



## LANCASHIRE SUPER SENIORS' GOLF TEAM

### Secretary

Keith Hick [keithhick9@gmail.com](mailto:keithhick9@gmail.com)

01704-213529; 07767-383820

### Team Captain

Clive Appleby [clive\\_appleby@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:clive_appleby@yahoo.co.uk) ;

07376-927398

## TALKING SENIORS' GOLF: SPECIAL EDITION 4 JUNE 2020

### *The Newsletter of Lancashire Super Seniors*

#### Lancashire Super Seniors Team Captain;

#### **Congratulations and welcome to Clive Appleby:**

LSS has a new Team Captain. Clive Appleby, of Fairhaven GC, who has accepted the role with immediate effect and succeeds Keith Gardner. In his own words, Clive tells us a bit more about himself:



Born in Hertfordshire in 1955 and moved to Lancashire when I was 13yrs old. Started playing golf with friends at the local municipal course, Stanley Park, Blackpool where we queued in the dark at 6am to get a tee time about 10am. Before teeing off we would book another tee time later that day which would usually be about 6hrs later, this gave us time between rounds to go hunting for balls to play with as we couldn't afford to buy our own. Age 19 I Joined Lancashire police and was posted to East Lancashire where I joined Rossendale GC on a 5 day membership. Due to being transferred around the county with work I had periods of memberships at Nelson, Ingol and Preston golf clubs with a couple of periods of 5 or so years not hitting a golf ball. I retired in 2004 after 30 yrs of service and continued to play at Preston spending time on Council (Competitions and Handicaps). In 2013 I joined the flatter and drier Fairhaven Golf club. I joined the Lancashire County Seniors golf team when I turned 55. I'm currently off 5, my lowest handicap being 4. Married to Chris who has played for Lancashire Senior Ladies. I have also represented Lancashire County table tennis teams in various age groups.

#### **And, not only, but also....welcome to John Howard who joins our LSS Working Party:**

John, a member of Dunscar GC, is taking over from Rory Callan as a member of our LSS Working Party. John has extensive golf admin experience within his own club and Bolton Golf Association and is a welcome new recruit to our team.

#### **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 sleeveless slip over
- Blue long sleeve zip top
- Tie

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

## LSS 'Bubble Golf' kick-starts LSS 2020 season:

### Davyhulme Park GC Seniors: 437 Lancashire Super Seniors: 405

It may be novel, but it worked! Davyhulme Park's enthusiasm to keep the competitive juices flowing matched our own and, thanks to Davyhulme Park's Doug Craig and Norman Somerville, the match has been completed in it's 'semi-virtual' format. Following a return to golfing action, each player played 18 holes, full handicap Stableford, with scores as follows:

#### DAVYHULME PARK SENIORS

Reynolds & Mann: 34 & 35=69   **1**  
Connor & Higham 35 & 40= 75   **2**  
Connor & Somerville 37 & 39=76   **2**  
Taylor & Garrity 40 & 36=76   **2**  
Fletcher & Ellis 31 & 38=69   **0**  
Pate & Finningham 40 & 32=72   **2**

**Team total: 437**

#### LANCASHIRE COUNTY SENIORS

Ash (Fairhaven) & Bond (Dunscar): 36 & 33=69   **1**  
Hick (Hesketh) & Haddow (Bolton OL): 36 & 32=68   **0**  
Appleby (Fairhaven) & Wilson (Hesketh): 32 & 38=70   **0**  
Hastie (Dunscar) & Stafford (Manchester): 35 & 32=67   **0**  
Walker (Houghwood) & Cunningham (Mcr): 37 & 34=71   **2**  
Morton (Formby) & Clements (Stand): 31 & 29=60   **0**

**Team total: 405**

**MATCH RESULT:**

**9**

**3**

To everyone who entered into the 'swing of things', a huge "thank you" for taking part. Whilst there has been no opportunity for rubbing shoulders as yet this season, with an absence of socializing, completion of the match speaks volumes about the enthusiasm to maintain some form of continuity.

## World-renowned Golf Travel Journalist, Barry Ward, joins us again this month with his own memories of meeting Jack Nicklaus in 1963 at Royal Lytham:

The '63 Open was memorable for me. It was the first appearance of Jack Nicklaus, then the 19 y-o US Amateur Champion and I had an extensive interview with him. This became a regular event when he played in GB and so we became friends (a not uncommon pleasure for golf writers).

This led to a humorous event when I was in Australia and was the golf writer for the Sunday Telegraph. It was the first practise day in the Australian Open and, having finished work for the day, was about to leave for home when I saw this blond haired figure practising in a bunker at the 16th hole in the distance.

I paused and realised it was Jack, making his first appearance Down Under (he'd had a very early round that day and I'd missed him) I waited for him to finish but he was there for some time, playing various shots from different places in the bunker.

Intrigued, I walked over and stood where he couldn't see me, so as not to distract him.



*Jack Nicklaus samples the vagaries of the British summer at Hillside with Dai Rees in 1962 during his first visit to the UK - complete with a woolly hat borrowed from a lady member!*

Eventually, he turned and saw me, came over, shook hands and said "Barry, what the heck are you doing here?" (He meant in Australia: we'd last met at the Open that year). I replied: "I was about to ask you the same question, Jack. You seem to have taken up residence in that bunker...." He laughed and explained that the 16th was a key hole, a very tight and long par 4 (about 480 yards which was long in the early 70s and that rather that risk finding rough near a small green with severe slopes he would play to find this bunker, to card what could be a vital par in the

closing holes. So he was practising shots from the various spots he might find to the potential flag positions.....which he had already established!

This attention to detail was typical of the man and one reason he became so dominant in the game.... Bingo! I had a fascinating and exclusive story for the paper...And in fact what he envisaged came to pass. He almost holed his bunker shot for a tap in and won by one...

## **WENTWORTH MEMORIES:**

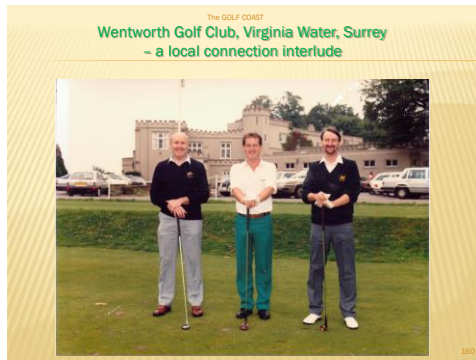
### **LSS Secretary, Keith Hick, recalls his memories of Wentworth, home of the PGA Championship and erstwhile World Match Play:**

Spring 1983 and I was head-hunted to join AMEC plc, then the UK's largest Civil Engineering, Construction, Nuclear Engineering and Oil & Gas group, where I stayed for twenty four years until retirement. With a wide-ranging portfolio, managing corporate marketing, business to business & internal communication, Major Contract Prequalification & Community Engagement, Advertising, PR, plus Corporate Hospitality I also had a roving commission across the entire group for Special Projects. However, the most beguiling attraction upon joining the group was being asked to manage all AMEC's golf-related corporate hospitality at the Open Championship each year and at Wentworth. Wentworth became an AMEC plc asset in 1974 following the acquisition of Sir Lindsay Parkinson Ltd, the international construction group. Some may remember the striking Art Deco slab-roofed villa adjacent to Wentworth's 17<sup>th</sup> green, often seen on television and now demolished in favour of a new build, at the time owned by the Parkinson family. This entailed managing AMEC's corporate hospitality at the PGA Championship in May and World Match Play during October, plus managing all the VIP invitation playing days throughout the summer. Whilst only a relatively small part of my management portfolio, it meant I was in golfing heaven. Imagine having free rein to invite business leaders across the industry and commercial spectrum to enjoy one of the world's top golfing venues, not just to visit, but to play the famed 'Burma Road' West Course. So named, following the recovery of the overgrown course after WWII, it was likened to the jungles of Burma in hacking down years of undergrowth in returning the course to it's first class status. A remarkable coincidence came to my aid when I learnt Richard Doyle-Davidson, previously Secretary at Formby Golf Club, had been appointed as Secretary at Wentworth. Richard and I knew each other thanks to my role as Executive Secretary to SDGA, a role I had assumed in 1972. Richard was soon elevated to Managing Director at Wentworth, being succeeded as Secretary by retired Army Colonel, Dion Beard.

Memories of those times come thick and fast:

**The Great Storm of 1987:** BBC Weatherman, Michael Fish famously got it wrong that September and the UK was devastated, with trees uprooted and the VIP day I had planned blown to smithereens. I was driving through the storm down the M6 and M1 and, needless to say, the following day's golf was out of the question, with Wentworth's storm-damaged courses taking days to recover.

**Magical, Mystery Golf Day:** Upon early arrival for another VIP day, rain was falling in torrents and the morning 9 hole 'warm-up' had to be replaced with a tutorial by Wentworth Professional, Bernard Gallagher. Realising the East Course was flooded, Bernard readily agreed to my request, "No problem, Mr Hick, I'll take them over to the Driving Range for a session". First problem solved, but the rain continued falling and over lunch Dion confirmed the West Course would be closed for the rest of the day. However, Dion suggested trying St George's Hill at Weybridge. Another fortunate coincidence, so I thought, could come to our aid, so I rang Mike Tapsell, Royal Birkdale's erstwhile Secretary, recently appointed as St George's Hill Secretary. "Sorry Keith, we're closed as well. Why not try Worpleston?, they dry out pretty quickly – ring Major Jones, their Secretary". A few moments later and at the end of the 'phone, "Jones here!". I explained my dilemma and without hesitation, "Come on over with your party my boy". *En automobile* convoy, we nipped over to Worpleston and, upon arrival and right on cue at 1.45pm, the clouds parted. An enjoyable afternoon's golf, followed by dinner, brandy, port, cigars and prize-giving at Wentworth later that evening saw the day becoming known as the AMEC Magical, Mystery Golf Day by all the VIPs. They say you make your own luck!



*A (much) younger Keith Hick (yes, complete with goatee beard), pictured on Wentworth's first tee in 1988 together with Mark, one of Bernard Gallagher's Assistants, and Mott McDonald Ltd's Gordon Osborne (left)*

## **The Falklands War**

Immediately following the Falklands War in 1983, the then Falklands Islands Governor, Rex Hunt, received a knighthood in 1984. AMEC had been drawn into a supporting role by the UK government, constructing massive military facilities on Ascension Island. Whilst in the UK, and by now Sir Rex Hunt, the intrepid Governor was invited as a guest to Wentworth and I spent an enjoyable day as his chaperone, listening to his tales of the drama that had unfolded the previous year.

## **Entertaining**

Ascot-based Berystede Hotel, alongside the A30, was my base whilst at Wentworth. This 5 star country house hotel also stabled our VIP guests and many is the time the Night Porter kept our party 'refreshed' until 3 or 4am. As principal organiser, it was my lot to keep our guests entertained. All great fun, but when you get to bed at 4am and are aroused by the alarm two hours later for a full days hospitality, one rapidly learns to live on Adrenalin! And an early morning dip in the outdoor pool soon got the blood coursing through the veins.

## **Danny Blanchflower**

On one occasion, one of my colleagues had arrived at Wentworth the day before one of our VIP guest playing days and popped over for a few holes around tea-time. Upon arrival at the first tee, the Starter invited him to make up a four ball. Tottenham Hotspur's Danny Blanchflower, a true soccer icon, in welcoming my colleague casually mentioned the stakes were to be "the usual". A close match saw my colleague on the winning side and, as they left the 18<sup>th</sup> green on the West Course, a wad of bank notes was pressed into his hand. "I can't accept these, what would have happened if we'd lost?", to which the reply was "Don't worry, we wouldn't have asked you!"

## **World Match Play Championship**

Known from its inception in 1964 as the Piccadilly, Arnold Palmer put this Mark McCormack-inspired event on the golfing map, thanks to his victory in that opening year. Japanese wines, spirits and brewing giant, Suntory, then succeeded Palmolive who had replaced the original sponsors, Gallaghers Tobacco, as event sponsors. AMEC, together with Suntory, enjoyed the largest marquees in the tented village and I was invited to meet the President of Suntory in their marquee just across the tented village aisle. I'll never forget the experience of accepting Japanese hospitality and their code of conduct and courtesies in greeting a guest. It certainly put our typical "Whatcha cock" greeting in the shade!

## **Nick Faldo**

Many's the time in the 1980s I saw Nick Faldo practising on the putting green, complete with an early generation video camera, supported by a tripod. Occasionally, during quiet moments, I would snatch a few words in conversation, but he was a compulsive practicer; it certainly paid off with six majors to his name.

## **The all-new South Course & 'For sale'**

Ambitious plans to add a third course, to complement the West and East courses, were fulfilled by AMEC in the late 80s. John Jacobs, Gary Player and Bernard Gallagher were commissioned to design the course, carved out of the great South Wood. It took several attempts to gain planning permission and the University of Liverpool were called in to complete a successful Environmental Study. In addition to the new course, the classic Wentworth club house, used as the Supreme



Allied HQ during WWII, was to be demolished and replaced by a chalet style facility adjacent to the 18<sup>th</sup> green. Such was the investment needed for course and club house, AMEC decided to build a single-storey bungalow club house to trim costs. Then came a bombshell: AMEC were looking to dispose of Wentworth as an asset. Acquisitions totalling almost £200 million required an offset sale.

This led to another 'special project' landing on my desk – completion of a full valuation survey of the Wentworth Club and Estate prior to sale. Fortunately, a neighbour and fellow Hesketh GC member was a qualified Quantity Surveyor and, upon being invited to join me for several days at Wentworth, his reply was, "Yes please!" Even then, now over thirty years ago, some of the huge mansions adjoining the various courses were valued as multi-million pound properties., including Bruce Forsyth's home. Bruce would walk out of his garden gate and onto the 18<sup>th</sup> tee – perfect for the avid golfer.

Cutting a long story short, the sale went through and the new owner, restauranter Elliot Bernard, of Savoy Hotel fame, soon recouped his multi-million pound outlay by selling corporate memberships at just under one million pounds each – and he had the existing club house refurbished.

So, I decamped all my corporate hospitality to the Belfry, where AMEC had built a whole new hotel complex in readiness for the anticipated Ryder Cup. The Belfry was a superb alternative to Wentworth, but that's another story. Virtually all CEOs MDs, business, industry and commerce leaders who accepted an invitation to play Wentworth exclaimed, "clear the diary, I'm at Wentworth!"

## SOME GOLF IN 1888

For those amongst us who are students of golf history, a recently published book by Wilson & Grant (D M Wilson III and Bob Grant), Grant Books, comes highly recommended. Beautifully presented in a red hessian covered sleeve, *Some Golf in 1888* perfectly captures the allure and love of the game in those far off days.

Opening with a two-part essay authored by 'Scriba', an unnamed golfing enthusiast from Tyneside, Scriba eloquently describes visits to Dunbar, North Berwick, Gullane, Luffness, Messelburgh, St Andrews, Carnoustie, Leven, Troon and culminates at Prestwick, original home of the Open Championship. The elegance of Edinburgh and historical mystic of the 'old grey Toon' of St Andrews are also brought to life within the essays and are reprinted from the Newcastle Daily Journal of September 1888. Beautifully drawn course maps, faithful to the era, adjoin each 'pen picture' of the courses visited.



*Contemporary advertisements and illustrations complete the book – a 'must have' for any serious collector. Here we see the book, sleeve and reproduction booklet: Rules of Golf 1888*

Two further chapters, entitled '*The Psychology of Golf*' by Dr John Higher, reprinted from Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine of May, 1888 and *Golf*, attributed to 'Ellengowan' from the Outdoor Sports of Scotland, 1889, seamlessly follow the essays. *Golf* explores the origins of the game, whilst the former delves into the deeper aspects of how the brain processes the highs and lows of the every-day golfing experience, allied to the make-up of the players' character.

Then comes the *piece de resistance*, a reproduction of the Rules of Golf, dated 1888. A companion facsimile of this small Rules of Golf 1888 booklet completes the set as a separate entity.

## 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	Yes
2	29 <sup>th</sup> April	Formby Hall Captain's team	Formby Hall G&CC	KCH	Yes
3	12 <sup>th</sup> May	Heysham Seniors	Heysham GC	JVC	Yes
4	19 <sup>th</sup> May	Southport & DGA Seniors*	Southport Old Links GC	KCH	Yes
5	28 <sup>th</sup> May	NWMGA*	Worsley GC	RC	Yes
6	25 <sup>th</sup> June	Davyhulme Park Seniors	Davyhulme Park GC	KCH	Bubble Match
7	7 <sup>th</sup> July	Bentham GC Seniors	Bentham GC	KCH	Yes
8	23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Isle of Man Super Seniors* (Irish Sea Golf Challenge Match)	Heysham GC	RC	Yes
9	27 <sup>th</sup> July	South Lincs GASeniors* /Ashton-in-Makerfield Seniors)	Ashton-in-Makerfield GC	JVC	Yes
10	4 <sup>th</sup> August	Formby GC Seniors	Formby GC	KCH	TBC
11	10 <sup>th</sup> August	Morecambe GC Seniors	Morecambe GC	JVC	Yes
12	17 <sup>th</sup> August	Cumbria Super Seniors*	TBC	RC	TBC
13	25 <sup>th</sup> August	Denton GC Seniors	Denton GC	JVC	TBC
14	7 <sup>th</sup> September	Bolton GA Seniors*	Hart Common GC	RC	NO
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

## 2020 SEASON; FIXTURE UPDATE:

At last we have some positive news with the announcement the match against Bolton Golf Association is going ahead, as planned, at Hart Common GC on 7th September. LSS Team Captain, Clive Appleby, will be announcing our Match Captain and team during July.

Further government advice is awaited before any final decision is made about the remaining matches of our 2020 season.

## TIP FROM THE TOP: PGA MASTER PROFESSIONAL, HOWARD BENNETT, ON GOLF ACCORDING TO TOM WATSON:

During a recent game together, Howard suggested to Keith the following tips from five times Open Champion, Tom Watson, are still as relevant today as they were when Tom was in his pomp:

- I needed a little magic, a little luck and all the skill I could muster and the best thinking I was capable of
- No matter how well you hit the ball, you have to think well to start with, have to aware of your options and pick the right one
- I won the tournament as much with my mind as with my clubs
- You have to think out every shot, you have to do that anywhere
- I told my caddie, Bruce Edwards, just to keep reminding me to keep my tempo smooth
- I always play in a vacuum, I say very little and at times I'm barely aware of what is happening to my playing partner or anything else
- It was a missed opportunity, but there was nothing to do but put it out of my mind
- My Adrenalin was flowing and I was extremely intense
- The pressure was gone: I had control of the situation
- I'd had a little magic in me and I was Open Champion
- I am basically an aggressive player, but I'll play safely when the potential penalty is too great and I'm in a position to win a tournament. I'll also play safely or more aggressively depending on how I feel that particular day
- Remember, that not even the best players in the world hit all the greens in regulation

**Tom Watson**

## **GOLF BALLS AHOY!**

**Golf Ball / RAS Gunline by Rory Callan: Rory entertains us this month with his recollections:**

My seafaring career was with the Royal Fleet Auxiliary as a Senior Communications and Electronics Engineer and Gunnery Officer. Latterly, one of my secondary duties was to act as the ships Alcohol and Drug Abuse Officer!

The primary role of RFA Ships is to supply warships with food, fuel, spares and ammunition in both peace and wartime. The main method of transfer is called a RAS – Replenishment At Sea – where the RFA issuing ship steers on a steady course, the receiving warship takes up a position  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile astern of the issuing ship, compare compass readings then makes a fast approach to take station 100 yards on the beam of the issuing ship. The issuing ship then fires a gun (GPMG) with a “dildo” device which has a thin nylon line called, appropriately enough, a gun-line attached. The aim is to get the “dildo” and gunline across the foredeck of the warship where the crew haul in the line. Attached to the gunline is a rope which is hauled in and then connected to the rope is a wire rope which is hauled in and secured to the warship superstructure at the fuel receiving point. The fuelling hose, with a large probe, is then sent across to the warship, connects into the receiving “basket” and fuel is transferred – usually at the rate of 200 tons per hour! Videos of this procedure can be seen on YouTube to give you a visual understanding of the procedure.

Anyway.

A few years ago I was on a World Group Deployment (7 warships and 3 RFAs) and I got pally with the Commanding Officer and the Operations Officer of one of the accompanying frigates. Over a few drinks at one of the many social occasions we had to attend as part of the “Flag Waving” duties of the group, we got talking about a forthcoming RAS and I suggested that instead of using the rifle and dildo to send the line across I should send the gunline across on a golf ball hit by me from our helicopter deck!

They thought this would be a great idea and a 1<sup>st</sup> – never ever achieved or attempted before! I went to my skipper (Captain). He just shook his head, sighed and said “whatever next?” So that was a YES!

A few days later, we went out to sea and I started practicing hitting balls off coconut mats on our Flight Deck. The balls had solid cores so it was easy to drill through and feed gunline through, secure it and haul it back inboard (marine pollution was in my mind all these years ago!!!). Using a 3 Wood (John Letters, of course) myself and the Navigator reckoned the golf ball was carrying about 150 yards but was being knocked down by the cross-wind of natural windspeed plus 12 knots (the speed of advance (SoA) of our ship. As a result of this, in order to make a decent attempt, it was decided to ask the warship to come up at a gap of 80 yards instead of the usual 100 yards. This was agreed by both Commanding Officers!!! The day of the replenishment came. Fine weather. All preparations made. 4 balls with gunline attached (just in case anything went wrong – what could possibly go wrong, eh?). A few practice swings then up came the warship. Her bow (sharp end) was level with our stern (blunt end) and she was approaching fast (25 knots) so it was time for me to do my bit.

### **NAILED IT!**

She sped up and her bow was safely under the flight path of the gunline, they gathered in the gunline etc etc and continued with the replenishment.

Massive cheers all round from all the crew on both ships.

Only slight down-side is that there was a little contact between the golf ball and the warships superstructure! These things happen, as you can imagine!

Talking point in all the messes for a few days with photographs / videos being taken / shown.

Four days later all warships and RFA vessels received a directive from the Commander in Chief of the Fleet stating that the use of anything other than “dildo” for transferring gunline was explicitly banned following a recent incident where a golf ball struck a fibreglass radar dome and caused several thousands of pounds worth of damage!

Ah well!!!! That's life at sea for you!!!!

**Rory Callan**

Best regards and happy golfing,

**Keith Hick**  
**Secretary**

30<sup>th</sup> June 2020

**Clive Appleby**  
**Team Captain**