

Winter 2022

Special Edition (235)



Artisan Golfer

The only magazine about Artisan golf for Artisan golfers



AGA Centenary Celebration Golfers



Patrick Cunningham (Vice President) and Karl Woodhouse (Captain)

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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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Hon Treasurer: W Francis

Chairman: D Lumsden

Captain: K Woodhouse

EG Representative: P Cunningham (temp)

Northern Section

Hon Secretary: P Williams

South West Section

Hon Secretary: D Lockwood

Editor

Email: editor@agagolf.co.uk

Secretary's Report

Once again it is time to submit my magazine reports which, as always seem, to come around so fast. I trust everyone has enjoyed the golfing season and hopefully had time to enjoy the fantastic summer we have all had.

I would start by informing everyone that it's now time for me to stand down as the AGA Hon Secretary. I have held this position for quite a number of years. I have thought this through at length and now, having moved from London to Kent, it is the right time for me to step down.

I seem to be doing more fishing than I play golf. I knew it would be quite a distance from our club and the AGA meetings would then be a near a 3 hour round trip for me and I have spent so much time on AGA stuff over the years it's time to have a rest and change. My wife has now retired, hence another reason for our move which, to be honest, is such a far better place to live and spend our days in the lovely Kent countryside.

I will miss all the chaps on the council committee and the Artisans from all the clubs I have had contact with and, hopefully, if I still remain an Artisan at Sundridge Park next year I can once again get back into playing in the AGA Competitions.

The AGA Sections have again suffered losses in clubs or been given notice which is mainly down to the increase in golf club membership and other sections like Academies and EG with the 'Get into Golf' campaign, which has had a big impact on the Artisan sections in general, but hopefully EG can use our blueprint to help springboard Artisan golf into the incentives that they promote.

I cannot seem to get across to some of these clubs as some of them do not even want to discuss their reasons for their Artisan section disbandment. We all know the benefits of having Artisan sections which we all give the clubs not only membership fees, but course maintenance and also security on the courses and more things that they ask our members to help with.

On a better footing we have had 2 clubs enquire about joining the AGA which they are now in the process of discussing with their parent clubs. Keeping everything crossed hopefully some of the clubs will avert from disbanding a few of the latest clubs and see that we can be a very valued section in any club.

Your AGA Council committee will continue to support and help in any way it can to ensure we try and maintain our clubs throughout the country and keep the AGA as strong as possible in the coming years. Once again I would like to remind every club and its members that AGA/EG fees MUST be paid on time. Please speak to your Secretary/Treasurer to make sure the payments are on time, 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, so non payment 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 this and it is the same time every year. It is only paid once a year, so please get organised and pay on time. Please use the website to see everything that is going on. The renewal dates are always posted on there.

I hope the County Scratch League will take place again next year as it was most disappointing not to have it take place this year. As from 2023 Sussex have now asked to join Kent so there will be 4 teams next year so, I hope to have 4 willing Captains and their teams and sort out the games. Maybe something can be discussed at the AGA AGM in January 2023.

After our Centenary in August, which was a fantastic celebration of our 100 years, JH Taylor would have been so proud of the way it was carried out and I am sure everyone who attended had an enjoyable day. As you can imagine it took a hell of a lot of organising so a huge big thank you to Pauline and Pat Cunningham for getting all the invitations and coordinating the event, also to our Captain Karl Woodhouse and the Council committee, the main club at Royal Mid Surrey Golf Club for letting us hold the event and all the staff on the day.

The competitions have been well run again this year which I am sure will be covered by Karl our Captain who has done a fantastic job of getting everything sorted out. Also a big thank you to everyone who took part in them and the council members for making it all happen.

As always please keep safe, enjoy your golf with your friends at your club and others.

Bill Johns
Hon Secretary

Treasurer's Report

The accounts remain healthy despite having some hefty bills to pay mainly around the Centenary celebrations and match against the Irish. We did manage to get a good deal for the Centenary green fees and catering at Royal Mid-Surrey, and I'm sure Karl will expand more on this event in his Captain's report, fortunately Royal Mid-Surrey are great supporters of the Artisan movement. We have been saving for this event for a few years now and it paid off as we funded 140+ golfers from across the UK.

Also, for the Irish match, Terry managed to keep the costs down through his good negotiation skills and support from the northern clubs' generosity, thank you Terry.

I'm not expecting 2023 to be such a heavy burden financially as it was for 2022 however costs are going up and we are seeing £100+ green fees / catering, we will continue to subsidise as best we can in order to keep the overall cost to our members as low as we can.

I now have better access electronically to the accounts so receiving and paying out monies is much less of a burden thankfully.

My next major task is to finalise the annual accounts in readiness for the AGM and also to respond to our bank with regards to providing all the necessary information regarding money laundering regulations.

I will let you all know about the fees for 2023 in the near future, appreciate it if you can pay by the due date and preferably via bank transfer. Look out for the invoice email to all secretaries and posted on our website sometime in December.

All the best.

Warren Francis
Hon Treasurer

Captain's Report

What a fabulous year of golf we've had!

July saw us competing at Harleyford for the Sandy Herd/JH Taylor trophies ; which turned out to be a family affair, with Jamie Douglas winning the former, and his father, Andy, both of Sundridge Park winning the latter. I might also add, Andy had the only two of the day, pocketing a substantial sum of cash to boot!

We then travelled up to Southport to host the Irish at Formby Hall Golf Resort. The day was expertly organised by Northern Captain, Terry Lewis, and the course was immaculate. Like the English Lionesses who were competing in the European Cup Final that evening, we comfortably won; the actual result escaping me - far too much wine! Clearly, the result was immaterial, the Irish were at their jovial best and were great company. Roll on our return fixture in Dublin next year.

The highlight of the year though must go to the AGA Centenary Competition/celebration held at Royal Mid Surrey Golf Club on 19 August. One hundred and forty four competitors from all over England (plus the Irish contingent) in a shotgun start on the Taylor and Barton courses. We certainly did JH Taylor proud ! Again, the weather was kind, the courses in fine fettle, and the lunch after delicious.

Our guest speakers, Robert Warnock (Chairman of Royal Liverpool Golf Club) and Jeremy Tomlinson (CEO. of England Golf) were lavish in their praise for the AGA.; so much so our Captain was reduced to tears!

Special mention must go to the "Dynamic Duo" of Patrick and Pauline Cunningham who were instrumental in guaranteeing a successful day. Thank you both!

Our final outing was at the Drift Golf Club for the Butler/Jewell Trophies, admirably overseen by Rob Barnes, with both competitions being won by David Linnell of Moor Park with a combined score of 79pts. Well played David.

Next year we will be revisiting Bramley, Puttenham, and the Drift for three of our competitions, with the Carr Memorial being held at Little Aston on 17 May 23; a truly formidable course.

I would like to personally thank Pauline Cunningham, Patrick Cunningham, Terry Lewis, Warren Francis, Doug Lumsden, Rob Barnes, Jason Harvey and Graham Turner (our two scorers) for helping me make 2022 such a successful season.

Wishing you all and your families a peaceful Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

Karl Woodhouse

Captain

England Golf Report

England Golf CEO, Jeremy Tomlinson and Matt Draper were delighted to be invited to the AGA Centenary celebrations with over 40 clubs represented. They presented the AGA with a special Centenary Plate, a great honour for the movement.

England Golf are still working on the changes required for the new club house and facilities in Woodhall Spa. They are also planning on celebrating their 100 years of golf in 2024 and have set up a committee to organise this.

A sustainability working group has been set up and Patrick Cunningham is part of this group

The WHS is still settling down with changes to Playing Conditions Calculator (PCC)

The World Federations of Golf are getting together to sort out the automatic transfer of data from 2023.

Patrick Cunningham

Temporary England Golf Representative

BB&O

Well, as I write we have all managed to return to some sort of normality and all clubs have been able to return to their full competitions and fixtures and I hope this will continue.

Unfortunately, we were not able to fulfil our usual matches against our fellow unions but hopefully this will be resolved in 2023.

Our Spring Meeting was held at Calcot Park GC.

Singles winner was Mark Page, Forest Artisans with 37 points

Pairs winners were Roy Buxton & Chris Barlow, Denham Artisans with 65 points.

The 2023 Championship Meeting was held at The Springs GC.

Team winners were Flackwell Heath with 141 points

Junior Trophy winner was Tony Saw, Flackwell Heath with 39 points

Senior Trophy winner was Wayne Porter, Huntercombe with 40 points

Over 60's winner was Tony Saw

Scratch Champion for 2023 is Wayne Porter, Huntercombe who shot 75

I and all BB&O artisans would like to thank our Secretary, Richard Sweeney for all his hard work in 2022.

Unfortunately, I have to close on a sad note by notifying you all that as of the 31 December 2023 Fernhill Artisans (Swinley Forest) will cease as an Artisan GC having received notice from their parent club. If any clubs have vacancies that could be offered to Fernhill members, please let me know.

Neil Walter

Childwall

On the 3rd July 2022 Mr F Melia, a senior Childwall Artisan scored his first ever hole in one at Childwall Golf Club on the 6th hole par 3... 174 yards into the wind with a rescue wood fantastic achievement.

Regards

Fran Coldicutt

Childwall Artisans secretary.

Formby

Centenary Celebration (22/09/22)

On behalf of the Captain & Members of Formby Artisans, I would like to thank all Artisan members who attended our recent Centenary Celebration Day. The competition played was a 4-man Texas Scramble – the teams composed of 2 of our members & a mixture of other local & national members plus dignitaries from Formby Golf Club. I was involved in the organisation but will have to blame someone else for the weather. Thanks, must be especially directed to golfers who travelled from afar – it was nice to welcome Gary Hunt & Jim “the swing” Sanderson from down South. Others had travelled from Hawarden & Oswestry to attend. All our local Artisan Clubs were represented at an event that hopefully everyone enjoyed. The bad weather obviously did not affect the standard of golf as the scores recorded were remarkable. The “running buffet” provided by Formby Golf Club was excellent and we must thank them, in every respect, for their hospitality and the tee times exclusively provided.

We hope that everyone enjoyed the day & all our invited “en bloc” to our Bicentenary Celebration. The winning team consisted of Clive Carrington (Grange Park Artisans), Colin Eveson (Royal Birkdale Artisans) along with our 2 members Roger Wilkins & Jason Francis. Their score was gross 68 less strokes received of 13, net 55. I think that, on the day, everyone was a winner.

Arthur Gee

Centenary Captain

Hook Heath

Following the golf-disrupting ‘Covid19-period’, HHA incoming Captain (Graham Cooke) and members were pleased to see ‘near-normality golf’ return at Woking Golf Club during their 2022 season.

Founded in 1924, HHA’s have continued to maintain a strong working and playing relationship with Woking GC and are shortly to celebrate their centenary year.

The prolonged 2022 summer-weather had its effect on the fairways at Woking GC, and the artisan’s season-weekly divoting work activities helped the course to recover as quickly as possible.

Some seasonal individual, match, competition and team achievements included :-

- **Multiple club competition winners** – Kevin Fisher, Mike Stevens, Rob Lott and Jon Mitchell.
- **Tim Pacey** – Representing England v Ireland and England v Oxbridge AGA matches, and AGA National (JH Taylor trophy - Runner-up).
- **Rob Barnes** (Winner of National AGA Challenge Cup – 16+ category)
- Winners of HHA (longest) Home & Away club match against Cantelupe - Berry Cup – (HHA not won since 1998)
- **Surrey Artisans Golf Society** – Team winners
- **HHA Club Charity Day** – raising £1,700 for Macmillan Cancer relief
- **2022 Winners of Surrey AGU sevens Match-play competition** (see below pics – Winners in 1974, 80’ 86’ 91’ 93’ 98’ 2003 & 2022)



Above Left Back row – Mickey Penti-Smith, Paul Watson
 Rob Barnes, Rob Lott,
Front row - Mike Stevens, Rob (Capt) Hollands and Darren Pearce
Above middle – HHA Capt Rob Hollands receives Surrey 7s Match-play cup from Les Sharp
Above right – Rob Barnes with National AGA 'Challenge Cup'

Other HHA seasonal achievements also include:-

HHA Competition/Matches

- Spring Cup (Feb)
- The Berkshire (Away)
- Cook Cup (over 50s v under 50s)
- Past and Present Captains
- Bohunt (Liphook) Away match
- Lawrence Foursomes
- Team B 7S, Langley Park Home
- AGA Qualifier / News of the World
- New Zealand (Home)
- Team B 7s Reigate heath
- Team A 7s, Sundrige Park, Home
- Anniversary Cup
- Team A 7s, Burwood Park Home
- Sunningdale (Away)
- Team A 7s, Gresham Park Home
- Team B 7s Coulsdon Home
- Bohunt (Liphook), (Home)
- Seniors up to 10 hcp
- Rabbits over 18 hcp
- The Berkshire (Home)
- Cantelupe (Away)
- Team B 7s St Georges Away
- Sewell Bowl
- Team A 7s Bridley away
- Seniors Golf Society
- HHA Day out - Hockley Trophy
- Jimmy Willett Trophy
- Bridley (Away)
- Intermediates 11-18 hcp

Winner/Outcome

- Mike Stevens
- Lost (3-2)
- Under 50s win
- Dick Bailey
- Draw
- Ady Fowler & A. Bull
- Win
- Jon Mitchell
- Win (5- 0)
- Half
- Win (6-1)
- Pearson & G Aldridge
- Win (5-2)
- Win (3.5 – 2.5)
- Win (6.5 – 0.5)
- Win (4 – 3)
- Draw
- Mike Stevens
- Len Rice
- Lost (3-2)
- Win (3.5 - 2.5)
- Lost (5-2)
- Darren Clark
- Win (4-3)
- Lost (3-2)
- Paul Toyne 44 points
- Rob Lott
- Win (4-2)
- Neil Sewell

Tigers (Scratch) Cup	Tim Pacey
Sandy's Trophy Match	Win (4-1)
Arthur Bayliss Salver	Steve Elliott
Martin Wolfe Cup	Brian Curr
WGC Captains Prize	Neil Sewell
New Zealand (Away) 10 aside	Win (3-2)
Wilson Bogey	Jonathan Mitchell
HHA Captain's Prize & BBQ	Michael Elliott
Bristowe Tankard	Rob Lott
Dad's Army (Home)	Win (3-2)
Family Greensomes	S. Chowney & J Ball
Terry Cup	Jake Cheesman
Raeburn Cup	Darren Clark
Cantelupe (Home)	Win (4-2)
Presidents Cup Final	Kevin Fisher
Woking GC	Win (3-2)
New Zealand Home first leg of the Seven Final	Win (6-1)
Cup Winners Cup	Kevin Fisher
New Zealand Away second leg Sevens Final	Win (5-2)
Walton Heath (Away) bi-annual	Win (6-0)
Sir Anthony Hollis Salver (Foursomes)	Andy Ellis & Mickey Penti-Smith

As his season drew to a close, Capt Graham Cooke said.... *'I would like to thank Woking Golf Club and all the HHA members, committee and families for their unwavering support during my enjoyable and possibly clubs most successful playing year'*

Royal Mid Surrey

After the covid couple of years RMS 2022 sees us back with a bang.

2022 being our 75th Anniversary year saw us celebrate in style by hosting an event involving 2 Artisans against 1 lady / 1 gent from our Parent club followed by lunch spilling over into the evening!

We also hosted the AGA Centenary event, a nice touch as JH Taylor spent the majority of his professional career as Professional at RMS. Both milestones have gone brilliantly and celebrated with proper Artisan tradition and style.

It was also great to get back to playing a full season of competitions and be involved in the Surrey Sevens and Surrey Fives, managing to reach the area final of the Surrey fives losing out narrowly to Camberley Heath.

The club & clubhouse are back to their thriving best.

Just one touch of sadness amongst this was the recent passing of Patrick Doyle, one of our Vice Presidents, he will be sorely missed, RIP Patrick.

We look forward to further celebrations for our 75th anniversary with a dinner dance in our Parent clubhouse and our usual Christmas bring and win.

Warren Francis

Surrey AGM

MINUTES OF THE 57th AGM OF THE
SURREY ARTISAN GOLF UNION
HELD AT WALTON HEATH ARTISAN GOLF CLUB
ON TUESDAY 18th OCTOBER 2022

Present : There were 9 Clubs represented at the meeting

Apologies: Bridley 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 year.
After tonight he is standing down as Surrey chairman and said that Rob Barnes has, subject to a vote later, offered to take on the role.

Secretary

Les thanked the committee. Special mention to Rob Barnes and Wayne Thorn who run the Singles and Foursomes competitions respectively. Wayne has agreed to continue to run the foursomes although he is no longer affiliated to an artisan club.

Canteloupe have requested to join our Union. They were accepted 5 years ago, but delayed entry because they were trying to re-establish the Sussex Union. However, they have now paid their subscription and entered two teams in the Sevens. Dave Heckford attended the AGM on their behalf.

The championships at Betchworth Park were well attended. 44 players participated and the club looked after us very well. Winners were; Scratch – Nigel Watson (Betchworth), Senior – Graham Dorward (RMS) and Junior – Graeme Turpin (St. Georges Hill).

Next year's Surrey championships will be held at Betchworth Park on 3rd July 2023. A full day at Betchworth is £121. They have offered us a discounted rate of £90. However, once again, we can offer this to our clubs for £70 per person, with one place already paid in your club's subscription.

Communication is the key to a successful Artisan movement. Please ensure that all changes to your club's administration are reported to Les in a timely manner. Rob Barnes is setting up a WhatsApp group for Artisan club members to keep other members informed of what's going on at their club.

He thanked all clubs for their support.

Treasurer

Lionel was unable to attend the meeting but had prepared a statement of our current financial position. After paying various expenses and subsidizing the championships, we still have £5944.49.

There were no questions about the financial statement. They were proposed by Rob Barnes seconded by Brian Hudson and carried unanimously.

Captain

We do not have a Surrey captain at the moment. However, see below for election of officers.

Sevens

The 2022 competition was completed with only minor problems. Each round was finished on time and Les thanked all clubs for making the effort. Only one match wasn't played, resulting in a 3-0 walkover for Reigate Heath.

The final was between Hook Heath "A" and New Zealand. Les said he had attended the second leg at New Zealand. The club provided excellent hospitality and the match was played in very good spirit. Hook Heath won the event and Les presented the cup to Rob Hollands their captain.

Foursomes

Wayne said that the 2022 competition is still going on. The final is between Hook Heath and Langley Park. There had been no major problems.

Singles

There were 71 entries to the singles completion and apart from the early round teething problems, wrong e-mail addresses being common, the competition ran smoothly. In the final John Hill beat Billy Finch.

Rob said that St Georges Hill are no longer allowed guests at the weekend.

AGA

Karl Woodhouse gave a brief update.

The Carr Memorial will be at Little Aston.

Please check the AGA website for details of other events agagolf.co.uk (password ART418)

He had no information whether the county championship would be held this year

Committee

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

Chairman - Robert Barnes

Secretary - Les Sharp

Treasurer - Lionel Macro

Captain - Malcolm Ryder

Committee Members - Wayne Thorn - Foursomes

Maurice Vinson

Andy Ellis

Any Other Business

Paul Bryant (St G Hill) suggested that the cut-off for the Sevens teams should be lowered to encourage more low handicap players to participate. Some discussion then took place. The proposal was put to the members and carried 15-3.

The Sevens draw then took place. The full draw has been sent separately to all clubs together with the amended rules and Sevens entry forms

There being no further business, The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 8.38pm.

Les Sharp

Surrey Sevens Draw 2023

Please pass on to whoever is organising your sevens team(s).

No courtesy shots are awarded at any stage of the competition

League 1

1. Royal Blackheath
2. Chipstead
3. Canteloupe "B"
4. Coulsdon
5. Hook Heath "B"

League 2

1. Bridley
2. New Zealand
3. Langley Park
4. Sundridge Park "B"
5. Royal Mid Surrey "B"

League 3

1. Hook Heath "A"
2. Reigate Heath
3. Canteloupe "A"
4. Royal Mid Surrey "A"
5. Walton Heath "B"

League 4

1. Walton Heath "A"
2. Sundridge Park "A"
3. Betchworth Park
4. Gresham
5. St. Georges Hill

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 Winner "1" v Runner-up "4"
- 2 Winner "2" v Runner-up "1"
- 3 Winner "4" v Runner- up "3"
- 4 Winner "3" v Runner-up "2"

Semi -finals – Home and away

1. Winner Q/f "3" v Winner Q/f "2"
2. Winner Q/f "1" v Winner Q/f "4"

Closing dates for each round are:-

Leagues: 25 June 2023

Quarter Finals: 23 July 2023

Semi Finals: 20 August 2023

Final: 17 September 2023

Please let me have your team contact details by 31 January 2023

My e-mail is les@merklersharp.co.uk

Mobile T/p UK 07960954099

Centenary Celebrations

As you know the Artisan Golfers' Association was 100 years old in 2021. However, due to covid restrictions we were unable to celebrate this great achievement until this year on 19 August 2022 at Royal Mid Surrey Golf Club. All the artisan clubs were invited to send two representatives and we eventually entertained 144 artisan members, including the Northern & Irish sections, plus vice presidents, people from England Golf, Senior Golfing Society, R&A and Oxbridge.

The day started with a shotgun start for the golfers who played 18 holes of golf in teams of four. After the competition the golfers were joined by those who coming for lunch.



After we were all seated Robert Warnock, presented a special silver salver. Then Peter Pentecost made a special announcement about a centenary bowl he had specially commissioned for the occasion. He explained it would have a special memorable significance as he hadn't taken into consideration the actual centenary was 1921 – 2021 with the bowl having the date 1922- 2022 forgetting that the celebration was a year late! It will always be a talking point in the future!



Royal Mid Surrey did us proud with wonderful catering and service.

The delicious starter and main course were followed by the presentation of the prizes from the morning's golf by Bill Johns and Karl Woodhouse. Very close matches with the winners decided by countbacks!

More tasty food followed and then Captain, Karl gave a very emotional speech. A special claret jug was given to Doug Lumsden for his service over the years.

Jeremy Tomlinson, England Golf CEO, replied on behalf of the guests and also presented Karl with an England Golf commemorative centenary plate.

A gift was also given to Patrick Cunningham, and much to my surprise, to myself, in thanks for the work we had put in to organising the whole event.



Everyone commented on the wonderful atmosphere and camaraderie in the room. It was palpable!



On a personal level, I was honoured to be asked to project manage this momentous event and to be invited to attend the lunch and to see everyone enjoying the day. It made all the hours of preparation worthwhile!

It was good to be able to put faces to the names I knew so well from the planning and to also meet Bill and Karl, with whom I have communicated for many years by email, but had never actually met.

For those in doubt, I do actually exist!

A brief history of the AGA was placed on each table and can be read further on in the magazine.

Pauline Cunningham

Editor (and project manager!)

A Centenary Poem

One hundred years of the AGA, what a wonderful feat!
Starting the celebrations, over a hundred golfers there did meet
Representatives from artisan clubs travelled far and wide
From the north and south and Ireland to represent their clubs with pride
Oxbridge and the PGA, England Golf and Seniors too
A shotgun start at nine o'clock; everyone knew just what to do.
After the golf was finished, more people joined them for lunch
By now the drinks were flowing and they were a happy bunch!
Everyone was seated according to the table plan
And delicious food and wine was served to every lady and every man
The venue at Royal Mid Surrey certainly did you proud
The friendly staff and delicious food to cater for such a crowd
Robert Warnock presented a special gift and said a few words of praise
About the artisan golfers from their past to nowadays
After consuming the great cuisine, the prizes were handed out
With winners determined on countbacks; close matches, there's no doubt!
A special claret jug was given, to Doug Lumsden for his part
Of serving many, many years with artisan golf right at the heart
Then Karl, the Artisan Captain gave his speech to everyone
Thanking each and all who have taken part and for the help that had been done
To run the very successful day, and to thank JH Taylor too
Who formalised the association to make golf available to you
His speech was very moving; he's so honoured to be a part
Of the artisan golfing movement and spoke right from the heart
And in response, from England Golf, Jeremy Tomlinson replied
On behalf of all the guests that were there with words that were justified
A centenary plate was given and received with thanks and pride
Knowing it is a rare occurrence and the honour that's implied.
It will be a very memorable day; all felt honoured to be there
It was clear from the camaraderie that artisans really care.

Pauline Cunningham

A Short History of the Artisan Golfer's Association

The Artisan Golfers' Association had its official birth in a room in the Fleet Street Hotel called, Anderton on a July evening in 1921 instigated by the famous professional golfer of the times, JH Taylor together with FG Hawtree and supported by Lord Riddell and Jim Wilks of Flackwell Heath.

The prototypes of artisan golf, by playing golf in off peak times, are Northam at Royal North Devon and Cantelupe at Royal Ashdown Forest followed by working men's clubs in the North East; Ryton & Newcastle and then more followed in Norfolk. None had the word 'artisan' in their title. This appeared for the first time with the formation of a club called Bulwell Forest and then Malvern. At the end of Queen Victoria's reign there were approximately a dozen clubs scattered around the country.

As the popularity of golf increased and more clubs were formed it became necessary to form an organisation. It was decided that the organisation be called The Artisan Golfers' Association with the object of uniting the various artisan and working men's clubs and to encourage and help in the formation of new clubs. The first subscription was £1. It was divided into sectors: Southern, Midland, Northern, Western, Eastern & Wales. At its peak there were over 200 clubs.

The AGM is to be held each year in the second week of December and it was agreed at a meeting in 1922 to write to all artisan golf clubs to encourage them to affiliate to the AGA and offer a Challenge Trophy for competition to all members.

In August 1936 an agreement was made that JH Taylor & FG Hawtree be appointed Trustees of the Artisan Golfers' Association.

In December 1937 an agreement was reached between the AGA and National Public Golf Courses and the English Golf Union regarding representatives to the executive of that Union.

JH Taylor was a co-founder and the first chairman of the British Professional Golfers' Association and was very influential with the Artisan Golfers' Association and was appointed as Vice President and acted as chairman at many of the meetings until the time he was President in 1941. He served in that office until 1963; 42 years of remarkable service.

At a meeting of the interim council of the AGA held on 16 October 1923 JH Taylor proposed that WJ Gardner of Flackwell Heath be appointed honorary assistant secretary of the Association. An office held until he retired in 1966 fulfilling his AGA duties for 43 years, including 30 years as secretary taking over from FG Hawtree in 1936. He was known as 'Mr Artisan Golf'.

John Henry Taylor

JH Taylor took a leading part in the formation of the Artisan Golfers' Association and the National Association of Public Golf Courses, so democratising a sport that in his early days was largely a preserve of the wealthy. Although he was five times Open Champion, he was one of the founding fathers at Northam in 1888 and four years later helped to form an artisan club at Royal Ashdown Forest, Cantelupe. He also helped to start the Professional Golfers' Association.

It was typical that he should prize as highly as any of his possessions (and at his home are scores of mementoes of his career) a desk that was the gift of the Artisans' Clubs of Great Britain, a tribute to his work for them.

Artisan Golfers' Association Firsts

First President

Lord Riddell

First Vice Presidents

Sir Emsley Carr

Arnold Tebbutt

JH Taylor

First Secretary

Fred Hawtree

First Tournament

The prizes were donated by the Association's constant friend, The News of the World. It was held at Walton Heath in 1922. It was a one day event, but as the association quickly grew, it became a two day event and eventually a three day event after the WW2.

First Royal Patronage

In 1935, the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VIII) was the first Royal Patron. He was succeeded by King George VI and then our late Queen Elizabeth II followed by our current Patron, Sir Michael Bonallack

And finally ...

Thank you to all have contributed to this special edition of the magazine. Please keep a note of all your clubs' highs and lows, funny and sad moments and share them with your fellow artisans in the next edition of your magazine in the spring and send them to editor@agagolf.co.uk

In the meantime, have a great golfing season and enjoy the company of like-minded people in the 19th hole. Best wishes for healthy and successful 2023

The Editor