

Summer 2026



Artisan Golfer

The only magazine about Artisan Golf for Artisan Golfers



Robert Warnock, Peter Williams, Anthony Shone Joe Pinnington Nigel Lawrence

AGA's new Life Member read more in the article below

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The Artisan Golfers' Association

(Affiliated to England Golf) www.agagolf.co.uk for contact details

The Object of the Association is to unite the various Artisan Golf Clubs in England into one Association and to encourage and help in the formation of clubs.

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Paul Blagg

Competitions Secretary (South):

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Bill Goodyear

Northern Captain:

Guy Ellice-Clark

Editor

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National President

It has been an honour to be AGA National President for the second year. and a delight working with the outgoing Northern President, Robert Warnock and the incoming Northern President, Joe Pinnington.

I would like to thank our Chairman, Rob Barnes for his guidance and contribution to the movement and the National Committee for their continued support for AGA. The Northern Committee also have an input into the AGA and I look forward to the formation of the Southern Committee, who I know will also make a difference.

I was honoured to be invited to the centenary celebrations at Royal Cinque Ports and Moor Park. The relationship that both clubs have with their host clubs is remarkable and sets a standard for the future for all artisan clubs and their host clubs.

It is important that all Artisan clubs support their host clubs to the best of their abilities as there are many Artisan clubs under pressure with the threat of closure. However, there is an opportunity for artisan clubs to grow over the next few years once the host clubs are aware of the contribution that artisans can make.

I would like to wish all artisans throughout England all the best. We owe it to our founder, JH Taylor, five times Open Champion, in the finest traditions of artisan golf to go the extra mile to secure our future.

Patrick Cunningham
National President

Chairman's Report

Once again, the artisan season is upon us to which behind the scenes your committee has been working hard to provide the best service we can.

This season was the first time we had the Carr Memorial over two days at the gem of a course, East Devon. We battled 30mph winds the first day and 20mph the second day, but it didn't deter our guys from taking on the challenge.

The feedback was positive so the same will happen again next year.

We then moved onto Maidenhead Golf Club in North Ascot for the Challenge and Seniors Trophies. We were on a challenging course and worthy winners emerged. We also had a full English breakfast instead of a bacon roll by mistake which was appreciated by all!

I had the privilege and honour of attending Royal Cinque Ports and Moor Park centenary celebrations which provided a great experience. Thank you to all who put the time into these events.

I have been also invited to various clubs behind the scenes where I have been able to see how they run their clubs which gives me a better picture of artisan golf.

Rob Barnes
Chairman

National Secretary's Report

Morning Artisans

I hope you are all enjoying the sunny conditions we are experiencing so far and that the course maintenance duties are not too onerous. As most of you know I play at Betchworth in Surrey where a couple of years ago they re-laid the sprinklers and what a difference it has made with the fairways still having grass.

Surrey Artisans played their championship at Betchworth the first week of July and it was in great condition it was just annoying I was not in the field.

My summer started off slow on the course but then it was coming together when a strange pain in the left knee after a drive on the 3rd hole left me in a lot of pain. 3 holes later I sat on the bench and watched the Saturday roll up pass by. A scan revealed a tear to a tendon and a small fracture to the lower knee bone so no golf since early June. I just hope I do get back out there before October

In terms of events, I had a very kind invite to Royal Cinque Ports to celebrate their 100 years and boy what a golf course and what a day. The weather could not have been kinder nor the hospitality. Many thanks.

There was, in the end, a decent turn out for The Carr hosted this year by the Maidenhead GC with 60 players taking part

On 29 July the Sandy Herd/JH Taylor (Challenge Cup) and Doug Lumsden Trophies were played for at Burnham Beeches GC



A hot and sunny day, but great competitive golf.

The results:



Sandy Herd - Tim DeCastro



JH Taylor - Paul Bailey



Doug Lumsden – Neil Gibson

Entries to the Douglas Johns Pairs have been plentiful this year with 32 pairs signed up - I just need to get West Byfleet to let us have enough tee times!

Please keep enjoying golf while you can, stay fit and healthy

See you all soon

Kind Regards

Nigel Watson
AGA Hon Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Fellow Artisans.

Not much to report at the moment. The finances remain in good health. We recently received our annual grant from England Golf. This money helps us to keep costs down for entry fees and therefore subsidise the overall cost for each competition. This ensures we can book and play top courses at more affordable prices.

Should you have any questions about the finances let me know and I will endeavour to answer them.

Enjoy the rest of your golfing summer.

Warren Francis
Hon Treasurer

Southern Captain's Report

Hope this message find my fellow artisans enjoying the great golfing weather

Having just returned from the Northern AGA event in Cleveland I would like to congratulate Guy, Neil and Paul for organising a fantastic event. Truly a wonderful few days. I'd recommend any artisan to attend in the future.

These special events bring home to me how important is to attend as many of these as I possibly can. Who knows what the future holds and I don't want to look back when I can't do these things with regrets. As ever, thanks to all the committee who put all so much effort into making the AGA such a great institution. Have a great summer enjoy the weather.

Happy golfing
All the best

Bill Goodyear
Captain

Northern Captain's Report

The Northern Artisans tournament at Cleveland Golf Club Redcar on 22 & 23 June, was a successful and well attended by Artisans from the North and South, but a big thank you to Paul Blagg, Neil Alverson and the Northern Artisans Captain Guy Ellis Clarke for all the hard work they have put into making this a successful Tournament.

The annual tournament this year was held at Cleveland golf club in Redcar. The weather was unbelievably good, so hot that the professional had to go out to the course on the 2nd day to rehydrate some players with bottles of water, which was a nice gesture. The course was playing

tough, but fair, due to the recent rain allowing the rough to go mad and almost grow in front of your very eyes! Like all courses, the game is easy if you keep your ball on the closely mown grass, but that is easier said than done.

The field was greatly reduced from previous years, which could be to do with location or cost of travel/fuel but I think it was due to the change in Captaincy of the Northern section! The previous captain, Terry Lewis, was like the Pied Piper and had a loyal following! It was great to see so many of the Southern Artisans in attendance including some new faces to the north. Everybody is more than welcome to play in the tournament and I hope that we can increase the numbers again next year, when the tournament hopes to be held in the Birmingham area.

The field was broken into 3 divisions, as usual, plus the Senior (over 60) section, with about 20 players in each. Full results are available on the website, but I believe everybody enjoyed themselves in the glorious sunshine. I would like to thank Paul Blagg (Tournament secretary) and Neil Alveston (Northern secretary) for running the tournament in a super smooth fashion, such that we were able to have the presentation early, allowing us to be put to sleep later on by the lacklustre England FC performance!

Congratulations to all the winners, but special mention must go to Tim Pacey from Hook Heath Artisans, who returned up North, to his early years home course and won the scratch trophy. There is a photo of him with the trophy below and his photo of the 1st hole taken from the 1st tee.



We look forward to doing it all over again next year, hopefully with more players, where we can share our great camaraderie and laughter (and a few drinks) once again.

Happy golfing.

Guy Ellice-Clark
Northern Captain

Life Member

In November 2025 Peter Williams was appointed an Honorary Life Member of the AGA for services rendered to Artisan golf over the past half century. In May of this year this distinguished award was marked by a celebratory lunch at Royal Liverpool Golf Club. Mr Anthony Shone D.L. presided in his capacity as senior ex captain of RLGC Also present were Mr Joe Pinnington, Northern AGA President; His Honour Robert Warnock, AGA Vice President and Mr Nigel Lawrence K.C. AGA Vice President. Peter was thanked for all his work for the Association, in particular, and his contribution to Artisan golf in general at Hoylake. Peter responded with a gracious and witty speech to the acclaim of all present.



Peter joined the Village Play in 1974. He was a valuable asset to that club and Hoylake, both as an administrator and an expert electrician. He became the Artisan Representative in 1983 and within one year was appointed Assistant Secretary of the Association and Captain Elect of the Village Play. The following year saw him win the Artisans 36 hole competition, wonderfully named 'The Sir Lindsay Parkinson Rosebowl' at Seaton Carew.

Following his first year of captaincy of the Village Play, Peter sat as Vice Chairman of Village Play and continued in his role as the Artisan Representative for the North. Between 1991 and 1995 he held three further honorary posts, namely Competition Secretary, Secretary and Treasurer. His second term of Captain Village Play commenced in February 2000.



I had the pleasure of working with Peter for some 20 years on the RLGV / Village Play Joint Committee in my capacity as President Village Play. Not surprisingly Peter was extraordinarily knowledgeable about all aspects of local and national artisan golf. With quiet and relentless efficiency, he arranged tournaments, called and coordinated meetings, prepared detailed agendas and liaised with the Association and all affiliated clubs.

In 2012 he was appointed the Northern Artisans' Secretary – an office he held with distinction for the following 14 years!

Shortly before his retirement from his administrative duties for artisan golf Peter was appointed a Vice President of the AGA.

Sadly, Peter has had to hang up his clubs due to illness, but he remains a much admired and respected member of the golfing community at Hoylake. We keep in touch with each other when the beer flows gently and the stories of the past 50 years or so receive a bit of a polish. His appointment as an Honorary Life Member has been well earned and thoroughly deserved.

Robert Warnock
AGA Vice President

Farnham

It all started with a message through the Farnham Artisans website from Alan Hall, who was trying to uncover the story behind his uncle, Spencer Chapman, winning the News of the World National Championship Cup in 1937. Along with a treasured family photograph showing Spencer with the trophy and AGA Secretary Billy Gardner, Alan wondered if any records of the event still existed.



The enquiry prompted a bit of detective work. After speaking with Barney from Hook Heath of then SAGU and with further research by Barney and Patrick Cunningham, the mystery was finally solved.

Spencer Chapman, of Copthorne Village Golf Club, had in fact won the prestigious J.H. Taylor Trophy in 1937 – one of two historic trophies presented to the Artisan movement by Lord Carr, owner of the *News of the World*. The J.H. Taylor Trophy, still competed for today, is awarded to single-figure golfers and is now well over 100 years old.

Photographs of the trophy were sent to Alan, helping to reconnect a family's treasured memories with an important piece of Artisan golfing history. In return, Alan has kindly offered to donate copies of his historic photographs to Farnham Artisans of which that will be shared, ensuring they can be enjoyed by future generations.



It's a wonderful reminder that the history of Artisan golf isn't just recorded on trophies and scorecards—it's also preserved through the stories, photographs and friendships that continue to connect members and families across the decades.

Richard Davis
Farnham

Harewood Downs

Brian Brown of Harewood Downs will be celebrating his 100th birthday this August, marking the occasion as host of his much-loved Annual Texas Scramble. Despite a challenging winter for his health, Brian is determined to be fit and ready to take part on the day — a testament to the resilience that has defined his life.



Brian is one of the few remaining members of the Royal Navy Patrol Service who saw active duty during the Second World War. Serving as a radio operator on a minesweeper, he played a vital role in keeping his ship and the vessels under its protection safe from danger. His service remains a point of pride for all who know him.



After the war, Brian built a long and skilled career as a bricklayer, and as a true artisan he generously put those talents to work around the club. His craftsmanship is woven into the fabric of Harewood Downs.

Brian often jokes that *“it doesn't seem right to be in a care home and then be picked up to play golf”* — though he admits that a buggy is now essential. His humour, spirit, and love for the game continue to inspire everyone at the club.

Best wishes, Brian — enjoy this remarkable moment. You deserve every celebration.

Chris Hare
Secretary HDAGC

Moor Park

On Friday 03 July Moor Park Artisans Golf Club celebrated their Centenary with a Golf Day followed by a Celebration Dinner in the Moor Park Mansion. Ninety-two players competed in teams of four on a gloriously sunny day. The course was in excellent condition, attested by the many compliments received from the visiting guests.



MP Artisans and their Vice Presidents from the Parent club entertained the President of the AGA and President Elect of England Golf, Patrick Cunningham, President and Vice President of the Northern AGA, Joe Pinnington and Nigel Lawrence, AGA Chairman Rob Barnes, Treasurer Warren Francis, together with David Evitts and Grahame Roberts and Captain Bill Goodyear. Hertfordshire Golf was represented by their President Jane Walter and their Chair Jane Clarke.

Also represented were the Senior Golfers Society, Oxford and Cambridge, the NAPGC, Royal Cinque Ports Artisans (also celebrating their Centenary this year), Littlestone Artisans, and Artisans from our neighbouring Hertfordshire clubs.



Sponsorship was kindly received from BSE UK and from AR Racking.

MP Artisan Gordon Cooper very generously sponsored refreshments for all at the Halfway House. Gordon celebrates 70 years as an Artisan at MP in 2026 and was presented with a memento to mark this milestone at the Celebration Dinner.



Another MP Artisan Chris Kemp kindly sponsored Nearest the Pin at the 18th with a £100 voucher. All players had to play with a Hickory shafted club, and this was won by Deryck Walker (NAPGC).



The Celebration Dinner saw several other presentations. On behalf of the Parent Club, Captain Roy Fossett presented a Centenary Plate to Artisan Chairman Steve Martindale. This will be competed annually.



The HAGU also presented a Trophy, which they would also like to play annually. Following the Loyal Toast the Presentation of Prizes by the Ladies Captain Jessica Myers took place.

WINNING TEAMS:



1st: Paul Dillon (MPA), Grahame Roberts (AGA), Mick Russell (HAGU), and Jamie Marriot (Royal Cinque Ports)



2nd: Jane Walter (Hertfordshire Golf), Andy Oliver (MPA), Penny Cawood (MPA Vice President), and Mick Hassall



Nearest the Pin: 3rd Hole Richie Search (MP Head Greenkeeper)



10th Hole David Roy (MPA Vice President) Hole in One!!!



12th Hole Steve Orland (MPA)



18th Hole Deryck Walker (NAPGC)



Flowers being presented to Jessica, Moor Park Lady Captain 2026

This was followed by Speeches by:

Mr Neil Gibson

Mr Roy Fossett

Mr Steve Martindale

Mr Patrick Cunningham

Moor Park Artisans Captain

Moor Park Club Captain

Moor Park Artisans Chairman

President Elect England Golf



President Elect of England Golf, Patrick Cunningham

The entire evening was compered wonderfully by MP Artisan President and HAGU President, Jackie Nice. Jackie thanked everybody involved and closed the proceedings after being surprised with flowers from Larry Collom, MP Artisan. Larry and Jackie, along with Patrick Cunningham, were the organisers and coordinators of the Centenary Day celebrations, supported by the MP Artisan Centenary Committee.



Moor Park Artisan President, Jackie Nice receiving flowers

Moor Park Artisan Golf Club has a storied history. Coming into being under the Chairmanship of H.C. Femming Shepherd and its first President A.B.B. Wilson, the formation of an Artisan Club at Moor Park was virtually assured with the appointment of Sandy Herd as the first Professional of the Parent club in 1923. Born in 1868 at the home of golf, he had joined the St Andrews Golf Club in his teens and went on to serve as Captain of MP Artisans from its inception in 1926 until he died in 1944. He was the first of two MP Artisans that won the Open Championship, winning at Hoylake in 1902; the second was Arthur G. Havers who won at Troon in 1923, and who went on to serve as the second Captain of the Club from 1946 to 1954. Remarkably Sandy Herd played in his last Open in 1939 aged 71, and his appearances at the Championship covered a span of 54 years.

After its formation in April 1926, Moor Park Artisan Golf Club quickly filled its membership of sixty within weeks. Its members included such assorted professions as hairdressers, boot and shoe repairers, builders and decorators, as well as a photographer, the owner of a boat building company, and the founder of a provision and wine business in Rickmansworth. Perhaps the most unusual of all were a billiards marker and a page. The annual subscription was 5 shillings (25p).

The Club was blessed with wonderful support from the Parent Club from the very beginning and has continued to maintain good relations to this day. Many of its competitions honour past Presidents and Vice Presidents. Lord Leverhulme, whose company had acquired Moor Park from the Grosvenor family in 1919, became a Vice-President of MP Artisans and his name continues to adorn one of the Club's two singles matchplay competitions. Another of interest is the Pearson Cup, presented to the Club in 1935 by Herbert Pearson, the Professional at Haste Hill in Northwood and a good friend of Sandy Herd. Gordon Cooper, as mentioned above, celebrating his 70th anniversary since joining MP Artisan, first won this competition in 1956; his most recent victory was in 2022 shooting a gross score better than his age!

HM King George's Silver Jubilee in 1935 was marked by a game between the Parent Club and the Artisans. MP Artisans have continued and widened this tradition and now play several annual fixtures. Currently these matches are against the Moor Park Juniors, Moor Park Rabbits, and the PAA – a main club drinking society – and both with the Ladies in the Rose Bowl and against them in the Bristow Cup. In 1937, Rickmansworth Urban District Council purchased the Parent Club from the Leverhulme estate; it was not until 1994 that the Parent Club bought the freehold from the council. During WWII, the Army requisitioned Moor Park Mansion and its surrounding facilities. In February 1944, it became the Headquarters of the 1st Airborne Corps, and the Battle of Arnhem was planned in the Mansion during this time in the room now known as the Arnhem Room.

After the war, in 1946, the Moor Park Golf Club presented the Sandy Herd Trophy to the Artisan Golfers Association in memory of the Parent Club's first and long-serving professional. In 1953, the Hertfordshire Artisan Golf Union (HAGU) was formed under the Presidency of R.E.A. Bott of Porters Park GC with close support of W.R.P. Gronow and Gerald Nice, both members at Moor Park. The HAGU continues to host "The Gronow", a pairs competition, annually at Moor Park in the late spring. In a further sign of the continuity and support of the Parent Club, Gerald Nice was the current President Jackie Nice's father-in-law.

The 1960s saw the construction of the bar (how did it take so long!) and a kitchen area allowing the provision of meals and hospitality, an essential ingredient of Artisan Golf Club amenities for members and, equally important, for visiting teams and guests. In 1972, the Locker Room was added. It was also in the 1960s that the Parent Club first sought assistance from the Artisans towards the maintenance of the course. One unfortunate incident in the early 1980s caused considerable concern to the Parent Club and MP Artisans when the Herts Constabulary, acting on behalf on the Herts Local Licensing Authority, closed the Artisans bar on a hot Sunday morning as thirsty Artisans returned to the clubhouse. Apparently, no liquor license existed. The signatures of two Honorary Secretaries were involved, Mr Huband and Mr Hubbard. The similarity of these two signatures added considerably to the whole affair and introduced an element of farce.

The 1980s were notable for the number of Charitable "Classics" hosted by the Parent Club. These included the "Bob Hope Classic", the "Bruce Forsyth Pro-Am" and the "Four Stars". Because of the size of the events, in addition to MP Artisans, the Herts Artisan County Union harnessed its members to undertake the many, vital tasks to contribute to their smooth running. The Bob Hope Classic, for instance, required no less than 250 individual duties over the three days. MP Artisans continue to carry out such tasks, for example, ball-spotting for the Parent Club's Men's Captain's Day, and for external

events such as the regional Open qualifier that Moor Park has hosted for the last five years, the English Ladies Amateur in 2026, and the Carris Trophy.

Notwithstanding the Club has two Open Championship winners amongst its alumni, it has been blessed with some fantastic golfers who between them have enjoyed many notable achievements. Foremost amongst these was the winning of the Sandy Herd Trophy by Alex Millar in 1965 and John West in 1971. Incidentally Alex Millar won the Trophy a further four times after he moved to Denham Artisans. In addition, Gordon Cooper, Andy Oliver (also a current member), Alex Millar, John Horwood, and John West have won the Herts Scratch Strokeplay Championship. Andy Oliver (in the same year as the Strokeplay), John Horwood, Gary Tolley, and Dave Hammond have won the Herts Scratch Matchplay. Several of these players represented the Artisan County and full County sides for many years.

The Club continues to compete in the Tom Waddell Trophy, the competition for Hertfordshire Artisans, most recently winning the trophy in 2016, 2022, and 2025. Current Members also maintain strong representation at both AGA and HAGU events and the Club continues to accept invitations and arrange fixtures against fellow Artisan clubs: in 2026, these included Littlestone GC, the New Zealand GC and Royal Cinque Ports GC.

The Artisan Club now look forward with pride and satisfaction upon the happiest of relations with Moor Park Golf Club who have kindly encouraged and provided facilities for golf through its Artisan section for 100 years.

Mark Timpson
Moor Park

Obituaries

Robert Clark (1955-2026)

The Surrey Artisan golfing community has lost one of its most dedicated and respected figures with the passing of Robert Clark in April 2026, aged 70.

Robert was a proud member of Walton Heath Artisans Golf Club for more than five decades, having joined in 1973. Throughout his 53 years of membership, he gave outstanding service to the club and the wider Artisan game, leaving a legacy that will be remembered for many years to come.

At Walton Heath Artisans, Robert served on the committee for several decades and held many of the club's most important roles. He was elected Club Captain on two occasions and later served as Chairman for more than ten years, guiding the club with dedication, wisdom and an unwavering commitment to its future. In recognition of his exceptional contribution, he was appointed Vice President upon retiring from the Chairman's role.

Beyond Walton Heath, Robert was a passionate advocate for Artisan golf across the county. He served for many years on the Surrey Artisans Committee, was twice appointed County Captain of the Scratch Team, and later held the position of Surrey Artisans Chairman. His commitment to promoting and supporting the Artisan movement earned him the respect and admiration of players and officials throughout Surrey and beyond.

Robert was also an accomplished golfer in his own right. A formidable competitor, he won the Walton Heath Artisans Club Championship on three separate occasions, a testament to both his ability and his longevity in the game.



Prize giving in 2011 Robert with son Ben (left)

Among the many memories he leaves behind, one of the most special came for him in 2009, during his second term as club Captain. It was during the long-standing match Walton Heath Artisans play against L'Ancrese Golf Club in Guernsey. First played in 1953, the fixture holds a special place in the club's history, and that year, as the away Captain, Robert had the unique privilege of representing Walton Heath alongside both his father, George, and his son, Ben. The occasion saw three generations of the Clark family playing together for the club, a remarkable and memorable moment that perfectly reflected Robert's deep family connections and lifelong love of Artisan golf.



From left to right Ben Clark, Robert Clark, Joe Gillen (L'Ancrese Captain) and George Clark

Robert will be remembered not only for his achievements and service, but also for his friendship, integrity and wholehearted support of the game. His contribution to Walton Heath Artisans, Surrey Artisans and the wider golfing community was immense, and his presence will be greatly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Brian Hudson
Walton Heath Artisans

And finally ...

I am very disappointed not to have received more articles from Artisan Clubs. Your input is important to strengthen the camaraderie of the Artisans by sharing your news and funny anecdotes. Every club has a story to tell with larger than life characters, special events and celebrations that artisan golfers would be interested in reading about and maybe ideas will be sown for future reference.

During the period between now and the Winter edition, keep notes when something special happens at your club and when you receive the email from me asking for articles, you will have your memories to ready to send without having to wrack your brains trying to remember what's happened! Another thought would be to delegate the article to writing to a member of your club who has a way with words!

Camaraderie doesn't happen by accident; developing a strong sense of trust, accountability, and togetherness around club goals requires intentional effort.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and look forward to hearing from as many of you as possible in October.

The Editor