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Artisan Golfer

The only magazine about Artisan golf for Artisan golfers



Terry Lewis (Northrn Captain & Karl Woodhouse AGA Captain at Little Aston

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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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Editor

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Secretary's Report

Dear Members

I have still been dealing with the Hon Secretary's position up until now but, as agreed with council committee at the AGM, I would officially stand down as from June 23.

It's been a very long time covering this position, taking over from Kevin Stevens some 13 years ago. We, as a council committee, feel we have made great improvements to, not only our competitions, but the way our clubs are managed and comply with all the new changes that have been made over those years.

Everyone has been given every opportunity to represent the AGA and hopefully appreciate all the hard work we have done over the years.

The Centenary was a fantastic occasion and was well organised with so much time spent getting everything right on the day. The council committee and our Captain, Karl Woodhouse along with Pat and Pauline Cunningham, in particular, worked tirelessly on this event.

Also, a big thanks must go to Royal Mid Surrey Golf Club for letting us hold it there with all our dignitaries that could make it on the day.

On a sad note, we have just had one of our good friends and council committee members pass away.

Les Sharp was a great adversary for Artisan golf and has been greatly involved with the AGA council committee for many years and was the main stay of the Surrey Artisan golfers.

I need to say no more about our good friend, Les as he was well known by everyone in both the AGA and SAGU. Everyone will agree he was such a well-liked person by us all and he will be sadly missed. RIP my good friend.

Last of all I would personally like give a big thank to all the previous council committee and the current members and Pat and Pauline Cunningham for all the hard work and support they have all given me over many years.

I am sure my successor will be given the same help and support and help and move the AGA into the next phase of transition over the next few years with the help of the counties EG and our dignitaries who support us.

I hope you all carry on enjoying your golf with your friends that you have made over the years and appreciate not only the clubs you are at, but the ones you have the chances to play as well.

I wish you all good health for many years to come.

All the best

Bill Johns
Hon Secretary

Treasurer's Report

The accounts remain in good shape even though we have subsidised our competitions further this year. I will continue to keep on top of the accounts to ensure our costs are kept as low as we can whilst ensuring all Artisans have a decent opportunity to take part in all competitions.

On a personal note, very sad to hear of the passing of Les Sharp - RIP Les.

Happy summer of golf to you all.

Warren Francis
Hon Treasurer

Captain's Report

Hi all, and hope you are all well.

At the moment where the season is late to get under way, due to the inclement weather, my report is short and sweet!

February saw the AGA scratch team playing Oxbridge at The Temple Golf Club, and what a fantastic day it turned out to be! The team, led by Ivan Fryer on the day comfortably won 5 - 3, our first win since 2018, well played lads!

Things then continued to get even better, with a team captained by myself beating The Senior Golf Society at Denham Golf Club. We narrowly won 5 1/2 - 4 1/2, our first victory against the Seniors in over ten years.

I have just returned from Little Aston, where we hosted the Carr Memorial. The course was in tiptop condition, and the greens lightning speed, but true. Personal thanks to Aldridge Artisans and the Little Aston green staff, for all their hard work, nothing was overlooked.

The day was won by Graham Dorward of Royal Mid Surrey, accumulating 72points over 36 holes, with a staggering 43 in the afternoon, well played, Sir.

Gentlemen, hopefully the sun will continue to shine for the rest of the Summer, and I will catch up with many of you at one of the up and coming events advertised on this website.

Karl Woodhouse
Captain

England Golf Report

From early 2024 there will be a change to the notice boards at golf clubs based on the course rating minus the par. Further details later in 2023.

From 13 June 2023 scores from England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales can be entered into the WHS system. The plan is to have the rest of the world integrated into the system within the next 12 months.

There are no plans to increase affiliation fees for 2024.

Patrick Cunningham
Temporary England Golf Representative

Aldridge

Proud members of the Aldridge Artisans are teeing off their anniversary year with a range of commemorative events to mark 125 years of Artisan Golf in the West Midlands, which includes a golf day and celebratory dinner in July.



Based at the superb Little Aston Golf Club since 1978, the Artisan section goes from 'strength to strength' and with 37 members we are the largest Artisan club in the Midlands. The Artisans began life in 1898 under the name of Sutton Coldfield Working Mens Golf Club, and stewards, greenkeepers, gatekeepers and numerous caddies played at Sutton Coldfield Golf Club. It explains why the current Aldridge Artisans kit sports the Latin logo 'opifices sumus' which means 'we are the workers' however as we are based in the Black Country, we tend to favour the regional interpretation of 'workers ay we'!

We have a rich history and we've seen many prominent members and characters throughout the years. During the 1940s and 1950s our Artisan ranks were bolstered by Charlie 'Whippet' Ward (nicknamed for his fast play), a man who Peter Allis described as 'Britain's finest professional in the post war years'. Charlie played in 3 Ryder Cups and in 1965 won the World Seniors Championship at Formby Golf Club, defeating Sam Sneed on the 37th hole. John Matthews - his nephew and also a long standing Artisan, said at the time, 'he wasn't bad for an Artisan'!!

And so to the present day and the future.....The club is in a healthy position due to solid foundations and our aim is to continue to uphold traditions while looking forward with a positive vision. We continue to work closely with the parent club while remaining proud members of the AGA and the Northern Section. In this important year our secretary Steve Dyer is also Captain and he commented;

'We are really incredibly proud of the work that the Aldridge Artisans do, both on and off the course and we can't wait to celebrate our anniversary this year. The golfing world has evolved so much over the years, and many Artisan clubs have shrunk or disappeared entirely, but we are still a thriving club. We are looking forward to supporting many more passionate golfers in realising their ambition.'

Mike Wallace

BB&O

BB&O

I hope all Artisans are currently enjoying the good weather following what was a very wet winter and spring.

It is very good to hear that the County Scratch League will resume this year and many secretaries are trying to arrange dates for matches.

Our Spring Meeting was held at Burnham Beeches GC on Friday 19th May with over 80 BB&O AGU members attending on what was a perfect day as far as golfing conditions are concerned, although the days scores do not reflect this as the course especially the rough was very challenging.

Nearest the Pin on the 3rd Steve Puddephatt, Harewood Downs

Nearest the Pin on the 10th Kevin Hopton, Forest (first shot of the day)

Singles winner was Andy Muddie, Forest with 36 points

Pairs winners were Rupert Pilgrim & Lee Harrigan, Harewood Downs with 67 points.

I and all BB&O artisans would like to thank our Secretary Richard Sweeney for all his hard work in ensuring excellent venues for our 2023 competitions along with securing very good value for money.



Unfortunately, I must close on a sad note by notifying you all that Paul Walter (57) former Captain of BB&O AGU lost his battle with cancer on Wednesday 29th March 2023. I and all of Paul's family would like to thank all AGA members for the many messages we received.

Neil Walter

Harewood Downs

"You're never too old to learn and improve your skills"



As he fast approaches his 97th Birthday Brian Brown, who is a man with an impressive WW2 history serving with the Royal Navy Patrol Service is a member the Artisan section of Harewood Downs Golf Club and is coming out of winter hibernation ready for the golfing season ahead.

Although his advancing years have led to a more casual approach to Golf Brian said ***"I still want to improve my golfing ability at my age but most important to me is meeting up with likeminded members on the golf course and it gives me a further social outlet which to me is very important, I have some fantastic friends in the club who look after me"*** and so Brian has joined his fellow Artisans in pre-season golf lessons with the New Professional Scott Wood. ***"I haven't won a trophy for a few years now but there is always a chance for me to come good again"***

Harewood Downs Artisans has been an active section of Harewood Downs Golf Club for the past 93 years and as a group meet regularly during evenings and weekends to play their golf. They have their own clubhouse, competitions, and matches against other clubs and they are keen to welcome new members. <https://sites.google.com/site/hdagcchalfont/home>

Chris Hare

Hook Heath

Hook Heath Artisan (Oldest member Profile-Tribute) George Stewardson



Ever-youthful, enthusiastic and an active Hook-Heath Artisan member (at Woking Golf Club) are just some of the attributes and characteristics of current playing member and 87 years-young George Stewardson (aka 'George').

'George' (pictured with 2023 club Capt. Tim Pacey) joined Hook Heath Artisans in 1970 with a handicap of 16 eventually achieving 4, and in his cheery words says.... *'I'm privileged to have been a HHA member, played against many clubs and aspiring golfers, carried out my artisan work duties and served on the committee's and seen many great course changes at Woking Golf Club in my time'*.

'My first set of clubs were 'Sam Snead' irons''and I bought them 'two-at-a-time' from a shop in Aldershot' quipped George.

Some of his golfing career, contributions and achievements also include:-

- Installing the original toilet, basin and shower at HHA clubhouse.
- Served on HHA committee for many years.
- serving for 15 years on Surrey AGA Committee
- Captain of Surrey AGA team twice.
- Played in Surrey AGA Individual knockout final twice (won one – lost one)
- Twice Captain of HHA 7s team (winning once)
- Won a £5 prize voucher for a letter sent to the AGA magazine suggesting *'it's the artisan committee responsibility to promote their members work duties for parent clubs'*
- Had a total of 3 holes-in-one at Woking GC (1st Par 4 – 7th & 10th Par 3)
- **Won HHA Terry Cup medal competition in 2021.**

Being an artisan-golfer is in the family, as George's brother (Tommy Stewardson – sadly passed) was also a Hook Heath member and served as Chairman on HHA committee for many years.

Philosophically, George reflected that being a family-artisan at the same club is wonderful and means he could *'on one day I'd be playing with Tommy in a team foursomes or club match'..... 'and the next day play against him in a club stroke or match-play competition.....*

There is much more to George than the above, and with his handicap now at 24 he is still seen actively playing-the-fairways and greens' and enjoying his golf at Woking GC, and is available to recall most (if not all) of HHA's history at will (cost a pint to those that want to know)..... or happily debate about and watch (sometimes suffering) with his life-long football team Spurs in the artisan clubhouse.

From the members of Hook Heath Artisans, *'THANK YOU'* Mr George Stewardson.

Hook Heath Artisan (Longest serving member Profile-Tribute) Mr Andrew Elliott



(2022 hole in one WGC 7th)

At 79 years young, active playing member Andrew Elliott is one of many 'Elliott-family-artisans' at Hook Heath c/o Woking GC (including his brother Michael and son Steve – current Committee member).

Andrew (pictured with 2023 Capt.) joined Hook Heath Artisans as one of 6 juniors in 1961 with a handicap of 14 and went on to win the HHA Juniors cup and has played in the Alba competition. Additionally, along with the annual artisans work-duties Andrew (as a younger man) helped lay the redesigned 9th fairway.

He served on the Hook Heath Artisan committee for over 14 years+, has a total of 3 holes-in-one (all at WGC 7th hole see pic - last one in 2022) and now plays off 21 handicap.

Andrew mused *'I was taught to play golf by an artisan-legend Mr Jimmy Willet'* and *'I've enjoyed all my golf, the club membership and have won several of our clubs competitions, but disappointingly the one that eludes me is the Lawrence Foursomes'..... wryly adding 'I'll keep trying though and my recently acquired 460cc Callaway driver helps me a lot these days'.*

The Hook Heath Artisan membership would like to thank Andrew for his many past artisan-contributions and hope he continues to enjoy his golf at Hook Heath/WGC.

Obituary

AGA Vice President Roy Wood

It is with deep regret that I have to inform you of the death of Roy Wood. Roy had been a Vice President with AGA for many years and recognised for his strong support of artisan golf with the AGA, Hertfordshire County and particularly Hadley Wood.

Roy joined Hadley Wood on 1st April 1985 and during his membership became Chairman of the greens committee and organised the Greystone Staffing Fund amongst other duties. In 2007 he was a member of the Hadley Wood team for the televised R & A's Rules of Golf Quiz where they reached the semi final only to be beaten by the eventual winners, Lahinch.

Roy, who celebrated his 90th birthday in February 2022 was the first President of Hadley Wood Artisans serving some 25 years as president only vacating that position to care for his wife June.

Roy donated the President's Cup which is one of Hadley Wood's major annual competitions and was instrumental in cementing strong relations with the Parent Club.

As you can see from the above Roy was always keen to help others for the good of Golf Particularly Hadley Wood Artisans and will be greatly missed by all his family and friends.

And finally ...

It is great to see so many articles sharing your highs and lows with your fellow artisans around the country. editor@agagolf.co.uk

There is a plan to create an archive document so each club would have a section and their historic notes, lists of Winners of major competitions and pictures of Honour Boards etc. This will enable your history to be retained for ever.

May you have great success this season and enjoy the camaraderie, friendly rivalry and the challenges all the courses provide as you play each round

The Editor