

LANCASHIRE SUPER SENIORS' GOLF TEAM

Secretary

Team Captain

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TALKING SENIORS' GOLF: SPECIAL EDITION 6: JULY 2020 The Newsletter of Lancashire Super Seniors

First, the good news. Two matches, the first against Cumbria Seniors on 17th August, together with the match against Bolton Golf Association on 7th September, are to go ahead this year. Thanks to the excellent work of Clive Hastie and Rory Callan, both matches are confirmed with Team Sheets shown below. However, the matches against Formby Seniors and Clitheroe Seniors are cancelled. Currently, the matches against Denton and Silverdale are also planned to go ahead. with LSS Team Captain, Clive Appleby, advising everyone accordingly.

Decisions will be made during August about the Palatine Trophy and End of Season Competition. As golf gradually awakens from the pandemic 'pause', our Working Party has been actively engaged upon securing match dates for 2021. As usual, the 2021 Fixtire List and availability schedule will be distributed during the close season.

Clive adds, "Can I wish everyone well in these difficult times, hope you are all staying safe and looking forward to brighter times ahead."

NEW RECRUITS 1:

As announced in last months Newsletter, Dunscar GC's John Howard has succeeded Rory Callan on the Working Party:

Born in Whalley (Nr Clitheroe) in 1953, I qualified via an engineering apprenticeship and thereafter joined BAE systems, before a long career in Sales from the late 70's, with what is now known as Toyota Industries (Materials Handling aka Fork Lift Trucks!), moving through the ranks and diverting slightly to UK Sales Training Manager and ultimately as UK Product Manager for innovative automated material handling solutions from Toyota's association with Swedish company EAB.

I joined Dunscar GC in 1979 the same year I married my wife Sue (also a keen golfer – 16 handicap), was honoured to be Captain in 2006 and President 2017/18. My handicap has fluctuated between 6 & 10 ever

My wife Sue served as Competition/Handicap Secretary at Dunscar on and off for many years and was also President of the Ladies' Bolton Championship. Her enthusiasm for the intricacies of organising competitions and overseeing handicaps and computer literacy in all things golf probably influenced my next role. For my sins, I am currently Sports Director responsible for the day to day running of all Competitions & Handicaps (and seemingly unofficial Rules guru) and a main point of contact for members during our recent lockdown restrictions and subsequent re-opening. For the last 5 years I've been responsible for all club fixtures plus integration onto our club tee-booking system (BRS) and lately the introduction of ClubV1 & Howdidido.

I'd like to think I have maintained an active involvement with the Bolton Past Captains Association, supporting Bolton Golf Association via Clive Hastie and The Manchester Past Captains Association events over the past 14 years.



Keeping it in the family – Three generations of Dunscar Members Myself, wife Sue, son lan and granddaughter Tilly (age 10)

Our collective thanks go to Rory for contributing so much to LSS, as a player and Working Party member.

NEW RECRUITS 2:

LSS Team Captain, Clive Appleby, recently played with Lancaster GC Past Captain, Mike Tonge, and Mike expressed an interest in joining LSS. Known for over thirty years to LSS Secretary/SDGA President & Executive Secretary, Keith, Mike introduces himself:

Born and brought up in Bolton. Educated at Stand Grammar School, University of Manchester and Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge. Joined Lancashire Constabulary from University and served for 19 years all over the County mainly as a Detective, up to the rank of Assistant Chief Constable. I then served 5 years in Mersevside Police as both Assistant and Deputy Chief Constable before being appointed Chief Constable of Gwent Police in 2014. I retired from policing in 2018 and then worked a further 10 years as a Visiting Professor at the University of Cumbria. Now fully retired and living in North Lancashire.

I played a number of sports at representative level and took up golf whilst serving in the Police. I have been a member of Penwortham, Pleasington, Newport, Monmouthshire and latterly Lancaster Golf Clubs. I was Captain of Lancaster Golf Club in 2016 following 18 months out, having had a freak accident in the English Seniors at Matfen Hall in 2014. I jumped onto a temporary bridge over a stream made of railway sleepers in the pouring rain and fell badly breaking my right arm. I was actually declared a hazard and players were allowed a free drop away from my prone body for an hour and a half before paramedics could cart me away, wailing pitifully! I now have a plate and 8 pins in my arm and have seen my handicap creep up to 5, so no longer part of the Lancashire Seniors Squad! I am looking forward to renewing some acquaintances and enjoying some competitive golf amongst fellow Lancastrians!" So, welcome to John and Mike, you have joined at an exciting time for LSS (even allowing for the current public health crisis) as Super Seniors golf continues to consolidate and

evolve.

JAMIE'S MEMORIES:

LSS member, Jamie Haddow of Bolton Old Links GC, recalls his Open Championship memories captured by photographers and included in books by Henry Cotton and Gary Player:

My father took me to several Opens in the 1950s and early 1960s. There is a photo of me watching Henry Cotton in the 1956n Open at Hoylake (Royal Liverpool). I was eleven years of age. It was won by Peter Thomson from Flory Van Donck, Roberto de Vicenzoo, Gary Player, John Panton and Cotton.





The other photo shows Gary Player having won the Claret Jug at Muirfield in 1959. I'm next to the policeman, probably carrying my pac-a-mac.

I have lots of autographs, including Arnold Palmer, Player, Kel Nagle, de Vicenzoo and even Gene Sarazon, which does date me!

Jamie Haddow

LSS WEB SITE UPDATE:

LSS Web Master, Paul Stanley, brings us up to date with our web site as follows:

Our website hosting company has now changed becauee the previous company – Bluehost – were becoming very expensive. Details of our new site are as follows:

Hosting company: Hostinger
 Site loig in link: Issgolf.co.uk
 Member's area: IssGolf@2048

Please note the site name has changed from Issgolf.co to Issgolf.co.uk; the member's password is the same as before.

Information on the site has been updated to include details of our new LSS Team Captain – Clive Appleby, together with the latest Newsletters and Fixtures.

If you have any difficulties logging into the new site please let me know and I'll try and fix.

Paul Stanley

FIVE-TIMES OPEN CHAMPION, PETER THOMSON, WHO PASSED AWAY RECENTLY, IS REMEMBERED:

The Voice of Midwest Golf by Ivan Morris Peter Thomson: A Hero Who Did Not Disappoint

More often than not meeting a hero from one's youth is a disappointment. It's a rarity if a hero turns out to be as one imagined. It was not the case when a 'summit meeting' with Peter Thomson took place in the offices of Thomson, Perrett & Lobb, Golf Architects, in Melbourne last month.

An engaging hour filled with super-charged, highly opinionated golf talk, golf philosophy, golf yarns and quite a few belly laughs in between, ensued. I have rarely felt as proud or as flattered as when it was time to leave and he grabbed my hand, shook it warmly and said: "Good man! You get golf. Print and be damned!" It was as good an endorsement of my occasionally cranky views as I could ever hope for.

At the age of 84, Peter still plays 9-holes about once a week "at the same standard as when I was 12-years-old. I've gone right back to the beginning!" He says with big smile and no sign of regret. Of course, when you have had a career like Thomson had, there is no need for regrets. Over 100-wins as a professional in a truly international career, including five priceless wins in The Open Championship puts him among the top dozen of all time greats. I remember my hero at his physical peak, purring like a Rolls Royce as he stylishly dismantled golf courses but it was impossible to ignore some of the inevitable frailties of old age. There wasn't a hint of mental deterioration, though, as we discussed the issues impacting on golf today and into the future.

It was hardly a surprise that a man of Peter's stature did not pull his punches. After all, he fearlessly began his career as a fulltime, globetrotting player at a time when the likes of Ben Hogan, Sam Snead and Henry Cotton made sure to always retain the safety net of a club job.

When I told him that as a teenager I had studied his swing while following him around during the Carroll's Tournament at Woodbrook and had rushed home to try to emulate the way he went about his business, including the way he dressed, he did not spare my feelings. He said it was 'foolish' to try to copy anyone. "One should always be oneself and develop one's own style of play. And, the best way to do it is not on the practice ground but by playing the game on one's own with a number of balls - playing 'real' shots and figuring out why some work and others don't. He was adamant that mentoring could be helpful to some extent but not full-time coaching, which he called 'silly.' "A golfer has to stand or fall on his own in the heat of battle," he said.

"My long-serving caddie, Jackie Leigh, never once told me what shot to play or what club to use. His job was to turn up on time, carry my clubs, watch the ball and keep me concentrating and entertained; no advice."

Photograph autographed by Peter Thomson and Malcolm Gregson:



Peter Thomson tees of

At Portmarnock GC during the 1965 Dunlop Masters, watched by Malcolm Gregson (left) and Bobby (Jackie)Leigh, Thompson's Southport-born regular Caddie.

Peter was obviously pleased to hear that my first set of golf clubs was Peter Thomson signature models by Dunlop and that they helped me to get from 20-handicap to scratch. When I mentioned that I regretted that I was never able to match his unruffled approach on the golf course. He said he never understood fuss or ever worried about what other people thought. He found golf 'easy' and it made him feel guilty that he made a lot of money from doing something he loved and enjoyed so much. "It felt more like stealing than work."

When I asked him which golfer he admired the most, he replied: Sam Snead. He made golf look easy and he was always joking and needling the opposition, which suited me because it made me more determined. Once, he walked past me in the locker room and called out: "Hey Pete, you get the yips yet?" When I said: "No.' He laughed: "Well, they are a coming!" It's no surprise his favourite course is Scottish but it isn't one on which he won any of his five Opens. It's little known, Brora, in the far north of Scotland. He used to holiday there.

Thomson came to Ireland for the first time in 1951 as a 21-year old and finished sixth in The Open Championship at Royal Portrush won by Max Faulkner. Subsequently, PWT won The Open five times a feat matched only by Tom Watson in the modern era.

Ivan Morris

EDGA

European Disabled Golf Association President, Tony Bennett, together with EDGA staff member, Ben Evans, highlight how much Welsh golfer, Mike Jones, owes to golf:

How Golf saved my Life...



The next time you suffer from 'golfer's knee', elbow or back perhaps, any sympathy you receive is deserved as these are nasty problems. However, it is worth noting that at a time when increasing numbers of golfers with an actual disability are now enjoying competition on the fairways, your own knock might not be quite the stuff of headline material.

Welsh golfer Mike Jones is one such player: his left knee is now very different from before his motorcycle crash, when he needed all his courage just to survive – and then later thrive – given a second chance in both life and on the golf course.

Mike and golfing friends still hope they may be able to play in the scheduled Southport Golf Coast Classic, run by EDGA, the international body that champions golf for people with disability (see www.edgagolf.com). This is due to take place from September 2-3 at Formby Hall Golf Resort & Spa, supported by the venue and the Southport & District Golf Association.

We will have to wait to see if this tournament can take place of course, due to the Covid-19 crisis. EDGA oversees more than 40 international tournaments and its role in golf for the disabled is allowing the best players to test themselves in the World Amateur Golf Ranking (www.wagr.com), while looking to introduce 500,000 more people with disability to the sport in the time ahead.

Mike Jones has won tournaments on the EDGA circuit; he loves his new knee and lower leg as the technology of his prosthetic leg is remarkable, allowing him to cope with slopes and bunkers far better than the first model he had, enabling him to keep improving his game, and building his confidence.

That he is on the fairways at all is remarkable. Mike was a 2 handicap golfer when he was nearly killed in a motorbike crash on the way to work. First Mike had to battle to survive, losing his left leg, then walk again in a grueling rehabilitation. A couple of years later he was winning golf tournaments and becoming a players' representative for EDGA and an ambassador for Celtic Manor. "Golf saved my life," says Mike – listen to his story and you certainly believe it. You can find his interview and those of many other golfers who have fought back from serious injury or life-changing conditions, stories of real bravery that can only inspire you, in the series EDGA 'Tough Love & Second Chances', supported by PING, at https://bit.ly/3dLeq0R

As a postscript, the 2020 pioneering UK-based EDGA President's Trophy tournament, together with the match against SDGA, planned for Formby Hall G&CC between 1-3 September, has been postponed until 2021.

Team Kit:

New orders for our LSS logo bearing Team Kit are now being taken by LSS Team Captain, Clive Appleby, for the following items:

- White shirt
- Blue sleevless slip over
- Blue long sleeve zip top
- Tie

Additional items, including blue shower tops, caps and visors can also be supplied, depending upon demand.

L'ANCASHIRE SUPER SENIORS V CUMBRIA SUPER SENIORS: PENRITH GC; MONDAY 17TH AUGUST: (See separate Team Sheet for full details):

Dave Harrison (Match Captain) Hesketh GC 07976-429892

Clive Appleby (Team Captain)

Keithn Hick (Team Secretary)

Stuart Bourne

Chris Rogers

Terry Pottage

Fairhave GC

Hesketh GC

Hesketh GC

Denton GC

Clive Hastie Dunscar GC Steve Walker Houghwood GC

Paul Stanley S&A GC
Ian Bond Dunscar GC
Paul Kelly Formby GC
Rob Squire Hesketh GC

Reserves:

Alistair Hargreaves St Annes OL GC

NB: Please confirm your availability to the Match Captain one week prior to the match

LANCASHIRE SUPER SENIORS V BOLTON GA: HART COMMON GC; 7TH SEPTEMBER:

(See separate Team Sheet for full details):

Clive Appleby (Team & Match Captain) Fairhaven GC 07376-927398

Keith Hick (Team Secretary)

Rory Callan

Paul Bennett

Stuart Bourne

Colin Crumlin

Peter Darlington

Hesketh GC

Morecambe GC

West Derby GC

Stand GC

Hesketh GC

S&A GC

Alistair Hargreaves St Annes OL GC
Paul Thomas Ormskirk GC
Steve Walker Houghwood GC
Paul Kelly Formby GC
Clive Wilson Hesketh GC

Reserves:

Terry Pottage Denton GC
Dave Harrison Hesketh GC

NB: Please confirm your availability to the Match Captain one week prior to the match

	2020 L	LANCASHIRE SUPER SENIORS MATCHES & EVENTS:			Mgr	Cancelled:
	Match I	No Date	Match	Venue		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	Bubble match
	7	7 th July	Bentham GC Seniors	Bentham GC	KCH	Yes
	8	23 rd July	Isle of Man Super Seniors*	Heysham GC	RC	_Yes
	(Irish Sea Golf Challenge Match)					
	9	27 th July	South Lancs GASeniors*	Ashton-in-Makerfield GC	JVC	_Yes
/Ashton-in-Makerfield Seniors)						
	10	4 th August	Formby GC Seniors	Formby GC	KCH	_Yes
	11	10 th August	Morecambe GC Seniors	Morecambe GC	JVC	_Yes
	12	17 th August	Cumbria Super Seniors*	TBC	RC	No
	13	25 th August	Denton GC Seniors	Denton GC	JVC	No
	14		Bolton GA Seniors*	Hart Common GC	RC	No
	15	10 th Sept	LSS Palatine Trophy	Davyhulme Park	KCH	TBC
	16	15 th Sept	Silverdale GC Seniors	Silverdale GC	JVC	No
	17	21 st Sept	Clitheroe GC Seniors	Clitheroe GC	JVC	Yes
	18	8 th Oct	End of season competition	Ashton-in-Makerfield GC	KCH	TBC
* Caratab matab						

* 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 Breightmet GC, is cancelled Past County Seniors Secretary, Ian Woolley, looks back on his golfing career. Here we begin serialising lan's recollections with the first two of twelve:

12 Lucky Breaks which have all affected my golf as a Senior.

I was born in 1932 and I was 55 years old on 22nd June 1987. That is when I qualified to play in Senior Golf Competitions. I decided I wanted to have a go at the new exciting world of Seniors Golf both locally and nationally. But along the way I have been very fortunate – enjoying several important Lucky Breaks.

1st Lucky Break – Learning to play golf when I was 14 years old – I loved practicing – I loved good coaching.

It helped my golf a lot when I retired quite young - aged 61 in 1993. Ever since I learnt to play golf when I was only 14 years old I had played in lots of Competitions at Pleasington and at neighbouring clubs as well as going on golf holidays with friends playing many of the top Golf Courses in the UK at a time when green fees were still reasonable.

But I also loved a good golf practice. I would have short lessons when needed from the Pleasington Professionals. That included my first teacher Averell Kidd. Then there was Ted McNeil and later Ged Furey who were both extremely talented golf teachers. They were very quick at spotting my faults – often after I had only hit just a few shots. They helped me so much to make the best of my golf swing and win quite a few major Competitions at Pleasington and elsewhere.

2nd Lucky Break 1951-53 - Selected to play golf for London University

I studied Pharmacy in London 1950-53 for a B.Pharm honours degree. Whilst there I played some sport starting off in my first year trying to play in the London University Hockey Team. But they were badly organised. So in my second year I made contact with the University Golf Team. And I was lucky to get into the team right away. Our two big matches were against Oxford and Cambridge. But on other weekends we played some of the top London Clubs with a morning and afternoon round and in between invited to a very good lunch with some drinks. It was excellent golf on some super courses. I had a little Standard 8 car which helped me to get around. I became very friendly with the Team Captain Doug Croll who also had his own small car - a Ford. He was Medical Student. I was awarded London University Sports colours for my contribution to the Team.

When we were not playing matches Doug and I would often go practicing with another team member -David Young who studied law and got involved with the Conservatives eventually becoming a Lord in Margaret Thatcher's Government. One day we turned up at St Georges Hill where Max Faulkner was the pro and at the time he was The Open Champion. We went into the shop and asked Max if we could have a practice round. When he knew we played for London University and Doug was the Captain he readily agreed. And then said he would like to play with us. Doug could hit the ball a long way. But Max was even longer - a swash buckling character. At one hole Doug really hit a super drive. Max said jokingly - "Don't worry boys - I will send one flying past that ball !!!". He proceeded to hit 3 balls with an almighty whack -But each one he hooked way left 'Out of Bounds' into a thickly wooded area!!! All 3 balls lost. He said "Well played lads – but sorry I have to get back to the shop". And off he went. And we did not have to pay Max a penny. Just imagine that happening today – playing even a few holes with the Open Champion for nothing!! Max was very friendly with the Members at St Georges Hill - male and female. In fact apparently too friendly at one time with the Captain's Wife - and he was obliged to find work elsewhere!! He had an eye for beautiful women. Once I was at Wentworth watching a big professional tournament. Max was one of the Stars because he was playing great golf. We were stood by one tee – I think it was the long 3rd - when Max was about to drive. But after he teed up his ball he was glancing around as if waiting for somebody before he drove. Then he spotted who he was looking for. He made some special room on the tee for no less than 3 very beautiful girls to have a "Front Seat" to watch him give his ball a tremendous hit - straight down the fairway.

There is another amusing incident practicing with Doug which I can still remember vividly. It was a cold wintry day with some real fog around - causing very poor visibility. We were on an elevated Tee. And in front of the tee there was a big thick patch of very mature Rhododendrons – potentially a hazard. As Doug hit his ball his club slipped out of his hand and went flying off many yards downhill – most likely lost in all the Rhodes. Neither of us had followed the flight of Doug's club We could only guess where it had landed. In a crazy moment Doug said he would deliberately hit the same shot – again letting his club slip out so we could then find his 1st club.

But we could not properly follow where the second shot landed. Regrettably Doug had lost 2 golf clubs!!! After these outings we usually drove back into London and went for a good meal at a favourite Restaurant in the Soho area. We always had a bet that the last to arrive had to pay for the drinks!! On one evening we were neck and neck driving along Piccadilly near Piccadilly Circus. Suddenly whilst in the lead Doug ran into the back of a London Taxi. It was not a serious accident. Nobody was injured. But Doug had to stop to exchange details with the Cab Driver. So I got past Doug. And I easily won the bet to be first to arrive at the Soho Restaurant. Doug had to pay for the drinks!!

In the late summer of 1953 Doug and I played our last golf together. After University had finished in London we went to play in 2 Scandinavian Amateur Open Championships – first the Swedish Open at a fine seaside course on the west coast called Falsterbo. And then we went by ferry across to Denmark for the Danish Open Amateur which was being played at Rungsted G.C. - a delightful parkland course near Copenhagen. We met quite a few Oxford and Cambridge University Golfers who we had played against

earlier that year. In Sweden we stayed very near the golf course. In Denmark we stayed at a posh hotel in Copenhagen and saw some of the sights such as the Tivoli Gardens. We also enjoyed some delicious food including some special Smorgasbrod delicacies - a big variety of self-service cold dishes with various salads, meats, fish, smoked fish, eels, salmon, shell fish etc and drinking the best Danish Lager. Our favourite restaurant specialising in Smorgasbrod was called Sieben Sma Hiem – The 7 Small Houses. Living standards in both countries were very high. We had a great time.

After qualifying as a Psychiatrist Doug emigrated to the USA. He lived opposite New York in Hackensack, New Jersey just across the Hudson River. He married an American. They had children. When I visited and stayed with Doug over there I had to join Doug for his early morning run to keep fit. He set off far too fast and I had to say "Doug if you want me to go with you for an early morning run will you please go MY SPEED!!!". And he kindly obliged – which was just about acceptable.

Soon after Doug establishing his life in the USA he lost his life in a tragic car accident. He had been called out to see a patient. But in freezing icy conditions there was a head on collision and Doug was killed outright. I keep contact with Doug's daughter Stephanie Croll who lives in Savannah, Georgia. She is a Consultant Ophthalmologist working in a big Hospital. She is a keen golfer but we have never played together. She was hoping to visit Blackburn again this summer – but that has been put on hold due to the Pandemic.

Ian Woolley_

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 in our LSS matches 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 within the above Fixture List, where a match has TBC alongside, a decision will be talken 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 Team Secretary, Keith.....you never know where this might lead......
In the meantime, stay safe and well for your families and yourselves.

Best regards and happy golfing,

Keith Hick Team Secretary 28th July 2020 Clive Appleby Team Captain