

Spring 2017

Volume 1 (227)



Artisan Golfer

The only magazine about Artisan golf for Artisan golfers



Patrick Cunningham

Contents	
Secretary's Report	3
Treasurer's Report	3
Captain's Report	4
England Golf Report	4
Match Reports	5
Oxford & Cambridge.....	5
Seniors Golfing Society.....	5
Carr Memorial.....	6
Obituary	7
Frank Roberts.....	7
And finally	8

The Artisan Golfers' Association
(Affiliated to England Golf) www.agagolf.co.uk for contact details

The Object of the Association is to unite the various Artisan Golf Clubs in the British Isles into one Association and to encourage and help in the formation of clubs.

Patron: Sir Michael Bonallack OBE

President: W J F Bryce

Vice Presidents:

RJ Armitage

J Bennett

G Bristowe

C E B L Carr

P J Cunningham

D J Harrison OBE

B G C Huggett OBE

C P Humber

Col J Hunt

D E James

R D James

R Latham

D P Leishman

Dr D M Marsh MBE

G Murray

J Nudds

P Parker

T Prior

R O Proctor

H M J Ritchie OBE

D N Sewell

T Trude

W J Uzielli

A R L Warnock

R E Wood

Hon Secretary: W Johns (07956 627396)

Hon Treasurer: W Francis (07801 713499)

Chairman: D Lumsden (07864 847777)

Captain: G Hunt (07403 952762)

EG Representative: D Swift

Northern Section

President: The Earl of Derby

Hon Secretary: P Williams

South West Section

Hon Secretary: D Lockwood

Irish A.G.A

President:

Editor

Email editor@agagolf.co.uk

Front Cover

Pat Cunningham, who is standing down as England Golf Representative and AGA Committee member after 30 years excellent service to the movement. He will be greatly missed by us all.

Bill Johns

AGA Hon Secretary

Secretary's Report

I seem to be repeating the things that happen every year, it has never been a more prudent time to remind everyone how lucky we are to be Artisans within our clubs and truly embrace all that it offers us.

Many golf clubs have had the same issues with costs rising and membership falling and offers on the internet becoming more enticing. This has all made it an open market for people that only play a few times a month, also our wet winters have restricted play in some areas which can compound the issues of members paying large fees to stay at their club.

You may all remember that the AGA Council committee put together a blue print of the AGA and to progress it forward to England Golf who have now put in the process of growing the game. As in everything these things take time and I hope it will help us bring Artisan clubs forward to clubs that can use our blueprint to form other types of membership like ours within their clubs.

As some of you may be aware, we have had the issues of County fees brought up and we are now in discussions with England Golf and the counties on the way forward. I would like to make it clear to everyone we are **not** classed as a County under the frame work of England Golf. We are classed as an Association within the 16 other associations within the frame work. The Council Committee will and do provide advice to all our clubs and members and would like to ensure that if, for any reason, you have issues around County fees and club fees please make sure we are informed of any issues you face so that we can help advise or discuss the way forward. All of our details are on the website, so please contact us before you make any decisions that may become difficult to change. Once again our season has passed by in a flash and we look forward to the new season ahead with our first Tournament, The Carr Memorial which is being held at Frilford Heath Golf Club. After carrying out our questionnaire last year it seems that we are now very short in numbers, so we will be looking next year to revert back to automatic entry into The Carr and we may not be able to gain the courses that give us to opportunity to take such large numbers. Your results of the questionnaire gave us an overwhelming vote to take it back there again this year.

Once again the competition committee have done a great job providing you all with some excellent golf courses this year, which I am sure you all will make the time and effort to compete in them.

Once again I would like to thank all the Artisan club secretaries and their committees for the hard work they have done over the year and without your time and effort our clubs would not be run to the high standards we have within our Artisan sections.

Pat Cunningham has now stepped down from the AGA council and we all truly thank him for his diligent work for the AGA over so many years. He has been a true Artisan leader and I am sure J.H.Taylor would be very proud to have meet Pat and seen what a fantastic job he has done in helping the AGA continue in its current state. I would like to say a personal thanks to Pat for bringing me onto the council and helping him and the rest of the committee move forward with the times. Pat has agreed to carry on helping us as and when we may require his advice. Dave Swift will now be taking over as the AGA England Golf Rep and Pat has spent quite some time giving Dave the updated information for him to take over this role.

I am also pleased to say that Pauline Cunningham will continue to help us with the website which is now moving forward and we hope to improve it as time moves on.

Last of all I would like to thank you all for the work you do and the support you give the AGA. Also thanks to all the AGA council committee members once again for the time they have given to ensure we provide you, as our members, the best possible events, advice and support we can. I wish you all good health and thank you all for your participation in the events and support of our association, so that you can enjoy each other's company and hopefully a lovely summer to play the great game of golf we all love so much.

Bill Johns
AGA Hon Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Another financial year begins and always a difficult time collecting subscriptions and paying out for competitions, fees etc. Really appreciate those who pay on time (or early) but it is a real bind having to chase those who don't. Thanks to Gary for his support in that. Please endeavour to pay on time or early, by BACS is the ideal, just inform me or the Secretary via text or e-mail what you have paid and for how many. Enough moans!

As you are aware we made a loss last year, despite this the accounts remain healthy. Already we have eaten into our reserves to cover a shortfall in numbers for the Carr Memorial. I do expect us to recover by year end as long as we have high entries for the remainder of the season. I'm sure Doug would appreciate this also. Whilst I mention Doug you shouldn't underestimate the effort he puts in to make things work and he does a mean spreadsheet to make my life easier where the competitions are concerned.

Artisan Golf still remains buoyant throughout England and I enjoy giving up my team to help support you guys, although to be honest, I'm only keeping score and can do this at my leisure. Most of the rest of the committee have to work to deadlines otherwise there would be no AGA.

Once again this year England Golf have contributed financially towards us. It is great to continue to be recognised in this way by the governing body and helps to keep competition costs down. That's it from me to you 68 Artisan Clubs out there & 2485 members happy golfing.

Warren Francis
AGA Treasurer

Captain's Report

As I now enter my last year as Captain it is amazing how quickly the last three and half years have passed. For the majority of the time I have enjoyed being Captain immensely and if any of you have the time and the opportunity to be Captain I would recommend it.

Artisan Golf is at this moment in time at a crossroads. The gradual decline of clubs over the years has been there for all to see, and now a further example of this is one of our more predominant clubs, West Hill being given five years notice by the main club to close the Artisan section along with rumours of other clubs under threat of closure. I believe that not only from a community, but also a financial point of view, there is a place for Artisan Golf within golf clubs, not necessarily for all clubs but the majority.

What does us no favours is the preconceived idea of many still that we get cheap golf, this leads to jealousy that in turn can lead to spite which can then lead to the demise of an Artisan section. We need to educate and change some people's views of an Artisan, as the majority of the time these people don't realise what work we do, the restricted times we play or maybe the lack of golf we get in the winter months and we need to get the powers to be in golf to support us, which includes England Golf, counties and clubs. Recently the AGA committee produced a blueprint for us to show any clubs that might be considering starting an Artisan section, but this document had to be generalized due to the fact that all Artisan clubs operate under different rules and guidelines which in turn makes it difficult at times for the AGA council to promote and push ideas forward. Something that may be beneficial to one club could be detrimental to another. The next year could be pivotal in the future of Artisan Golf and it may be a case of what might be seen by some as backward steps being taken before we can hopefully go forward. The majority of us could probably sit back and do nothing and see out our days playing Artisan Golf, but is that the right thing to do?

The Artisan Golfers Association was set up by J.H.Taylor (5 times open Champion) Lord Riddell and Fred Hawtree grandfather to Martin Hawtree of Hawtree Ltd who recently worked with Donald Trump on the Trump International, so that everyone, regardless of financial standing, should be able to play the game of golf. The world we live in today is one where money talks and people tend to only worry about themselves, but nevertheless it would be wrong to just let Artisan Golf just slip away, especially now as we look forward to our 100th anniversary in 2021 after all the effort made by the three aforementioned gentlemen. I wonder in Trump International would consider Artisans?

I look forward to my last year and hope to take up some of the invites I have kindly received, the first of those being Cantelupe Artisans 125th anniversary at Royal Ashdown Forest. Then in July I look forward to catching up with everyone at Royal Birkdale when I am lucky enough to go up to the Open as guest of Steve Bushell and finally then in July myself and Doug will once again travel across the pond with another 23 of our members to take on the Irish in our annual match. I wish everyone a good golfing year when many handicaps may tumble.

Gary Hunt
AGA Captain

England Golf Report

The R&A and USGA are currently negotiating handicap requirements for the future, looking at the differences between the systems that currently operate throughout the world. In consequence we will be moving to the World Wide Handicap system in approx. 2020.

At present there are approx. 2 million independent golfers in England who are not attached to golf clubs. Golf clubs need to encourage younger members and England Golf are suggesting more 9 hole competitions are played to engage golfers with less time due to family commitments etc.

England Golf & the Counties intend to work more closely with the Artisan movement in the future to have a better understanding of what Artisan Golf can offer the independent golfer and those learning the game.

This is my last England Golf report. It has been an honour and privilege to represent the Artisan movement as your Voting Member over many years. I would like to wish David Swift all the best for the future in this role.

Artisan Golf has had a great past and there is no reason why it shouldn't have a great future if the movement embraces the changes that are coming.

Patrick Cunningham
England Golf Representative

Match Reports

Oxford & Cambridge

March 4th 2017
Temple Golf Club

After a very tight match in 2016 which ended all square at four games apiece, I knew we were in for a battle this year with Oxford & Cambridge still under the Captaincy of the very competitive Richard Bisson in his second and final year.

We put out a very good side represented by four players supplied by Terry Lewis Northern Captain, two from Aldridge (Little Aston) and two who travelled down from Formby, Merseyside. We also had further players from as far South as West Sussex and Royal Cinque Ports on the southern coast along with others from the Home Counties. Sadly one of our leading players from last year, John Whitehouse from Aldridge, had to pull out at the last minute. I would like to thank Spencer Devereux for standing in at such short notice.

We set off at 9:15 in bright sunshine which was the complete opposite of last year's sleet and snow. The first nine was tight, but at the half way stage the Oxford & Cambridge team held a three to one lead. Our winning morning pair being Rob Evans from Aldridge and Mick Fischer from West Sussex.

We sat down to a fine lunch and speeches from both Captains. Richard Bisson Oxbridge Captain asked me to pass on his best wishes for a speedy recovery to Doug after his recent operations. Our thanks go to Temple Club Secretary, Keith Adderley and staff for looking after us so well, as always.

When play resumed the AGA made a good start at one time holding a three to one lead that would be enough to claim the draw, but sadly the opening match turned around on the back nine with us eventually losing the afternoon foursomes by two & half to one & half making the overall score a deserving five & half to two & half win to Oxford & Cambridge.

That left us to reflect over afternoon tea and cake on what might have been.

A thanks to all my team who represented the AGA with Mick Fischer from West Sussex being our top performer on the day scoring one & half points from a possible two. Finally congratulations and thank you to my opposing Captain, Richard Bisson for two very enjoyable and competitive years played in a great spirit.

Gary Hunt

Seniors Golfing Society

March 28th 2017
Denham Golf Club
AGA Team

Gary Hunt - AGA Captain Sundridge Park
Dave Swift - AGA Council Maidenhead
Graham Dorward - AGA Council Royal mid Surrey
Steve Parsons - GA Council Royal mid Surrey
Richard Lawrence - BB&O Artisan Captain Maidenhead
Martin Phillimore - Sussex Artisan Captain Sackville
Damien Breams - Surrey Artisan Captain Banstead
Karl Woodhouse - Artisan Captain Royal mid Surrey
Nigel Parsons - Denham Artisan (Home club)
Maurice Vinson - Walton Heath Artisan

The morning round was very close with the Seniors taking a three to two lead into lunch.

After another fine Denham lunch and play resumed with good early signs with our first pairing of Dave Swift & Graham Dorward coming in with a convincing four and three win. I had put myself out last with Karl Woodhouse. We came in with a half and was deflated to see that a win would have halved the match. However, we lost by five and half to four and half.

Thanks to all my team for another enjoyable day and to Chris Ross and Nigel Parsons for their hospitality at the Artisans' clubhouse after the match.

Gary Hunt
AGA Captain

Carr Memorial

12 May 2017
Frilford Heath

A good day was had on 2 good courses with the green being pretty good after no rain. A few showers tried to dampen the spirits but the bar rectified that. Thanks go to Les, Graham, Gary and Bob from Moor Park and Richard from Old Fold Manor, who gave up their time to create this day.

Winner of the Carr Memorial for 2017 went to T Pratchett (Hartsbourne) 35-38 73
To replace the now withdrawn Gold Medal which was played for the winner now receives an outing of his choice paid for by the A.G.A.

Second: R.Burr (Sundridge Park) also with 35-38 73 by count back.
Third: S.Roles (Triangle) 34-37 71 on a count back from 2 others on 71

The Sweep went all the way down to the 10th place.
15 players had 2s on the par 3s received £15 each.
Best AM went to J.Chapman (Reigate Heath) with 38 points
Best PM went to T.Clarke (Hartsbourne) with a great 41 points.

Full results can be found on the AGA website.

The Council hopes everybody enjoyed the day.

It would be good to see you at the other events this year. Details on the website.

Doug Lumsden
Chairman

Obituary

Frank Roberts



Frank Roberts, a long standing and until recently, an active Surrey Artisan golfer and club member at Banstead Downs, died in December 2016 three weeks short of his 96th birthday.

Frank, actually christened Allan Frank, enjoyed 75 years of active golf. His golfing 'career' started as a boy caddy aged around 10 at Walton Heath Golf Club. He started playing soon after, as 'boys from the village, aged under 15' could play before 0900 and after 1800 – by order of the Lord of the Manor, who at the time owned the land on which the course was constructed.

He became an Artisan member at Walton either just before or soon after the Second World War, during which he served in the RAF, Coastal Command, based throughout all of the Nations of the United Kingdom. The postings gave him the opportunity for golf too, notably a posting to Silloth in Cumbria. He moved from Walton Heath GC to Kingswood GC in the early 1950s and during his time there he was a very active Artisan, and served as a diligent Committee member in a number of roles including Secretary. Also during this time he was working at the Windmill Press (Heinemann Publishers) at Kingswood and was a member of their 'works team' taking part in Heinemann and later Tilling Group matches whenever the opportunity arose.

Sadly the Artisan Section at Kingswood was closed down, due I believe to change of ownership of the main club. Frank was involved in the wind-down and he saw this as a sad end to an active Section. At this point his next and final move was to Banstead Downs Artisans in 1986, where again he was an active golfer and committee man, being made a life member of the club when in his late 80s.

His general health began to deteriorate at this point, although he maintained an active life including gardening as well as his golf. Of his later successes, and which gave him greatest pleasure, was participating in the 'Lawrence Batley 80s' Competition; the southern group being played at Leatherhead GC each year. He won the over 85 years category in 2009, was runner-up in 2010 (as reported in Artisan Golfer No 211) and won the over 90 years category in 2011. Thereafter his abilities and health declined significantly and the last full round of golf that he played was, I believe, in 2014 at Scarborough South Cliff – with his son who lives in North Yorkshire. A tough course on which to end your golfing exploits. Frank never used a buggy - a manual trolley or carry man till the end !

He had many great golfing memories and was a stickler for the rules and even more so etiquette, and it is hoped to establish a trophy in his honour, although at the time of writing the future of Banstead Downs Artisans is uncertain.

Footnotes:

1. Anyone interested in the history of golf and particularly that of Walton Heath would enjoy the book *Heather and Heaven: Walton Heath Golf Club 1903 – 2003* by Phil Pilley. A notable quote from the book, from Bill Deedes of the daily Telegraph was that the caddy system at Walton was 'too close to the slave market' for his tastes.
2. The obituary was prepared by his son who would be interested to hear from any who knew his father. Contact – allanman@btinternet.com.
3. Apologies for any inaccuracies.

Allan Roberts

And finally ...

We would like to welcome The Lion Artisan Golf Club who have just joined the AGA. We wish them every success and look forward to hearing how they are progressing, maybe in the next Winter Edition of our magazine.

It is very disappointing to have no articles from the clubs around the country in this edition. There must be things going on in your clubs that you would like to share with fellow members, so please send your articles for Winter Edition by the end of October 2017 to editor@agagolf.co.uk