

Summer 2021

Special Edition (233)



Artisan Golfer

The only magazine about Artisan golf for Artisan golfers



Captain of Beaconsfield with the Trophy

Contents

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Secretary's Report | 3 |
| Treasurer's Report | 3 |
| Captain's Report | 4 |
| England Golf Report | 4 |
| Beaconsfield | 5 |
| Flackwell Heath | 5 |
| Langley | 5 |
| Lindrick | 7 |
| Rye | 8 |
| And finally | 9 |

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

It's been a tough time for everyone with Covid 19 taking its toll whether it be family, friends, neighbours or people you work with. Thankfully I have got through this without much trouble and been making sure my family and friends have also had help advice and doing what we can to make, what seems like years, getting to a safer environment for us all.

As everyone has suffered one way or another, we now start to look forward to a new season ahead and the council committee have been busy planning our championships for 2022 which, once confirmed, we will place them all on the website. I hope you have all had a chance to view it. We have also been planning our centenary which was also postponed along with all the 2021 championships.

We managed to gain a grant from England Golf with the help of Pat Cunningham. who supported us in up grading the AGA website as the old one was not fit for purpose being some 15 years old.

As things have taken its toll on clubs, we have lost a few Artisan clubs one of which was Wallasey Artisan Villagers. They have been at the club for well over 100 years and after long drawn out discussions and with our help in trying to negotiate a way forward the parent club would not move or be flexible in keeping the Artisans there. Much to our disappointment the parent club ceased their Artisan Membership on the 29th June 2021. I have fond memories of playing the course and enjoying the company of their members and I am sure everyone there will still remember the long stories of events that have taken place over many years. We wish them all well and hopefully find another Artisan club to join or at least still stay as one of our associate memberships.

I am glad to say that the Safe Guarding programme was introduced really well and, as far as I know, everyone has either completed the process or are in the time frame of finalising it.

WHS has gone into all the clubs and as everyone has found out it is complex and not quite up to speed with certain parts. I feel that it is on the way to be successful and hopefully it will be a fair system if it is used properly.

Once again, I would remind every club to keep its rules and constitution up to date and make sure the membership is kept up to date with any changes that are needed.

I wish you all well and look forward to meeting up with you at some point. Enjoy your golf and the people you play with, as once again you go out on the great fairways on your courses that we are all so lucky to be playing on.

Keep safe and well.

Bill Johns
Hon Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Hello fellow Artisans, hope you are all keeping well.

You will be pleased to hear the AGA accounts remain healthy. There wasn't much going on this year due to the pandemic and hence the reason for reducing the AGA fee significantly, however there was no change in the England Golf fee. The latter has been paid, albeit late, due to some of our member clubs not paying on time, I hope this situation improves this coming year. There are 69 clubs covering 2000 plus Artisans, so not an insignificant amount of money to collect in order to pay your England Fees.

We have a number of deposits in hand with various golf clubs for our coming year, including our centenary celebrations. I'm sure Karl and Bill will mention more of this in their reports.

Please look out for next year's invoice on our website around January time and get your payments in directly to our account, if possible.

Once last thing from me, just to say a massive thank you to Flackwell Heath Artisan Section for inviting me to their centenary celebrations. I had a great time and must say that Paul and his team organised a fantastic event, thank you Paul. I do hope the club can continue, albeit in a new way.

All the best from me.

Warren Francis
Hon Treasurer

Captain's Report

For obvious reasons this year's report is scant to say the least, and I hope next year's will be completely the opposite!

Yes, covid decimated this year's events, but thankfully we do have a full agenda for next year. Please see the website for details.

However, not all was doom and gloom; North of England, ably captained by Terry Lewis, hosted the South in a match at Royal Birkdale on the 1st August. This involved eight single and seven four ball matches played in a great spirit, and under a fantastic blue sky. Fittingly the match ended in a draw, and afterwards we celebrated with a sumptuous dinner in the upstairs dining room, as the sun set behind us. The staff at Birkdale were extremely hospitable, and a big thank you to Glen Monaghan (Royal Birkdale Artisan Secretary) for organising the event.

August also saw Flackwell Heath celebrating their centenary year; part of which was a stableford competition, to which Pat Cunningham, Warren Francis (AGA Treasurer) and myself were fortunate enough to be invited to. Again, many thanks to Paul Cadle (Flackwell Heath Artisans Secretary) for overseeing a splendid event.

Whilst we are on the subject of centenary seasons, hearty congratulations to Royal Liverpool, who are also celebrating one hundred years!!!

Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish you all well for what's left of 2021, and hope to catch up with you all in 2022, stay safe, and may the golf gods look favourably upon you.

Karl Woodhouse
Captain

England Golf Report

Clubs are still having difficulties with WHS in relation to the Playing Conditions Calculator (PCC). Hopefully this will be resolved over the coming year.

Players golf index handicaps should settle down over the next year when most players will have their twenty cards in.

England Golf have very kindly funded the building of a new website for the AGA which is very much appreciated.

The Independent Golfer scheme has now started and to date 6,000 members have joined. More information on the independent Golfer can be found on the England Golf website <https://englandigolf.co.uk/> and select igolf from the dropdown menu.

England Gold will be celebrating their centenary in 2022 and the AGA will receive an invitation and more information will be received next year
In

Patrick Cunningham
Temporary England Golf Representative

Beaconsfield

Hello from Beaconsfield Artisans. Sitting here in the warm morning sun it's difficult to be anything but optimistic about life. It seems like Beaconsfield Artisans go from strength to strength. Our relationship with our parent club feels as good as ever, as it does with the Course Manager and staff. We are fresh from a few weeks of divotting (or sitting at home, banned having missed one!) Beaconsfield Golf Club and its members have been fantastic with their support during the pandemic and we are really thankful to them.

There were many changes during the last year. When the course was open, we could book our tee slots which is not a custom here. This has been very popular generally but it has now reverted to the 'turn up and play' model. This suits us better for our competitions which are now in full swing. The pre-golf social gathering is important to us as a group (and doesn't hurt the bar takings) Our Captain during these turbulent times, Glenn Toudup has remained patient and enthusiastic, despite having to do a double year duty.

Regarding the competitions, I won't bore you with how many Danny Tucker has won-suffice to say he remains our beacon of light on the golf course and tower of doom in the bar.

Corralled by Mick Monaghan, we sent a team of 10 to the AGA Spring meeting at Sonning Golf Club. Conditions there were superb but didn't help us win more than a raffle prize or two.

The small league we play in is suspended this year but we have played friendlies in their place. Sadly, Flackwell Heath Artisans are no longer in the league. The four remaining clubs; Harewood Downs, Maidenhead, Denham and BAGC will resume battle next year. Maybe at some point in the future it will expand, who knows?

We enjoy having a fully subscribed section and are lucky enough to have a full waiting list. Long may it continue

Frank Wood

Flackwell Heath

I was honoured to be invited to Flackwell Heath Artisan Centenary celebrations on 07 August 2021. The whole day was well organized by Paul Cadle and his team, the food was delicious and the course was in terrific condition. It is a great achievement to reach this milestone of 100 years.

Patrick Cunningham

Langley

Langley Park Artisan Golf Club celebrates 75th Anniversary

Langley Park Artisan Golf Club (located in the London Borough of Bromley) is this year celebrating its 75th anniversary (technically it is their 76th year, but celebrations were pushed back a year due to Covid-19). The club was formed in 1945 with nine members, and has gradually grown over the years, and now operates with a membership limit of 40.

LPAGC has its own "clubhouse" affectionally known as "The Taylor Cabin" in honour of JH Taylor who, as well as designing the Langley Park course, was a founding member of the Artisan movement.

LPAGC enjoy a very healthy relationship with the Langley Park Golf Club, and plays a match twice a year against the men's section, which is always highly competitive, played in the right spirit and great fun. LPAGC are proud to report that they are current holders of the trophy that is played for!



The Artisans also play twice yearly with the ladies' section of the main club, on a mixed greensomes basis, which is enjoyed equally by all whom participate.

Throughout the year, LPAGC hold numerous internal competitions for its members (including medal, stableford and matchplay formats), and has an annual club championship played over two rounds over a weekend – this was very recently won (both scratch and handicap) by one of LPAGC's more longer standing members, and for many years Club Secretary, Clive Peddle.



In addition, LPAGC are fortunate to have regular fixtures (home and away) against other Artisan/Permit Holder clubs across Kent, of which, arguably, the most prestigious is Royal St Georges. LPAGC also compete in the annual Surrey Artisans Golf Union 7's competition, which it has won twice.

LPAGC works hard on creating an inclusive and friendly environment for its membership, and holds a number of social events throughout the year, and frequently encourages partners to get involved. For example, members' partners recently attended a group golf lesson kindly given by the Club professionals, which was followed by a BBQ and drinks on the patio of the Taylor Cabin.



To commemorate its 75th Anniversary, LPAGC are both holding an 18 hole competition, followed by a dinner in the main club, and are also having a short golfing tour in Sussex, playing three different courses and staying overnight during August.

Moving forward the club would like to organise a summer tour every year visiting other artisan clubs throughout the UK, so if anyone is interested in hosting us in 2022 please do get in touch with the Secretary, Mark Parkinson.

LPAGC are particularly grateful to the Langley Park Golf Club for its on-going support of the Artisans section, and very much looks forward to celebrating its centenary in 2045!

Mark Parkinson
Langley Artisans

Lindrick

The big story out of Lindrick Artisans this week is that we are proud to announce the lowest gross winner with a gross score of 161 and champion golfer of the year at the recent Northern Artisans Championship held at Buxton High Peak on 26th & 27th June was a Lindrick Artisan called Gary Bolton.



A very belated update from Rye! I'm unsure when the AGA last heard from us so here goes...

Where to start? Taking over as Club Secretary just under 2 years ago, I could never imagine what I had signed myself up for! It's been a full on 18 months as I'm sure all Artisan club officers and committee members can agree.

Rye

In many ways it has been tedious work, but also extremely rewarding to see the Committee working hard

Alongside our Parent Club to overcome many obstacles and deliver golf for all members.

As you can imagine, tee times didn't go down well at Rye! Technology had to be arranged, times had to be agreed and then it all had to be implemented. That was the easy part! Fair to say it took a few weeks for everyone to get to grips with the new system, but once up and running most of us got used to the new normal! It certainly came with pros and cons - knowing your tee time and playing partner beforehand enabled the odd lay in on a Sunday morning! Luxury! Add to the mix the new WHS and it really was a busy start to the year. The less said about Zoom committee meetings and AGM's the better.

We managed to complete most of our Club completions by the end of October last year, but unfortunately all of our 2020 matches were cancelled.

The Clubhouse, locker room and trolley shed all sat eerily silent from the end of March last year until July this year. Summer brought some respite with members bringing beers from home to enjoy sitting outside when allowed but the atmosphere of the Clubhouse and Sunday morning banter was being dearly missed.

Throughout the last 18 months the relationship with our Parent Club has gone from strength to strength, with almost daily correspondence between me and the Secretaries of Rye, working together to ensure that tee times were available for not only the Artisans but also Parent Club members. We can only thank the Trustees and Secretaries of Rye for all of their cooperation and hard work to ensure we could carry on enjoying our Golf.

May brought the return of much missed inter-club matches, away to the Permit Holders at Royal St George's (with a 3-1 win!) was a fantastic way to start. Swiftly followed by matches at Cantelupe and Royal Blackheath. A new fixture also saw us play Sevenoaks Town GC at Knole Park. Great hospitality was had, even if it meant kebab and chips for dinner! Artisan Golf was back!

The best in the world descended on Sandwich for the Open at Royal St George's, and 13 Rye Artisans teamed up with Littlestone GC to help marshal the 14th hole. Most of us secured digs at the Wrotham Arms in Broadstairs. What a fantastic week we had! Lots of beer, some good food, plenty of laughs and of course some fantastic golf to watch. A great experience that will be remembered for a long time by all.



Summer should see us reacquainted with all our usual remaining matches - Littlestone, Triangle, Langley Park, Sussex Police and of course the much-anticipated Parent Club Match! A full competition fixture list and some Clubhouse maintenance should see us through until the winter. Our Club remains in good health with a full membership and a lengthy waiting list, matches and competitions well

supported and everyone enjoying their golf. Let's hope things can carry on as normal from now on and I hope to finally meet some of you when the AGA competitions are back up and running next year.

Wishing all Artisan Clubs and their members a good end to 2021,

Ross Horsman
Secretary
Rye Artisans Golf Club

And finally ...

An unusual year with new rules and regulations and many adaptations. It is wonderful to hear your experiences from around the country. Thank you to all those who have contributed. Please continue to let us have your news and views for the next edition of the magazine and send them to editor@agagolf.co.uk

The Editor