

**Spring/Summer 2025**



# **Artisan Golfer**

**The Only Magazine about Artisan Golf for Artisan Golfers**



New Northern President, Joe Pinnington and Robert Warnock

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

### National Committee

**National President:** PJ Cunningham

**Northern President:** J Pinnington

**Northern Vice Presidents:**

R Latham  
N Lawrence  
T Lewis  
J Nudds  
RO Proctor  
R Warnock  
P Williams

**Southern Vice Presidents:**

RJ Armitage  
CP Humber  
DE James  
RD James  
D Leishman  
D Lumsden  
T Prior

**Chairman:**

Rob Barnes

**National Hon Secretary:**

Nigel Watson

**Hon Treasurer:**

Warren Francis

**Disputes Officer:**

David Evitts

**Northern Secretary:**

Peter Williams

**Competitions Secretary (North):**

Paul Blagg

**Competitions Secretary (South):**

Graeme Turpin

**Southern Captain:**

Bill Goodyear

**Northern Captain:**

Terry Lewis

**Editor**

Email: [editor@agagolf.co.uk](mailto:editor@agagolf.co.uk)

## National President

In February this year we commenced the restructure of the AGA and the New Rules. This gives the AGA a strong foundation for the future integrating the Northern and Southern Sections into one Association, while still enabling each region to maintain their own golf competitions as well being able to take part in all the National Championships.

The National Committee is made up of representatives from the North and South and each Committee Member has their designated roles within the Association with clear protocols for the selection process making the Association open to all. This clarity will help to maintain and grow strong ties with all Artisan Clubs throughout England.

Thanks to Doug for all his work throughout the years as Chairman and Competitions Secretary. It has been a pleasure working with him. May he now have a well-earned rest and enjoy his retirement.

I look forward to meeting numerous artisan members throughout the year

**Patrick Cunningham**  
National President

## Northern President

My sadness at my enforced retirement from the presidency of the AGA (North) due to ill health is much reduced by the accession of Mr Joe Pinnington as my successor.

Joe is an old friend of both myself and artisan golf. Throughout his 54 years as a Hoylake member, he has been a staunch supporter of the Village Play and the principles and practicalities of artisan membership. He was an immensely popular Captain of Royal Liverpool in 2002 and continued to serve the Host club as its de facto historian and Chairman of the Heritage Committee. He is the 'go to' member for any historical query which will uniformly result in a well informed and detailed response embellished with anecdotes and keen observation.

I am delighted that Joe follows on here at Hoylake in the sure and certain knowledge that he will share his substantial experience and humour for the future benefit of the AGA. I look forward to continuing my contact with the AGA in the role of Vice President (North).

I wish Joe in particular and the Association in general every good wish for the future.'

Robert Warnock.  
28 January 2025

## Chairman's Report

First of all, I would like to say what an honour and privilege it is to be your AGA Chairman for the next three years.

The AGA Committee updated the Rules of the AGA to bring it into the modern world. As you know, the Artisan world is run by volunteers which means we are only as good as the people who volunteer, so with these changes it gives the opportunity for more people with the right skills to get involved as the roles and responsibilities are clearly set out with clear protocols and procedures for electing officials.

Using today's technology, we have a better way of communicating with everybody in the future with the use of online meetings enabling more people to have the opportunity to get involved which can only improve the movement.

I have just come back from Lindrick where we had our first competition of the year and I would like to thank everybody involved in making it a great experience on the day. Lindrick Artisans were great hosts and it was great fun listening to all the old stories till the early hours of the morning.

For me actions speak louder than words and we have a great deal to do to make the AGA the best we can.

**Rob Barnes**  
Chairman

# National Secretary's Report

I have been sitting here for a few minutes trying to work out what to say as my first words for the AGA under the guise of the National Hon. Secretary.

First, I should say thank you for your trust in me to be able to undertake this role and I will certainly give it my best shot. It is strange to think that I have been an Artisan for less than 5 years. I have realized I missed out for SO many years in not knowing there was such a thing and for it to be on my doorstep!

I am currently Captain of Surrey Artisans which I took up after Covid as there was no one willing to take on the role and I wanted to be sure there was someone who would help keep the movement moving in the right direction. I will be standing down at the end of this year to dedicate my time to the main AGA. I know I will make errors in this role and you will have seen a few already in the arranging of competitions and the results, but using the software is new to me. Thank you for being patient and pointing those errors out!

We are a new committee, although from the first meeting we had last week online it was clear that we all want to move forward and it was great to see those from the North join in. We will be holding meetings monthly for the rest of the season so that we can look at ways to improve.

Those at Bramley will have seen the new AGA shirts and two were given as prizes for the winners.

For those that attended Lindrick I hope you all enjoyed a fantastic course and those that didn't, you missed a great venue. Thanks to the Lindrick Artisans for opening the clubhouse and the welcome you all provided. It just showed the spirit of the Artisan movement.

Temple is a few days away and so far, we have 16 pairs competing for the Douglas Johns Trophy.

Little Aston is 02 July which I suspect will be our last visit there for a few years as we are keen to move the events so that we all get to play other great courses around the country.

We have taken on board some comments about playing 36 holes in one day which is too much for some and we are potentially looking at a pm round followed by a morning round so there will be no need for two nights away; only one night away will be required unless you are lucky enough to be local to the venue.

More of this later in the year as we plan to announce venues and dates before November so that you can all plan the year ahead.

I will say that entry numbers are well down on last year which may be due to venues/timing/clashes, however, we do need to try to get full entry lists again. I know cost is a big thing to us all these days, but the courses we play are top of the range and that comes at a price as we do tend to take the course over for the entire day.

At this point I need to thank Pat for all the money he obtains from England Golf which we use to help fund the competitions so that it reduces the cost to you, our members. Thanks Pat and please show me how to do this for next year!

Rest assured we are doing our best and if you want to discuss anything please get in touch.

I was asked to say something about my golf. I started playing at aged 11 when we moved to Ilkley (West Yorkshire) and backed on to the 9<sup>th</sup> tee of Ben Rhydding GC. I played regularly get to a steady 15 handicap but golf competed with cricket.

Then at 18 I joined Keighley GC and got to 10 handicap before heading to London to work and golf stopped.

8 years and a few jobs later, I was in Manchester and joined Withington GC getting down to 9 handicap. Then back to London and West Middlesex GC where I played every weekend and 7 handicap was reached.

My best ever opening was achieved with -6 after 6 needless to say 2 over after 18.

A move to Surrey and I joined Rusper GC just north of Horsham. I got down to 6 handicap on a brutal course but loved the challenge. I was Captain for the last 2 years of the club's history. This is when I found Artisan golf at Betchworth and boy what a find! There I managed to get to 0.4 (for a week!) now 3.4 but working hard to get lower again.

So on to some stats:

My best round has been a -4 at Betchworth, 4 holes in one, best course played Sawgrass or Turnberry but I have been spoilt as to where I have played.

Best achievements being asked to be your Secretary and winning the Sandy Herd (2024-25) / SAGU Scratch (2022-24).

One final thing to say is that all those that sit as your Committee do so for the love of the game and are not paid do so. I realize the time that is given up by all and the amount of work behind the scenes is huge - Thank you to my fellow Committee for the time you give and to those that have gone before us.

If you have read this far you have done well. Next report will be much shorter!

**Nigel Watson**  
AGA Hon Secretary

## **Northern Secretary's Report**

Over the previous twelve months, or so, it has been a time of "change" for both sections of the Artisan Golfers' Association. It's fair to say that when the news broke that the Northern section was to "amalgamate" with the Southern section, and be as one part of the AGA, I must admit there was some discontent within our own Clubs. However, once the details of the proposal were made clear to one and all, things did start to settle down quite quickly within our membership, and agree to just go with the flow.

My thanks and gratitude must go to Patrick Cunningham, and all of the Northern Vice Presidents, Robert Warnock, Nigel Lawrence, Terry Lewis, Peter Williams, and our Northern President, Mr Joe Pinnington, for all of their hard work and perseverance, for getting this through to a most satisfactory conclusion. We can now all march forward, this time "together."

Regarding my present position as Northern Artisan Secretary, after 14 years of a most enjoyable time, I have decided that it is now time for me to step down and retire. I feel sure we will find a suitable replacement within our ranks. With this in mind I will therefore hand over the reins of office, at our 2025 Northern Annual General Meeting, which as usual will be held in late November.

My thanks to you all for your support and loyalty throughout my time in office, it was and will always be most appreciated.

May I wish you all good health, good wealth, and especially good golf, for many a year.

**Peter Williams**  
Northern Hon Secretary

## **Treasurer's Report**

I hope all is good with you all and your clubs. Not much to report from my point of view just to say the majority of clubs paid the AGA & England Golf fees within a month of the deadline.

All club secretaries please make a note for 2026 in your diaries. Subscriptions are due by end of January annually.

We continue to subsidise our various matches and competitions for our membership. This year we will also be launching new AGA tops, golf shirts and badges for those that want to purchase (at a subsidised rate), no doubt other AGA committee members will provide more detail on this in their reports.

All the best for your summer of golf.

**Warren Francis**  
Hon Treasurer

# Competition's Secretary Report

My name is Graeme Turpin from St George's Hill. I've recently been appointed Southern Competitions Secretary which I'm very keen and excited to do.

Lindrick G.C. held the Scratch and Doug Lumsden Trophy in May. It was a fabulous, but tough golf course. We had welcoming staff who looked after us over the 36-hole round with a disappointing 36 entries (30 travelling from the South 1 from Grange Park and 5 from Lindrick).

Winners:

**Sandy Herd:** Nigel Watson (Betchworth)

**JH Taylor:** Michael Bolton (Lindrick)

**Doug Lumsden Trophy:** Michael Dawber (Grange Park)

A great day was ended with the hospitality of the Lindrick Artisans in their wonderful club house

Thanks boys!

06 June was the Challenge Cup at Bramley. We had 44 players, plus the honour of our new President Patrick Cunningham starting us.

Winners:

**Seniors:** Mark Hopkins (New Zealand)

**Challenge Cup:** Dave Denham (Reigate Heath)

**President Putter:** Jim Sanderson

Another great day out

At time of writing this we are preparing to play the Northern Championships at Chester on 23/24 June followed by The Carr on 02 July.

Lots of events with great courses and characters to meet

Next year we will be looking for new venues for all AGA tournaments.

Any input is helpful and liaising with club secretary is important too.

I look forward to seeing lot more artisan members entering for what are truly great days out.

All the Best

**Graeme Turpin**

Competitions Secretary (South)

# Southern Captain's Report

I am writing with both a heavy heart and a great deal of optimism going forward. The sadness is the passing away of our Vice President, Julian Bennett and our Past President, Bill Bryce. I attended a few functions with Julian; he was always charming and delightful always speaking about how highly he regarded the artisans. I spent many times in Bill's company and with his wife, Patricia. Every time spent with Bill was a golfing education. He was proud to be the AGA President and we were proud that he was. Julian and Bill led full golfing lives which we all hopefully can aspire to. They will be missed but never forgotten.

On a happier, note I'm delighted to welcome Pat Cunningham as our new President, a man whose commitment to the Artisan movement knows no bounds, so congratulations Pat for a well-deserved honour.

We also have a new chairman, Rob Barnes, known to most of us as Barney. Welcome to Barney, a long-standing member of the AGA movement. I am looking forward to working with you Barney. With an incoming chairman, we must bid a fond farewell to our evergreen and long-standing Chairman Dougie Lumsden. Dougie has been like a human dynamo in his outstanding efforts as Chairman in the past. I thank him for all his contributions to the artisans.

Nigel Watson was appointed our National Hon. Secretary. Thanks go to Pat Cunningham for standing in as Acting Hon. Secretary in the interim. Really appreciate all your efforts Pat.

Finally, Graeme Turpin has been appointed Competitions Secretary for the South and he is already sorting out venues and dates for next year.

Hope to see you all at our events. Enjoy your golfing time

**Bill Goodyear**

Captain (South)

## Northern Captain's Report

Northern Competition was held at Scarborough last June and after a rain soaked first day. The competition was played over 18 holes on Tuesday and eventually won by Lee Adamson from Royal Liverpool Village Play, after years of knocking on the door, congratulations to Lee.

This year's championship is to be held at Chester Golf Club (Curzon Park) but the format will be changed from medal play to stableford off white tees. This is due to a proposal at AGM. It remains to be seen if this is a successful format.

Good luck to the English team playing at Woodbrooke GC in Ireland in August which is the 50th anniversary of this match

**Terry Lewis**

Northern Captain

## New Chairman



Rob (Barney) Barnes has taken on the prestigious role of National Chairman of the AGA.

He will be responsible for making sure there is compliance with regulations and best practices of the AGA. Leading the Committee Meetings and providing a collaborative and engaged environment where all members can contribute.

Under his leadership he will ensure the New Rules and protocols are implemented working closely with the National Hon. Secretary, Nigel Watson.

Rob (Barney) Barnes has 25 years' experience with the AGA:

2000 Joined Brookwood Artisans.  
2002 Joined Brookwood Artisans committee.  
2003 Appointed Vice Captain.  
2004 Appointed Captain.  
2005 Appointed Captain and Surrey Sevens Captain.  
2006 Appointed Surrey Sevens Captain.  
2010 Joined Surrey Artisans' Golf Union (SAGU) Committee.  
2011 Appointed SAGU Foursomes Organiser.  
2013 Appointed Brookwood Artisans Captain.  
2016 Appointed Brookwood Artisans Chairman.  
2017 Joined Hook Heath Artisans.  
2018 Appointed SAGU Surrey Individual Organiser. Joined AGA Committee.  
2022 Appointed SAGU Chairman.  
2023 Appointed AGA Disputes Officer.  
2025 Appointed AGA Chairman.

## Forest

Captain: **Trevor Bowron**



Vice-Captain: **Doug Gurney**



Our 2025-2026 season officially started on 01 March with our new Captain; Trevor Bowron and Vice-Captain; Doug Gurney being elected to the Committee at the well-attended AGM on 28 February. Trevor and Doug join the existing Committee who were duly re-elected for another year. Gary Wells, the outgoing Captain, was also elected to the Committee for a further year. The Committee's thanks go to John Curtis for his time and efforts on the Committee over the past year.

With much appreciated assistance from The Berkshire Golf Club, a full calendar of club competitions and matches has been arranged for this season. So far there have been three competitions, the last of these being accompanied by the renowned 'after-competition' burgers provided by Steve Halford that were much appreciated. The competition results are as follows:

- **Neil Docherty Memorial Trophy –**
  - Winner: Andie Mudie - 38 points (countback)
  - Runner-up: Logan Matthews – 38 points
- **John Scott Foursomes medal**
  - Winners: Andie Mudie & Bill Cox - net 70 (countback)
  - Runners-up: David Reeve & Mark Porter – net 70
- **Texas Scramble Pairs**
  - Winners: Dan Sullivan & Will Graham - net 62
  - Runners-up: Darren Hill & Chris Harmes – net 64.

To raise money for his chosen charities - Guide Dogs for the Blind, Dementia UK and Air Ambulance, our new Captain Trevor has selected a number of penalty bunkers on both courses. Any player visiting one or more of these bunkers during a singles competition will contribute 50p for each to Trevor's charities - so far, the charity pot is growing well!!

Since the beginning of April, a number of very enjoyable matches have been played against The Berkshire Ladies and The Berkshire Gents, and also away matches against teams from St. George's Hill, Royal St. George's, Royal Cinque Ports and New Zealand as changes to the Blue Course especially is bedding-in. Home matches will begin to be played from 31 May against Royal Birkdale as



the course changes have now been largely completed. Both courses will continue to provide a good test for golfers of all levels as demonstrated over the last two weeks at Berkshire Trophy where the winner was only 7 under par for the four rounds played, and the winner of the Astor Salver was only 4 under par for the 36 holes played.

As mentioned in our report for the Winter 2024 Magazine, a number of major course changes are being made at The Berkshire – mostly to the Blue Course at present. The 10<sup>th</sup> hole on the Blue Course has now been significantly altered and new teeing areas and bunkering have also been completed on the Blue Course. The covered Driving Range and associated astroturf teeing areas are now available as well as a new grass area, and the new short-game area is due to open by the middle of June. A new reservoir has also been established on the left-hand side of the 15<sup>th</sup> Hole on the Red Course and is due to be completed by the end of June.

A number of significant improvements have also been made to our clubhouse including new internal flooring and furnishings, and external decking and seating. Grateful thanks from the whole club go to Trevor Bowron, Mark Hellier, Bill Cox and Steve Cox, Ali Burns, Mark Page, Dave Fuller and Neil Spurling for their time and effort in making these improvements in readiness for our home matches that are fast approaching.

Best wishes to all from Forest for an excellent 2025 golfing season, we hope to see many of you as the year progresses.

**Tim Cox**

FAGC Hon. Competition & Match Secretary

## Hadley Wood

Hello from Hadley Wood Artisans. It's been a while since we have entered an article for the newsletter so here goes....

HWA is currently in a very healthy state. We have 43 members including long standing Southern Vice President, Colin Humber, amongst our membership ranks, with a range of handicaps from scratch – 31 with an average of 17.

Our relationships with the management and committees of the main club are very good and they regularly express their appreciation of our duties we carry out across the course.

We are just starting our defence of the Hertfordshire Artisans County competition, The Waddell Trophy where we are going for the Th-repeat. We play against Moor Park, Verulam, Hartsbourne, Sandy Lodge and Ashridge, we look forward to defending the trophy.

We also have a couple of friendlies planned, Royal Mid Surrey visit us, and we are grateful to continue our relationship with St George's Hill who we play at their course.

We are firm supporters of both AGA and HAGU events, and our newer members can't believe the value these competitions offer. A group represented HWA at the Herd, Taylor and Lumsden Trophies at Lindrick, and we have a lot of interest in The Carr in July.

The 2-year restructuring of the course will be finished end of summer 2025, and in short, Hadley Wood will be remade - ensuring Alister MacKenzie's North London masterpiece is well positioned to continue to offer a strategic challenge and maximum enjoyment to its membership and guests for decades to come. It's also hoped that the vast upgrade program will continue to fuel Hadley Wood's rise up the Top100 courses in England and London, where we currently rank 77th and 6th respectively.



Newly renovated 17<sup>th</sup> green

With devilish greens echoing all MacKenzie's courses, and a full bunker reshaping and renovation programme, Hadley Wood should be high on every golfer's playing list.

The bunkers have been under the control, to modern construction standards, by Brett Hochstein of Hochstein Design, working alongside architect Clyde Johnson of Cunnin' Design. Brett came to the club directly after completing a rebuild of all the bunkers at Pasatiempo Golf Club in California, one of Alister MacKenzie's most beloved course designs and his home from 1929 until his death in 1934.

We welcome any approaches from clubs to arrange a fixture with us. Chris Rose is our Club & Fixture Secretary. We regularly post onto our Instagram account @hadleywoodartisans, we look forward to our subscribers soaring!

We wish every Artisan club every success for the season and play well everyone.

**Chris Rose**  
Hadley Wood Artisans.

## Harewood Downs

81-year-old Rod Stratford achieved his 5th hole-in-one on our 17th hole. This brings his total to 6, the other one being on our 15th at Harewood Downs golf course in Bucks.

Rod has been a member for around 43 years and still plays 2-3 times a week, including regularly playing in BB&O competitions and team matches. Rod currently plays off 23.7 but in his prime was a single figure handicap golfer.

Also, Colin Smith (16.5), another stalwart of our club and member for over 43 years, had 2 Eagles in the space of 7 days on par 4's. The first was from around 180 yards out on our 16th S/I 2 and the second on our 9th S/I 9 from around 225 yards out.



Colin Smith



Rod Stratford



Rod & Colin

**Kevin Fox**  
Harewood Downs

# Hook Heath

The Hook Heath Artisans entered a new era in 2025, with the legendary and long-standing Chairman Stuart Hicks stepping down as planned after the club's Centenary Year. Stuart's fellow shrinking violet Alan 'Bomber' Bull has stepped into Stuart's shoes and vowed to help take the club forward without ignoring what has worked well in the past.

Several fresh faces have joined the committee, adding some fresh perspective, enthusiasm and technological skills. And the number of members under the age of 30 has doubled (admittedly from one to two!!)

And those youngsters helped to ensure the Under 55's defended their title in the keenly contested Cook Cup against the Over 55's, in what was an early defeat for 2025 Captain, Joe Ball.



But there haven't been too many disappointments for the skipper in the early months of the season, with the club enjoying success in club matches and in the Surrey Sevens.

The Early May Bank Holiday proved to be a particularly memorable weekend for the club. With Woking Golf Club closed to Artisans, we had teams competing in FOUR away matches across three different counties! Annual friendlies at Bridley and Sunningdale were keenly contested and yielded a win and a halved match respectively.

In the Surrey Sevens, Hook Heath A (captained by Jon Mitchell) won 4.5-2.5 at Sundridge Park before the B's (captained by Rob Lott & pictured below) edged out Langley Park 4-3 in Croydon. At the time of writing both teams are unbeaten and well placed to qualify for the knockout stages.



Hook Heath continues to be well represented in AGA events, with Tim Pacey and Rob Lott competing in two Scratch events in recent months.



In early March, the pair played in the AGA's scratch team fixture against Oxbridge at Temple. The venue proved to be something of a *Temple of Doom* for our players, who were beaten in both their matches by their marginally more intellectual opposition!



Hook Heath's 'star boys' were on the road again in May, competing in the AGA National Championship at Lindrick GC in Yorkshire. Rob shot the lowest score of the tournament in his afternoon round and finished third, with Tim one stroke back in 4<sup>th</sup> place.



In other news, George Asprey joined a small but incredibly esteemed list of players to hit a hole-in-one on the re-modelled 2<sup>nd</sup> hole at Woking. George is an actor by trade and played the role of lucky b\*\*\*\*\*d very well!



Thanks for reading,  
**Mikey Pentti-Smith**

# Triangle

Triangle Artisan Golfers (Piltdown Golf Club, East Sussex) are celebrating their Centenary in 2025 and have arranged numerous invitational events alongside other local Artisan golfers and Piltdown members in the last two weekends of September.

Due to the withdrawal of their affordable off-peak membership (at Piltdown), Triangle will be relocating to Lindfield Golf Club, West Sussex from 2026 where their independence and affiliation to the Artisan Golfers' Association can continue.

If you would like to learn more about Triangle Golfers and their long association with Piltdown and the AGA then please contact:

Adrian Turner (Secretary) [turnerad@sky.com](mailto:turnerad@sky.com) 07732 327940

Bob Cummings (Treasurer) [shankerrob@gmail.com](mailto:shankerrob@gmail.com) 07982 721968

Paul Sumpter (Chairman) [paul.sumpter@dmcash.co.uk](mailto:paul.sumpter@dmcash.co.uk) 07703 543171'

In addition to these centenary and relocation matters, you might be reminded of the previously reported news about Syd Powis.

It is with great sadness that we have to report the passing of our Honorary member (and Honorary member of the Artisan Golfers Association) Syd Powis at the age of 105 years after a tragic accident in Uckfield on Saturday 05 April. (See Obituary for the tributes to Syd).

In recognition of Syd's significant contribution to our club his name is proud and centre on a new bench provided this year by Triangle beside the 14th tee box at Piltdown.



Triangle match team before the home fixture against Copthorne Village on Sunday 13 April. The Piltdown flag is at half-mast in respect of the late Syd Powis and club captain Kevin Williams is standing centre front in our Centenary polo shirt.

**Adrian Turner**

Triangle Golf Club Secretary

# Obituaries

## ***Robert (Bob) Cox***



Robert Cox passed away on the 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025 aged 86. A true gentleman, his passion for golf, impeccable style, sharp mind & sense of humour set him apart as someone special.

His enthusiasm knew no bounds and his love of golf rubbed off on his playing partners & opponents alike, making him ever popular to play with. Bob was always first with a “good shot” even when his own game had deteriorated in his later years.

Bob joined the Aldridge Artisans in 1968, initially at Sutton Coldfield he moved to Little Aston in 1978. Bob was a single figure golfer winning everything there was to win within our club including the club championship. He started off young, winning the Staffordshire Boys Open when he was 14 playing against boys as old as 18 and continued playing regularly until his early 80s.

Bob enjoyed attending the Northern and any golf trip with his extended family of golfing friends. One of his fondest memories was enjoying a trip to St Andrews in 2010. The last day of the trip being on the Old Course. Aided by a caddie Bob was one over par gross after 6 holes and went on to shoot 36 points and win that day. He was 72 at the time.

He was an Artisan for 57 years, a life member of Aldridge Artisans and was being considered for life memberships of the Artisan Golf Association before his demise. His family would like to thank the AGA for their donation to an annual trophy (The Bobby Cox Trophy) which they donated before his passing. His health deteriorated due to battles with cancer and his playing days appeared to be over but, with the aid of a buggy, he continued playing golf and was as enthusiastic as ever. He had an eagle in his 80's, won back-to-back Chairmans Challenge (a three-man Texas scramble) in his 80's and his last solo competition in 2022. After a round he loved nothing better than a quick drink with friends in the Pavillion (his affectionate name for our Starters Hut).





Bob's funeral was standing room only with an Artisan Guard of honour. A fitting tribute to a club stalwart and testament to his popularity.

Survived by his wife Jean, daughter Debbie, sons David & Stephen, three grandchildren & one great grandchild. Bob passed away peacefully at home.

He was a wonderful friend to a lot of people, a one off & the last of the old guard, he will be sorely missed.

## ***Ken Blackmore***



Everyone at Copthorne Village Golf Club was shocked and saddened by the passing of Ken Blackmore in April, one of our long-standing members and a former Captain, Vice-Captain and Fixtures Secretary, Members of many of our local artisan clubs will have fond memories of Ken and his infectious humour.

Ken was a lifelong fan of Crawley Town Football Club, for whom he worked as a volunteer for a number of years. Tributes were made to him at their last home fixture of the season, a 3-0 victory against Northampton Town. A minute's silence was held; flowers were placed at Ken's seat and his smiling image was displayed on the big screen during the match.



Ken will be sadly missed by everyone at Copthorne Village Golf Club

## ***Julian Bennett***



Julian was a proud Lancastrian, but had lived in the South for many years. He was a Vice President of the AGA and great supporter of the artisan movement. He was a good golfer in his prime representing the county and his club in many matches.

Julian was a good friend for many years and great company and I played many rounds of golf with him together with Bill Bryce and Michael Lunt.

## ***Bill Bryce***



Bill was President of the AGA for many years, until his health declined over the years so much that he had to stand down last year. He was a great supporter of Artisan Golf. He was on the Rules Committee for the R&A, President of Surrey Golf and President of England Golf, the highest honour anyone can have in England.

Bill was good company and I spent many evenings with Bill, Patricia, Julian and another friend, Bill Wilson sampling good food and wines from around the world.

## ***Patrick Cunningham***

## ***Sydney James Powis 'Syd'***



1st February 1920 - 5th April 2025



For the Triangle Artisans 75th anniversary in 2000 the following tribute was made:

'Ever-present, ever-friendly, always busy, Syd has been Captain or Secretary or Junior Organiser for as long as anyone can remember. He has instructed, cajoled and encouraged youngsters to such effect that no fewer than eight Triangle Juniors have gone on to be professional's, including the present incumbent (at Piltdown) Jason Partridge.'

In a 2017 interview with Syd when asked about what Artisan golf meant to him he stated that:

'..if I wasn't an Artisan I wouldn't be playing golf.....when I joined, most of my friends were members of the Triangle Artisans and that was it really, a sense of community.'

and when asked why Artisan golf exists, he was equally sure:

'Artisan golf is done for the benefit of the Parent club, whichever one it is.'

Syd continued playing golf until his own (Covid delayed) Centenary Pro-Am in 2022 and most recently could be seen on course in the summer months watching our Triangle weekly Wednesday competitions at Piltdown from the comfort of a golf buggy amongst friends.

## **And finally ...**

So sad to have such a large Obituary section in this edition, but good to celebrate and remember the good times shared. As Winnie the Pooh said, 'How lucky am I to have known someone that makes saying goodbye so hard'

It is encouraging to have so many articles from different clubs, but would be even better to hear from more of you! Think about what is happening in your club between now and October (maybe make notes so you don't forget the excitement of the moment) and then send an article for the next magazine and share your news and views with your fellow artisans. A reminder will be sent nearer the time with the deadline date.

As you now move forward with the restructure of the AGA integrating the North and South and have representation from both sections on your National Committee it makes the Artisan Golfers' Association a stronger organisation for all its members, and not just a few. There are now clear guidelines for protocols and procedures for electing officers and clearly designated roles for each of the Committee Members. Maybe one of you reading this would like to be more involved or know someone who would like an active role. Just get in touch with the Chairman or National Hon. Secretary.

You may have noticed the AGA website has been updated and it is now easier to use and can be accessed on mobiles and tablets too. I encourage all artisans to check it regularly for news updates on the home page (you may need to scroll to the bottom of the page if using a mobile phone) as well as competition entry forms, The Rules etc.

The password is the same as before for restricted areas, so just ask your relevant secretary if you don't have it.

### **A last word on golf:**

If you watch a game, it's fun. If you play it, it's recreation, but if you work at it, it's golf.

Keep working!

**The Editor**