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CGS c/o Avanti Ministries, 6 Clarence Road, Southend, Essex SS1 1AN

Dear Friend

National Christian Golf Cup – Essex Event: 9th July 2011

We would like to invite your Church to join Christians all over the country in entering the 13th annual National Christian Golf Cup. Your local event is the Essex Golf Cup, which takes place on Saturday 9th July 2011 at Three Rivers Golf and Country Club, near Cold Norton, Essex.

The Christian Golf Society was created with the aim of getting Christians who are passionate about their golf to see the golf course and their golfing friends as their 'ministry'. We do this by encouraging Christians who play golf to commit to the Christians in Sport **Pray, Play and Say** ethos. Christians coming to our events are asked to bring at least one person who doesn't have a Christian faith to be their playing partner. Ideally this is someone they would normally play golf with, as we want people to be open about their Christian faith with people they already have a friendship with.

The National Christian Golf Cup follows the traditional golfing format of a series of regional events, which act as qualifiers, with the winners of each local event being invited to the National Final at Donnington Grove in September. This year's Essex Golf Cup also includes a women's category to encourage a wider participation.

The 'competitive' aspect of the Essex Golf Cup is aimed to provide a great reason to invite friends from outside Church to come to an event where the Christian faith is an open, integral part of the day open. It should be emphasised that the National Christian Golf Cup and its qualifying events are fun, open to both men and women and inclusive of all standards of golfer.

The Essex Golf Cup will be played as a pairs Stableford competition. Entry costs £39.00 per head and this includes coffee and a bacon roll on arrival, your round of golf and meal afterwards. We will also have the Reverend Ian Smith, from Stock, as our after dinner speaker.

Enclosed with this letter you will find everything you need to enter the 2011 Essex Golf Cup. Full details of all our competitions, including the final, are available at www.christiangolfsociety.org.uk along with downloads including an item for your church news sheet and a PowerPoint presentation. If you have any question please feel free to contact James Butcher on 07752 469219 or email james@christiangolfsociety.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

James, Martin and David

James Butcher, Martin Eady & David Elcock



Christian Golf Society is an initiative of Avanti Ministries
Company Registration Number: 4906465 Charity Registration Number: 1104111

Essex Golf Cup 2011 Entry Form
Saturday, 9 July at Three Rivers Golf and Country Club

	Player 1	Player 2
Name:		
Contact Details: Address		
Home Tel:		
Mobile Tel:		
Email:		
Handicap:		
Name of Church:		

Entry Information

Entry into the event costs £39.00 per head.

All players should be familiar with the normal rules and etiquette of golf. Please see notes regarding handicaps. Once we have confirmed your team has been entered into the competition playing fees cannot be refunded, although naturally you can come to your own arrangements should you need to change the names of those who are due to play.

To enter your team into the Essex Golf Cup please return this form along with a cheque(s) made payable to "Christian Golf Society" for your entry fee(s) to:

Martin Eady, CGS c/o Avanti Ministries, 6 Clarence Road, Southend-On-Sea, Essex SS1 1AN



Entering the Essex Golf Cup

The 2011 Essex Golf Cup will be a pairs betterball Stableford competition, played off full handicap.

The single biggest challenge the CGS has found is achieving a sensible arrangement for handicaps. We want the event to be accessible to golfers across the ability spectrum for both men and women. We also want to ensure the 'competition' part of the day has genuine credibility and as we are offering a prize (a 'free' golf weekend) which many would regard as valuable, suggestions of banditry would reflect on our perceived integrity as Christians, undermine the evangelistic intent of the day and devalue the National Christian Golf Cup and its qualifying events.

The handicap arrangements for the 2011 National Christian Golf Cup Final are as follows:

- Golfers with club or validated society handicaps play off their full recognised handicap.
- Those that play regularly, but don't have a handicap, are asked to provide a minimum of 3 recent scorecards from 2011 which reflect their typical play and we will calculate a handicap reflecting traditional club (CONGU) principles.
- People who declare a handicap based on personal assessment, but are not part of a club or society will play off their declared handicap subject to a three stroke reduction.
- Those people who play sporadically are asked to tell us what score (gross medal score) they would regard as a good round of golf; we will estimate a handicap reflecting traditional club (CONGU) principles and reduce this by 3 strokes.

Please be assured we ensure that faith issues are handled in a way where Christians and playing partners can be comfortable. Our focus is on using the Christians in Sport pledge by asking you to commit to **PRAY** for your playing partner, **PLAY** your golf in a way that reflects your faith and to be ready to **SAY** something of the promise of Jesus when your friends ask about your Christian faith.

We do not intend to try to 'convert' people ourselves, we are simply creating an opportunity to talk about Jesus and let God do the rest, in His time. There will be a golfing Christian booklet in every player's goody-bag, which will offer an extra avenue for people to follow up if they want to ask questions about Jesus, but feel uncomfortable talking to friends. We do not employ high pressure tactics on the day. Once again we will have a special guest, who we will ask to give a talk after dinner. Whilst that talk will touch on their Christian faith, it is intended to be a 'sharing' process about their life and experiences rather than an 'alter call'. All players are asked to stay for the meal and talk.



CGS Essex Golf Cup 2011
Saturday, 9th July at Three Rivers Golf and Country Club

Course Details

Three Rivers Golf & Country Club

Stow Road

Cold Norton Purleigh

Essex CM3 6RR

tel: **01621 828631** fax: **01621 828060** website: www.threeriversclub.com

The 6449 yard Par 72 Kings Course offers an excellent test of golf. This mature parkland course features an array of water hazards, set in gently rolling parkland, offering all golfing abilities a challenging but most enjoyable round.

Three Rivers is not far from the A130 at Cold Norton and offers easy access from A13, A127 and A12 making it an excellent venue which should be easy to access.

Itinerary

11.00	Golfers are welcome to arrive and use the facilities, including the practice green, from 11.00am onwards when the Christian Golf Society will operate a reception desk in the main bar area.
12.30	Coffee and Bacon Roll available
13.30	All golfers should register by no later than 13.30 and shortly afterwards assemble by the practice putting green.
14.00	First Tee Time
15.00	Last group tee off
18.00	First group scheduled to finish
19.30	Last group scheduled to finish
20.00	Dinner
21.00	Guest speaker
22.30	Coaches

Introducing the Christian Golf Society

The Christian Golf Society was created with the express intention of trying to use a common passion for golf as a way to make the Christian faith open and accessible to our friends.

We **aim** to do this by asking Christians who attend our events:

- To bring at least one person who doesn't have a Christian faith to be their playing partner (more than one is even better!)

- To commit to **pray** for that person on an ongoing basis

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. Philippians 4: 6

- To **play** their golf in a way which reflects they have a Christian faith

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel without being frightened by those who oppose you. Philippians 1: 27 - 28

- To be ready to **say** something about Jesus with gentleness and respect as and when their friends ask questions.

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect. 1 Peter 3: 15

The Christian Golf Society has a **vision** to create a truly national golfing competition with qualifying events held across the country. While the National Christian Golf Cup and its qualifying competitions are intended as competitive golfing events, the overriding goal of the CGS is to use Mark Twain's proverbial 'good walk spoiled' to walk with our friends who do not know Jesus. The competition is not the reason for the event itself and it is important people do not infer a requirement for a *stern* competitive attitude. The structure of county events building up to a national final is intended to excite people's imagination and provide a genuine and enjoyable golf event that people will want to play in time and again.

The CGS's primary target audience are regular golfers – both Christian and those who are not-yet-believers. The golf and our events are intended to provide a focal point in an ongoing golfing friendship where the Christian faith is an open, integral part of the day and facilitates an opportunity for conversations to take place, alongside a continuing commitment to **pray, play and say** which is there before, during and after playing at a CGS golf day. Our events are open to both men and women and are intended to be inclusive of all standards of golfer.

The Christian Golf Society comes under auspices of Avanti Ministries. It is also the UK Branch of the Christian Golfers Association.

