortown hosted the second Ryder Cup matches, the first to be played in Great Britain. About two thousand spectators saw America gain a narrow lead before the Great Britain team won singles on the final day and thus the competition by a score of 7-5 points.

Moortown was a regular venue on the British PGA tournament circuit, which later became the European Tour, through to the mid-1980s.

The first post-WII Ryder Cup venue in Europe – Ganton, 1949

Golf was first played at Ganton in the summer of 1891 on a course laid out by Tom Chisholm of St Andrews. In 1896 Harry Vardon came as professional and it was during his stay (to 1903) that he won the first three of his six Open Championships, and it was to Ganton that he brought back the U.S. Championship Trophy in 1900.

For the 8th Ryder Cup at Ganton in 1949, still recovering from his near-fatal automobile accident in February, Ben Hogan was the non-playing captain of the U.S. team. The U.S. team's decision to bring a half ton of meat to England made headlines! Hogan objected to the depth of the grooves on some British players' irons, and they were modified before being allowed into the competition. Britain led three to one after the first day, but the U.S. won six of eight matches in singles on Saturday to keep the Cup.



Sunday May 19

ROUND ONE

Alwoodley GC (White Competition Tees)



FourBall Betterball

Each match worth one point (halve points in event of a tie)

Alwoodley is a 6,914 yard par 71 from the championship tees and continues to be a sought-after venue for major tournaments, hosting events for the R&A, England Golf and the Yorkshire Union on a regular basis. For the past 4 years it has been a qualifying course for The Open.

In 2019, Alwoodley welcomed the Brabazon Trophy – or the English Amateur Open Strokeplay Championship.

Mackenzie used some of his work at Alwoodley for inspiration in his later course designs, in fact book-ending his career somewhat, with Augusta National his penultimate design in 1933, please enjoy hole number 10, which is the blue print for Augusta's 13th, the dog-leg left, par 5 known as "Azalea".

Monday May 20

ROUND TWO

Ganton GC (Blue Competition Tees)



FourBall Betterball

Each match worth one point (halve points in event of a tie)

Ganton has for over a century been the venue for championships and important matches in September 2003 Ganton hosted the 39th Walker Cup Match and joined Royal Birkdale and The Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers in having hosted the premier team event cups ie. Ryder, Curtis and Walker. Royal Lytham & St Annes has become the 4th member of this elite group having hosted the 2015 Walker Cup.

Ranked among the World's Top 100 Courses by Golf World magazine, Ganton is consistently rated among the world's finest golf experiences, with its original architecture by Tom Chisholm of St Andrews, it has been refined over many years, by the likes of Harry Colt and Dr Alister Mackenzie.

Measuring 7,055 yards with a par 71 off the blue tees, this will present both challenge and thrill.

Tuesday May 21

ROUND THREE

Moor Allerton GC (White Competition Tees)



Foursomes

Each match worth one point (halve points in event of a tie)

Robert Trent Jones Sr laid out 27 holes on 220 acres of undulating Yorkshire countryside in three distinct loops of nine. It is different to its neighbours having large contoured greens, large teeing areas, boldly shaped bunkers and, of course, water hazards.

The classic course design blends beautifully with the surrounding Yorkshire landscape. Many famous players walked these fairways in the days when the PGA European Tour came here. Seve Ballesteros and Nick Faldo. Greg Norman and Brian Barnes. Tom Weiskopf and Tony Jacklin.

Over a number of years Ryder Cup player Howard Clark was attached to Moor Allerton Golf Club as playing professional. Peter Alliss, who was the Head Professional in the early 70's, reckoned that 'Moor Allerton is a golfing experience larger than life'.

Wednesday May 22
ROUND FOUR
Back to where it all began...

Moortown GC (Blue Competition Tees)



Singles

Each match worth one point (halve points in event of a tie)

Moortown indicates the range of events, which have been staged over the years; the Amateur Competitions both National and County and the Professional Tournaments, which include the original Yorkshire Evening News Tournament, the Ryder Cup and P.G.A. Tour Events.

From 1925 to 1962 Moortown regularly hosted the Yorkshire Evening News Professional Tournament. One of Moortown's members, who worked for the Yorkshire Evening News, Kolin Roberston was instrumental in both attracting and organising these tournaments. Kolin was a single-figure handicap golfer with a world-wide reputation as a golf writer. He was largely responsible for bringing the Ryder Cup Match to Moortown in 1929. In 1932 the event was spread over five days (Tuesday to Saturday) and attracted 3,940 spectators with a total gate of £197.

More personally, my late Uncle Victor Watson was the President of Moortown GC 1997-99, and being something of wordsmith while Captain in 1976, had decided to write to his namesake, Mr Tom Watson who had won his first major on debut, The Open, in an 18 hole playoff at Carnoustie in 1975. His invitation to Mr Watson was to form a pair and take on 'The World' at Moortown - an invitation the golfing legend and reigning Open champion would duly take up and which is commemorated in the clubhouse with the below framed letter from Tom Watson, with action photo and player's badge...



TOM WATSON
THE WATSONS VERSUS THE REST OF THE WORLD - MOORTOWN GOLF CLUB
1976 JULY 1976

Mr. Jamie Allison
Moortown Golf Club
Harrogate Road
Alwoodley
Leeds LS17 7DB

Dear Mr. Allison,

In 1976, as the reigning Open Champion, I was invited to play with the Club's Captain, Victor Watson, in a match play called "The Watsons v the Rest of the World."

As a result, I was able to see at first hand and play the 1929 Ryder Cup Course which had been designed by the famous Dr. Alister MacKenzie.

I have happy memories of that day and of meeting the Moortown members and I wish them much success for their centenary and hope they have a year to remember.

Sincerely,

Tom Watson
Tom Watson



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Q: Golf Attire, generally?
A: **Traditional attire preferred. Shorts permitted at each course.**
2. Q: When do I wear my 2024 Ponce kit?
A: **Sweater - Opening round at Alwoodley for the team photo. Also Moortown for final day.
Shirt - any round.**
3. Q: Team colors, primarily?
A: **GB: Navy Blue and white
US: Red and grey**
4. Q: Walking, caddies, or riding?
A: **Walking, with optional trolleys at each course.**
5. Q: Breakfasts each day?
A: **Included and available in the hotel each day.**
6. Q: How do I get to the courses each day?
A: **A single coach will collect the whole squad from the Golf Club at Rudding each day.**
7. Q: Rudding has a Spa with pools and hot rooms. Can I hit those?
A: **Yes, spa usage is included in the room rate although treatments are extra payable individually.**
8. Q: If I drive to the Ponce, where do I leave my car?
A: **There is substantial parking at Rudding Park, you won't need to drive anywhere during the week though.**
9. Q: Do I need cash?
A: **Always worth having but there are no expected gratuities at our venues or courses.**
10. Q: How do payments generally work?
A: **The prepayments made to date cover accommodation at Rudding Park, breakfast every day, dinner on each night after golf, practice round, competition rounds, all transport, team kit and gifts, opening night dinner, and some drinks. The expected out of pocket expenses are lunches/snacks/drinks at each golf course, range balls and trolley hire, drinks in the bar at Rudding (the latter can be added to our PDL tab as we have a private bar attached to our private hang out and dining area for the duration of the stay).**

Ponce Charity:

£100 GBP minimum; Spinal Research - curing paralysis

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/ross-bryan-poncedeleon2024>

Post-Ponce: Captain Bobby Prout and I will have some final expenses which we will bill out to you to settle up (Venmo/Revolut or similar); Predominantly this will be drinks and the final night dinner.

Hotel check out: The main cost has been included, but please pay for incidentals added to your room such as spa treatments, extra meals etc

11. Q: What is the plan on Wednesday night after the Champions Dinner?

A: Ridding is close to Harrogate town centre, so if there is an appetite for some to go in to town and continue the celebration, it is a short taxi ride and several bars and clubs await. Only advice would be to pack that back in advance as many of you are getting a coach to Manchester airport on Thursday morning!!!!

LFG