

Summer 2022

Special Edition (234)



Artisan Golfer

The only magazine about Artisan golf for Artisan golfers



Jeff Best – 50 years an Artisan Read more in nthe Littlestone Section

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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.

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Secretary's Report

Wow where has all the time gone over the last 2 years! We are finally getting back to some form of normality it has been one thing after another and after all we have gone through, we now having to put up with rising costs of everything we do. Food, petrol materials for building works and just about everything we need is rising way above people's living wage.

We have again suffered losses in clubs which are mainly down to the increase in golf club membership and other sections like Academies to get into golf which has had a big impact on the Artisan sections in general. I cannot seem to get across to some of these clubs the benefits of having Artisan sections which gives the clubs not only fees and course maintenance but also security on the courses when in fact most clubs do not have main club members playing late evenings or early mornings. We will continue as a committee to support and help in any way we can to ensure we try and maintain our clubs throughout the country and keep the AGA as strong as possible in the coming years.

Another issue that pops up every year is AGA/EG fees. Please make sure your Secretary /Treasurer make the payments on time as yet again Warren and myself have had to keep sending reminders a long time after the payment date and it has come to the point that we have had to look at suspending clubs AGA/EG membership until they were paid.

If your clubs do not pay on time this is the route we now have to take as we have to meet EG deadline payments and if not, it could mean your clubs Handicaps/insurance and AGA membership will be suspended until such time as they are paid. It is difficult to keep on top of as it is the same time every year and its only paid once and it is very time consuming having to chase payment.

After much effort by myself it seems that the County Scratch League will not take place again this year. It was most disappointing to have no replies from Surrey or BB&O and I would like to thank Spencer Devereux (Herts) and Dave Heckford (Sussex) who were willing to Captain their teams and sort out the home games along with Kent and as the season has now moved on, I feel it would be difficult to get things moving now. Let's hope next year we can get all five County Captains to sort these fixtures out as, win or lose, it's great to take part and meet each other every year.

I am glad to welcome two new council members on to our committee Mr N Walter and Mr P Insole and I am sure with their ideas and commitment we can move forward.

On the sad note Doug Lumsden has now decided to give up the competition Secretary's role, but we are pleased to say he will still stay on the council Committee as Chairman. We cannot thank Doug enough for all the hard work he has put in over many years and help promote our competitions on all fronts. His enthusiasm and participation has been second to none and we have all been very lucky to have him do this for many years, I am sure he will be at the competitions and helping out in general and we wish him all the best for the future and maybe have more holidays which he truly deserve.

The competitions have now started and big thank you to Karl Woodhouse and the others on the council. They went really well and results are on the website, I am sure the others will be supported and hope everyone enjoys the courses and the day.

As for myself I will find it difficult this year to attend or even play as most of my time apart from work is being taken up by my moving house and sorting it out. Also, I have spent my time fishing rather than golf as it just great to get out on the rivers or lakes to enjoy some peace and quiet.

As you may all now be aware our centenary is being celebrated on the 19th August 2022 at Royal Mid Surrey Golf Club and I am sure I will meet and see members from your clubs on the day.

As always, a big thank you goes to Karl our Captain as he has gone above and beyond this year to get a lot of the organizing sorted out including the competitions. A big thanks to the Centenary committee made up of Karl Woodhouse, Patrick Cunningham and Pauline Cunningham who has done a huge amount of work to invite and collate representatives and organize what will be a memorable event.

As always please keep safe enjoy your golf the courses you play with your friends at your club and others.

Bill Johns
Hon Secretary

Treasurer's Report

The accounts remain healthy and able to cope with the additional burden in our centenary year. The celebration event being held in August at Royal Mid-Surrey, I do hope that those representing their various clubs enjoy the golf and trimmings that go with it.

We are also hosting the Irish this year and I'm sure the organisers will ensure we get great value from this event. This along with the usual annual events make for a great association to be involved in.

As you are aware our Chairman Doug Lumsden has handed temporary reins to Captain Karl Woodhouse, must emphasise temporary as we continue to put in place a competition Secretary. I will miss the banter with Doug around event organisation but we keep in touch as he remains very active supporting all the events.

Enough from me, enjoy the summer and remember subscriptions will be due again early next year.

Warren Francis
Hon Treasurer

Captain's Report

Hello all!

I hope covid will soon be a distant memory and that your Artisan golf, at your respective clubs, is resembling that, what it was, two years ago. Our season teed off with our scratch team playing a foursome match versus Oxbridge at Temple golf club in February and for once the weather was kind, unlike the result. A hard fought match ended in a five, three, defeat, special mentions for young debutants Joe Parsons, and Haydn Parker of Royal Mid Surrey.

Then, on to Denham golf club; where at the end of March, a more seasoned AGA team played the "Seniors Golfing Society". Unlike the fabulous food and wine our golf wasn't quite up to scratch, and we narrowly lost four and a half, to five and a half; despite Darren Clutterbuck and Graeme Turpin, both of St Georges Hill, (AKA Oliver Reed and Richard Harris) winning both of their matches.

April, saw the long awaited rematch between the North (Captained by Terry Lewis) and the South (ably led by yours truly) at Gatton Manor. At Royal Birkdale in August 2021 the teams had drawn twelve points apiece, and the rematch was just as close, the South winning by twelve and half, to eleven and a half.

In May we saw Callum Walker (Verulam) winning the Carr Memorial at Puttenham with seventy five points (forty in the morning!) and runner up Terry Rogers (New Zealand) with 73 points. The course was in fantastic condition, and our hosts were superb.

Their events manager sent me a note the day after, commending the etiquette and manners of the AGA and that his staff had agreed that we were the best group, they had ever hosted. Well done to all of the ninety that attended!!!!

Onwards to Bramley in June, where on a finely manicured course Richard Harvey of Hartsbourne (38pts) and Rob Barnes of Hook Heath (37pts), respectively won the Veterans Trophy, and the Challenge Cup.

We still have several events to look forward to; namely the:
Sandy Herd/J.H. Taylor at Harleyford on 14th July
England v Ireland at Formby Hall on 31st July
AGA Centenary competition/Celebration at Royal Mid Surrey on 19th August
Butler/Jewell at the Drift on 9th September.

I wish you all well, and hope to catch up with many of you in the not too distant future

Karl Woodhouse
Captain

England Golf Report

England Golf would like to congratulate the AGA of achieving 100 years of history. Jeremy Tomlinson, the CEO of England Golf is delighted to be invited to the AGA Centenary celebrations at Royal Mid Surrey on August and looks forward to celebrating with you.

Discussions have been taking place with the Voting Members, Counties and Associations regarding building a new clubhouse including a museum and other infra structures at Woodhall Spa. No final decisions have been made at this time.

The WHS continues to have a settling down process. It is hoped it should be fully integrated by the end of 2022.

Patrick Cunningham
Temporary England Golf Representative

Competitions

Surrey Sevens 2022

Here is the Sevens draw. Only 20 teams entered and it was decided to have a free draw so that teams from the same club could be drawn together at the league stage.

No courtesy shots are awarded at any stage of the competition

League 1

1. Royal Blackheath
2. Betchworth
3. Walton Heath "A"
4. Walton Heath "B"
5. Sundridge Park "A"

League 2

1. Chipstead
2. Royal Mid Surrey "B"
3. New Zealand
4. Burwood "B"
5. Royal Mid Surrey "A"

League 3

1. Burwood "A"
2. Bridley
3. Hook Heath "A"
4. Gresham
5. Sundridge Park "B"

League 4

1. Langley Park
2. Reigate Heath
3. St Georges Hill
4. Hook Heath "B"
5. Coulsdon

Please use the following matrix to determine the home and away ties:

Team 1 are Home (2) Home (3) Away (4) Away (5)

Team 2 are Away (1) Home (3) Home (4) Away (5)

Team 3 are Away (1) Away (2) Home (4) Home (5)

Team 4 are Home (1) Away (2) Away (3) Home (5)

Team 5 are Home (1) Home (2) Away (3) Away (4)

The quarter- finals will be played over two legs home and away as follows:-

1 Runner-up "3" v Runner-up "1"

2 Winner "2" v Runner-up "2"

3 Winner "4" v Runner- up "4"

4 Winner "3" v Winner "1"

Semi -finals – Home and away

1. Winner Q/f "3" v Winner Q/f "2"

2. Winner Q/f "4" v Winner Q/f "1"

Closing dates for each round are:-

Leagues: 26th June 2022

Quarter Finals: 24th July 2022

Semi Finals: 21st August 2022.

Final: 18th September 2022

Les Sharp (les@merklersharp.co.uk)

Aldridge Artisans

For those reading who are unfamiliar with Aldridge Artisans, we are based at the wonderful and prestigious Little Aston Golf Club. Founded in 1898, next year will be our 125th anniversary or quasiquicentennial – our Chairman Mike Wallace has finally been able to get his tongue around that one! We look forward to sharing information about this special year in future editions.

Since our last article, we have continued to support our host club in the maintenance of the 85 bunkers on the course and regular divoting and twig collection. For those reading who have played at Little Aston, the club are continuously striving to improve the course for visitors. Recent re-bunkering and re-turfing on the back of bunkers has had an impressive effect on the already magnificent course. This year we have already played Royal Birkdale Artisans at home (an honourable 3-3draw) and hope to greet more artisans in the near future.

This year we are captained by Richard Portman, who follows on from Andrew Thacker. Andrew's intended captaincy year was put on hold due to the COVID pandemic and therefore he was at the helm for two years. This meant more entertaining opportunities for Andrew, which he rarely shies away from, so he didn't mind the additional responsibility at all! We hope Richard enjoys his year and all that being captain entails.

On a playing front, when we finally got back to playing golf and were allowed to get within 2 metres of each other, it was very much the Russ Tatton show! Russ won eight of the competitions throughout the year including the Club's Junior championship (played as a medal). The Club championship played as gross went to John Whitehouse with an excellent 71. As a result of his magnificent season, Russ also collected the R&A Quake trophy at our annual awards dinner hosted by Little Aston Club. Other notable results included Mike Wallace and Kev Lawrence winning the Ronald Horton trophies with a pairs better ball of 63.

February's annual dinner is always a highly anticipated event. This year the evening didn't disappoint with great speeches and brilliant sharing of golfing stories and tales from the year. As usual, we were joined by Little Aston members, most of whom are Vice Presidents for our club. Little Aston Captain, Dave Milne was in brilliant form with another hilarious speech – he's in the wrong job!

With the golfing year just really getting going, we are looking forward to matches against local club teams as well as visiting other artisans such as Royal Liverpool. Several of our artisans will also be attending the annual Northern Competition which we all know is brilliantly organised event where Artisans from all over the country can get together and reacquaint. Hopefully Rob Evans can continue his early season form, shooting a gross 66 at the end of May!

Finally, Aldridge Artisans continues to be a strong and well run club – notably supported by our hosts Little Aston. Each year we are fortunate to go from strength to strength with our numbers now at 38 thanks to the hard work of the committee. At 83 years of age, Mr Bob Cox epitomises Artisan golf. As well as playing most Fridays (and still getting round in just over 3 hours) and entering nearly all the competitions (he won this year's March medal), he also continues to help out. At the end of May he mucked in by driving the soil and seed tractor during divoting. Fantastic!

Glyn Bagley

BB&O

Well, what a couple of years we've all had!! As I write this in January 2022 the pandemic still plays a large part in our lives although some sort of normality has returned to the golfing world.

Flackwell Heath finally celebrated their centenary in 2021(one year late) and my home club Beaconsfield will celebrate theirs this year.

It was fantastic to see and meet all our Artisan friends at our spring and summer meetings ably organised by our long serving secretary, Richard Sweeney, thank you for all your hard work mate, all of the 9 BB&O clubs were represented at both meetings. The spring meeting was held at Sonning GC with the winning pair Eric Smith and Lee Jones from Temple scoring 75 points, the individual victor being Colin Smith from Harewood Downs on 41 points.

The summer meeting was held at Puttenham GC (those attending for the Carr this year will love it) and our Champion golfer for the year was Mike Perkins from Maidenhead with a gross 73, senior handicap winner was myself, plus the over 60s (what a day), junior handicap winner was Mark Munden from Temple, runner up Paul Cadle from Flackwell. Team prize was won by Maidenhead, made up by Dickie Dilkes, Mike Perkins, Paul Forisky and John Brannan. Prizes were presented by our county captain, Paul Walter. Both days were excellent and attended by a limited 70 golfers (pandemic) but as said so good to see so many of our 343 current members in person after two long years.

We look forward to Harewood Downs defending their Thames Valley League title (2019) with its resumption and also seeing friends from all the clubs in the BB&O AGU which for everyone's information are Beaconsfield, Denham, Flackwell Heath, Fernhill (Swinley Forest), Forest (The Berkshires), Harewood Downs, Huntercombe, Maidenhead and Temple, we really are blessed.

Kindest Regards,

Michael Monaghan

Flackwell Heath

Chasing Rainbows – The Pot of Gold

Our Centenary celebrations plight originally scheduled for 19 April 2020 and constantly thwarted by Covid regulations was shared with you all in the 2021 AGA Magazine.

Finally on Saturday 7 August 2021 (101years and 4 months late) we eight, hosted a field of 132 players marking our Centenary, to breakfast, a commemorative FHAGS Centenary engraved crystal glass highball, 18 holes of golf on a course in absolutely fantastic condition followed by a two-course lunch after the exertions of the day and presentation of some memorable prizes in the evening. We were (and are) very proud Artisans.

This was merely the beginning of a very busy year. No longer able to afford to maintain our clubhouse we sold up and vacated the premises on 03 October 2021. FHAGS is still going strong having relocated to the main clubhouse. We carry on our traditions, enjoy all our Artisan privileges and have been warmly welcomed by the FHGC members, who always seem so surprised to see us enjoying some post game beverages on a Sunday morning at 10:30am having finished our 18 holes of golf.

We are active, have a fixtures list and still play our competitions, sadly not enough members to continue our inter club matches. Life goes on for FHAGS, proud to be Artisans and undaunted

Paul Cadle

Hook Heath

Hook Heath Artisans – 2021 Season



Woking G.C. (Founded 1893)



Hook Heath Artisans (1924)



Woking GC 2021

Despite the continued uncertainty and general disruptive effects of the Covid 19 pandemic, all the artisans at Hook Heath G.C remained committed to their responsibilities and duties in maintaining the strong working and playing relationship at Woking G.C for 2021 season.

During the season, it was the creative competition-planning, organising and enthusiasm by the HHA committee, members and Captain (Darren Clarke) that enabled the club competitions to be enjoyed and completed over the various available weekends, and this also included many well supported Home and Away club matches.

2021 Matches

Captain Darren Clarke (supported by his Vice Capt Grahame Cooke) led the HHA's teams to an overall-winning season of :-

Club Matches (H &/or A combined) Played 10... HHA (overall) Wins 8... HHA Draws 1.... HHA Lost 1... Points For 49½... Points Against 30½.

Cantelupe GC. (H & A result) - Lost 8½ v 7½ (narrowest losing margin for many years and longest HHA club fixture)

Bohunt (H & A result) – Won 6½ v 3½

Brookwood GC (H & A result) – Won 8 v 2

New Zealand GC (H & A result) - Won 6 v 5

Seniors (Home only) Won 3 v 2

Sandy's Match (Home only) Draw

Dad's Army at WGC (Home only) – result Won 3½ v 2½

Effingham GC (Away only) – result Won 6 v 5

Berkshire GC (Away only) result Won 4 v 1

Woking GC (Away only) result Won 5 v 1

HHA Club Competitions Roll of Honour

The Winners and Runner-ups of HHA's club competitions were :-

Martin Wolfe Cup – Winner Tim Pacey - (Runner-up Tony Hobbs)

Anniversary Cup – Winner Giles Merchant - (Runner-up Ken G Bye)

Arthur Bayliss Cup – Winner Trevor Marshall - (Runner-up Andrew Ellis)

Wilson Bogey – Winner Tony Hobbs - (Runner Up Rob Hollands)

John Hockley Bowl (Away-day) Winner Grahame (Vicar) Roberts.

Seniors – Winner - Mike Stevens

Sewell Bowl – Winner Martin Smith - (Runner Up P. Watson)

Woking Golf Club Capt Prize - Winner Ken G Bye - (Runner-up Neil Sewell)

Intermediates Cup – Winner Ashley Pearson - (Runner-up Neil Sewell)

Raeburn Cup – Andre' Hester

Bristowe Tankard – Winner Kevin Fisher nett 60 - (Runner-up Ken G. Bye nett 63 - 3rd George Stewardson nett 64 at 86 years young)

Terry Cup – Winner Mr George Stewardson (86 years young)

Jimmy Willet Trophy Winner Cliff Hockley - (runner-up Bob Banham)

Tigers Cup – Winner - Tim Pacey (Runner Up Mike Stevens)

Sir Anthony Hollis Foursomes Winner Kevin Bailey & Gerry Mintram

Rabbits Cup – Winner Ken G Bye - (Runner up Gerry Mintram)

Presidents Cup – Winner Terry McGonicle - (Runner-up Ashley Pearson)

Cup Winners Cup - Winner Trevor Marshall

Eclectic Stratch – Winner Tim Pacey

HHA Club Championship – Winner – Kevin Fisher

Autumn Cup – Winner Mike Stevens - (Runner-up M. Pentti-Smith)



Above – HHA member Cliff Hockley (pictured right) presents the John Hockley Cup to winner club secretary Grahame (Vicar) Roberts (pictured left)

As the 2021 year closed, one of the last and popular club-competition (namely Christmas Foursomes) took place with 48 enthusiastic golfers starting before dawn on a chilly mid-December Sunday morning. All the competition '*pre-and-post traditions*' were maintained and was eventually won by Woking GC Member & HHA President Mr Allen Price (pictured left below) and an 'over-joyed' (*I've won something'.....*) HHA Bar Manager Colin Coles (pictured in Xmas-hat below)



During the latter part of the year, there were some 'new-arrivals' and membership departures at the HHA club.

The arrivals included both new playing members and daughter (Lillie-May) to proud dad Jon Mitchell (as pictured centre-above).

For separate 'family reasons', out-going Captain (Darren Clarke) left the club and moved away, as did 43 year-long time HHA member Gary Holister (pictured above right), and all the HHA membership thanked them both for their hard work and wish them well for the future.

Gary Holister - tribute

Gary, joined the HHA at the age of 18 in 1978, and followed his Grandad (*Mr Jimmy Willett – HHA member in 1930) to eventually become a +2 handicap golfer.

Amongst his many other golfing-roles, Gary was an active HHA playing and committee member and proud to serve as winning captain for the Surrey County Artisan team, and was always available to give knowledgeable and informative 'golfing tips' for any brother-artisan struggling with their game.

In closing here, all the HHA's members would like to wish the Artisan Golfing Association and associated clubs a successful 2022 playing season and for the extendable future..... and look forward to meeting everyone on the Tees, Fairways and Greens(and club-house bar) soon.

* Foot note – HHA Mr Jimmy Willett once played a round of golf against two 'Open champions' – namely Fred Daly (1947 Open) and Max Faulkner (1951 Open) and won.

Littlestone

The Peter Webb Invitation Day, first played 40 years ago, was played on Saturday the 14th of May. It was again a great success with perfect weather, great food and the course in really good nick.

At this event, where numerous local artisan clubs compete for the Peter Webb Team Trophy, we decided to recognise the exceptional feat of Jeff Best

The picture on the front cover shows Graham Spears presenting Jeff Best with a few goodies from the Littlestone Artisans to recognise being an Artisan for 50years. That's a lot of golf a lot of practice swings (Jeff always has 3 or 4 before and after) and many divoting hours over the years. He's has played in various national artisan events over the years and is a great advocate not only to Artisan golf but to our responsibilities to help keep the course in the best condition possible. We are proud of Jeff and his loyalty as I am sure Littlestone main club are. Well done Jeff and here's to many more years golfing, oh and divoting.

Andy Ovendon

Royal Mid Surrey

75 Years of Artisan Golf at Royal Mid-Surrey

The Artisan Golf Club at Royal Mid-Surrey was founded in 1947. The major force behind the formation of the club was JH Taylor, who in conjunction with Mr SJ Hern, the then President of Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club, and Mr Pace, the head greenkeeper, established the rules of the Royal Mid-Surrey Artisans Golf Club in a meeting at The Orange Tree public house in Richmond.

JH Taylor was the Open Champion five times between 1894 and 1913 and was also a respected course architect, who engaged in the design of numerous courses, including the outer course here at Royal Mid-Surrey. He had a long association with the Artisan golf movement prior to Royal Mid-Surrey, having established the Artisan golf club at Royal North Devon back in 1921.

SJ Hern promised JH Taylor he would form an Artisan Golf Club on JH Taylor's retirement as the club professional. SJ Hern went on to become the first President of Royal Mid Surrey Artisans followed by John Haslam, Sir John Hill, Bill Bryce and currently Martin Christmas.

As we all know the principle of Artisan golf is that in return for the privilege of playing golf, albeit at restricted times, the members perform maintenance duties for the parent club. When the Artisan club was first established at Royal Mid-Surrey in 1947, the membership was restricted to 25 members who had to live within 3 miles of the club and would perform 40 hours work each year. In addition, the parent clubhouse would be painted every four years. Over the years these arrangements have evolved, although the same principles are still retained today, where a combination of on course work and general maintenance duties are performed in return for the right to play golf at designated times.

When first formed, the Artisans had no facilities, other than a hut for changing and meetings which used to be conducted in The Orange Tree. Over time the Artisan facilities have been improved, predominantly as a result of goodwill from the parent club and donations made to the Artisan club both from past Presidents and others who have had a major involvement in Artisan golf. A significant donation from the Haslam estate has been used to improve the clubhouse that now currently resides on the far side of the car park.

Gifts over the years have included an R&A putter, donated by Bill Bryce, and our snooker table donated by Mr Freeman in 1969. The President's Bowl donated by SJ Hern.

In 2001 when the Royal Mid-Surrey parent clubhouse was burnt down, the Artisans made their clubhouse available to the parent club for 18 months, while a temporary clubhouse was constructed. In return the parent club made a donation to the Artisan club funds.

On the playing front, a number of matches have been established over the years between the parent club and the Artisans and these are now regular annual events. The Taylor Cup was first contested in 1948 between the RMS Club Committee and the Artisans, which at the time largely comprised caddies and green staff. The original Taylor Cup, that had been paid for by the Aga Khan, who was a friend of JH Taylor, was sadly lost in the 2001 fire. In 1953 the Burn Cup commenced as a foursomes competition with a parent club lady member partnering an Artisan member. The Burn Cup was presented Dr & Mrs Burn and the competition is still much enjoyed by both the Artisans and the lady members today.

Additional matches have been added over time between the parent club and the Artisans to compete annually for the Royston Cup (men) and the Barton Cup (ladies). In recent years the fixture against the parent club juniors has been re-established. The annual snooker matches that take place, also continue to receive strong support. The Artisans compete in both Surrey County and Artisan Golf Union competitions each year. Success has been limited other than in the 1990's when the club won the Artisan Clubs Championship and had a clean sweep of victories across the main Surrey competitions in the same year.

Over the years, the Artisans at Royal Mid-Surrey have contributed to the organisation of golf in both England and Surrey having had members, who at various times, filled the positions of County Captain, AGA Captain, Surrey County Secretary and on the England Golf Committee. Today our club is considered the home of Artisan golf nationally, with the current AGA Captain and Treasurer in our ranks, together with several committee members. This status may also be influenced by our reputation for providing some of the best hospitality around.

We have a long and positive relationship with the parent club, which we hope will continue for many years. We appreciate the support we receive from our current and sixth President, Martin Christmas, along with all the other parent club members that serve our club either as Past Presidents or Vice Presidents.

We are now well into arrangements to celebrate our 75th year during 2022

Warren Francis (& others)

Surrey AGA Minutes

MINUTES OF THE 56th AGM OF THE SURREY ARTISAN GOLF UNION HELD AT WALTON HEATH ARTISAN GOLF CLUB ON TUESDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 2021

Present : There were 10 Clubs represented at the meeting

Apologies: Chipstead, Betchworth and Lionel Macro

Previous Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting were read by Les Sharp.
Minutes proposed by Rob Barnes seconded by Chris Massey and carried unanimously.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Chairman

Robert welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated that he had very little to report.
He thanked the officers and committee for their work during the pandemic and hoped that the coming year will see things returning to near normal.
He wished all clubs a successful golfing year.

Secretary

Les started by impressing on clubs the need for good communication. The Covid pandemic has meant that effectively two years have passed by and many changes have occurred at clubs. Please ensure that he is kept up to date with changes in contact details,

Sadly a number of clubs were wound up during the last two years and a few are in trouble. Banstead Downs, Brookwood and West Sussex were disbanded. Ridgemount have until June 2022 and Burwood and Gresham are in negotiation with their parent club. Chipstead are on notice but hope to form an artisan section within the main club.

Now, more than ever, it is vital that artisan clubs stick together. Use the AGA website (agagolf.co.uk password ART418). The keyword is communication.

There will be no subscriptions or competition entry fees this year. The Surrey championships will be held at Betchworth Park on 4th July 2022. All golf clubs have put up their society rates. A full day at Betchworth is £97.50. However, in light of the Union's strong financial position, we can offer this to our clubs for £60 per person, with one place offered free. A good deal or what!

The scratch and junior trophies are currently held by Dave Owens and Brad Pearce at Betchworth and the Senior trophy by Ben Sullivan of Coulsdon. Can these be returned to me either before 4th July 2022 or on the day (nice and polished0 if you are entering.

He thanked all clubs for their support.

Treasurer

Lionel was unable to attend the meeting but had prepared the annual accounts, a copy of which had been sent to all clubs in advance. Obviously there was very little activity during the year and the Union

has a working balance of £8859.07. A good part of this will be used to fund next year's competitions, but it is for the benefit of the membership, particularly those that support our events.

There were no questions about the accounts. They were proposed by Karl Woodhouse seconded by Wayne Thorn and carried unanimously.

Captain

We do not have a Surrey captain at the moment. All volunteers gratefully received. Please contact Les Sharp 07960954099 or les@merklerssharp.co.uk

Sevens

Les said that the 2019 competition was won by St Georges Hill "A" who beat their "B" in a hard fought final. The rivalry was fierce, but the hospitality great and he was pleased to attend to present the trophy.

2022 entry forms and amended rules have already been distributed to clubs by e-mail. 20 teams from 15 clubs have entered and there will be 4 leagues of 5 teams. This year there will be a free draw and it is possible that a club's A and B sides will be in the same league. That's just the luck of the draw.

Foursomes

Wayne said that the 2019 competition was finally settled in July 2020 with Sunningdale emerging as winners. Entry forms 2022 will be issued shortly with clubs able to enter a maximum of 3 sides.

Singles

Rob said that entry forms for the 2022 competition will be sent to club secretaries by e-mail. The maximum WHS index allowed is 28.4. A maximum of 6 entries per club is allowed. This was agreed at the meeting. Please enter additional names on the back of the form.

AGA

Please check the AGA website for the 2022 competition list.

Committee

Next year's committee elected unopposed is as follows:-

Chairman - Robert Clarke

Secretary - Les Sharp

Treasurer - Lionel Macro

Captain - T B A

Committee Members - Rob Barnes - Singles

Wayne Thorn - Foursomes

Maurice Vinson

Any Other Business

The Sevens draw then took place. The full draw has been sent separately to all clubs

There being no further business, The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting finished at 8.35pm.

Obituary

A tribute to Frederick Charles Herbert Faulkner known as "Fred" (26th November 1921 – 11th January 2021)

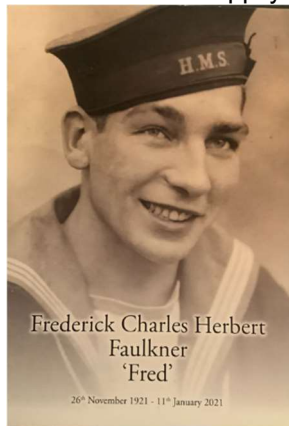
Fred was born at Walton on the Hill on the 26th of November 1921 to James and Polly Faulkner. He was the middle son of five boys.

Having been born into a family of golfers it was during this early childhood that his love of the game of golf was born, something which would stay with him for the rest of his life.

In 1940 at the age of eighteen he joined the war effort and enrolled in the Royal Navy. He always said he enjoyed his time in the Navy, which if you include having the back of your ship blown off, must be something of an understatement. Nevertheless, he did manage to travel all over the world from Australia to America, also playing a part in the D-Day landings.

When asked why, apart from his Navy Service, he had never lived more than four miles from Walton on the Hill, he simply replied, "*The Golf Club*".

After leaving the Navy at the end of the war Fred returned to Walton on the Hill and met up with his pre-war girlfriend Ella. They married in 1947 and remained happily together for forty-nine years.



Fred joined Walton Heath Artisans Golf Club at the age of 16 in 1937 and during his lifetime association with our Club he was a fantastic committee member, Vice President and Captain. His name, along with his father and brothers, appears on the Honours Board in our clubhouse numerous times.

Following his retirement from the building trade he landed his dream job working in our Parent club, as a locker room attendant until the grand old age of ninety-two and was apparently reluctant to retire even then!

Fred's proudest honour was bestowed on him when he was given Honorary Life Membership of Walton Heath Golf Club. We believe he was one of very few Artisan Members to achieve this.

He continued to play reduced holes well into his nineties until stamina finally failed him and he was forced to cease playing. He was also by far the longest serving member in our club history!

Fred lived to the magnificent age of ninety-nine, leaving behind two children, six Grandchildren, twelve Great Grandchildren and son and Daughter in Law. He was loved by all.



Walton Heath Artisans would like to thank Fred's family especially his son Alan Faulker, for his valuable help and support with this article.

Brian Hudson
Walton Heath Artisan Club Chairman

And finally ...

Congratulations to all artisans on your centenary. An amazing achievement. May you enjoy the celebrations

It is wonderful to see so many more articles about your clubs. It is good to share your news and celebrate the lives of great golfers who are all part of the artisan golfing family and have them recorded for posterity. It will be interesting to hear all your Jubilee celebrations and other competitions for the next edition.

We will also have celebrated the AGA Centenary albeit a year late!

Please continue to let us have your news and views for the next edition of the magazine and send them to agagolfeditor@gmail.com

The Editor