

Winter 2024

Edition (239)



Artisan Golfer

The only magazine about Artisan golf for Artisan golfers



Patrick Cunningham, AGA President with Nigel Edwards, Former Walker Cup Captain

**Congratulations to Patrick Cunningham on his new appointment.
Read on for more details**

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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.

President: PJ Cunningham

President: WJF Bryce

Northern President: ARL Warnock

Vice Presidents:

RJ Armitage

J Bennett

DJ Harrison OBE

CP Humber

DE James

RD James

R Latham

N Lawrence

D Leishman

T Lewis

D Lumsden

J Nudds

T Prior

RO Proctor

P Williams

Hon Secretary: P Cunningham (Acting)

Hon Treasurer: W Francis

Captain: W Goodyear

EG Representative: P Cunningham (temp)

Northern Section

Hon Secretary: P Williams

Editor

Email: editor@agagolf.co.uk

Secretary's Report

This will be my last report as acting Hon Secretary in the magazine as I will be stepping down at the end of December 2024. We are hoping to appoint a permanent Hon Secretary, however, if this role is not filled a temporary Hon Secretary will take on the role in the interim.

If you are a member of one of the southern clubs and would like to take on this role, please contact sec@agagolf.co.uk for more details.

We congratulate Nigel Watson who is our new Competitions Secretary. He has formed a Competitions Committee made up of himself, Rob Barnes and Graham Turpin who will source venues for Competitions and Tournaments. Please support Nigel and his team by entering the competitions that will be posted on the website.

Should any club have any disputes, please contact our Disputes Officer, Rob Barnes directly.

We are sorry to hear of the closure of Flackwell Heath Artisan Golf Society (FHAGS) who leave the AGA at the end of this year.

There are many other artisan clubs under threat of closure, which is why it is important to strengthen our Association and aim to get all the clubs throughout England involved. To this end the Committee will be looking at ways to achieve this for a stronger future.

As I mentioned above, I will stand down as acting Hon Secretary, however, I will be taking on a new role. Our current President, Bill Bryce has been unwell for a considerable amount of time and is not in a position to communicate or fulfil his role. As these are exceptional circumstances it has been decided to appoint an active President and I am honoured to accept this most prestigious position.

I would like to thank the Committee for appointing me and wish them all the best as they take the AGA into a more integrated and unified Association.

I would also like to thank all the clubs throughout England who have supported me over the years and I will continue to promote Artisan golf in my new role.

Patrick Cunningham
Acting Hon Secretary

Treasurer's Report

The accounts remain in a healthy state. We have continued to make and increase subsidies to keep prices reasonable for our members in all our competitions. We will subsidise further this coming year in order to achieve maximum numbers in our competitions and ensure we get to play top quality courses. We also continue to take part in a few matches including entertaining the Irish at home this year. A big thank you to Terry Lewis and his team for securing decent prices and venues for the Irish match.

I will present detailed summary of the accounts at the AGM.

We will keep the AGA fee the same as last year. However, there is a slight increase in the England Golf fee. I would appreciate it if the Treasurers out there could pay your annual fees as soon as possible, I understand that for some the dates do not line up, but this is the few and I appreciate you letting me know should there be any issues.

The invoice for 2025 has been distributed to all secretaries and is also available on the AGA website.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Warren Francis
Hon Treasurer

Captain's Report

Hope this update finds you all well. As I approach the end of my first year as your AGA Captain, I would like to thank our committee members Graham, Pat, Nigel, Barney, Warren, Dougie and Terry for all their help through the year. I would also like to thank my fellow Artisans, particularly those who have

given me valuable advice in trying to continue the great work my predecessors Gary Hunt and Karl Woodhouse started before in their capacity as captains.

The main objective for the year in trying to move the Artisans forward is to get all Artisans participating in the forthcoming events. Whilst it's always a great thing to see the familiar faces at our AGA events it would be wonderful to see some new faces from a wider range of clubs.

We, as a committee, are committed to making the Artisans movement stronger by involving as many clubs as possible. If we all share the details of competitions this should encourage other clubs to get involved. This would be a fantastic achievement.

I would like to personally thank Pat Cunningham for helping out as Acting Secretary. The committee are continuing our search for a new secretary. If any of you would like to step forward that would be fantastic. I'd like to extend my thanks to David Leishman, Vice President for his support and help. I look forward to seeing you next year at events.

Merry Christmas and a happy golfing year to you all,

Bill Goodyear
Captain

England Golf Report

Affiliation fees are increasing from £10.50 to £11.25 from 01 January 2025.

Woodhall Spa Land Holdings (WHL) now includes the Women's Associations and National Association of Public and Proprietary Golf Clubs (NAPGC). The AGA have been part of this structure since WHL were first formed

England Golf now have a new Chairperson, Martha Brass.

The previous Chairman, Ian Pattinson stood down to take on the role of Captain of the R&A. As a personal friend of his I am delighted he has been honoured in this way.

Patrick Cunningham
Temporary England Golf Representative

Beaconsfield

I write this as we enjoy a rare sunny day here in our southern corner of Buckinghamshire. Although the weather has been soggy, our season was no damp squib. We came top in our Thames Valley, 4 team league. It was fantastic to have the addition of Moor Park in the competition and they came a creditable second.

We also got through to the final of the Hillman Trophy and beat Newbury and Crookham Golf Club to win. This is a first for Artisan Golf and will become part of our history.

The golf course here at Beaconsfield has lapped up the rain and has been looking fantastic all season. I hope our divoting duties and ball retrieval contributions have helped keep up the standard the parent club members enjoy. We enjoy having the company of greenkeeper, Callum Keough, a plus handicap golfer, who plays regularly in our competitions and have a couple of new junior members-George Taylor and Austin Homer.

As all clubs do, we suffer bereavements. Recently we lost member, Brian Gibson and it has been keenly felt. He was everything an Artisan should aspire to be: -friendly, helpful and loyal to a fault. I remember him as a very welcoming presence when I joined, over ten years ago. He was a carpenter by trade and he had an unmatched reputation in his field. He built our new bar recently and it will serve as a wonderful legacy. We will enjoy a pint and think of him, in 'Gibby's Bar'.

We now look forward to our winter golf, hopefully drier than last year. As I look forward to hitting the ball off the front tees, we hope you all (paraphrasing Bing Crosby), keep it straight down the middle.

Steve Reed

BB&O

Berks, Bucks and Oxon AGU

Firstly, let me apologize for not submitting any BB&O reports since Spring 2023. The sad loss of our Captain, Paul Walter, in March of that year and further notice of his beloved club, Fernhill Artisans (Swinley Forest) being closed by their parent club put us all into disarray. A lesson for us all, there but for the grace of God go we. His loss and the loss of a club of Fernhill's great standing was a body blow. Please remember how lucky we are.

On a happier note, the BB&O Artisans have enjoyed another fantastic year. Our Spring meeting at Puttenham and Summer meeting at Burnham Beeches were both well attended. I'd like to make special mention of Alfie Osbourne from Harewood Downs and Tony Miles of Forest (The Berkshire)- 91 and 85 respectively, who are still attending our golf days. They have a way to go however to catch up with 99-year-old Brian Brown who regularly plays 10 holes around Harewood Downs.



Many thanks go to Hon, Secretary Richard Sweeny for all his hard work in arranging and organising the meetings. Thanks also to Keith Vallis (Temple) who ably assisted on the days.

Spring Meeting Puttenham

Doubles Winner: M Monaghan and G Hobbs (Beaconsfield) 68 points

Runners Up: A Wright and R Buxton (Denham) 64 points

Singles Winner: R Stratford (Harewood Downs) 37 points



Summer Meeting Burnham Beeches

Scratch Prize: D Dilkes (Maidenhead) 79

Senior Handicap Winner: R Sweetman (Huntercombe) 38 points

Runner Up: A Muddle (Forest) 38 points

Junior Handicap Winner: G Taylor (Beaconsfield) 43 points



Runner Up: J Owens (Beaconsfield) 40 points
Over 60's Winner: R Sweetman (Huntercombe) 38 points



George Taylor



Ron Sweetman (centre) with the Huntercombe crew

It was great to see the County Shield being resurrected. It wasn't so good for us as we went down in a (closer than sounding) match against Hertfordshire 4-1. Well done to Spencer and the AGA for getting this great competition alive and kicking again.
Congratulations to Beaconsfield Artisans, winners of the Thames Valley League. This league now includes Moor Park AGC and they were worthy runners up in their debut season.

	BEACONSFIELD	MOOR PARK	DENHAM	HAREWOOD DOWNS	TOTAL HOME	TOTAL AWAY	GRAND TOTAL	
BEACONSFIELD		4-1	2.5-2.5	4--1	10.5	8	18.5	1ST
MOOR PARK	3--2		4.5--.5	2--3	9.5	8	17.5	2ND
DENHAM	1--4	3--2		3.5--1.5	7.5	5	12.5	3RD
HAREWOOD DOWNS	3--2	0--5	3--2		6	5.5	11.5	4TH

The biggest congratulations of all go to my home club, Beaconsfield, who became the first ever Artisan club to reach the final and WIN the prestigious Hillman Trophy (County Cup). A tournament that starts with 80 competing clubs throughout the BB&O area (previous winners include Woburn and Stoke Park). This is a fantastic achievement, not only for Beaconsfield but for Artisan golf in general.



Michael Monaghan
Chairman BB&O AGU

In memory of Brian Gibson, 48 years an Artisan, RIP

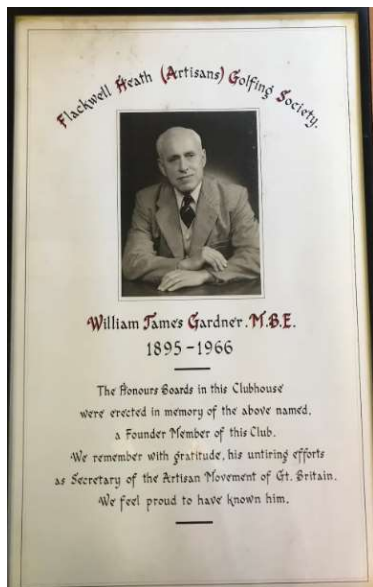
Flackwell Heath

It is with great sadness that I must inform you all of the dissolution of Flackwell Heath Artisan Golf Society (FHAGS).

We were fortunate to celebrate our Centenary in August 2021 (delayed a year by Covid-19 restrictions) with over 130 of our local BB&O Artisan colleagues.

Sadly, circumstances have finally overwhelmed our ability to be sustainable. Only six of us remain and our tenure at Flackwell Heath Golf Club (FHGC) has drawn to a conclusion.

We will cease to be part of the Artisan Golf Association (AGA) at midnight on 31 December 2024. We have a further four months of agreed grace before our membership at FHGC expires.





We wish the AGA and our fellow Artisans wherever you serve, longevity. prosperity and success. England golf alone is fortunate to enjoy this globally unique and exquisite part of golfs heritage. Long may it continue.

Dr Paul Cadle
Secretary FHAGS

Forest

Captain: Gary Wells

Vice Captain: Trevor Bowron

2024 has been another very busy season for the Forest Artisans with a full calendar of matches and competitions. Under the stewardship of our hard-working Hon. Secretary, Ken Wilson, the Committee has been very busy managing the Club's activities and supporting The Berkshire Golf Club in the running of the Berkshire Trophy, the R&A's Girls U16 Amateur Championship and the Astor Salver.

We have played a number of home and away club matches at Hook Heath, Sunningdale, Bridley, New Zealand and St. George's Hill, and were also lucky enough to play at Royal Birkdale, Royal St. George's, Royal Cinque Ports and Walton Heath. We also played Rye at Home and are hoping to play a return with them next year - this year's match was unfortunately cancelled due to excellent beach weather which made the journey to Rye impossible.

We also played two matches with the Berkshire Ladies and three against the Berkshire Gents – all matches were oversubscribed as expected and were greatly enjoyed by all who played in them.

This year's scratch competition for the Club Championship was won by Gavin Matthews and the companion Strokeplay competition for the new Coronation Jug presented to us by the Berkshire Golf Club to commemorate the coronation of King Charles III was won by Doug Gurney.

A number of other noteworthy scores were made during this year's competitions including –

- 44 points (1 under par gross) by Darren McArthur (7 hcp) in the Stephenson Cup
- 40 points (2 under par gross) by Gavin Matthews (2 hcp) in the Presidents Trophy
- 40 points by Phil Bidwell (13 hcp) in the David Elder Memorial Bowl

Richie Calcutt and Doug Gurney scored an exceptional nett 60 (11 under par) in the annual Texas Scramble pairs.

During the Forest Cup medal competition, that was won with a nett 67 (1 over par gross) by Mick Hurdwell (6 hcp), a Hole in One was recorded on the 2nd hole on the Red course by Mike Smurthwaite who then thoughtfully bought a round of drinks for everyone with his winnings.

On a sad note, our Hon. Assistant Secretary, Graham Cox, passed away suddenly on 17 May at the age of 65. Graham was a big-hearted supporter of the Club and will be sadly missed by all who knew him. A new medal competition was organised in Graham's memory and was won with a nett 65 by Stuart Wignall (14 hcp).

Both the Blue and the Red courses have been in excellent condition this year and a pleasure to play. In the last few months The Berkshire Golf Club has started a number of significant changes including a redesign of the 10th hole on the Blue course, a new reservoir, a new short game practice area as part of the practice ground upgrade, and a range of changes to the Berkshire Golf Club clubhouse itself in preparation for the Club's centenary in 2028. The Forest Artisan's centenary is a year later in 2029.

Arrangements are already in hand for next year's fixtures as we look forward to another excellent year, and we wish you all the very best for 2025.

Tim Cox

Hon. Competition & Match Secretary

Lindrick

Lindrick Artisan Golf Club 125 Anniversary Day

Artisan golf began at Lindrick in May 1899, when the general committee, of the Sheffield and District Golf Club, agreed to "form a working man's club at Woodsetts". This decision meant that the locals, not just of Woodsetts but also Shireoaks and Turnerwood, could now play golf on the first golf course in the Sheffield area.

In the 1950s when the S&D GC became the Lindrick GC, we became the Lindrick Artisan GC

On Sunday July 7th we celebrated our 125th Anniversary with a full day of Golf and partying. The day began with a Reception in our Clubhouse allowing all members and guests to become acquainted. Our Parent Club had kindly allowed us the use of the Course for the day, so a Shotgun start was organised and play began at lunchtime under heavy, rainy skies which soon cleared for a sunny afternoon.

After play had been completed a magnificent dinner was served in the Lindrick Dining room, together, of course, with significant quantities of liquid refreshment.

Our President, Mr Hugh Firth was the first speaker and paid tribute to all involved in the day's organisation and then thanked the Lindrick Golf Club for both our foundation in 1899 and the ensuing years.

Our Captain, Matt Deaves echoed the previous words and went on to point out some notable facts regarding the year 1899

The third speaker was Terry Lewis the Captain of the AGA Northern section who outlined the work of the AGA and the website.

The LGC Captain, Mr Clinton Field paid tribute to our ongoing work at the Golf Club and presented us with a print of a Flag from the 1957 Ryder Cup held at Lindrick and pointed out our part in the defeat of the US team when most of the US team had Artisan caddies.

Prizes were presented, the celebrating continued and photos were taken with a beautiful setting sun



Richard Tweed, Matt Deaves, Terry Lewis Mr Clinton Field



The winning team, including LGC Pro Andrew Rossington



The Artisans



Presentation of Gift
Artisan President Mr Hugh Firth on the left

Notable guests included, The Captain and Lady Captain of LGC, our Current President, many of our former LAGC Presidents including AGA Vice President Mr Robert Proctor, Lindrick Professionals past and present, the aforementioned Terry Lewis from West Lancs and two representatives from Aldridge Artisans

Roger Littlewood

Surrey Artisan Golf Union

Despite the general weather conditions for 2024, it was another active and competitive year for the SAGU playing clubs and membership which also saw the welcomed return of Farnham GC Artisans. Various SAGU competitions were played throughout the season which included the:- SAGU Championships, Singles Knockout (78 players), Foursomes (47 pairings) and 19 Sevens Teams, all involving travelling around the picturesque Surrey and south-east golf courses of the UK.

Singles – Following the various knockout match-play rounds, the 2024 Singles finalists were Rob Lott (Hook Heath H/cap 1.8) & John Hill (N. Zealand H/cap 24) and the home & away match results was a 5&4 win for (now 3 times consecutive winner) John Hill as pictured.



Above Left – Finalists Rob Lott & John Hill
Above right – Rob Barnes (SAGU Chairman) presents trophy to John Hill

Foursomes – Following the knockout match-play rounds, the 2024 finalists were Keith Stevens & John Hill (N. Zealand) v Ian Beauchamp & Kasper Mullaup (St Georges Hills), and the home and away results was a 1up win for NZ pairings K Stevens & J. Hill



Above left – J Hill & K Stevens & Ian Beauchamp & K Mullaup



Above right - Jason Harvey (SAGU committee/Competition organizer) presents the trophy to the NZ pairs.

Sevens – after the 4 leagues and QF & SF knockout match-play rounds, the 2024 finalists were Walton Heath 'A' v St Georges Hills and the home and away results was a close and exciting (2023 consecutive competition) win by 8-6 to the Walton Heath side.



Above – SAGU Chairman Rob Barnes (left) presents the 7s trophy to WH Club-Capt Will Scanlon

SAGU Championships (Betchworth Park GC)

July saw another successful SAGU golfing event, competitions and day being at Betchworth Park GC where there were three categories of competitions, namely Scratch, Juniors & Seniors (see AGA Summer 2024 edition for pictures) the results are as shown below:-

Aggregated Results - Gross Scores - Top 10 positions only

Overall Position		R1	R2	Total	Placing
1	Nigel Watson	69	71	140	Overall Winner
2	Tim Pacey	72	73	145	Overall Runner-Up
3	Paul Everett	76	76	152	Overall 3rd
4	Paul Briley	81	73	154	
5	Graham Pirt	76	78	154	
6	Graham Dorward	78	78	156	
7	Graeme Turpin	82	80	162	
8	Lewis Bailey	76	88	164	
9	Marc Hicks	83	82	165	
10	Pat Joyce	87	79	166	

Number of Entrants = 51

Aggregated Results - Net Scores

Overall
Position

R1 R2 Total Placing

Overall Winners

1	Paul Everett	36	36	72	Overall Winner
2	Terry Rogers	37	32	69	Overall Runner-Up
3	Graeme Turpin	33	35	68	Overall 3rd

Division 1

(Handicap Indexes up to 9.4)

7	Graham Dorward	33	33	66
11	Nigel Watson	33	31	64
18	Tim Pacey	31	31	62
22	Paul Briley	26	34	60
25	Graham Pirt	31	29	60
44	Marc Hicks	24	26	50
46	Maurice Vinson	22	26	48
47	Lewis Bailey	29	18	47

Division 2

(Handicap Indexes 9.5 to 54.0)

4	Darren Schneider	35	33	68
5	Bradley Pearce	33	34	67
6	Grahame Roberts	31	35	66
8	John Venn	35	31	66
9	Roger Burr	28	37	65
10	Rob Barnes	31	33	64
12	Jason Harvey	38	26	64
13	Pat Joyce	28	35	63
14	Chris Morley	32	31	63
15	Thomas Garrett	28	34	62

Number of Entrants = 51 [Division 1 = 8, Division 2 = 40]

The SAGU committee would like to thank all the participating clubs and membership for their support throughout 2024 and look forward to seeing everyone for the 2025 season.

And finally ...

Thanks to all who have contributed in this edition. May it inspire others to share their news with their fellow artisans in the Spring 25 issue.

With a strong leadership and a committed team, the future planning of the AGA can only become more inclusive and help secure the Association for many years to come. If everyone is moving forward, success takes care of itself.

Don't aspire to be the best on the team, aspire to be best for the team.

Have a wonderful Christmas and best wishes for a healthy, and successful 2025.

The Editor