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Avanti Ministries, 6 Clarence Road, Southend-On-Sea, Essex SS1 1AN

Monday, 22 March 2010

Dear Golfer,

Essex Golf Cup 2010 – Regional Qualifier for the National Christian Golf Cup

We would like to invite you to play in the Essex Golf Cup on Saturday 19 June 2010 at Three Rivers Golf and Country Club, Cold Norton, Essex.

The Christian Golf Society (CGS) is an Essex based group, founded in 2006, with the intention of enabling Christian's with a passion for golf to bring their friends from outside the Church to an event where the Christian faith is an open, integral part of the day. Put bluntly – it's a great way to get blokes and ladies exposed to the Christian message in a way where they won't feel overpowered or uncomfortable.

Our focus is on using the **Christians in Sport** pledge by asking people to commit to **PRAY** for their playing partner, **PLAY** their golf in a way that reflects their Christian faith and to be ready to **SAY** something of the promise of Jesus when their friends ask about their Christian faith.

The Essex Golf Cup will be played as a pairs betterball Stableford competition, with the winners being invited to the National Christian Golf Cup which will be held at Donnington Grove over the 12-13 September 2010. The Essex Golf Cup is one of a series of UK regional qualifiers organised by the CGS. Full details of all our competitions, including the final, are available at www.christiangolfsociety.org.uk.

Entry to the Essex Golf Cup costs £38.00 per head and includes coffee and a breakfast roll on arrival, your round of golf and a meal afterwards. If you **book before the 28 April 2010, then you can enter for £35.00 per head.**

Enclosed with this letter you will find everything you need to enter the 2010 Essex Golf Cup. We have revised our rules on golf handicaps for this year to make the event even more inclusive. You can also visit the CGS website for more information, including competition rules and downloads including an item for your church news sheet and a PowerPoint presentation.

While the National Christian Golf Cup and the Essex Golf Cup 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 friendships we form with people who share our pastimes can often grow beyond the bounds of the game we play, which gives us a real chance to be like 'salt' and 'light' with these friends. The truth is that as a Christian in an increasingly faithless world you may be the only 'bible' a person reads as they see how you live your life – or in this instance, how you play your golf.

Yours sincerely,
James Butcher



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

**Essex Golf Cup 2010
Entry Form
Saturday, 19th June at Three Rivers Golf and Country Club**

	Team Captain	Playing Partner
Name		
Contact Details: Address		
Home Tel.:		
Mobile Tel.:		
Email:		
Handicap:		
Name of Church:		

Entry Information

Entry into the event costs £38.00 per head. Where applications are received before 28 April 2010 entry costs £35.00 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 "Avanti Ministries" for your entry fee(s) to:

Martin Eady, Christian Golf Society, c/o Avanti Ministries, 6 Clarence Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 1AN



Entering the Essex Golf Cup

The 2010 Essex Golf Cup will be a pairs betterball Stableford competition, played off full handicap.

The Christian Golf Society (CGS) was created to provide keen Christian golfers with an opportunity to play golf with their friends who do not have a Christian faith. The 'competitive' element is your chance to invite someone to a genuine golfing event which feels like your local club's annual championship and will excite people's imagination. However, the competition is not the reason for the event itself. Our events are evangelistic in their intent and we ask that each Christian who enters the competition invites a person who does not have a belief in Jesus (at the time of entry) to be their playing partner. If your playing partner becomes a Christian before the day of the Essex Golf Cup we will still be excited to see you.

Please be assured we ensure that faith issues are handled in a way where Christians and playing partners can be comfortable – don't worry, we will not plug you in the bunker! 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.

The hope is you will be able to build on an ongoing relationship, where your faith is known about, open and comfortable for both you and your playing partner. If you regularly pray for your playing partner we believe at the right time, God will give you chance to share the good news of Jesus. 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.

We have revised our rules on handicaps for 2010. We want the golfing part of the day to have genuine credibility - 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. Therefore:

- 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 copies of 3 or more recent scorecards which reflect their typical play and we will calculate a handicap.
- Those people who play sporadically are asked to declare what score (gross medal score) they would regard as good round of golf and we will calculate a handicap and reduce this by 4 strokes.
 - We do not set a maximum handicap, other than the standard men's and women's maximum handicaps and welcome golfers across the range of abilities.

About the Christian Golf Society

Faith is often described as a walk and what finer walk is there than around a golf course? When Christians talk about their journey of faith, they often focus on and identify with other Christians that they share their walk with. The Christian Golf Society believes a golf competition is an excellent setting for people to share their walk with non-Christian friends by drawing on a common passion for golf.

The Christian Golf Society aims to provide Christian golfers with an opportunity to engage with the wider golfing community and share the good news of Jesus with friends who are not-yet-Christians through a common passion for golf.

Many Churches organise golf days and events. These often encompass a wide range of golfer, including the casual golfer who plays once or twice a year. In many cases Church golf days can be more about fellowship and although friends from outside the Church are welcomed, there can be little evangelistic content. We set out to do something distinctly different. Our aim is for the National Christian Golf Cup and its regional qualifying events to be used for evangelism rather than for Christians to play amongst themselves.

The Christian Golf Society has a vision to create a truly national golfing competition with qualifying competitions held across the country.

Our events are typically aimed at those who enjoy their golf and probably play reasonably regularly. We know that on one level or another, most keen golfers enjoy competition, from society days through to the club annual championship. We intend the basic appeal of the National Christian Golf Cup and regional qualifiers, like the Essex Golf Cup to be the sense of competition. We believe this will give Christians a 'reason' to be inviting their friends – the people they play golf with regularly.

Equally, we do not want people to have the misconception that playing in competitions is all about being frightfully serious, winning and only for low handicappers. Ultimately competitions are only as serious as the people playing in them chose to make them. We seek to be inclusive to all standards of golfer and do not set a maximum handicap criteria beyond the maximum permitted men's and women's handicaps set by the R&A.

Research shows that a person needs to hear about Jesus around 30 times before they respond. Sharing the good news of Jesus by playing golf with friends (or any other sport for matter) in a way that reflects their Christian faith, praying for playing partners and being prepared to say something about Christ when our friends ask about our faith is probably one of the most straightforward opportunities Christians have.

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



Essex Golf Cup 2010

Saturday, 19th June 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

	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	Home time.

