



## LANCASHIRE SUPER SENIORS' GOLF TEAM

### Secretary

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# TALKING SENIORS' GOLF: SPECIAL EDITION 3; APRIL 2020

## *The Newsletter of Lancashire Super Seniors*

### KEITH GARDNER – TRIBUTES FROM HIS LSS GOLFING COLLEAGUES:

KEITH HICK, LSS SECRETARY, WRITES:

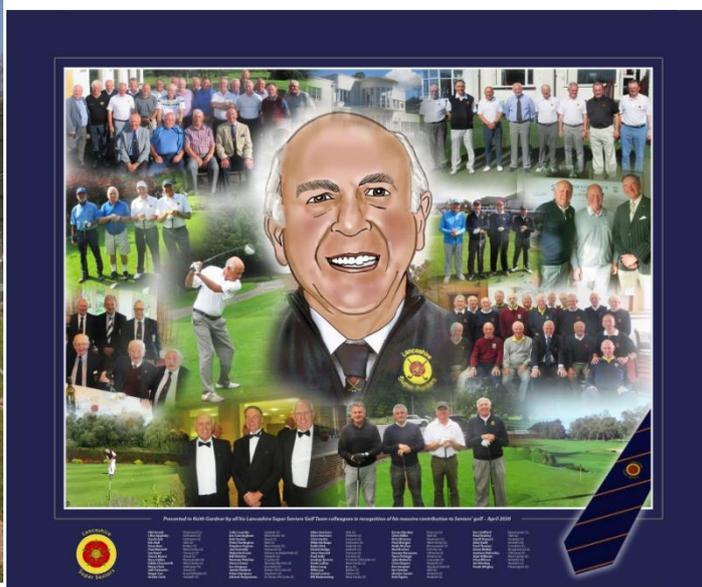
***"This month we pay tribute to LSS Team Captain, Keith Gardner, who passed away on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2020. Keith's diagnosis of inoperable Liver Cancer, during the second half of 2018, came out of the blue. There had been no advance warning and it was only by chance Keith learnt the devastating news. This occurred the day following our LSS match against Bolton Golf Association at Dunscar GC when an impromptu eye test revealed further tests were required, leading to the diagnosis.***

*Recovering from the shock, both to himself and his family, Keith remained committed to all that mattered in his life. Adopting a 'business as usual' approach, it was less than easy for everyone who knew him, family, friends and golfing pals, to realise his time was limited.*

*Nevertheless, this was the mark of the man, continuing to pour energy and commitment into LSS. During our oft and long telephone conversations in ensuring the continuation and evolution of our 'baby', Keith recognized the need to secure someone to replace him when the time arose. Thankfully, Keith's Stand GC colleagues, Jeff Clements and Staurt Bourn, agreed to assume the tasks associated with the role of Team Captain.*

*Sharing his plans with our LSS Working Party, acceptance was immediate and, as the 2019 season got under way, it was 'business as usual'. The 2019 Pre-Season Day at Stand GC was another success. As matches were ticked off the Fixture List, Keith played and captained the team with his usual mixture of enthusiasm and aplomb, all whilst providing the engine room of team selection and generally overseeing all ran like clockwork.*

*And so was born the idea of presenting Keith with a gift from his LSS colleagues, discretely agreed by our Working Party members late last year as a means of saying a huge "thank you" to Keith from all our LSS players, past & present.*



***It's April 8<sup>th</sup> and Keith Gardner prudly holds his framed presentation montage following safe delivery by Jeff Clements***

*Conceived and designed by myself, our gift took the form of a photo montage (shown above), and carries the names of everyone who has represented LSS between 2015-2019. The montage incorporates*

photographs taken at various LSS matches over the past five seasons with a central portrait of Keith G by USA-based British Artist, Dave Foster, with Winter & Kidson Multi Media producing the printed artwork Arrangements were made for Jeff Clements to deliver the montage to Keith at his home, in lieu of the original idea of presenting the montage to Keith at our 2020 Pre-Season Day. Keith was thrilled and delighted saying, "It is fantastic – please pass on my thanks to everyone at Lancashire Super Seniors". We are pleased to report that Keith, together with wife Maureen, were quite intrigued about this 'special delivery from LSS' and were thrilled upon opening the package to see the contents. Recollections of LSS matches, the length and breadth of Lancashire, came flooding back, together with all the players and organizers who had become such good golfing pals.

Although the circumstances of the 'presentation' were a little unusual, with Jeff Clements handing Keith the framed montage 'over the garden wall' owing to the current social distancing regime, the handover was successful.

Working with Keith was a pleasure and a joy. In late 2014 we each recognized the demand by County Senior colleagues, whose handicaps and age debarred further representational status, to retain some form of continuity. Our combined skillset of O&M, contacts and 'can-do' attitude ensured our team-mates' desires were fulfilled. The end result is what we enjoy today. We set our goals high and standards higher; every single player who has represented LSS has helped fulfill that early promise.

A few years ago we visited Ashton & Lea GC, where Keith was a member in the late 60's. I vividly remember his pride when he showed me the 1969 Captains Prize honours board, with his name in gold leaf. Present-day Penrith GC member, John Pinder, together with Keith, Penwortham GC's David Webster and myself enjoyed a game at Hesketh in 2018 to rekindle old golfing memories, with John and Keith recalling their time as club colleagues at Ashton & Lea some fifty years earlier.

A keen student of the game, to Keith every shot demanded absolute concentration and wo-betide the shot slightly mis-timed or off-line – the next one would invariably be to his satisfaction. A single-figure handicap golfer for the majority of his life, a one-time member of the LUGC Executive, Council Member and Past Captain of Stand GC, Keith's home club announced the ultimate honour recently, electing him as an Honourary Member.

In concluding this personal tribute, I simply say, thank you, Keith – for everything.

My heartfelt condolences go to Keith's wife, Maureen and all Keith's family".

Keith Hick

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### **Jeffrey Clements**

Keith Gardner was my friend and golf partner over a number of years. He introduced me to LSS for which I am grateful. He had confided me about his illness a long time ago. I had known for some time that his days were short. The manner in which he dealt with his shocking news was remarkable. I played 9 holes with him just before lock-down. He was his old self. Berating himself for what he considered to be a poor shot – (It wasn't a bad one really!) His strength, courage and fortitude were incredible. He did not want me or others to have pity; he wanted us to go on as normal during the short time we both knew he had. So that meant discussions/late evening phone calls about the LSS 2020 season. Topics of conversation whilst playing golf included, would Preston North End get promotion, what were the R&A going to do about the (Unfair – to low handicap golfers) handicap system and slow play, etc..

When I saw him to deliver the LSS Montage I could see he was starting to fade. That was the last time we spoke.

Stand Golf Club will when appropriate honour his passing.

I will miss him.

God bless you. Rest in Peace Keith.

Jeff Clements

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**Lindsay Groves**

Keith this is very sad news . Please pass my sympathies to Keith's family. Thanks Lindsay

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**Doug Craig**

*KEITH So sorry to hear the news about Keith G - he will be sadly missed by all who knew him.  
Doug/Davyhulme Park Golf Club*

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**John Pinder**

*Keith,*

*Thank you for including me in the notification of Keith's passing.*

*I knew he had been battling with cancer but had no idea that he was so poorly.*

*As you know Keith and myself went back to when we were both at Ashton & Lea when he was assistant Greenkeeper.*

*Whilst I remember those days clearly I will also treasure the last round we had with him at Hesketh and glad that I am able to recall that occasion.*

*His commitment to golf was impressive and those who have enjoyed the golf associated with LSS should be truly thankful for his dedication.*

*He will indeed be truly missed.*

*Best wishes to you Keith, and this sad occasion should heighten our resolve to have a round as soon as this lockdown is released. Time, good company and the joy of golf is a precious thing.*

*John*

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**Swamy Narayana**

*Hi Keith,*

*It's so sad to hear and I didn't even know that Keith had cancer. What a terrible loss.*

*My regards and best wishes to Mrs Gardner*

*Take care*

*Swamy*

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**Malcolm Evans**

*Hi Keith ,*

*I heard this morning from Gary Lacy that Keith had passed away. he will be sadly missed by us all at LSS .we all know how instrumental along with yourself. in the formation of our great society.*

*A very sad time indeed*

*R.I.P Keith.*

*A Keith Gardner memorial trophy would be a fitting tribute to a true gentleman.*

*God bless.*

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**Dave Harrison**

*So sad Keith*

*And how poignant for Keith to pass away on the day that we should have been at Stand for our pre season event.*

*Like Malcolm, as you know, I'd been thinking along the lines of a memorial trophy and, if Maureen is content, the pre season competition would be the perfect way to open up our LSS golfing year by commemorating Keith and his contribution to golf in Lancashire.*

*Cheers*

*Dave*

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**John Holt**

*Afternoon Keith*

*This news is a shock to me, I was unaware his illness had returned. A stalwart of golf.*

*John Holt*

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**David Webster**

*Keith*

*Very sad to hear the news.*

*We are in a terrible period for us all.*

*Please stay safe and we will get through the other end one day. We had some good*

*competitive games and Keith was a gritty performer and will be missed by us all.*

*David Webster.*

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**Mike Heritage**

*Keith.*

*So sorry to hear the news.*

*A memorial day, would be most fitting. Raising a glass a great person.*

*Stay safe.*

*Best wishes.*

*Mike. H.*

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**Roger Cox**

*Hello Keith, What sad news. I was so sorry to hear it this morning. Tremendous guy with a great work ethic for building and maintaining Super Seniors Golf in Lancashire. We on the committee should be encourage by Keith's dedication to continue the work and to build on his efforts. RIP Keith you will always be remembered.*

*Best wishes and health to all of you*

*Roger*

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**John Roberts**

*I am very sad to hear of Keith's passing. He was a great friend and I shall miss him.*

*It is hard to come to terms with these things. Remembering the good times.*

*All my thoughts,*

*Regards,*

*John Roberts*

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**Archie Crick**

*Hi Keith*

*I read your email with great sadness. Keith G was such gentleman - he will be sorely missed by all who knew him. It would be fitting to hold a memorial in his honour when time and circumstances permit.*

*Take care*

*Archie*

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**Terry Pottage**

*Hi Keith*

*Thank you for the news I having been dreading receiving I certainly didnt expect it so soon. Keith was a gentleman of the highest quality and someone who always made you comfortable to be around and I always enjoyed playing golf with him. His enthusiasm for LSS was infectious god willing when we have our match at Denton at the end of August we will raise a glass or two to his memory.*

*My condolences go out to all his family and friends. RIP Keith*

*With great sadness*

*Terry Pottage*

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**Ian Clark**

*So terribly sorry to hear the sad news. I met Keith through your games against us. He was such a wonderful ambassador for all that's good in the sport.*

*His influence, work and great personality will be sadly missed by all who had the good fortune to know him.*

Regards,

*Van Clark*

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**Paul Stanley**

*I can only reiterate what others have said very sad news and so quick in the end - it was less than a week ago Keith was still sending out emails  
His input into seniors golf has been immense and we have a great legacy in the form of LSS which no doubt we will all strive to maintain.  
RIP Keith may the fairways always be green.*

*Paul*

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**John McMullan**

*Hi Keith*

*So sorry to hear that very sad news. Keith was a dear friend to all at Isle of Man Senior Golf. His enthusiasm in organizing the recent Irish Sea challenge match was infectious. It was a pleasure to play the matches in such a friendly and competitive atmosphere. I do hope we all continue to play these matches in Keith's memory.*

*Our heart felt condolences to his wife and family.*

*Kindest regards*

*John, and everyone at Isle of Man Senior Golf*

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**Alec Cooper**

*This news was a sad sad shock to us at Morecambe. He will be remembered as a true gentleman with enormous enthusiasm, respected by colleagues and opponents alike.  
Our future matches will not quite seem the same without him. R.I.P. Keith  
Alec Cooper, Morecambe Seniors Sec.*

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**Rory Callan**

*Very, Very sad news.*

*Great companion and very hard working in many aspects of golf but, in particular, his endless enthusiasm for LSS to succeed and grow.*

*He will be very sadly missed by all.*

*Rory*

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**Paul Bennett**

*Keith - One of the best. Enthusiastic, determined, driven and always a joy to play with and just to be in his company.*

*He will be sadly and greatly missed. Thinking of him and his family.*

*May all stay safe.*

*Paul B*

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**Chris Millar**

*Hi Keith,*

*So very sorry to hear of the passing of our dear pal Keith G.  
He will be sorely missed & I for one will miss his infectious smile & firm handshake. Keith made all of us so welcome into the LSS crew, a true golfing gent.*

*R.I.P. Keith.*

*Chris*

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**Eric Ball**

Hi Keith,

I have just picked up your email about Keith. Greatly saddened to hear of the passing of somebody who has done so much for the benefit of both the LSS and the game of golf. Could not agree more with the sentiments already expressed, we must do something to acknowledge the life of one of the "good guys".

Eric

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**Peter Darlington**

I was deeply saddened to hear that Keith has died. We knew he was ill, and has been for some time, but it still came as a deep shock. His legacy lives on in the wonderful group he has created, with yourself, in the Super Seniors. A true gentleman, who made everyone of us feel special and welcome. A lovely man, who left a lot of lovely memories, for all of us who shared time with him. His departure becomes a lesson in the way we live our lives, and the way we treat all around us. A great roll model. He will be missed.

My thoughts and condolences go out to his family.

Kind Regards

Peter Darlington.

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**Paul Kelly**

Although we all knew it was coming it was still a great shock. A lovely man I will miss him as I'm sure we all will. God bless you Keith and deepest sympathy to all the family

Much love



Paul.

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**John Howard**

Hi Keith, such sad news, only been a member of LSS for a short time but have been made to feel welcome especially by Keith. My heartfelt best wishes to his family and will hopefully see you all soon.

Regards John

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**Michael Curwen**

Much sadness from the Bentham Seniors Keith, he will be sadly missed. I'm assuming you never saw my email advising I have resigned from Bentham. It is no longer Bentham Golf Club, it is now "Bentham golf course". Best wishes to you and the Lancashire Super Seniors,

Sincerely

Michael Curwen

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**Alan Williams**

Hi Keith,

I'm so sad to hear of Keith's passing.

As you know I had the pleasure of partnering him on a few occasions with the Lancashire Super Seniors and I always found him to be really friendly and I remember he made me feel so welcome when I first joined the Seniors.

I'm sure the team will really miss his enthusiasm and love for the game as well as his friendship.

I'll always remember him very fondly.

Alan

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**Dave Hodge**

Hi Keith

Such sad news about Keith one of life's best will be sadly missed

Regards David

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**Ian Woolley**

*Very sorry to read the sad news.*

*Keith was an inspiration to many .*

*We will always admire his enthusiasm , skill and competence in everything he did.*

*He put so much back into golf organisation – as if to repay all the fun he had playing the great game we all love.*

*I send my sincere condolences to Maureen and all his close family*

*Ian Woolley*

*Past Team Organiser Lancashire Seniors 1993 – 2002 , LUGC President 2003-4*

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**Keith Morley**

*Hello Keith*

*Please accept my condolences for the loss of Keith Gardner. Rory told me, today, of his passing.*

*An inoffensive man, you were a good team organising LSS matches.*

*I did have an email chat with Keith a couple of weeks ago, and I was aware of his illness.*

*A nice man who will be missed.*

*Regards*

*Keith*

*Keith Morley*

*Morecambe Golf Club*

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**Peter Hampsey**

*I am very sorry to hear of Keiths death.I was truly shocked, I did not expect it so soon .He will be sadly missed by all.He worked so hard for us all.I have lost a friend. I wish his family my condolences God Bless.*

*Peter Hampsey*

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**Steve Rooke**

*I first came to know of Lancashire super seniors golf through a good friend of mine, Chris Rogers, and it was obvious that he was having some great fun and companionship, being involved in a society that was thriving year in year out.*

*So that got me thinking about Cumbria and it wasn't long before we got our act together. Besides the fact i am big pals with Chris, I also know Keith Hick, Rory Callan and Roger Cox very well.They immediately put me in touch with your Team Captain, Keith Gardiner. Right from the off his commitment to your cause was apparent. Keith was never going to let politics get in the way of the massive achievements that had already been achieved and quickly we arranged our first fixture at Grange-over-Sands GC in 2018 with hopefully our 3rd match to be played at Penrith later in August this year - and maybe Cumbria will even gets its 1st. win.*

*My first meeting with Keith was 'roughing it', playing a 4 ball match at Royal Birkers, Keith was one of my opponents and it didn't take long for his steely competitiveness to show .We had a super game, good craic in the clubhouse after ,everthing a good fourball of golf at our age should have.*

*It's obvious from all the messages I've read how Keith was regarded by the members of the Lancashire Super Senior set up and although i had only known him for a short time I can absolutely understand why, his commitment to the cause was remarkable.*

*Keith please convey our commiserations to his wife and family and tell her our thoughts are with them.When we play in August we will raise a glass to him - a man whom without your Super Seniors golf wouldnt be where it is today.*

**Steve Rooke**

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Steve Walker  
Hello Keith,  
What sad terrible news this is.  
It has come so quickly as Paul Stanley has said.

R.I.P. Keith Gardner. You will be sorely missed by all.

Steve.

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Ian Cunningham

Hi Keith.... so sad the passing of Keith, not a lot more to add that hasn't already been said about a truly fantastic chap, loved playing golf with him..... RIP Keith  
regards Ian

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Thank you to you all for your warm and fitting tributes to Keith, all of which will be shared with Keith's wife, Maureen and her family, via this Newsletter.

**Keith Hick**

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**COVID-19 UPDATE:** A potential return to action will be dependent upon government guidelines. Each monthly Special Edition Newsletter will publish a Fixtures update to ensure everyone is kept fully informed.

**2020 LANCASHIRE SUPER SENIORS MATCHES & EVENTS:**

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

Best regards,

**Keith Hick**  
Team Secretary  
20<sup>th</sup> April 2020