



## LANCASHIRE SUPER SENIORS' GOLF TEAM

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## TALKING SENIORS' GOLF: SPECIAL EDITION 6: AUGUST 2020

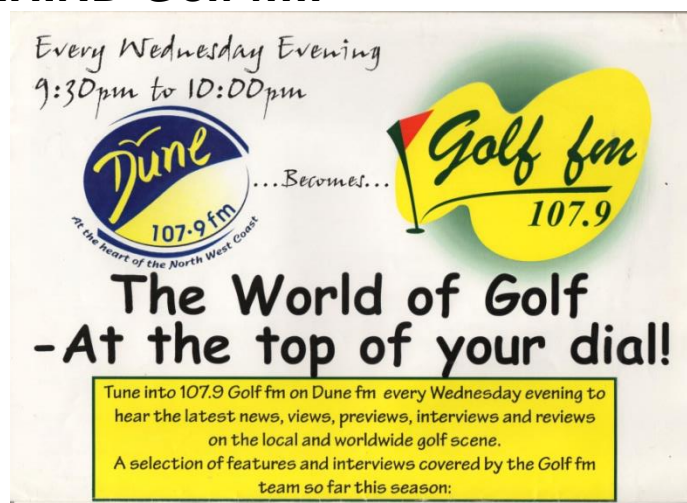
### *The Newsletter of Lancashire Super Seniors*

Just when you thought it safe to go into the water....you take one step forward, then two steps back! This perfectly sums up the past few weeks. Having seen several matches, together with the Palatine Trophy and End of Season Competition appear, as if by magic on the golfing radar to conclude our truncated season, one by one, they all disappeared owing to local lockdowns. Fortunately, our match against Silverdale Seniors is still planned to go ahead on 15<sup>th</sup> September and the Team Sheet is shown in this edition. However, the matches against Cumbria, BGA, Denton and Clitheroe have all been cancelled.

Sterling efforts by clubs and our various opponents were all thwarted by the covid-19 travails. Local lockdowns began to play havoc with our plans and it didn't take long to decide no risks whatsoever should be taken. The well being of our squad players and opponents, families and friends, together with the staff personnel of the clubs we would be visiting, comes first and foremost.

However, there is hope we can at least have one get-together before the end of the season, with either a re-scheduled Palatine Trophy during early October. Obviously, much will depend upon local lockdowns being reviewed and Clive will announce an update during September.

### THE STORY BEHIND *Golf fm*:



Keith Hick remembers an exciting 8 day week covering the 1998 Open Championship at Royal Birkdale GC, helping to create a world first and how Hesketh was right in the mix of the world's greatest golf tournament.

There was something special about the 1998 and 127th Open Championship, the eighth to be hosted by Royal Birkdale. One was to be a world first and the other signalled the last time Hesketh was to stage the Open Championship final qualifying rounds. *Golf fm*, the brainchild of Steve Dickson, Dune fm Managing Director at the time, was to hit the airwaves that summer and prove an immediate hit with listeners, spectators, players and the R&A alike.

Hesketh was first chosen as a final qualifying venue in 1971 when Lee Trevino won the first of his back-to-back Opens. The championship was best remembered that year for the Asian golfer, Mr Lu, whose wayward shot struck a spectator as the tournament reached its climax. Happily, no serious injury occurred and Trevino, who had won the US Open a month earlier following a play-off with Jack Nicklaus, added the Open Championship and then the Canadian Open a few weeks

later to cap a unique year, holding three national opens. Trevino famously signed a mirror in Southport's Prince of Wales hotel and donated his prize money to a local Formby based charity. Four consecutive Open final qualifying events in 1971, 1976, 1983 and 1991, had established Hesketh as a top-ranking course offering a sufficiently demanding test for golfers throughout the world aspiring to play in the oldest, and only truly 'open' championship. Hesketh members, together with a large number of spectators, had been thrilled in 1971 to watch South Africa's Dale Hayes, at the time viewed as the natural successor to Gary Player, fire a remarkable 64 at Hesketh to qualify to play at Royal Birkdale. At the time, the Open was a three day event with the last two rounds being played on the Saturday.

Fast forward to 1998 and Steve Dickson, who went on to become Director of Southport's Chamber of Commerce, was Managing Director of the newly established local commercial radio station *Dune fm*. Steve conceived the brand name **Golf fm** to provide live radio coverage of that year's Open. *Dune fm* covered the Southport to Crosby area of Sefton plus Ormskirk and SW Lancashire. Steve realised his radio station was situated plumb in the middle of the world's finest cluster of championship links courses and that the Open Championship, golf's premier event, was regularly held at Royal Birkdale. The question was: how could he capitalise on this early opportunity to show he was in tune with local people's interests, without sacrificing his normal air time schedule on *Dune fm*'s 107.9?

Steve remembers, "A separate waveband was needed which meant applying to the Radio Licensing Authority and 87.9 was duly allocated. We were in business. Then the fun started. I was at best an armchair golfer as were my programme presenters. I even had to learn that the week of the Open was an 8-day one in order to cover final qualifying being held on four championship courses on the Sunday and Monday and which preceding the championship proper.

*It was critical that our cover of the Open was professional, accurate, authoritative and well presented. Here I had my first stroke of good fortune. I recruited a top class 3-person team well known locally for their knowledge and coverage of golf. Keith Hick of Hesketh, who had voluntarily written the weekly golf column for the Southport Visiter Series Newspapers for fifteen years and who ran the SDGA area golf association, Hillside's John Nelson, an accomplished golf author and editor of his club's newsletter and S&A's Tim Culshaw., a keen follower of the current worldwide golfing scene. I also recruited college student, Chris Jones, a member of West Lancashire GC, who was as keen as mustard to help.*

*Although they were all new to radio broadcasting, I took a chance on them rising to the occasion. They did, superbly, and I believe we recorded a memorable success sufficient for me subsequently to put together a submission for the radio industry's top Sony Award.*

*Despite my experience both here and abroad of big event management, I'd never seen anything like the media centre for the Open. I was gobsmacked with the whole set-up – the hundreds of tables set up for journalists, all equipped with communications aids; the massive screens around the walls displaying the scores as they came in and the slick way the operation was handled. The radio booth we were allocated was adjacent to the world's big broadcasters, American, Australian, European and now **Golf fm**.*

*I was setting up operations and the **Golf fm** boards when a big booming voice said over my shoulder, "Oh, so you're **Golf fm** are you? I'm Bob Kerr from NBC. In the last three days coming here I've seen the **Golf fm** signs and I switched to your 87.9 fm. I've been very impressed. We've nothing like it in the States. Your blend of music and golf is just great".*

*That was music to my ears. I'd earlier got very excited with the final qualifying at Hesketh, Hillside, S&A and West Lancashire. They were big events in themselves. They weren't just nobody knows golfers, they were household names and golfers who would become famous during the event, like Justine Rose.*

*We had superb feedback and I sensed we'd done ourselves no harm at all with our regular *Dune fm* clientele as pioneers of live radio golf broadcasting".*

Keith continues: When Steve set up our pre-planning meetings earlier in the year at the *Dune fm* studios, John, Tim, Chris and I agreed to cover the two days of final qualifying at our respective courses. Although I'd had a smattering of radio and TV experience and commissioned many films

for AMEC plc, I had no live radio experience. Steve planned to have some four hundred pre-recorded music tracks available for the Sunday to Sunday period and Tim arranged for a series of 'vox pops' trailers secured from leading European Tour players, such as Lee Westwood, to be recorded at Wentworth during the PGA Championship.

The two days of final qualifying passed in a blur of action and feverish live reporting, all linked through Dune fm's Esplanade Southport sea front studio, as the fields jockeyed for position at the four courses. Australia's Rodger Davis, who sported his name woven into his plus two's socks, along with England's Gary Evans, were to lead on day one at Hesketh with 68 and 67. Rodger praised Hesketh's greens as some of the best he'd experienced on the European Tour that year. One hundred and twenty competitors from dozens of countries played at each course and the most high profile player at Hesketh was 1987 US Masters champion, Larry Mize. Put up by then club Secretary, Martyn Senior, owing to a mix-up with his hotel accommodation, Mize needed to complete the last five holes of his second round in two under in difficult conditions to qualify. Mize duly did so, to impress all who witnessed it with his composure and steely determination. Coverage then switched to Royal Birkdale on the Tuesday morning for two days of practice and another six fourteen hour days beckoned the four of us. John anchored the coverage at the *Dune fm* Esplanade studio, Tim and Chris covered the on-course action and I managed the Royal Birkdale Media Centre desk to co-ordinate and deliver the live coverage, which was to be an amazing experience.

Mini disk recorders were to prove a boon as we each used them to snatch responses from players, caddies, R&A officials, club Captain and officers, plus journalists and reporters from around the world based in the Media Centre. It came as quite a surprise when Steve advised early on Tuesday morning only half of the pre-recorded music tracks had been laid down for the week and could I 'improvise'. Realising there was precious little time to pull the rabbit out of the hat, I immediately set out to see who I could entice to the Golf fm desk for an interview. By good fortune, the first person I approached was that doyen of sports journalists, Ian Wooldridge. Ian was both charming and helpful, saying "Did you hear about the time I acted as co-driver to Stirling Moss in the Mille Miglia?" That was it, we were off. After Ian's brilliant contribution it gave me confidence to bring people to the desk or go out and secure recorded interviews with the mini disk.

However, the mini disk was to let me down when I arranged to meet David Leadbetter, Nick Faldo's Coach, on the putting green at 8.30am for an interview only for the recorder, which was temperamental, to fail to work and the chance was lost. Anyway, the week, all eight days of it, was a success as we covered Mark O'Meara's success and Justine Rose's remarkable chip-in at the 72<sup>nd</sup> hole. We were to follow it the next year with a weekly half hour radio programme, maintaining the *Golf fm* brand identity on *Dune fm* during the golf season.



An eight year old golfer, Tommy Fleetwood – yes the same Tommy Fleetwood who has burst through the ranks on the PGA European Tour over the past few years to become one of the world's top golfers – was already making a name for himself. Tommy, who was billed as 'possibly the best 8 year old golfer in the world', was invited into the **Golf fm** studio in summer 1999, together with his father and Ted Moule, Junior Organiser of Park GC where Tommy played, for an interview. Steve and I gently quizzed Tommy and his father on his interest in golf and how he had already caught the eye of Greg Norman. Tommy was full of enthusiasm for everything to do with

golf and we all hoped his potential could be fulfilled. Tommy's achievements over the past twenty one years speak more eloquently than any written word and prove just how far he has travelled in attempting to reach his goal.

*Golf fm* was such a hit that the R&A quickly realised the potential and has established The Open Championship AM/FM Radio on 87.9 fm for ensuing Open Championships – but it all started here in Southport with ***Golf fm***.

Since the R&A announced changes in final qualifying it is unlikely Hesketh will figure in future plans. Only Hillside of the local courses has hosted final qualifying for UK based golfers hoping to make it to the Open. Overseas golfers have their own qualifying venues which have been introduced to reduce the necessity of travelling to the UK and to preserve the open nature of the event and quality of the field.

Now only fond memories of Hesketh's time as a final qualifying course remain but the intervening years have seen the club stage the Junior Open Championship in 2008, when a young Jordan Spieth finished runner-up, the 2010 Lancashire Amateur Championship, the 2011 Amateur Championship (with Hillside) and 2018 British Amataeur Championship (with Formby), to demonstrate Hesketh still has what it takes as a test of golf.

## **Keith Hick**

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### **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.

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## **LANCASHIRE SUPER SENIORS V SILVERDALE GC SENIORS: Silverdale GC;** **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020 (See separate Team Sheet for full details):**

Ian Cunningham (Match Captain)	Manchester GC	07789-456029
Clive Appleby (Team Captain)	Fairhave GC	
Keithn Hick (Team Secretary)	Hesketh GC	
Stuart Bourn	Stand GC	
Clive Wilson	Hesketh GC	
Jamie Haddow	Bolton OL GC	
Peter Hampsey	Heysham GC	
Swamy Narayana	Clitheroe GC	
Chris Miller	S&A GC	
Peter Darlington	S&A GC	
Jeff Clements	Stand GC	
Paul Thomas	Ormskirk GC	

### **Reserves:**

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

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

<i>Match No</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Match</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<b>Mgr</b>	<b>Cancelled:</b> <i>YES/NO</i>
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	Yes_____
6	25 <sup>th</sup> June	Davyhulme Park Seniors	Davyhulme Park GC	KCH	3-9(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 Lancs GASeniors* /Ashton-in-Makerfield Seniors)	Ashton-in-Makerfield GC	JVC	Yes_____
10	4 <sup>th</sup> August	Formby GC Seniors	Formby GC	KCH	Yes_____
11	10 <sup>th</sup> August	Morecambe GC Seniors	Morecambe GC	JVC	Yes_____
12	17 <sup>th</sup> August	Cumbria Super Seniors*	TBC	RC	Yes_____
13	25 <sup>th</sup> August	Denton GC Seniors	Denton GC	JVC	Yes_____
14	7 <sup>th</sup> September	Bolton GA Seniors*	Hart Common GC	RC	Yes_____
15	10 <sup>th</sup> Sept	LSS Palatine Trophy	Davyhulme Park	KCH	Yes_____
16	15 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Silverdale GC Seniors	Silverdale GC	JVC	No_____
17	21 <sup>st</sup> Sept	Clitheroe GC Seniors	Clitheroe GC	JVC	Yes_____
18	8 <sup>th</sup> Oct	End of season competition	Ashton-in-Makerfield GC	KCH	TBC_____

\* Scratch match

Event Manager code: RC: Rory Callan

JVC: Jeff Clements

KCH: Keith Hick

**Past County Seniors Secretary, Ian Woolley, continues to look back on his golfing career with the latest in his 'Twelve Lucky Breaks'...**



*Ian Woolley (second left) pictured with his Pleasington GC fellow LUGC Past Presidents, from left to right: Keith Hornby (1993); Ian Woolley (2001); Steve Keighley (2009); John Caton (1990) and Cedric Ingham (1987)*

### **3rd Lucky Break – Awarded a scholarship to study for an M.Sc.at Ohio State University and play some golf**

Almost as soon as I got home from Denmark in Sept 1953 I went to the USA on a scholarship to do a post graduate M.Sc. degree at Ohio State University located in the State Capitol of Columbus about 600miles west of New York. My father and I travelled out first class on a Cunard liner to New York. It was a very luxurious ship with a choice to eat of almost anything you could think of either on or off the Menu. There was a super gym on Board where I met a Mexican Matador who had flown his horses to and from Spain for several very highly paid Bull Fights. He was extremely fit and was amazingly co-ordinated – he could do hand stands and walk about on his hands – even when the sea was rough and the Liner was pitching and tossing about. from my Grandfather's Brother – Great Uncle Teddy who had emigrated to the USA after the World War 1 in the 1920s. He made lots of money making textiles in the 1920's before the Wall Street Crash. But he lost everything in the Crash, went bankrupt, and sadly committed suicide by throwing himself under a train. At Christmas in 1953 I travelled with a friend to the Boston area and was able to spend time visiting several members of Uncle Ted's family. They all made me so welcome.

In September when I arrived in Columbus I found I was invited to stay just off the Ohio State University Campus at a Graduate Scientific Fraternity - Gamma Alpha. There were about 30 Residents in a fairly old-fashioned building. All male. Nearly all Americans who made me very welcome. The accommodation was just passable in rather cramped dormitories so there was no privacy. Nobody could pronounce my name

IAN – so I got called EEON. The Food was good. And it got me off to a good start studying in the USA. After the first term I moved into a flat sharing with two other Post Grad students. That was much more enjoyable and private. But I kept contact with friends I had made at the fraternity just a short walk away. I was very lucky to find the University owned 2 excellent golf courses quite nearby - where I would be able to play at very little cost. And I found partners to play with at the Fraternity where I was staying. But unlike London University they never thought of playing 2 rounds in a day. But it was fun to be able to play just the one round. They preferred to play stroke play – nearly always marking a card for their handicap. But one thing for sure is that they were competitive and hardly ever gave a putt – you expected to have to put out. Jack Nicklaus Studied in the Pharmacy College about 5 years after I was there. So I never met Jack during my time there. But many years later I had the unexpected pleasure of meeting Jack Nicklaus when having Dinner with friends from Pleasington at the Queens Hotel in Lytham St Annes during the Open Championship in 1974 won by Gary Player. In the Dining Room Nicklaus was sitting at the very next table to our table having Dinner with Arnold Palmer and other well-known golfers. They were talking loudly and having a good time. We could easily hear what they were talking about. Palmer was teasing Nicklaus about how slow he was taking his Putts. Nicklaus refused to agree he was slow. Palmer just kept on insisting - “Look Jack I was watching you!” As a bit of fun a wealthy friend at our table – Brian Mercer - gave our Waiter who was serving both tables a short note to give to Nicklaus:- “Can you play in a Special Match at Pleasington Golf Club on Monday after The Open ?” When Nicklaus got this unusual “Invitation” he came to our table and thanked us for the Invitation. To our great surprise he said he would love to come if he could. And he got out his diary to see what might be possible. And what he could manage. He checked his flight time back to the USA and asked how far Pleasington was from Manchester Airport. But with regret he had to conclude it was not going to be possible.

I took the chance to mention to Nicklaus that - like him - I had been a student at the OSU Pharmacy College in 1954. And I asked if he had managed to keep in contact with any of the Teaching Staff such as Prof Nelson the Head of Pharmacology? That drew a complete blank. Nicklaus looked as if he had never heard of Prof Nelson. After Nicklaus left Pharmacy College I do not think he spent much - if any time – working as a Pharmacist. He was born in 1940 and turned golf professional in 1961 when he was 21. What fun it would have been in 1974 to have played with the greatest golfer there has ever been at Pleasington in a fun game on that Monday after the Open!!

I enjoyed my time in the USA – studying hard to get my M.Sc. and completing my Thesis as to whether freeze drying certain medicinal chemicals altered their clinical activity – for example did a very fine freeze dried powder have extra activity? I thought there might be a chance that a local anaesthetic Benzocaine might be more active if it was very finely powdered after freeze drying. But I could not prove it in the animal lab tests which I designed and performed. My Prof – Professor Nelson who was Head of Pharmacology -- was quite satisfied with all the tests I had done. And he gave the go ahead for me to receive my M.Sc.

After a few days in New York with my Father I caught a train to Columbus to find where I was staying near the Ohio State University. And my Father went to the Boston area to make contact with a branch of our family descended from my Grandfather’s Brother – Great Uncle Teddy who had emigrated to the USA after the World War 1 in the 1920s. He made lots of money making textiles in the 1920’s before the Wall Street Crash. But he lost everything in the Crash, went bankrupt, and sadly committed suicide by throwing himself under a train. At Christmas in 1953 I travelled with a friend to the Boston area and was able to spend time visiting several members of Uncle Ted’s family. They all made me so welcome.

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**Ian Woolley**

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## **2020 RUT NIBLICK; PLEASINGTON GC: RESULTS:**

<b>Winner:</b>	<b>Terry Brown</b>	<b>72 gross (ACPO)</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Andy Westwell	72 (ACPO)
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Paul D Williams	75

### **Age categories:**

#### **55-59**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Carl James	36
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Barry Fogg	35

#### **60-64**

1 <sup>st</sup>	M Nichol	37
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mick Phillips	37

#### **65-69**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Peter Ingham	35
2 <sup>nd</sup>	David Bentley	35

#### **70-74**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Trevor Dickinson	37
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Howard Griffiths	33

#### **75-79**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Stewart Smith	38
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## **2020 MANCHESTER GC SENIORS' OPEN RESULTS:**

<b>Winner:</b>	<b>Andrew Westwell:</b>	<b>70 gross</b>
Best Nett:	Tak Cheug	65
Third Nett:	Ken Stafford	70

Best regards and happy golfing,

**Keith Hick**

**Team Secretary**

28<sup>th</sup> August 2020

**Clive Appleby**

**Team Captain**