

Winter 2023

Edition (237)



# Artisan Golfer

The only magazine about Artisan golf for Artisan golfers



John Beharrell (Past Amateur Champion), Patrick Cunningham (Past AGA Captain), Michael Lunt (Past Amateur Champion) and Sir Michael Bonallack (AGA Patron)

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## **The Artisan Golfers' Association**

(Affiliated to England Golf) [www.agagolf.co.uk](http://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.

**President:** WJF Bryce

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B G C Huggett OBE

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T Lewis

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**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**

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## Treasurer's Report

I'm happy to report the accounts remain in a healthy state. We managed to continue to subsidise each competition in order to attract as bigger fields as possible. We will subsidise further this coming year in order to achieve the same and ensure we get to play top quality courses.

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

I would appreciate it if the treasurers could pay the annual fees as soon as possible, I understand that for some dates do not line up but this is the few and I appreciate you letting me know should there be any issues.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Warren Francis  
**Hon Treasurer**

## Captain's Report

Following on from a wonderful day at Little Aston for the Carr Memorial (see previous Captain's report), the next AGA meeting was for the Senior's and Challenge Trophies in June at Bramley Golf Club.

A well-attended event on a beautiful sunny day, with New Zealand achieving a double whammy; Nigel Barrett and Bill Merchant being the respective winners.

The event also saw David Leishman (Vice President) , and Bill Goodyear (Vice Captain), both giving well received speeches in the after dinner presentations.

July, saw us at Woodcote Park Golf Club, a truly hidden gem, competing for the J.H. Taylor, and Sandy Herd Trophies. The only dampener for the day was that it wasn't fully supported by the lower handicap players, for whom the competitions were intended, especially that it was heavily subsidised by the AGA.

Hence, a big thank you to the higher handicappers for making up the numbers, and making it a memorable day.

The J.H.T. was won by Kaspar Mullhaupt from St Georges Hill, and the Sandy Herd by Ivan Fryer, all the way from Aldeburgh, who gave a thought provoking and rousing acceptance speech.

Our last outing saw us at the Drift, another good turn out saw Paul Carrig from Farnham Winning the Jewell Trophy, and Jim "the swing" Sanderson from Reigate Heath, amassing a ridiculous amount of Stapleford points, to win the Butler Trophy.

Ladies/gentlemen, this will be my last term as Captain, so would like to thank you all for a most enjoyable four years. Highlights including leading the South out against the North at Royal Birkdale,

Our Centenary celebrations at Royal Mid Surrey, and matches at home and away versus Ireland; truly wonderful occasions!

Special mentions and thanks in no particular order must go to :

Pat Cunningham (Vice President) for playing a major role in helping me with the Centenary celebrations.

Warren Francis, (Hon Treasurer), not only for keeping me in line regards AGA purse strings, but also for guiding me in my early years.

A thanks to David Leishman, helping to marshal, and present trophies accompanied with a witty and heartwarming speech.

Temple and Denham Golf Clubs, The Irish Artisans, along with Oxbridge and the Seniors Golf Societies, plus the ever-friendly Northern Section.

Northern Captain, Terry Lewis, and past AGA Captain, Gary Hunt, who I now consider as personal friends - they may feel different mind.

Everyone past and present on the AGA committee along with the great, Bill Bryce!

Pauline Cunningham (AGA Magazine Editor), who I'm sure I've driven mad over the years, constantly asking her to tinker with the website.

My colleagues at Royal Mid Surrey Artisan Golf Club, who's encouragement along with our Host Club, have been second to none.

Clearly, one person remains, our "Father Figure" and "legend", Doug Lumsden, thank you, Doug X

May I take this opportunity in wishing you all and your families, a very merry Christmas, and most importantly a peaceful 2024,

You've all been great,

Karl Woodhouse  
**Captain**

## England Golf Report

The WHS will be changing from 01 April 2024. Most artisan clubs use HandicapMaster, so please check this link for updates and more information <https://www.handicapmaster.org/preview>.

The WHS boards at golf clubs will need to change before the 01 April 2024

Look out changes on the AGA website leading up to 01 April 2024

England Golf fees have increased from £9,50 to £10.50. This is the first increase in many years.

Any member joining during the year after the club has paid their affiliation fees, the new members' fees must be paid to the relevant parties to enable them enter competitions and have an official handicap.

Patrick Cunningham  
**Temporary England Golf Representative**

## Secretary

As you know Bill Johns has stepped down as Hon Secretary and having done such a great job, he is a hard act to follow. However, we need someone who can take up this position and lead the way forward. If you, or anyone you know, can fulfil this important role, please contact [sec@agagolf.co.uk](mailto:sec@agagolf.co.uk) with names or for more information. The Hon Secretary has the support of the AGA Council and there are experienced members who can help guide anyone who is interested so they will not be alone!

## Bridley

The Bridley Artisan Golf Club was established on 1st September 1931 and confirmed at the AGM of the Worplesdon Golf Club (now known as our parent club). As a token of goodwill, it was decided to provide a box in the main WGC club hall entrance, in which members could put old balls for the use of the Artisans.

The Bridley name came from the Worplesdon Golf Club being erected on the 'wastes' of Bridley Manor in Surrey. To this day the Artisans operate on much the same basis as it did back in 1931, with the current members all providing invaluable help to the green staff. An example of this great work is when

the practice ground was original cleared, the Artisans took down and assisted in the removal of 747 trees.

The Artisans are closely linked to WGC, supporting the course management team throughout the year to maintain the high standards out there on the course, from bunker raking to repairing divots weekly. It is a partnership that continues to flourish year on year. David Frame from Worpleston GC was the first Bridley Artisans President and then this mantle has passed onto Jeremy Caplan, who has continued in the role for many years.



Bridley Artisans Club Secretary, Toni Direito standing by the Bridley club house and no need to mention who Colin Montgomerie is!

## Copthorne Village

Copthorne Village Golf Club has a long and interesting history, dating back to our establishment in 1903. We were recently contacted by a man now living in the USA, the grandson of a former member. His grandfather had been presented with a silver trophy way back in 1939, in recognition of his winning three club championships in the space of six years (1933-1939). The trophy itself, called the President's Prize, was made in 1929 and was purchased from Harrod's at the time.

The winner, Reg Tring, sadly passed away many years ago, and the trophy had since been handed down to his son Harry (also a former member) and, eventually, his grandson, Howard. It was Howard who contacted the club in late 2022, to see if we would like the trophy back, and of course we said an emphatic yes. Any part of the club's history is always of great importance to us.

A couple of weeks later, the beautiful trophy was back in our possession. Howard had cleaned it thoroughly and restored it to its former glory, and it now sits proudly in our cabinet looking for all the world as though it was purchased only this year. All of our members have a keen interest in the heritage of our club, and we all take great pleasure in knowing that a part of that heritage has made its way back to the clubhouse.

We have now added a new competition to our annual calendar, with the winner to receive the trophy for the following year. And in a very welcome gesture, Howard has kindly sent the club a sum of money to use as a financial prize to the winner for the next ten years. It's very reassuring to know that Reg Tring's memory has been given a new lease of life thanks to the generosity of one of his descendants. In July 2023, we all competed for an iconic, and very attractive, trophy that was created some 94 years ago; a trophy that has made its way to our little corner of West Sussex all the way from Pennsylvania, USA, a distance of more than 3,500 miles. Cheers, Reg, and cheers, Howard, too!

David Showell

## Hook Heath

Following another golfing season at Hook Heath, incoming captain (Tim Pacey 3.1 h/cap) expressed his '*delight and appreciation*' with the club membership support, playing contributions and general club-successes made throughout his 2023 season.

Starting in late February, there were many highlights during the clubs season which included several National AGA & Surrey AGU representations by Hook Heath members and were as follows:-

- AGA Scratch Team v Oxbridge (Tim Pacey & Rob Lott)
- AGA National Team v Senior Golf Society (Rob Barnes & Rob Hollands)
- Surrey AGU Scratch Team v The Betchworth Park (Tim Pacey)
- AGA Competition – Carr Memorial -(Graham Cooke, Tim Pacey, Rob Barnes & Rob Hollands)
- AGA National – Veterans & Challenge Cups (Trevor Marshall, Paul Toye, Clive Nunn & 2<sup>nd</sup> place Jeff Lapworth 41 points).
- Surrey AGU Championship (Rob Barnes, Steve Chowney, Mike Stevens, Rob Lott & Richard Nash)
- Surrey AGU v Hertfordshire (Mike Stevens, Tim Pacey, Rob Lott & Steve Dodd)
- AGA Competition – JH Taylor & Sandy Herd Trophies (Tim Pacey, Rob Lott & Rob Barnes)

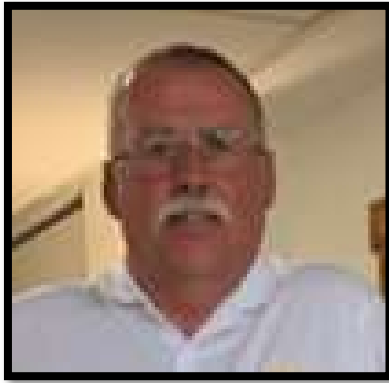
Others club-competitions/members achievements include :-

- Multi club-competition winners :- Rob Lott, Mike Stevens, Ivor Connolly and Giles Marchant.
- Hook Heath 'A' team trying to defend (and reaching) the Surrey Sevens competition for the second year (7 v 7) just losing out to Walton Heath on the first sudden death play-off hole.
- Alba Cup representation (Rob Lott & Tim Pacey)
- Narrow club match wins against The Seniors Golf Society & Woking GC
- Two Charity Day fund raising events - £1,900 for Cancer Relief & £2,820 (HHA Capts Day) for Cedar Centre Diabetic Charity.
- Notable Club Competitions winners - Presidents Cup winner Kevin Bailey, John Hockley Trophy Winner Ivor Connolly, HHA Order of Merit winner Ivor Connolly

Founded in 1924, the 60 Hook Heath Artisan (and Honorary) members and committee have been preparing for their Centenary year next year and look forward to another similar successful year in 2024.



HHA v Woking GC



HHA Order of Merit (Winner – Ivor Connolly)



Surrey AGU v Hertfordshire



HHA President's Cup Winner  
Kev Bailey (right)

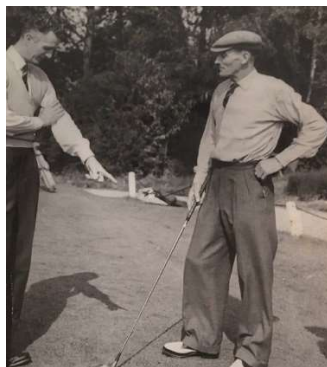
## Moor Park

Here are some old photos of some of the trophies my father won.



There are also pictures of him and others at various artisan championships. My father was an artisan at Moor Park and Sandy Lodge. In those days lots of the courses had Artisan memberships and used to play each other. I can remember caddying for him at Wentworth, Sunningdale

Porters Park, Old Fold Manor and many others the stag is a replica of the Hertfordshire Stag which he won in the late 50's I think 1958



**Fred Cox – A proud Son**

## **Obituary**

**Les Sharp**

Les dedicated himself to golf and was a great supporter of the AGA movement. He was Hon Secretary at his club in Banstead and was Surrey Secretary, and also ran the Surrey competitions with help from his colleagues. He was a long-standing AGA council member. A great loss to artisan golf and he will be sadly missed by family and friends.



## Sir Michael Bonallack



Our Patron, Sir Michael Bonallack OBE, sadly died at the age of 88. Sir Michael was 88.

During his long and extraordinary life, Sir Michael played an integral role in pushing golf to the front of the sporting landscape and will be fondly remembered for his achievements both on the playing and administrative sides of the game.

Over the course of his distinguished playing career, Sir Michael was known to be Great Britain's greatest post-war amateur golfer and famously lifted the English Amateur Championship title in 1962, 1963, 1965, 1967 and 1968 as well as the Brabazon Trophy in 1964, 1968, 1969 and 1971.

Sir Michael was the leading amateur at The Open Championship in both 1968 and 1971 and he also represented Great Britain & Ireland in six World Amateur Team Golf Championships, the last three outings as captain, and he tied for the Individual title with American Vinny Giles in 1968.

An outstanding leader as well as a player, Sir Michael was a member of the Walker Cup team in nine consecutive years from 1957, before he captained the team to success in the event at St. Andrews in 1971.

Once the curtain had come down on a decorated playing career, Sir Michael sought to give back to the game through a variety of administrative roles including chairman of the Professional Golfers' Association.

He became chairman of the European Tour from 1976 to 1982 and held the same role at the Golf Foundation from 1977 to 1982 before becoming president of the English Golf Union in 1982.

Sir Michael went on to become secretary of the Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews in 1983 before he was deservedly inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame at the turn of the millennium.

Sir Michael became Patron of the AGA in the 1990s when the late Queen stood down

Someone who could be considered a true friend of the game, Sir Michael was awarded an OBE in 1971 for services to golf before being knighted in 1998 in the late Queen's birthday honours list.

Sir Michael's legacy lives on as teams of 12 amateur golfers from Europe and the Asia-Pacific play for the Sir Michael Bonallack Trophy every two years.

## **And finally ...**

We are rather thin on the ground for articles for this issue. Every Artisan Club must have something to share with their news and views, so let's make the next issue in the Summer full of wonderful events and happenings from your clubs. Send to [editor@agagolf.co.uk](mailto:editor@agagolf.co.uk)

May you all have a very Happy Christmas and great success and good health in 2024.

**The Editor**