

Winter 2017

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The only magazine about Artisan golf for Artisan golfers



Doug Sewell – Vice President

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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.

Secretary's Report

Well another season has come to its end and I have been very fortunate once again to meet quite a few Members who have attended our competitions this year.

The competition committee have done another great job again this year and produced some great venues at reasonable prices which they have worked very hard to negotiate with these golf clubs. I would personally like to thank our Competition Committee of Doug , Gary , Les , Graham, Warren and all the people that have made all our competition run so well as this does give me the time to deal with the day to day issues that come up from time to time over the year within the AGA.

I witnessed some fantastic golf being played by lots of our players and I had some enjoyable rounds myself with all the people I had the pleasure of playing with made the day's most enjoyable I witnessed player's chances of winning sway one way to the other with some very exciting endings. Also would like to congratulate BB&O on winning the County Scratch League this year with some great performances over their matches.

Once again the Artisan Golfers Association was represented at Woodhall Spa in the Champion of Champions by James Zytynski from Cantelupe Artisans where he gained entry via the Scratch JH.Taylor winner.

The gold medal entry run by England Golf for 2018 will be made via qualifiers of their own in the counties. Once again I would remind all our members that they can apply to enter England Golf's qualifiers if they have won a medal in 2017 for the 2018 Gold medal.

As you may remember in my last report I touched on County fees and we are still in the process of negotiating away forward with England Golf so that we can all move forward with our status within the county structure where we, like 17 other organizations, are placed within the associate member's category. I do not expect this to be concluded this year and we will keep you up to date with any progress we make.

I have been involved with some of our sections over the last six months and am pleased to say we have had some good feedback from the clubs and main clubs, but we have again had some Artisan main clubs looking to change ownership and council property developments due to the current economic climate. There are ongoing negotiations over the coming months, so we hope that they can come to an amicable agreement for everyone concerned.

Please remember we are here to help you and your clubs in the best possible way we can with professional advice always being sort from our advisers.

I would like to thank all the club committees for the work they do and I am sure each club member is grateful for the time these people put in and work with the main clubs to ensure we all fit in to their structures.

It has been a difficult year for me where we had one of my wife's sisters pass away after a long illness and also a very close friend has also just passed away so we have had a lot to deal with over the last 6 months which has put a different prospective on life and what time we all spend together.

Last of all I would like to thank all the AGA council committee members once again for all the time they have given up to ensure we provide you as our members the best possible events advice and support we can. I wish you all good health and enjoy each other's company and hopefully a short winter break before we all enjoy the sunshine next season.

I also look forward to meeting some of you in the New Year or at the AGM on the 27th January 2018 which will be also be advertised on the website.

Bill Johns
AGA Hon Secretary

Treasurer's Report

It's that time of year again and generally it has been a pleasure serving you as AGA Treasurer. I say generally because at times having to chase for payments is frustrating and whilst there has been an improvement the same old happens again. Still, having the support of the Captain & Committee does help, so thanks to them and thanks to all of you (including the stragglers) for helping to keep the financial aspects of the AGA in good shape.

2018 Subscriptions invoice available online now – all payments due by 31st January 2018, subscriptions per head for AGA & England Golf remain the same as last year.

- £4.25 for AGA fees
- £8.25 for England Golf fees

It is preferable if you could pay directly into the bank, as a reminder the details are on the invoice online. This will save you postage and my time going to the bank. Just make it clear on the payment what club it is you are paying for. You can advise me by e-mail that you have done this – how many members this covers and whether it is just the AGA fee or both the AGA fee & England Golf fee, if not both, then also confirm you have paid the England Golf fee through your full County Union.

WHY WAIT - GO TO www.agagolf.co.uk now and pay early.

As an Organisation we remain strong with around 2500 members across 69 clubs. Our finances are in a respectable position and I'm happy to report (subject to final audit review) that we have managed to stay in the black for 2016/17. A full set of accounts will be available at the AGM. I will also discuss in committee the best way of letting you all know the overall position – likely via publishing on the AGA website.

Lastly I would like to thank all the helpers at the various events throughout the year, special thanks to Doug for keeping a good tally of entry fees and negotiating decent prices at some great venues. Long may it continue.

I'm sure I can count on your continued support for the coming season and wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Warren Francis
AGA Treasurer

Captain's Report

After four and half years this will be my last report as Captain of the AGA.

I have, on the whole, enjoyed my time as Captain and as I said before, if you have a bit of spare time to put something back into Artisan Golf I would recommend putting your name forward.

I would like to thank all the members for their support over my time as Captain and for those of you who invited me to invitation days, charity days, anniversary days etc. many thanks.

I feel that there is lot more work to be done with respect to Artisan Golf especiall getting more people involved in playing Artisan golf and I am surprised at the decline in our numbers given the amount of public money being given to address this issue. I feel with a bit of time and effort this could still be addressed and hopefully reversed, but I hope overall I have left Artisan Golf in a stronger position than before I came on to the council.

I have a number of personal things to now catch up on and not being much of a winter golfer, no time like the present, so hopefully I may catch up with a lot of you again in the future on the course, when I will be hoping to get my handicap back down.

Gary Hunt
AGA Captain

Chairman's Report

As I was out of action due to eye cataract problems which limited my driving and my mobility and was farther reduced when I underwent surgery for a hip replacement. I missed out on the A.G.A. v Oxford and Cambridge match at Temple and also the Seniors Golfing Society Match at Denham both of which were ably covered by our esteemed Captain Gary.

Returning to Frilford Heath for the Carr Memorial at the request of the players last year was a bit disappointing that quite a few did not enter leaving us with only 122. With a higher facility fee and less players left us with quite a large loss in revenue. As a result we have gone back to a one course venue for the Carr in 2018 to reduce the risk factor and also fewer clubs willing to give up two courses for the day was not helping.

The winner of the Carr was Jack Pratchett (Hartsbourne) 73 from R Burr (Sundridge Park) also on 73. Jack winning on the count back went to Frilford Heath to represent the A.G.A.

The Veterans and Challenge Cup went to Hadley Wood to find the slickest greens this year proving to be quite a test which reflected in the scoring, one player I heard of got on a par 3 in 1 went on to 4 putt, not a happy bunny!

We had a full house in the Veterans with 45 and a rather low entry for the Challenge on 21. The Veterans was won by David Evans (Hartsbourne) 34 from Paul Demetri (Dyrham Park) also on 34, David winning on the count back.

The Challenge Cup was won by John Clarke (Hadley Wood) with 59 from Keith Williams (St George's Hill) on 56.

We visited Burhill with the Butler and Jewell to find we could only play the New Course as the Old had flooded greens after a night of pouring rain. Thanks go to Steve Willet and his team for rising to task coped very well to create a very enjoyable day in great surroundings.

The Butler was won by Graeme Turpin (St George's Hill) 72 from Andy Douglas (Sundridge Park) and Rob Wallace Verulam on 71.

The Jewell Trophy was won by Ian Alderton (Cantelupe) 68 from Peter Sullivan (Hartsbourne) on 67.

The Sandy Herd and J.H.Taylor Trophies were competed for at Worplesdon, one of the best we have been to being a stern test for our senior players. Some very good scores but others found high numbers on some holes. Saying that it provided 23 Two's on the par Three's.

The Sandy Herd was won by Jack Zytinski (Cantelupe) 142 from Gavin Hooper 147 (Littlestone). Jack went on to represent the A.G.A. at Woodhall Spa coming in 12th.

The J.H.Taylor was won by Paul Bryant (St George's Hill) 140 from Alex Gregory (St George's Hill) 143 Nett

I attended the Irish A.G.A v A.G.A. in Ireland. On the Saturday we visited Macreddin, an amazing experience but a mountain goat stood more of a chance there. The international was at Woodbrook to our regret being beaten 131/2 -11/2 as revenge for us winning last year. Gary's Training School until 3 or 4 in the morning took its toll, not a pretty sight!

Thanks go to Gary, Les, Graham and Dave Sheppard for their support during a good year.

Doug Lumsden
Chairman

Match Reports

Veterans & Challenge Cup

Venue: Hadley Wood Golf Club on 24th July 2017

Arriving at the course I found it to be only drizzle a pleasant surprise after motoring through enormous puddles on the way. Our intrepid Captain Gary had driven overnight from Birkdale to Sundridge Park to pick up the prizes and the beer and back to Hadley Wood by 07.15 and left at 21.00 still awake to go home after a very long and busy day. HERO!

With the course in immaculate condition the greens were absolutely amazingly fast and tricky making it very difficult which reflected in the scoring CSS 75 33 points throughout the day. Reduction only. Special welcome to Phil and the guys from Harewood Downs who had a good time. Where have you been hiding all these years?

A very fine evening meal was presided over by Terry Trude (Herts Artisan President and we also had Don Bailey (Hadley Wood Artisan President) to dine along with his Artisans expecting to win when local knowledge was liable to prevail.

Veterans Winner: David Evans (Hartsbourne) 34 points count back.
Second: Paul Demetri (Dyrham Park) 34
Third: Terry Greaves (Hadley Wood) 32

Challenge Cup Winner: John Clark (Hadley Wood) 59
Second: Keith Williams (St George's Hill) 56 count back
Third: Franco Bartolucci (Moor Park) 56

Best AM (outside top 3) Dave Weller (Sundridge Park)
Best PM Gary Greaves (Hadley Wood)

Our grateful thanks go to David Jackson and his fine staff who made it a very special day. Sean (Old Fold Manor) and Gary for their Help.

Doug Lumsden

Butler & Jewell Trophies

Venue Burhill Golf Club on 10 August 2017

Butler: Winner Graham Turpin (St. Georges Hill) 72
Second: Andy Douglas (Sundridge Park) 71
Third: Ian Alderson (Cantelupe) 68 on count back from Gary Hunt (Sundridge Park) 68

Jewell: Winner: Graham Turpin (St George's Hill) 72
Second: Rob Wallace (Verulam) 71
Third: Peter Sullivan (Hartsbourne) 67

Best AM: Phil Player (Harewood Downs) 36
Best PM: Rob Barnes (Hook Heath) 38

A fine twice his 1st round 19. What happened at lunch? There were 13 2s on the par 3s with Paul Wells having 2 of them.

Quite a fine achievement by all considering the rain they had both the day before and through the night. Many thanks go to Steve Willey and the ground staff who worked tirelessly to get one course playable.

My sincere thanks go to Les and Gary who saw me through a tough day. I promise not to repeat my action. To all the usual lads and the new ones (where have you been up to now) thanks for making it the great day out that it turned out to be.

PS: Thanks Mate to Dave Sheppard for his repatriation from Ireland in my hour of need.

Sandy Herd

Venue: Worplesdon Golf Club on 25th August

This venue was booked back in 2015 when we had the invitation to take our Seniors Championships to this prestigious course we could not miss the chance.

Greeted by the staff already on site prior to 07.00 on a beautiful morning to look out from the clubhouse was breathtaking.

While entering the AM scorecards we found this was not going to be an easy round and some holes were proving the point with some high numbers.

AM Gross scores achieved were James Zytinski (Cantelupe) 72
Gavin Hooper (Littlestone) 75 and Micky Fisher (West Sussex) 75
AM Nett scores other than the above were Brian Quinn (Bridley) 71
Malcolm Ryder (St George's Hill) 72 and Fred Kiely (Gresham) 73

After a very fine lunch and a few livening drinks they returned to the fray only to find it was not any easier on the greens with in some cases even bigger numbers recorded.

Sandy Herd Trophy

Gross Winner: James Zytinski (Cantelupe) 72-70=142
Second: Gavin Hooper (Littlestone) 75-72=147
Third: Wayne Sewell (Bridley) 78-74=152

James then went on to represent the A.G.A at Woodhall Spa in the County Champion of Champions in a fog affected event that was reduced to 18 holes. James finished a very respectable 12th on 2 over in a field of 28.

J.H.Taylor Trophy

Nett Winner: Paul Bryant (St George's Hill) 73-67=140
Second: Alex Gregory (St George's Hill) 73-70=143
Third: Damien Breen (Banstead Downs) 77-70=147

As winner of the JH Taylor Paul Bryant will get free entry into the Carr Memorial 2018 plus an invitation to play in the Irish match in 2018.

Best AM was Brian Quinn (Bridley) 71
Best PM was Scott Steele (Bridley) 71

Considering the difficulty of the course was still managed 23 2s on par 3s

Our thanks go to the Management, staff and food for an amazing day.

My thanks go to Les, Gary and Dave Sheppard who made it easy for me

Irish Match

Woodbrook Golf Club Bray on Sunday 6th August 2017

They say it's the taking part that counts and not the winning, well that statement sits well with me after our latest venture across the pond to the Emerald Isle.

A team of 24 was once again assembled under the guidance of our Chairman Doug Lumsden who was assisted by past AGA Captain Dave Sheppard who came along to catch up with old friends, little did we know that eventually Dave would also be carer as well as assistant.

We all finally met up at the famous Martello Hotel as some of the party had travelled over the day before to get acclimatized, to the drink that is not the weather. We were in good spirit and confident as we had held the trophy for the last three years.

First afternoon off to the Grange for a knock with the locals. A dull day and a delayed start meant some of us never made it all the way around, but a nice Paul McGinley designed parkland course that is an easy walk. We returned to the Artisan clubhouse for some food and light refreshment.

Second day we have a change of plan from previous years and gave the lovely Druids Glen a miss this time for the highly recommended Macreddin Golf Club now renamed Armageddon. Luckily we took the advice and had buggies, what a brute of a course. Apart from the terrain the best example of this is the fact that it must be getting on for half a mile between the 9th green and the 10th tee, but best of all is that you pass a pub on the way (only in Ireland). Some members of the squad had to be strapped into the buggy otherwise they may not have made the back nine. A real test of golf but also a fabulous golf course. It had been an hour's journey to get to Macreddin and when while finishing our drinks after the round we were informed by debutant Simon Wheatley that he suffered from a weak bladder, we knew we were in for a longer journey home, just not how long. Over four hours later we arrive back to our hotel and Simon had gone from villain to hero as all of the stops for him in polite terms had turned into a pee and a pint, but on realising every public house had a pool table it became pee, pint and pool with the self proclaimed pool pairs champions being Bruce Palmer (Maidenhead) and Paul Phillips (Hadley Wood)

The big day had arrived, we set off for the short journey to Woodbrook Golf Club. We were strong in terms of handicap at the front in the singles matches and were hopeful of our usual strong lead after the singles with the eight betterball matches then hanging on to secure another success on foreign soil. Michael Monaghan gave us a rousing rendition of some song I have never heard of, but it finished with we are Englishmen, so we were now in fighting spirit. The weather was good and we were playing on a course that many of us were now familiar with, so the scene was set for another famous victory. I, being Captain, thought I should lead by example and bring home a win and therefore partnered myself with experienced international Jim the swing Sanderson and we were well confident having previously won together at Hoylake in the North v South match and only the previous day at Macreddin had taken the scalp of the strong pairing of Frank Wilding and Dave Briars from Grange Park. At two up through ten all looked to be going well, but with our opponents going under par on the back nine we eventually went down 2&1. Nevertheless as I made my way up the 18th I looked for the beaming smiles of Doug Lumsden and Northern Captain Terry Lewis, alas it was not to be seen as we had been hammered in the singles 7 to 1 with the overall score being 13 to 3.

Congratulations to Dave Swift in the singles, Dave Bradshaw & Dave Briars in the pairs for their wins and Dave Weller & Keith Warner and Mick Russell & Steve Phillips in the pairs for halving their matches. Looking at those results people applying to play in this match in future will only be considered if their name is Dave. As always a good meal and evening followed at Woodbrook with our Irish friends which went on into the late hours back at the Martello for many with Paul Walters, Paul Phillips, Michael Monaghan and Dave Dodgy Denman in body only sitting on the balcony looking out over the Irish Sea toasting the sunrise over a bottle of Prosecco.

Last day and it was a struggle for many to drag themselves out of their bed. But eventually the majority of us were either tucking into our breakfast or had just finished when I believe our Chairman Doug Lumsden, who I have always thought has been jealous of me tried to still the show. Knowing my name, which is also for those of you who don't know the same name as the world high diving board champion, Doug decides to dive from the top of the flight of stairs to the bottom including a triple toe loop with a twist thankfully not in his speedo's. The lads all ran out to help him and although a little bruised and shook up he seemed ok. I could not help but worry at the time who is going to run the AGA Butler & Jewell Trophy at Burhill on the coming Friday. Anyway Doug made it through the rest of the day with the help of his personal carer Dave Sheppard who did a grand job. So on went the day with Northern contingent deciding to go sightseeing in Dublin a few had an earlier flight and the rest of us made our way to Newlands Golf Club for a final round but I don't think a lot of golf was played, certainly not in my group anyway. By now Dave Sheppard was not only caring for Doug but also Dave Denman, who was still looking for things in the bottom of his glass.

We finally returned to Dublin airport to say our farewells as the Northern contingent had rejoined us. Some of the veterans of the trip commented that it was as good a trip as we have had over there. I hope all the ten rookies Bruce Palmer, Simon Wheatley, Keith Warner, Frank Wilding, Dave Briars, Dave Bradshaw, Cliff Radford, Erwin Blair, Steve Phillips and last, but certainly not least, Mick Russell all enjoyed themselves. We then departed our separate ways with Doug getting chauffeured with his carer Dave on the golf buggy. I think Doug was going straight on to another holiday in Mexico. (Acapulco cliff diving)

Well that should have been it for another year but oh no. On landing at Gatwick Mr Dave Denman had become rather subdued after his little sleep on the flight. So as Captain I thought it was only right that I remind Dave of how meek and mild he was now compared to the last 48 hours which was much to the amusement of Simon Wheatley and another couple who were not in our company. Sadly through our enjoyment we all walked straight past baggage reclaim and out into the main foyer. So Dave then decides to go back in through the exit only doors and like sheep we follow. Not a good idea, picture to follow.



Finally therefore I would also like to retract the earlier statement that your name has to be DAVE to be selected.

Gary Hunt
Captain

Artisan County League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
BB&O	4	3	1	0	26	14	7
KENT	4	3	0	1	26	14	6
HERTS	4	2	0	2	18	22	4
SUSSEX	4	1	1	2	18	22	3
SURREY	4	0	0	4	12	28	0

By the time Herts travelled down to Royal Cinque Ports to take on Kent they were both only playing for the runners up spot as BB&O had already sealed their second title in three years in the County League.

In their final game with everything in their own hands, BB&O needed to travel to Surrey, who to be fair had struggled all year, but always put up a good show when playing at Banstead. In absolutely horrendous conditions which literally blew away any kind of home advantage, BB&O managed to secure the victory needed by a score of three and a half to one and a half.

Congratulations to Richard Lawrence and his team.

Gary Hunt

Surrey Artisan Golf Union

MINUTES OF THE 53rd AGM OF THE SURREY ARTISAN GOLF UNION HELD ON 6th DECEMBER 2017 AT WALTON HEATH ARTISAN GOLF CLUB

Present: 13 Clubs were represented at the meeting.
Apologies: Nigel Barks and Royal Mid-Surrey

Les said he had asked Robert Clarke to take over from Nigel as Chairman.

Previous Minutes

Minutes of the previous meeting were read by Les Sharp.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the previous Minutes.

Chairman's Report

In Nigel's absence, Les read his report. Nigel apologised for his non-attendance and explained that he had to stand down as Chairman. He has not been in the best of health and felt unable to carry on. He thanked the Committee for their support during his tenure as Chairman and, of course, all the clubs that had participated in the

Singles and Sevens competitions during the period he had been organising them. Finally, he wished to pass on his thanks to Walton Heath Artisans for the use of their clubhouse.

Secretary's Report

Les thanked the Committee for their help during the year. He thanked Nigel for his outstanding contribution to the Surrey Artisan movement. His presence on the Committee will be sorely missed.

He also wished to say a special thank you to Lionel, Damien and Rob Barnes for their commitment to their various tasks during the year.

He, once again, stressed the importance for Surrey Artisans to consider joining the main County Union.

The Surrey Championships next year will be held on 15th June 2018 at Surrey Downs Golf Club. Full details will follow.

He was sorry to report that Chipstead Artisans will be disbanded at the end of February. However, he understands that there may be a deal with Bletchingly Golf Club (more later from Neville Walker).

Competitions this year will be run by the following:

Sevens - Les Sharp, Singles - Rob Barnes and Foursomes - Wayne Thorn.

Entry sheets have already been dispatched by email for the Singles and Sevens, the Foursomes entry forms were made available on the evening and those clubs not attending will receive them by post.

Treasurer's Report

Lionel presented the accounts to the meeting. There are a couple of minor points. He said that the AGA had been paid twice for the Inter-county Competition fee. There were no other queries. The accounts were proposed by Brian Hudson, seconded by Nigel Buckland and carried unanimously.

Captain's Report

Unfortunately Damien was unable to attend. However, he had told Les it had been difficult to get low handicappers into the team and in one match we had six players from Banstead Downs. The County has finished at the bottom of the league this year.

Dave Kiely from Gresham has volunteered to act as Captain for the 2018 season.

Sevens Competition

Nigel presented a very detailed report of the Sevens Competition during the year. The final was between Walton Heath "A" and St George's Hill "B". This was a very close encounter with Walton Heath claiming victory by 7½ to 6½. This was Walton's first win for 28 years.

Cont./.....

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The Competition had generally been carried out in very good spirits and he stressed that it is very important for clubs to continue to participate as the Artisan movement needs the interaction between all clubs.

Foursomes Competition

Rob Barnes reported that a record 50 teams had entered and he produced a detailed report. He said the final was between Gresham (represented by Spencer Saunders and John Tinlin) and St George's Hill (represented by Paul Cunningham and Pat Joyce). The first leg at Gresham saw St. George's Hill take an early two up lead which was whittled away and Gresham were five up at the end of the first leg. The second leg at St George's Hill saw Gresham hold on, just, and came away with a two and one win. This is the third time that Spencer Saunders has won this event, with three different partners.

Singles Competition

Once again Nigel left a detailed report. He had no complaints about the Competition this year but stressed that only those who want to play in the Competition should be entered.

The final this year was between last year's winner, Jason Stocks from Royal Mid-Surrey and Graeme Turpin of St. George's Hill. Les refereed both legs at the final and Jason was successful in defending his title.

All competitions - where possible trophies were presented on the day but in the evening glass mementos were handed out to the Walton Heath and St George's Hill Sevens Team and Graeme Turpin was presented with the runners up prize.

AGA

Gary Hunt gave a brief talk about the AGA. He said that the Irish Artisans will be visiting in early August and if any club would like to host them for a day, to let him know.

He outlined the AGA competitions that were to be held next year, and the venues. The AGA AGM this year will be held on the 27th January 2018 at Royal Mid-Surrey Artisans Club, starting at 11am.

Committee

Next year's committee is as follows:

Chairman	-	Robert Clarke
Secretary	-	Les Sharp
Treasurer	-	Lionel Macro
Captain	-	Dave Kiely
Committee members	-	Rob Barnes - Singles Wayne Thorn - Foursomes Maurice Vinson

Any Other Business

The draw for the Sevens Competition was made and all clubs by now should have details of their opponents. This year there will be eight leagues of three teams each and all knockout stages will be over two legs. No courtesy shots.

Neville Walker then gave a summary of the events at Chipstead. About eighteen of their members have applied to Bletchingly Golf Club and that Club has agreed to let them play as an Artisan section. They will obviously not play as Chipstead but a suitable pseudonym will be found.

Dave Kiely said that it would be helpful if Surrey Artisans had a website. Les said that enquiries have already been made but the difficulty always comes when somebody has to update and maintain it.

There being no further business Robert thanked all clubs for attending and the meeting closed at 9.12pm.

Obituary

Doug Sewell

The Greatest Trier A tribute to the late Doug Sewell.

Hook Heath Artisans were demonstrating their skills on the course with increasing success. Their triumphs in the 1950s must justify some claim that they could have turned out the best club team in the country.

In the eight years between 1952-1959, Hook Heath Artisans won the Surrey Club Championship four times and were the losing finalist four times. (Woking G.C. has only one win - in 1938.) Two of their members won the Artisans Championship each year between 1956-1958. One being Doug Sewell.

Doug established the Sewell name on the national scene. Born in Woking in 1929, he loved the game as a lad and spent most of his free hours at Hook Heath. He played every evening in summer, though winter curtailed his golf because in those days play was heavily restricted if there was frost. His renowned putting skills he acquired through incessant practice on the third green. He left school at fourteen and, conveniently, his first job was as grounds boy at the Club. For four years he swept the greens, divotted and cleaned out ditches, but it enabled him to spend every free moment honing his game. The secretary of the Artisans, Mr. Farenden, an inspector with British Rail, helped him acquire his next job and he took up work locally on the railway as a telegraph linesman. While British Rail allowed him time off for competitions, this was time off without pay. Though he could travel to tournaments using his employer's facilities, he found he had to caddy at weekends to pay for his golfing equipment.

His was not a commanding physical figure and it was a steady swing and a relentless accuracy around the green which made him an out-standing player. He shot to national prominence in September 1956 when he was chosen to play in the home countries' quadrilateral tournament at Muirfield. This was the result of his success in winning the Surrey Amateur Championship for the second time, when in the final he was four under fours when he won 7 & 6, and his capture of the Artisans' Championship at Walton Heath earlier in the year. In the latter tournament, the morning round was so wet that Sewell's caddie threw down his bag of clubs, asked for his money and, despite Sewell's protest that he had another round to play, strode off. Doug Sewell, having no waterproofs at the time, was soaked to the skin. His determination to carry on surprised even his two brothers who also found the conditions too tough and completed only one round.

At Muirfield, Sewell lost only 1 singles out of three singles and three foursomes though Scotland won the competition. In May 1957, Sewell lost at the 20th in the semi-final of the English Amateur Championship to the eventual winner, A. Walker of South Africa. In the same competition, G.R. Bristowe, still a Member, eliminated the previous year's British Amateur Champion, John Beharrell, 5 & 4 before losing in the fourth round.

In 1957, Sewell won the English Open Amateur Stroke Play Championship for the Brabazon Trophy at Moortown with a four round total of 287 which gave him a winning margin of 8 strokes. He was now a national golfing figure and was chosen to play in the Walker Cup side.

On August 30th and 31st 1957, he played at the Minikhada Club Minneapolis and was the first representative from the artisan movement to play in the Walker Cup in the United States. The match was lost 8-3, but Sewell won his foursomes and lost his singles only at the 36th hole. Sewell remembers the heat of the day and the battle as being intense. He did not have a heavy frame, but he lost a stone in weight during the match. In a team of men whose battling qualities were attested, with a wise and energetic captain, Gerald Micklem, he was described as "the greatest trier of them all."

During this trip to the U.S.A., the British team were invited to play in the American Amateur Championship. This was played at The Country Club, Brookline, Massachusetts and Sewell recalls that Michael Bonallack assured him: "Oh, you'll win this one", as Sewell's opponent arrived on the 1st tee. This was a young lad in short trousers who appeared extremely nervous. Sewell did not hit a bad shot throughout the game but still went down 2 & 1. The young fellow, seventeen at the time, was to show few signs of nervousness in his later career. He did not win the Championship that year, but he became American Amateur Champion in 1959 and 1961. It was of course Jack Nicklaus.

Members of Woking Club were invited to subscribe to a memento for his Walker Cup selection and the presentation was made on the occasion of the Autumn Medal. The Artisan secretary was invited to the ceremony in the Clubhouse. He must have been a well-known orator for the invitation spelt out his role in the ceremonies as an "onlooker". The invitation had a postscript: "This means no speech-making!"

Though 1957 may have been a wonderful year for Sewell, it was also a great year for the Hook Heath Artisans Club. Not only did they have a representative in the Walker Cup side, they also had the Artisans Champion in George Evans who won the title at Sunningdale. At this time, out of the 60 Artisan members playing regularly, Doug Sewell played off +4 and Jimmy Willett off +2, George Evans and the two March brothers played off scratch and a further 18 had single figure handicaps. There must have been few clubs in the U.K. who were match for Hook Heath Artisans.

In May 1958, Doug Sewell won the English Amateur Championship at Walton Heath. In his second Walker Cup appearance, Sewell was a member of the side which lost 9- 3 at Muirfield in May 1959. There were no victories for Sewell in this encounter, but the American side was one of the strongest ever fielded and included Jack Nicklaus, now in long trousers, in his first Walker Cup sortie. Later in 1959, Sewell was a member of the Great Britain team which played in the Commonwealth Tournament at Johannesburg, South Africa but the team finished fourth after the home country, Australia and New Zealand.

Sewell's successes continued into the Sixties. In April 1960, he won the English Amateur Championship for the second time, but only after a herculean final against M.J. Christmas which he won at the 41st hole at Hunstanton. So titanic and memorable for the spectators was this struggle, that the Hunstanton Club made both Sewell and Christmas honorary members. As a selector, Gerald Micklem was on hand at most of the amateur tournaments and he gave Sewell a lift in his car back to Woking after the final. During this journey Micklem observed: "Now you've really arrived. You've won the Amateur twice, just like me!"

A month later, he won the Golf Illustrated Gold Vase at Sunningdale and received his trophy from Gerald Micklem who was captain of the host club at the time. A few months later, he made another overseas trip to Merion, Pennsylvania as a member of the Great Britain and Ireland side which finished some way behind the U.S.A. in the World Amateur Team Championship for the Eisenhower Trophy.

In December 1960, the PGA brought in a new rule which allowed amateurs to play in professional tournaments for money after only six months membership of the PGA. This was a considerable relaxation of the PGA's qualification and it is possible that Sewell would have turned professional earlier. Doug became professional at Ferndown club.

The Sewell Family

The Sewell Family of golfers included the father- Albert Sewell, who worked as groundsman, tractor driver, caddie-master- and almost every other job concerning the upkeep of the course over period of more than fifty years. Albert started work at the Club when he left school and, with the break period of 1914-18 when he was - uniform, continued until he retired in 1970. He had three sons and Doug +4 (youngest brother), Ernie (Middle) 1 and Albert (oldest) 2, Alberts son Ray who played off 3 and his sons Wayne scratch, Head green keeper at Worplesdon GC and Neil 6, First Green Keeper at Woking GC and Ernie's son John 11.

Hook Heath has seen many of golf's celebrated heroes, his playing record can have been surpassed by only a few illustrious visitors and by one who claimed Hook Heath as home club. His record of five wins in the Alba, when the competition was restricted only to the best amateurs in the country, demonstrated his mastery on his home course. Though his lowest round at Woking, a score of 59, was not achieved in competition, he has had more competitive rounds under par than any Woking golfer to date. He is undoubtedly the most consistently skilful golfer to have graced Hook Heath.

I have tried to capture the main highlights of Doug's golfing life at Hook Heath but there is so much more.

Gary Holister

And finally ...

Please get involved with the next magazine. Articles can be sent at any time up to the deadline of end of April 2018

Send your articles for Spring Edition to editor@agagolf.co.uk

I would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a healthy and successful 2018

The Editor