



LANCASHIRE SUPER SENIORS' GOLF TEAM

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TALKING SENIORS' GOLF: SPECIAL EDITION 2 APRIL 2020

The Newsletter of Lancashire Super Seniors

Welcome to our second Special Edition Newsletter. Now then, hands up those who have been keeping their golf swing/chipping/putting in fine fettle – or who are planning to do so? Or simply viewing recorded tournaments etc – or viewing those old TV shows vid Google such as The Big Three of Palmer, Player & Nicklaus, or even Shell's Wonderful World of Golf? However we keep things ticking over, one thing is for sure, a return to the fairways can't come soon enough. In the meantime, enjoy this month's read.....

HONOURARY MEMBERSHIP CONFERRED TO KEITH GARDNER; CONGRATULATIONS!:

This month we lead with the exciting news Keith G has been elected an Honourary Member of Stand Golf Club. As a Past Captain and serving as a Board Member over many years, Keith's honour is richly deserved. Every LSS player will applaud Stand's decision to award Keith this very special recognition for services so selflessly rendered.

As with most of us, golf has played a major role in Keith's life, including a spell on the LUGC Executive, in addition to playing a major role in supporting competitive scratch golf throughout Greater Manchester.

RECALLING PAST GOLFING MEMORIES, HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS:

KEITH GARDNER – LSS TEAM CAPTAIN:

And, talking of the Big Three above, this month we lead this all-new segment of **TALKING SENIORS' GOLF** with Keith G's earliest recollections of his golf career:

"My golf career began in 1960 when mum and dad became Steward & Stewardess at Fishwich Hall GC, I being twelve years old. Having seen members playing a game I had never heard of, took to having a go myself. Obviously, I became addicted and the rest, as they say, is history.

1963 was my first Open Championship, I went too, taken by a club member. I had heard about Arnold Palmer through the media and what a fantastic player he was. On arrival at Royal Lytham GC we went to the Practice Ground and there he was, my boyhood hero. Watching Palmer strike the golf ball was something that has always stood in my memory.



Palmer, Player and Nicklaus who, between them, amassed 34 major titles from 1958 to 1986, with Nicklaus holding the all-time record of 18 majors and also finishing runner-up 19 times

From Royal Lytham we went to Fairhaven GC on the way home. On arrival and looking across the golf course a small crowd was walking with a group of players. In the group were Jack Nicklaus, Gary Player, Bruce Devlin and Phil Rodgers, who lost the 1963 Open in a play off to Bob Charles. These days I have never forgotten.

1995/96 saw the British Seniors' again at Royal Lytham GC – walking the golf course for two days with Arnold Palmer, Gary Player, Brian Waites (Assistant Professional at Hesketh GC in his earlier days) and Bob Charles. Took an action photo of Arnold Palmer to be signed by him the following year. It's in my office on display to this day."

Keith Gardner

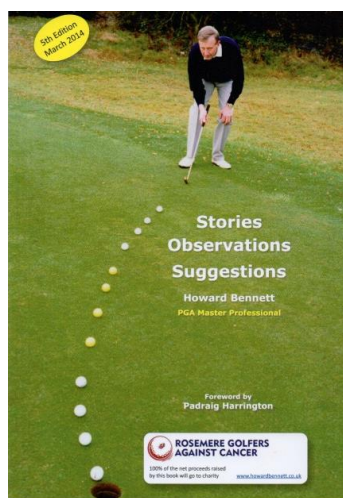
HOWARD BENNETT: PGA MASTER PROFESSIONAL:

Many will remember Howard, long-time Head Professional at Shaw Hill GC from 1962 before moving to Duxbury Park GC in 1977 – all prior to accepting the position as Coach to the Golfing Union of Ireland in 1987, where Howard coached messrs McIlroy, Harrington, McGinley, McDowell and Darren Clarke.

Now retired, Howard is today sharing his knowledge and understanding of the golf swing with a whole new audience and offers the following exclusively for LSS members:

in everyday life, we have boundaries to observe. These boundaries sometimes are designated by a line, which indicates where we should stop and how we should proceed, for example, at a crossroad. White lines also specify when a ball is in or out of play at a whole host of sporting venues, football, rugby, hockey and tennis.

In golf, we can take the image of a white line, and visualise it between us and the ball. This line is useful for us before taking our address position. When we stand on one side (outside the line), this is where we gather all the necessary information. The lie of the ball, wind direction, and so on. We can then picture the shot, make our decision on what club to use, commit to the decision with no doubt and cross over the line to go into our address position. Once inside the line, now we can execute with full commitment to the shot we have decided on, be that a drive, iron shot, chip or putt. Inside the line our subconscious mind should be in charge and be in automatic, to give us every chance of making a good shot.



Howard's not for profit book: 'Stories, Observation, Suggestion's' - raises funds for Cancer charities

We should do this for every shot played during a round of golf. We, therefore, make a new decision for every shot, regardless of whether we take 70,80,90 or even 100 shots. Golf is not like tennis in that we do not get a second serve. We have to do it the first time, and that is what makes the game of golf a challenge.

We stand and fall by our decision making, both in golf and life, and we don't always get them right. There is wisdom in an old saying, "It's not how good your good shots are, but it's how well you handle the bad shots which gets our best score on the card."

Howard Bennett

IAN WOOLLEY MBE JP: PAST COUNTY SENIORS' SECRETARY; PAST PRESIDENT LUGC; PAST CAPTAIN PLEASINGTON GC:

Ian, who served as County Seniors' Secretary during the 1990s, succeeding County Seniors' Founder, Ormskirk GC Past Captain, Dick Berry, recalls the gestation of Pleasington GC's Rut Niblick Seniors' Open:

"THE RUT NIBLICK.

The Rut Niblick is an 18 hole Open Seniors event started at Pleasington Golf Club in 1991 . After the David Marsh Seniors Trophy it is the second oldest such event in the North West . I always played in the Marsh and enjoyed it so much – but it was a 2 day event . Next year 2021 will be the 30th Anniversary of the Rut Niblick – and all being well I hope to play even though I will be 88 by then . The date will be as usual on the 1st Monday in July which avoids any clashes with other Senior events including the Lancashire Seniors Matches against the 5 other Northern Counties. Sadly it is likely that Coronavirus will prevent holding the 29th Rut Niblick this year.

The name Rut Niblick originates from an antique golf club called the Rut Niblick which is kept on display at Pleasington Golf Club – made around 1880-1890 . It was presented to the Club by Ian Woolley Past President of the Lancs Union of Golf Clubs and a member of Pleasington since he was a junior in his teens from about 1946. A Rut Niblick is a hickory shafted club with a heavy narrow steep faced iron head specially designed to enable a golf ball to be hacked out of a deep rut made by the old fashioned iron rimmed cartwheels . This could happen in the 19th century when a horse was pulling a cart with great big cartwheels across fairways. A Rut Niblick was really the old fashioned equivalent of today's Sandwedge . In those days there was no relief for a ball buried in such a lie caused by the cart-track – it had to be played where it lay !!

In 1991 I was a Senior myself being 58 . Amateur Seniors in UK were and still are aged 55 and over. So I had been playing Seniors Golf and enjoyed it so much that I was playing well enough to play in the British Seniors Amateur Championship - a 3 day event run by the R&A. The first time I played in the British Seniors was at Deal. And I was thrilled to qualify for the last day . In those days besides attracting all the best Seniors from all over the UK. There was always a strong contingent of Seniors from the USA – some of whom every year played up to 20 or more 3day Senior Events plus practice days in the USA. I don't know when they had time to work. Some of them were extremely good. And they were great to play with as they were so enthusiastic .

So it was with excitement that in 1991 Pleasington organised The Rut Niblick – with the overall winner being the golfer who returned the Best Gross Score . And there were age group nett prizes for each 5 year age groups. We need not have worried . Entries came pouring in - including from one of the best Amateur Seniors at that time – Gordon Edwards from Cheshire who was English Seniors Champion . He would go on to win the English Seniors Championship a few more times . I was delighted when Gordon won the inaugural Rut Niblick . We were off to a flying start . Gordon played in the Rut Niblick every year until just a few years ago when he died.

In 1991 we had just 1 golfer over 70 – a Yorkshire man from Moortown. I could not believe that somebody so old was still playing golf !! Now it is commonplace. These days the Rut Niblick even has 2 nett prizes for the Over 80's who can play off the Red Forward Tees which is long enough at 5728 yards. Nowadays there is even a national Open Amateur Seniors event for the over 80's and they get a good entry.



Ian Woolley (third right, front row) alongside Albert Woodtli (centre, front row) together with their County Seniors' team mates at Davyhulme Park GC during the 1990s

The Rut Niblick every year attracts a very good field - we have about a maximum of 150 entries mainly from all over the Northwest . We used to encourage a Team Entry as well as Individual Entries . But we had to drop that idea because you cannot play in a Team and at the same time mark an Individual card. But The Rut Niblick is still an excellent day out on one of the best inland Courses always in its best condition in early July and some tasty food to enjoy in the club house . We offer more prizes than any other Seniors event in the Northwest. And people meet old friends for a chat in the Bar.

We have had some very well-known golfers win the Rut Niblick . After Gordon's 1991 win there was a very good golfer from Scotland called William Watt . Then a local golfer from Darwen won – Eddie Oates - a member of the Oates golfing family of Colin and their father. Eddie won 3 times on the trot – which I do not think will ever be equalled. Other famous winners include Alan Squires – multiple English Seniors Champion ; Cliff Bowman – Captain of Lancashire; Mike Gray - Lancashire Seniors Captain; Tony Holt - 3 times Lancashire Seniors Champion; and Russel Hamer - a great supporter of Lancashire Super Seniors . Someday I hope my good friend Trevor Foster will also be a winner – he really is a star having won the British Amateur Seniors.

Pleasington is so proud to organise this prestigious event – The Rut Niblick has always been one of the very best Senior Golfing Competitions in the North West and beyond . Long may it continue.

With best wishes to all my golfing friends.

IAN WOOLLEY MBE. JP.

2020 LANCASHIRE SUPER SENIORS MATCHES & EVENTS:

Match No	Date	Match	Venue	Mgr	Cancelled: YES/NO
1	16 th April	Pre-season get-together	Stand GC	JVC	Yes
2	29 th April	Formby Hall Captain's team	Formby Hall G&CC	KCH	Yes
3	12 th May	Heysham Seniors	Heysham GC	JVC	Yes
4	19 th May	Southport & DGA Seniors*	Southport Old Links GC	KCH	Yes
5	28 th May	NWMGA*	Worsley GC	RC	Yes
6	25 th June	Davyhulme Park Seniors	Davyhulme Park GC	KCH	TBC
7	7 th July	Bentham GC Seniors	Bentham GC	KCH	TBC
8	23 rd July	Isle of Man Super Seniors* (Irish Sea Golf Challenge Match)	Heysham GC	RC	TBC
9	27 th July	South Lincs GASeniors* /Ashton-in-Makerfield Seniors)	Ashton-in-Makerfield GC	JVC	TBC
10	4 th August	Formby GC Seniors	Formby GC	KCH	TBC
11	10 th August	Morecambe GC Seniors	Morecambe GC	JVC	
12	17 th August	Cumbria Super Seniors*	TBC	RC	
13	25 th August	Denton GC Seniors	Denton GC	JVC	
14	7 th September	Bolton GA Seniors*	Hart Common GC	RC	
15	10 th Sept	LSS Palatine Trophy	Davyhulme Park	KCH	
16	15 th Sept	Silverdale GC Seniors	Silverdale GC	JVC	
17	21 st Sept	Clitheroe GC Seniors	Clitheroe GC	JVC	
18	8 th Oct	End of season competition	Ashton-in-Makerfield GC	KCH	

* Scratch match

Event Manager code: RC: Rory Callan JVC: Jeff Clements KCH: Keith Hick

Note: Following the recent demise of Bury GA, the match planned for 9th July at Brightmet GC, is cancelled

THE 'SINGING CADDIE'

This month we are delighted to introduce Paul Stevens, known world-wide as the 'Singing Caddie'. The longest-serving caddy on the European Tour, Paul began his career caddying for some of the most famous names in golf, including Sam Snead and Tommy Bolt. Paul will be sharing some of the highlights from his time on Tour in future editions of our Special Editions, including bagman for Tom Watson, Greg Norman etc. Now living in Australia with wife Maggie, Paul visits the UK each year for a series of concerts and after-dinner engagements and was all ready for his 2020 UK tour when Covid-19 struck.

Paul treated my Ganton Society visit to Hesketh last year to trip down memory lane and below are reproduced just a small selection of the feedback he has received, starting with last year's Ganton Society event:

Paul: Hi everybody! Just wanted to say how much I enjoyed speaking to members of The Ganton Society recently, after their day at Hesketh Golf Club

Although i only performed a small part of my normal talk, which normally lasts for between 40 minutes to an hour (or longer!), i was really impressed with your politeness, attentiveness and extremely enthusiastic response and long, sustained applause at the conclusion, allied to the many congratulatory and complimentary words afterwards.

Being a massive fan of Ganton Golf Club, which has always been one of my favourites, and is where I caddied for Nick Faldo, allied to my long standing admiration of Harry Colt and Alaister MacKenzie, I was really delighted to accept the invitation to speak to you by my dear friend, Keith Hick.

Have decided to forward a couple of the latest, recent testimonials (including nice words from Keith) from my UK tour, in case any of you may feel inclined to show an interest in engaging me or passing my info on to your respective Golf Clubs and in particular your Captains to be for 2020?

Will always play golf with members/clients or guests (which is always good for a laugh at my swing!) and will never dash away after the event, as I prefer to make friends and have conversation afterwards at the bar and will normally perform an impromptu Q & A for everyone, if desired?

Thanking all of you once again and hoping to hear from you but please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information

Yours in Golf

Paul Stevens aka The Singing Caddie!

www.caddielegend.mysite.com

www.craftweb.org/web/paulstevens

+61 417776102 (FaceTime and WhatsApp)

'THE SINGING CADDIE': TESTIMONIALS

Hi Paul, (The Singing Caddie! After dinner speaker/raconteur extraordinaire!) Re your after dinner talk on July 3rd 2019 at Hesketh Golf Club

What a brilliant wrap to the day yesterday - your talk was superb and everyone is now a little richer in their understanding of life on tour through the eyes of someone so well qualified to share the anecdotes and insights surrounding the world's top golfers - thank you!

As I mentioned, I will be distributing a summary of the day to the Ganton Society membership together with photographs, which will also include your web site address should member(s) decide to book you at their clubs. Looking forward to seeing you again soon.

Best regards,

Keith Hick-Ganton Golf Society

Hello everyone,

Those of us fortunate enough to have enjoyed being entertained by Paul, as our 'after dinner speaker' at this year's Ganton Society Summer Meeting at Hesketh will recall, Paul's fountain of anecdotes and experiences during his time as one of the world's leading caddies makes for enthralling listening.

Paul has now returned to his home in Australia following his successful tour of the UK during this summer and is now planning for his return to these shores in 2020.

Should your golf club - or yourselves - require a professional entertainer with decades of experience, Paul can be contacted via his email address shown on this note.

Simply Google, 'thesingincaddie' to view Paul's web site.

Best regards

Keith

Dear Paul

Hope you are well and pleased to report that Karen Jackson at Porterbrook has sent a glowing testimonial for us to use in publicity:

"On behalf of Porterbrook and our guests at our Annual Golf Day we would like to give a huge thanks to Paul Stevens for entertaining us with his wit and endless stories about many golfing legends.

The level of humour and anecdotes kept our attention throughout the dinner. A truly memorable evening."

Many thanks Paul and speak soon

Best wishes

Jane

Jane French, Director, The Right Address; UK – on behalf of Porterbrook Leasing

Hi Paul,

Thanks again for coming along and sharing your experiences with us last night. I certainly had a great night and it seems like everyone I spoke to did too. I'll certainly get a testimonial sorted and over to you shortly.

I'm glad you had an enjoyable evening and felt welcomed into the club. Enjoy your time back in the UK and hopefully you get over to the Open at Royal Portrush, where you caddied for the legendary Arnold Palmer!

All the best

John

John Murray

Head Professional

Moray Golf Club

Lossiemouth

LSS SPECIAL EDITION NEWSLETTERS: We're awaiting your contribution:

The idea is very simple – we plan to keep our Newsletter Special Editions flowing until we once again tee the ball up and watch, with a mixture of exhilaration and relief, our tee shot soar into the distance. So, here we go; the rules are there are no rules, only a few guidelines to help shape our Special Editions, which are:

- Each Special Edition will contain a selection of memories, anecdotes, recollections from your association with golf
- These can typically include highlights from your golfing career as a player or team member
- Great players seen at first-hand, spectacular shots witnessed or an event which left a lasting impression
- Humour
- Photographs, cartoons, drawings and diagrams, either as individual items or in support of your contribution
- And...keeping bang up to date, any amusing stories from our respective 'confined to barracks' experiences

Each edition will also keep everyone up to date with the current fixture situation. As can be seen below. Where a match has TBC alongside, a decision will be taken whether or not to proceed.

OVER TO YOU.....

So, come and share your memories, stories, funnies, or whatever, to help keep us smiling through these trying times and send them to Keith H.....you never know where this might lead.....

In the meantime, stay safe and well for your families and yourselves

AND FINALLY.....THE OLD HENRY COTTON CAR TYRE PRACTICE REGIME BROUGHT UP TO DATE:

No golf? – no problem! I've reprised Henry's practice tip he introduced to the world of golf many, many years ago.....



Using an old car tyre, minus wheel insert and with an old club (a 7 iron here), I hit into the tyre with a full swing, gripping the club as follows:

- 5 x left hand only
- 5 x right hand only
- 5 x both hands..then repeat as often as you wish

The tyre absorbs the force of impact and doesn't damage either the club, or more importantly, your wrists/hands. After a period of use and when you return to playing again, hitting a golf ball feels so much easier because, even when taking a divot, there is far less resistance than hitting the tyre.

PS: Don't forget my 12.5% commission from your winnings – all measured in pints of Guinness!

Best regards,

Keith Hick
Team Secretary
6th April 2020

Keith Gardner
Team Captain