

Summer 2024

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Artisan Golfer

The only magazine about Artisan golf for Artisan golfers



Jeremy Tomlinson, CEO of England Golf, with Patrick Cunningham
at the England Golf Centenary Festival Week

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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 England into one Association and to encourage and help in the formation of clubs.

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P Williams

Hon Secretary: P Cunningham (Acting)

Hon Treasurer: W Francis

Chairman: To be appointed

Captain: W Goodyear

EG Representative: P Cunningham (temp)

Northern Section

Hon Secretary: P Williams

Editor

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Secretary's Report

The AGM was very poorly attended this year with only 13 people, apart from the officials, representing a handful of clubs. This needs to change for the future. It is important that all clubs' voices are heard.

Doug Lumsden announced he is stepping down as Chairman. We thank him for his services over the years.

As the acting secretary I have visited over 20 clubs who are encountering issues regarding their future and workload. We have made some good progress with getting the Host Clubs accepting the hours required and work to be carried out. There will be approx. two clubs closing. We are still in negotiations to try and prevent further clubs under threat of closure.

Lindrick Artisans will be celebrating their 125 years and Hook Heath Artisans are celebrating 100 years.

Many congratulations to them both

Triangle are celebrating their Charity Day Trophy on 21 July to raise funds for St Peter & St James Hospice. We wish them a very successful day.

Sir Michael Bonallack's memorial service was well attended. I had got to know him well over past 25 years and often played golf with him. Sir Michael and I introduced the Patron's Trophy which is played every four years.

I would like to wish everyone a successful 2024 and hope to have a new secretary in place later this year.

Patrick Cunningham
Acting Hon Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Not much to report this period. We maintain a healthy balance thus allowing us to continue to subsidise our matches and competitions.

We owe a huge thanks to those that lobby England Golf representing the AGA and succeeding to secure funding for our future.

Great to see well subscribed events giving our new, but excellent, competition secretary a bit of a headache balloting out on occasions.

The visit from our Irish friends takes place in a few weeks, good luck to all that take part and thanks to our Northern contingent for getting venues sorted and prices reasonable.

All the best for this summer's golfing.

Warren Francis
Hon Treasurer

Captain's Report

Here's a brief update on my first few months as your captain:

Our first event was a scratch team match against Oxbridge at Temple, where our lads triumphed 5-3. Retiring Chairman, Doug Lumsden oversaw this victory.

Next, we travelled Denham to play the Seniors. Despite the brutal weather, the food and company were magnificent. Unfortunately, we were narrowly defeated.

Our first Artisan competition was the Carr Memorial, held once again at the wonderful Little Aston.

Graham Dorward of Royal Mid Surrey retained the trophy by the smallest of margins. Thanks to our Vice President, David Leishman, for driving up in the morning to greet the players and present the trophies, all just after having knee surgery.

My second thanks go to Nigel Watson, our new fixtures secretary, who organised and scored this event brilliantly. It was his first of, hopefully, many events for the Artisans. I really appreciate the effort, Nigel.

Big thanks to the Artisans committee, who have been invaluable to me since I became captain, your help has been greatly appreciated.

Finally, a special thank Mr. & Mrs. P Cunningham. Pat continues to serve as our interim secretary after the departure of the excellent Bill Johns. Pat's guidance and efforts have been pivotal in keeping the Artisan movement a force in golf, which all of the Artisans appreciate. Thanks to Pauline for running the AGA website brilliantly, even if she may be cursing me as the deadline approaches.

Enjoy your golf and appreciate how lucky we are. I look forward to seeing many of you at some point during my captaincy.

Bill Goodyear
Captain

England Golf Report

Fourball better ball scores were introduced into the calculations for handicapping from April this year. Please remember when qualifying for AGA events for 2025 that your members have put in three qualifying scores from 2024. These can be done by either Medal, Stableford or General play cards.

It's important that every club has signed up to the England Golf's Equality and Safeguarding policies etc.

Ian Pattinson will be stepping down as Chairman of England and will be taking up the position as Captain of the R&A. It has been a great honour for me to have been working with him on the Nominations Committee of England Golf and I wish him all the best.

With the experience I had Chairing the RMS 125 year celebrations and advising Portmarnock's 125 years celebration, I was asked to be part of the England Golf Centenary Committee and helped and advised them in their celebrations which was a great success.

Hook Heath Artisans represented the AGA at the England Golf Centenary celebrations during their Festival Week.



Hook Heath Team

The AGA Committee were represented at the EG Centenary by the Captain, Bill Goodyear, Competitions Secretary, Nigel Watson, the Disputes Officer, Rob Barnes and myself as Acting Hon Secretary.



Bill Goodyear (AGA Captain) & Nigel Watson (AGA Comp Sec)



Rob Barnes (Disputes Officer) negotiating the bunker



Nigel Watson (Comp Sec) in full swing

The course, as you can see, was in excellent condition
Everyone had an outstanding time. It was good to see the Artisan movement mixing with the other associations and counties.

Patrick Cunningham
Temporary England Golf Representative

Competitions

The first Competition of the year has been and gone. For me this was my first event and was somewhat scary knowing the footsteps I was following in.

The Carr Memorial took place at Little Aston on Wednesday 15 May with 108 people asking to compete. We had to limit spaces to 92 in order for all to get round. 88 players attended the 36 hole event on a stunning course in the Midlands. We did have a torrential storm late morning for about 30 minutes, but it showed the quality of the course as the greens soon dried out and in the afternoon the pace certainly picked up.

The morning round saw 5 places match or beat handicap with Paul Stewart the best of the bunch with a stunning 39 points followed by Darren Schneider with 37. After the usual quick turn round the afternoon also saw 5 match/ beat handicap with Paul Dillon with 38 and Graham Dorward & Terry Rogers with 37.

The overall results saw 5 players shoot 70 points. Graham Dorward retains the title with 70 points winning on count back from Terry Rogers (2nd) Jamies Douglas (3rd) Carl Vaughan(4th) and Michael Dawber(5th).

Bramley Golf Club again host the Challenge Cup and Seniors Trophy on **Thursday 13 June**.



The Winners of the Seniors and Challenge Cup

Temple Golf Club host for the first time the Sandy Herd Trophy/ JH Taylor Trophy and new for this year the Doug Lumsden Trophy on **Tuesday 16 July**. A 36 hole handicap and scratch competition.

I played the course earlier this year and highly recommend the trip (between Henly & Maidenhead) Entries are already arriving so please send yours in now.

Entry forms are on the AGA website

Nigel Watson
Competitions Secretary

Hook Heath

Hook Heath Artisans (Founded 1924) – Centenary year

Surrey and Woking GC based Hook Heath Artisans (HHA), are celebrating their Centenary year with the appointment (as 2024 club-captain) of long-time playing, committee-serving and honorary member Stuart Hicks and plan a celebratory golfing-day at WGC to be held in June.



The History of Hook Heath Artisans (Founded 1924) - Centenary year



In Surrey, there are 3 resident golf clubs based within the picturesque heathland course premises of Woking GC, these being Woking Golf Club (Founded 1893), The Ladies Club and Hook Heath Artisans (Founded 1924), and WGC is also home of The Seniors Golfing Society.

In June 1924, Mr Stuart Paton was a WGC main-member and did the most (with support of 209 WGC members) to help the formation and foundations of Hook Heath Artisans (HHA) and he was Hook Heath Artisans first president.

In the beginning, the original HHA membership subscription was five shillings (25p today) and their first affiliated subscription to the AGA in 1926 was Twenty-Five shillings (£1.25p today).

In 1927 WGC played an inaugural match against the HHA which was seventeen foursomes matches, and Mr Bernard Darwin wrote an article on the event described as 'A Village Match' which also appeared in 'The Times.'

Though there is no official record of the match-result, it is believed the match was so 'close' that WGC claimed a win and the HHA records indicate a halve.

In 1936 Sir Norman Raeburn (then President of HHA) presented the seasons prizes and in 1938 Sir Norman observed... 'The members of Woking Golf Club feel they have never done anything so good

as to co-operate in the formation of the Artisan's and I am so proud to have many good friends within their club,... and in reply Mr E. Farenden (HHA Secretary and later B.E.M in 1954) commented... *'that the Hook Heath Artisans club was the fourteen year old child of Woking Golf Club and as long as we behave as parents would expect I do not think there will be any trouble at all.*

In the same year (1938) a bar was also introduced within the HHA's club.

Over their 100 years, there have been (and still are) many notable HHA golfers and friends to thank and some that have shone within the golfing world, these (to unfortunately name only a few) include :-

- Doug Sewell - (as featured in Surrey County Golf handbook). Sunningdale Foursome winner in 1959 with Michael Bonallack (1998 becoming Sir Michael Bolland OBE), multi-Artisan champion, multi-Walker Cup player turned Professional at Ferndown GC.
- Mr W March playing for Surrey and George Evans playing for Surrey & England and The Open 4 times and won British PGA in 1963.
- The Sewell family including Albert and Ernie Sewell. Ray Sewell (the only HHA to win their Tigers Cup in 5 decades - (1960, 70, 80, 90 & 2000s) and is pictured below (top row - middle-right) with son Neal (current HHA member) & grand daughter.
- Mr Jimmy Willett (1916-2000) - pictured bottom row middle & right. (Sir Norman Raeburn once commenting *'one day I played twice with Jimmy Willett at WGC and he went round in 64 and repeated his score in the afternoon..... only to fall away in the evening with a 65.'* Mr J Willett still holds the old course record (66) at Camberley Heath GC when he beat Alf Perry (67) in the Surrey Amateur Golf Championships and played 4 times (1953/54/56 & 58) in the Hook Heath Surrey County Club Championship team.

2024 (Present).

For their 'Centenary year', the artisans at Hook Heath appointed a long-time playing, committee-serving and honorary member Stuart Hicks (pictured bottom left) as club-captain and this year incorporates a celebratory golfing-day at WGC held on June 21st.

Some of Stuart's artisan history is:-

- He first joined HHA as a junior in 1969.
- became a full HHA member in 1972
- was elected on to the club committee in 1977 (latterly becoming Chairman in 1988 - to date)
- was club-captain in 1979
- and recently received HHA 'Honorary club membership' after 47 years of committee service.

Commenting on his golfing-times as an artisan Stuart reflected..... *'over the years, the membership at Hook Heath have always worked hard to ensure a great relationship with Woking GC, its members and staff and we carry out and maintain our various work duties and playing privileges enthusiastically to support Woking Golf Club'.....* adding.... *'I have met and made many golfing-friends with happy memories as an artisan, but its time to move on and shall be stepping down at the end of this year'.*

Other notable HHA recent activities and moments include:-

- various HH members representations for both SAGU (Surrey Artisan Golf Union) and AGA competitions and teams.
- Tim Pacey (pictured Middle left) winning the Littlestone's Artisans Scratch prize – Peter Webb Invitational Day.
- Annual financial support/donations to various local charities.

The membership at HHA's would like to thank Stuart for his hard work and unswerving commitment over the many years devotion to the club and wish him well for the future.



Stuart Hicks



Tim Pacey (left)



Ray Sewell & Family

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP			
Championship Cup presented by The Proprietors of The Evening News			
Year	Winner	Club	Score
1926	Royal Mid-Surrey		485
1926	Royal Mid-Surrey		485
1926	St. George's Hill		485
1927	West Hill		488
1928	St. George's Hill		478
1929	St. George's Hill		483
1930	St. George's Hill		472
1931	St. George's Hill		457
1932	Royal Mid-Surrey		474
1933	Hook Heath Athletic		413
1934	Hook Heath Athletic		452
1935	Sturridge		453
1936	Royal Wexham		478
1937	Royal Mid-Surrey		458
1938	Woking		462
1939	Watton Heath		485
1940-1943	No competition		
1944	St. George's Hill Athletic		520
1947	St. George's Hill Athletic		472
1948	Watton Heath		442
1949	St. George's Hill Athletic		469
1950	Watton Heath		459
1951	Watton Heath		452
1952	Watton Heath		451
1953	Hook Heath Athletic		402
1954	Hook Heath Athletic		448
1955	Watton Heath		450
1956	Hook Heath Athletic		433
1957	Watton Heath		434
1958	Hook Heath Athletic		455
1959	Sturridge		445
1960	Watton Heath		451
1961	Sturridge		452
1962	Sturridge		470
1963	Sturridge		467
1964	Wentworth		435
1965	Sturridge		451
1966	The Addington		448
1967	No competition		
1968	Sturridge		452
1969	The Addington		447
1970	Addington Palace		451
1971	No competition		
1972	Sturridge		441
1973	Sturridge		422
1974	Royal Mid-Surrey		427
1975	Royal Mid-Surrey		443
1976	Sturridge		453
1977	Royal Mid-Surrey		427
1978	Royal Mid-Surrey		451
1979	Sturridge		460
1980	Watton Heath		452
1981	Sturridge		438
1982	Sturridge		424
1983	Wentworth		438
1984	The Addington		471
1985	Sturridge		458
1986	Wentworth		465
1987	Royal Mid-Surrey		429
1988	Wentworth		458

Club Championships



Mr J Willett with Trophies and Medals

Andrew Ellis

Surrey Artisan Golf Union

Surrey Artisan Golf Union (SAGU - Founded 1968)



Championship Day - Betchworth Park Mon 01 July 2024 (& SAGU competitions)

The weather was warm but slightly overcast for the Surrey Artisans Golf Union (SAGU) championships day held at picturesque Betchworth Park GC and 51 artisans competed for the Juniors, Seniors and Scratch championship sections.

The day consisted of enjoyable hospitality c/o Betchworth Pk GC including Bacon rolls/coffee on arrival, 36 holes of golf, superb evening meal, a speech by SAGU Chairman Rob Barnes and the handing-out of prizes.

..... *'and the winners and R-Up were'* :-

Below left - Terry Rogers (NZGC) - Junior Winner (69 points)

Below middle left - Paul Everett (NZGC) Senior winner 72 points)

Below middle right - Nigel Watson (Betchworth Pk GC) Scratch winner (140 medal)

Below - Tim Pacey (Hook Heath Artisans GC) - Scratch Runner-up (145 medal)



During his speech, SAGU Chairman (Rob Barnes) thanked Betchworth Pk for a great days hospitality and all the artisans involved and added.... *'after a few years away, SAGU are pleased to welcome back Farnham Artisans and their six players taking part today and we hope to see everyone back here next year 03 July 2025'*.... which was greeted with a spontaneous round of applause by all.

SAGU 2024 Season Competitions (to date)

As the golfing season is well underway, the 3 SAGU competitions of Singles knock-out, Foursomes Knock-out and Sevens-teams have reached the quarter final stages which include participants and clubs as follows:-

SAGU Singles Knock:-

A. Everett (NZ) v M Hyes (Sund Pk).
D Weller (R Hth) v Rob Lott (Hook Hth)
D Plummer (R. B/Hth) v B Cook (NZ).
S Wheatley (R. Hth), J Hill (NZ).

SAGU Foursomes:-

Mr Carrig & Scott (Farham) v Mr Blyde & Johnston (Sund Pk).
Mr Beachamp & Mullaupt (StGH) v Mr Charlton & Taylor (Sund Pk)
Mr Thomas & Faul (C. Court) v Mr Smith & Van Niekerk
Mr Briley & Standley (NZ) v Mr Stevens & Hill (NZ)

SAGU 7s teams & club

19 SAGU clubs participated in the four leagues to produce a league winner and runner-up and the quarter final participating teams are:-

Group A - Bridley v St G Hills
Group B - Cantelupe A v Cantelupe B
Group C - New Zealand v R Mid-Sy A
Group D - Walton Hth A (2023 winners) v Sundridge Pk A

And finally ...

It is great to see so many clubs celebrating their longevity. Congratulations to all. A wonderful achievement.

It is disappointing not to have had any articles from most of the clubs. Something must be happening that you would like to share with your fellow artisans.

Keep a note throughout the season of what is happening and then send a report for our Winter Issue.

The height of your success is determined by the depth of your belief.

Enjoy your golf and I look forward to hearing from you at the end of the year.

The Editor