

Winter 2025



# Artisan Golfer

**The only magazine about Artisan Golf for Artisan Golfers**



AGA Chairman, Rob (Barney) Barnes, AGA Secretary, Nigel Watson and AGA Comp Secretary, Graeme Turpin

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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

**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

**Southern Vice Presidents:**

RJ Armitage

CP Humber

DE James

RD James

D Leishman

D Lumsden

T Prior

### **Editor**

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

## National President

We are in good hands with a strong Chairman in Rob Barnes leading the way with the new constitution of the AGA which came into being at the beginning of this year supported by the Hon Secretary, Nigel Watson. Graeme Turpin, Comp Secretary secured some great venues for this season and is continuing to do so for the 2026 season. It will be great to see as many of you as possible from around England participating in these events and meeting and competing with your fellow artisans.

The Captain, Bill Goodyear and I were invited to Triangle's Centenary celebration, and we had a great time meeting up with old friends. I would like to wish all the members of Triangle every success in their move to Lindfield.

I wish Maidenhead every success at their new venue of Winter Hill.

Thanks to Peter Williams, Northern Secretary and Terry Lewis, Northern Captain, for their contribution to the AGA over the years and wish them all the best as they step down at the end of the year.

### **Patrick Cunningham**

National President

## Chairman's Report

"Where does the time fly" is a common phrase used by most of us. An artisan can answer that question quite simply - six months of compact golf. From the start of a club's season to the final comp it goes in the blink of an eye, in between is the highs and lows and fun of taking part. For me one minute I was teeing up at Lindrick then suddenly I was at Copthorne saying, "See you next year."

Thank you to everybody who got involved and helped out. I'm not surprised attendance was down this year; we live in a tough financial climate at the moment where golf has to be sacrificed sometimes. Next year we have some great venues and some change of formats so I hope you will enjoy.

Take care, see you all next year

### **Rob Barnes**

Chairman

## National Secretary's Report

Welcome to the winter edition of the AGA magazine. Yes, the long summer afternoons are behind us, and we have the short cold evenings which to an Artisan means that the maintenance that we all do has come to an end for another year. The lack of water this summer has meant that clubs have struggled to keep the fairways in good condition and having played all over the country it has surprised me how many clubs had pick & place in play in an attempt to preserve the fairways.

With the Winter also brings the end of 18 hole competitions for me as we cannot get round the full course, but 9 holes are still better than none. The softer greens do mean there is a feel of darts with the approach shots. Still is it nice to get out there and continue playing as much and as best we can. The question is, is it time to rebuild the swing or just hone the swing we have?

We have the AGM coming up in the new year and will be doing our best to host it online for those who cannot make the meeting itself. A link will be shared nearer the time.

The venues for 2026 have been booked and we are looking forward to visiting new clubs but more of that later

In the meantime, do your best to enjoy the winter golf season

Best wishes to all.

### **Nigel Watson**

AGA Hon Secretary

## Treasurer's Report

I do hope you all had a great golfing year. We managed to secure some nice venues. 2026 will hopefully bring more of the same or better with an overnight being planned for the Carr Memorial, more about that from our competition committee, I am sure.

On the finance front we remain in a healthy position. I will provide a detailed breakdown once I have completed it.

Club secretaries and/or Treasurers will have been provided with the 2026 invoice. I would appreciate it if you could make payment via BACS as detailed in the invoice and by the date shown. If you have any difficulties, please let me know.

The overall amount per head has changed because of an increase received from England Golf.

Another request is for each club to provide a list of your club members at the time you pay your club fees. If any new members arrive throughout the year, then please let me know their details and provide payment along with that information. The reason for this is to ensure all individuals' liability insurance is covered and help prevent any fraudulent claims.

All the best.

**Warren Francis**

Hon Treasurer

## Competition Secretary's Report

Another season is over. Thanks to Nigel for organising venues last year.

Lindrick was a real treat and Little Aston as difficult as ever.

Copthorne ended our year with old friends attending which brings so many laughs

### 2026

This is my first year of organising competitions and I've taken everyone's comments into consideration, and the committee asked me to find a venue in Devon, therefore I have booked East Devon for

**The Carr.** This will be held over 2 days:

18 holes 13 May 13:00 tee

18 holes 14 May 08:00 tee

Book your caravan ASAP!

### Seniors/ Challenge

Mill Ride soon to be Maidenhead GC

04 June

18 holes

### Scratch and Doug Lumsden

Burnham Beeches GC

29 July

36 holes

### Douglas John's Pairs

West Byfleet GC

12 August

18 holes

Lunch time tee.

### Butler Jewell

Harpden GC

08 September

36 holes

I've tried to consider everyone in the choice of venues although it's impossible to please all.

Hopefully our Kent and Northern members will join us so we will embrace this fantastic Association

See you all soon

**Graeme Turpin**

## **Southern Captain's Report**

My final report of the year and it seems once again I am congratulating Mr Patrick Cunningham every time I write one of these reports but to be given the honour of England Golf President is truly an amazing and well deserved so congrats Patrick and I'm sure the hardship of going to Augusta for The Masters won't be too much of a burden for you.

It is with sadness that Terry Lewis is stepping down as the Northern AGA captain after almost 17 years at the helm. Terry has been a wonderful captain and a fantastic supporter of the AGA. He has helped me enormously since I took over my captaincy. I know my predecessors appreciated Terry immensely as well. Luckily for us all Terry will still be attending our competitions so we will still enjoy his wit and charisma. Thanks, Terry, for all your help; you're a credit to yourself and the artisan movement. We look forward to welcoming the new Northern Captain when he is elected.

On the playing front the AGA North v South match was played at Handsworth golf club which was a wonderful day with great banter and camaraderie between the two sides with the south edging the competition 7 1/2 to 4 1/2.

Just a slight moan this year we are trying to get different clubs involved in various AGA team events so it's not the usual clubs and players picked , but due to players pulling out or clubs not putting players forward it leaves a shortfall and then I have to go back to the usual, but reliable clubs to get players. If any clubs or players want to put golfers names forward please contact me.

Finally, thanks to the committee, who are doing a superb job in moving the AGA forward. It's been a productive year. Hopefully we will continue to move forward in 2026.

Look after yourselves and enjoy the fairways

**Bill Goodyear**  
Captain

## **Northern Captain's Report**

I finish my 15th year as Northern Captain and VP of AGA, relinquishing my duties to Captain Elect Guy Ellis- Clark. I feel from the Northern aspect that we have made great strides with equal representation in all AGA competitions and matches, bringing AGA competitions to members attention, attending, supporting and even winning, the Carr Memorial at West Lancs springs to mind, with our own John Harris winning and then going onto Woodhall Spa to compete there.

Through the years I have met many AGA Captains; Dave Shepherd, Mick Fisher, Karl Woodhouse and Bill Goodyear but special mention goes to Gary Hunt who, through his knowledge and support of all things AGA taught and encouraged me to follow and enter many competitions over the years. This man, my mentor is such leader that many AGA members say he will be always their Captain, high praise indeed.

This final year has seen many changes to amalgamate the Southern Section with the Northern Section at committee level, again with equal representation.

Thanks also to retiring Chairman Doug Lumsden who through his and Patrick Cunningham's leadership has brought us to where we are now.

Patrick is now our President and together with Chairman, Rob Barnes (Barney), Secretary, Nigel Watson, Comp Sec, Graeme Turpin and Treasurer, Warren Francis we are in good hands.

The Northern Committee are also having a change of personnel with Chairman Gary Abbot and Secretary Peter Williams stepping down after many years of service to the Northern Competition in particular. I thank you both on behalf of Northern Artisans.

I would like to thank all members who have supported me over the years, travelling up and down the country and Ireland at their own expense, playing in comps making many friends along the way.

There are far too many to mention here but you know who you are!



Plaque Presented to The Irish

Good luck to all incoming officials and members for the coming years, I'll see you on the links

**Terry Lewis**  
Northern Captain

## Beaconsfield

It will be difficult to sugarcoat our mood this Autumn here at Beaconsfield. Whilst the parent club go full tilt into buildings renovations, new patios and a covered driving range with teaching studio- we have become collateral damage. The powers that be have given us our marching orders and we will become the next Artisan section to be consigned to history. Despite trying to negotiate a realignment with our relationship, the parent club has held firm and we will cease to be after Christmas 2027. We are lucky in that we have 2 more years to enjoy this magnificent course but we play with tears in our eyes.

The BB&O competitions this year were held at Sonning in May and Pyford Lakes in August. We were extremely successful at both meetings with John O'Dwyer winning the junior trophy, Michael Monaghan the seniors, Gary Hobbs and Michael Monaghan the pairs and Steve Reed, Paul Woodbridge, Glenn Toudup and Tony Beale winning the team prize. We were also the best represented club at both meetings, so well done all for the support.

No major trophies to report this year so far. The Hillman Cup didn't go well.

This October we will be doing our annual prize presentations in our own clubhouse instead of going up top and getting dressed up. I expect more fruity language than usual. Our captain, Simon Peach will entertain with a witty summary of the worst year in our history.

**Frank Wood**

## Forest

Led by Captain Trevor Bowron and Vice-Captain Doug Gurney, the Forest Artisans 2025 season has been a very successful one. We have just completed all our matches with both The Berkshire Golf Club and other clubs and have one more singles competition and the Christmas Foursomes to play before year-end. Both the Singles knockout and Pairs knockout have their finals to play.

All our matches, whether home or away, have again been very enjoyable and friendly occasions played against the Berkshire Gents and Ladies as well as with Hook Heath, New Zealand, Royal Birkdale, Royal Cinque Ports, Royal St. George's, Rye, St. George's Hill, Sunningdale, Walton Heath and Worplesdon (Bridley). The matches against the Berkshire Gents and Ladies continue to provide us with the opportunity to further enhance our relationship, which is currently very good. The mix of stroke play,

singles and pairs competitions have been very well supported by the membership with a variety of winners as follows:

COMPETITION	WINNER(S)	SCORE	RUNNER(S)-UP	SCORE
Neil Docherty Memorial Trophy	Andie Mudie	38pts (c/b)	Logan Matthews	38 pts
John Scott Foursomes	Andie Mudie and Bill Cox	Net 70	David Reeve and Mark Porter	Nett 70 on c/back
Gerald Russell Greensomes	Phil Bidwell and Dan Sullivan	42 points	Bill Cox and Neil Spurling	41 points on c/b
Graham Cox Memorial Trophy	Peter Richardson	Net 69	Peter Stevens	Net 70 (c/b)
Mackenzie Cup	Andie Mudie	37 points	Peter Hewitt	35 points (c/b)
AGA Overall (gross score) <b>Club Champion</b>	Logan Matthews	Gross 150	Gavin Matthews	Gross 15
Coronation Jug (nett scores)	Joe Newman	Net 142	Stuart Wignall	Net 144
Stevenson Cup	Rob Page	36 points	Andie Mudie	36 points
Presidents Trophy	Jamie Hurdwell	42 points	Gary Wells	38 points
Ted Newell Salver (13 course hcp and less)	Stuart Wignall	Net 69	Kevin Randall	Net 72 (c/b)
Mick Gurney (14 course hcp and over)	Greg Smith	36 points	Steve Cox	33 points
Des Lawrence Shield	Darren Colebeck	38 points (c/b)	Phil Bidwell	38 points
Forest Cup	David Reeve	Net 69 (c/b)	Mark Hellier	Net 69
Jock Thompson Bowl	Ramin Showghi	Net 69 (c/b)	Bill Cox	Net 69
Tom Jaggard Cup	Steve Cox	Net 69 (c/b)	Jamie Hurdwell	Net 69
Fred Clay Memorial Trophy	Steve Halford	39 points	Mick Hurdwell	38 points
Richard Burgess Trophy	Keith May	40 points	Matt Sales	37 points
David Elder Bowl	Steve White	39 points	Tony Douglas	38 points

A few highlights from the competitions include –

- A hole in one by Darren Colebeck on 7<sup>th</sup> Red in the Mrs Orred Cup Pairs Knockout competition
- A score of 42 points in the President's Trophy by Jamie Hurdwell, one of our new members
- A score of 42 points by Phil Bidwell and Dan Sullivan in the Gerald Russell Greensomes pairs.

The calendar of dates for the 2026 season is currently being agreed with The Berkshire Golf Club and may affect the playing of some matches due to continuing changes being made to the Red course in the main. The course changes made to the Blue course during this year have now been completed with major changes to the 10<sup>th</sup> hole and teeing areas and bunkers on a number of holes. The practice area now has an astroturf teeing areas, as well as a new grass area, and the new short-game area has been built. A new reservoir has now also been established on the left-hand side of the 15<sup>th</sup> Hole on the Red course.

During August Captain Trev hosted 72 players on his Captain's Day, which was an excellent affair. We had a shotgun start so that all players were able to finish at similar times and be able to enjoy a well-earned drink (or two) and the usual excellent two-course barbecue provided by the Berkshire Golf Club. All players were able to use the main Berkshire Golf Club, which has undergone significant changes over the last 9 months and now provides excellent views across the Blue course.

On behalf of the FAGC membership I would like to thank the FAGC Committee members for their continuing and significant voluntary work without which the club would not exist.

Best wishes to you all from Forest for a good Winter of golf and hopefully many days of play (no snow!!)

**Tim Cox, FAGC**

Hon. Competition and Match Secretary

## Hook Heath

Since the last edition HHA has been busy competing in club, AGA, SAGU and even EGU competitions, with plenty of success to look back on.

In June, Rob Lott and Tim Pacey represented the club in the prestigious 36-hole Alba Trophy at Woking Golf Club. This is one of the most storied amateur events in the country which sees teams compete in a Scratch Foursomes Strokeplay event from the back tees, with a boozy lunch in between! Lotty and Tim did themselves proud (on the course at least) finishing 13<sup>th</sup> out of 38.

Speaking of boozy, the club's annual away day saw us travel to East Brighton where a hungover Jake Cheeseman triumphed in tricky conditions on the South Coast. It proved to be a memorable season for Jake, who also came out on top in our President's Cup Knockout Matchplay event after beating Rob Lott in the final.

Jake was also a star turn in HHA's 'B' Team in the Surrey Sevens (captained by Rob Lott) who made it to the semi-final stage before being beaten by eventual winners Cantelupe. Our 'A' Team (captained by Jon Mitchell) also made it to the knockout stages before being beaten by Royal St George's. Congratulations to Cantelupe who were simply too hot to handle on home turf this season!

2025 Captain Joe Ball proudly led the club to a number of victories in our annual 'friendly' fixtures, which included particularly enjoyable triumphs against 'The Seniors Golf Society', 'Dad's Army' and Woking GC.



The evergreen Ken Bye (above right) plotting his next move v The Seniors

In July, Rob 'Barney' Barnes claimed a top three finish in the Junior Section of the Surrey Artisan Championship at Betchworth, with Tim finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in the scratch event. They also starred in the AGA's annual 'North vs South' match at Handsworth, winning both of their matches in a 5and4 win for the Soft Southerners.



It was an incredibly busy year for Tim who also represented the AGA in the EGU Men's Champion's Club in Yorkshire alongside Lotty and Mike Stevens.



The 2025/26 season was bittersweet for the club as we mourned the loss of two legendary figures of the club Andrew Elliot & Ray Sewell (See Obituaries section)

### **Grahame Roberts**

## **Triangle**

Since our last report for the AGA Spring newsletter, Triangle have been blessed with good weather for a three day 54 hole club weekender at The Dorset Golf Resort in June, for an 18 hole club away day in August at Crowborough Beacon GC, and for our home Centenary celebration day in September which were all attended by past and present members plus guests.

There was a teary eyed clubhouse speech by former member John Tomsett of memories from his family connections to the club and to Artisan Golf, and then the new Triangle Centenary Cup was presented along with engraved crystal glasses to the 18 hole best 3 from 4 competition winners.

The Triangle Charity Day in July was well attended by members, and guests from our golfing community, at which we were pleased to raise £1,891.03 for the St Peter and St James Hospice. The ongoing collection through attendance sweep monies from our weekly Wednesday and Sunday golf competitions is in support of Prostate Cancer UK this year.

The move from Piltdown Golf Club to our new home at Lindfield Golf Club from 2026 is taking shape thanks to the transition negotiations held with Piltdown by our own President Bob Gardiner and the AGA's President Patrick Cunningham and assisted by the Triangle general committee.

A 'meet and greet' match fixture at Lindfield in August was well supported and we now have advanced commitment for the move from the majority of members to continue our independence and affiliation to the AGA. Our schedule of match fixtures will unfortunately be reduced slightly for 2026, whilst we integrate at our new home and rebuild Triangle member numbers, and with the clubhouse facilities to be shared with existing Lindfield members.



Centenary Cup presentation – Team captain Kevin Rose receiving the winner's trophy from Triangle club captain Kevin Williams



Centenary memories speech – Former member John Tomsett recalls memories from Triangle membership and of Artisan Golf at Piltdown



TGC and AGA group – Centenary Day team of Steve Marner and Tim Wilson from Triangle plus Patrick Cunningham and Bill Goodyear from AGA



TGC and EG group: Centenary Day winning team of Kevin Rose and Martin Trathan from Triangle plus Allison Boozer and Emma Carberry from EG

**Adrian Turner**  
Triangle Golf Club Secretary

# Surrey Artisan Golf Union

## **Surrey Artisan Golf Union (2025 season)**

2025 has been another busy golfing administration and competition playing-season for the SAGU committee, clubs and their members which has included :- the nomination and acceptance of Rob Barnes (Hook Heath) as National AGA Chairman, Nigel Watson (Betchworth Pk) as National AGA Secretary, Copthorne Village Artisans being welcomed into the SAGU membership for 2026 and Tim Pacey (Hook Heath) accepting the 2026 SAGU county Scratch captaincy and, the playing of our 2025 SAGU competitions.



Rob Barnes



Nigel Watson



Tim Pacey

## **2025 SAGU Sevens**

18 teams from 14 clubs entered the match-play competition which was drawn into four leagues to establish the league Winners and Runners Up and then progressed into the home and away knockout quarter and semi-finals and eventual finals (total 86 matches).

After all the competitive matches, the two finalists' teams were St George's Hills v Cantelupe 'A' and from their home leg StGH had a commanding lead of 6-1.

At home, Cantelupe 'A' responded and after some inspired leadership and golfing play (especially from the home-sides Sam Murrell's short game) the second leg result was Cantelupe 7 v StGH 0 resulting in an overall match score of 8-6 to the winning team as seen below.



Left to right - Andy Ellis A' SAGU 7s organiser presents cup to Cantelupe's winning Capt Dave Heckford



Winning team Cantelupe '

### **2025 SAGU Singles (Bob Hall Trophy)**

There were 72 entries into the 2025 singles match-play knockout competition, and the eventual finalists were Martin Perks (Walton Heath) and Grant Morbey (Bridley).

From his home leg, Martin Perks was 2up so there was everything to play for at Bridley's second leg match.

Both finalists played well, and it was Grant Morbey (pictured) who turned the result around eventually winning 2 and 1.



left to right SAGU Singles winner Grant Morbey  
with SAGU committee and Comp organiser Pete Elgar

### **2025 SAGU Foursomes**

44 foursome pairings entered into the 2025 match-play knockout competition, and the eventual finalists were

Josh Wood and Callam Forbes (Cantelupe) v Joe Yates and Jason Harvey (R. Mid-Surrey)  
The 2<sup>nd</sup> leg at Cantelupe saw the home side pair win 4 and 2.



Foursomes winners  
Left to right - Callum Forbes and Josh Wood



Finalists – Cantelupe v R Mid Surrey

### **SAGU Championship**

In July, Betchworth Pk hosted the SAGU Championships which included three handicap categories, Senior, Scratch and Junior and the days winners were :-



Delia – Betchworth Park Seniors Winner



Tony De Castro – Betchworth Park Scratch Winner



Neil Palmer – Reigate Heath Junior Winner

The SAGU committee and competition organisers would like to thank all the participating clubs, teams and members for the playing of all our competitions '*in the spirit of artisan golf*'.

**Andy Ellis**  
SAGU Sec

## Obituaries

### **John Hunt**

Lt Col. John Hunt of The Berkshire Golf Club, who many may know, and who was the Chairman of the Forest Artisans from 1998 to 2013 passed away on 27 July. The 'Colonel' as he was always known, was very supportive of the Artisan movement in general and the Forest Artisans in particular and will be very much missed.

**Tim Cox**

### **David Ingold & Paul Cunningham**

St George's Hill lost prominent members in the last year

Our Chairman David Ingold, who some would have met, although he didn't play in the latter years.

Paul Cunningham was elected as the new Chairman but sadly passed away at end of October. Paul was well known on the AGA circuit winning the Butler Jewell in 2016

He also played in several successful Surrey 7s team for St Georges Hill

The Silverback is greatly missed

**Graeme Turpin**

### **Kevin Ledgar**

This year Beaconsfield suffered the sad loss of possibly our most popular member, Kevin Ledgar. He had not even reached 60 and was taken ill whilst golfing this August.

**Frank Wood**

### **Andrew Elliot & Ray Sewell**

In August our longest-serving member Andrew Elliot passed away shortly before his 81<sup>st</sup> birthday. Andrew joined the club as a junior in 1959 and went on to win the HHA Juniors Cup and competed in the Alba Trophy. Andrew also helped lay the redesigned 9<sup>th</sup> fairway and served on the Committee for 14 years. He managed 3-holes-in-one with his most recent coming just three years ago (still carrying his own bag!)



Andrew Elliot

In October we learnt of the sad passing of Ray Sewell. The Sewell's are one of the most renowned families in Artisan Golf, and Ray is considered one of the club's best ever golfers, and is the only player to win the 'Tiger's' Cup (Scratch Medal) across five different decades. More importantly Ray – like Andrew - was a great member and a friend to many across the Artisan movement.



Ray Sewell

Both Ray and Andy have sons who are active members at HHA (Neil and Steve) and their family names will live on at the club for many years to come.

**Grahame Roberts**

## **And finally ...**

So sad to say goodbye to so many friends. Their memories will live on in the stories and reminiscences when you gather together in the 19<sup>th</sup> hole.

Since the restructure of the AGA earlier in the year, the organisation has gone from strength to strength under the leadership of a strong Chairman, Rob Barnes, supported by the Hon Secretary, Nigel Watson. If you have any questions, special invitations etc these are you two 'go to' people. You will find their contact details on the AGA website [agagolf.co.uk](http://agagolf.co.uk)

The evenings are drawing in and late afternoon golf is no longer possible giving you plenty of time to check out the AGA Website for news and competitions so you can plan for next year.

Remember, golf teaches life: patience, humility, and strategy.

Keep enjoying life.

**The Editor**