



LANCASHIRE SUPER SENIORS' GOLF TEAM

Secretary

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TALKING SENIORS' GOLF: SPECIAL EDITION 7: SEPTEMBER 2020

The Newsletter of Lancashire Super Seniors

Well, here we are, almost at the end of the 2020 season and, as Terry Wogan used to say, "Not a child in the house washed!"

Thankfully, we have been able to enjoy our golf since mid May. Clubs have responded positively to the challenges by arranging regular competitions and the game as a whole is thriving with membership applications soaring.

We are going to have to put the LSS 2020 season 'down to experience'. Whilst the best efforts of our Working Party have been thwarted at almost every turn, with matches or events seemingly all set to happen, only to be cancelled at the eleventh hour.

The single beacon of light this year was the 'Bubble Match' against Davyhulme Parl Seniors.

Successfully completed back in June thanks to the diligence of Doug Craig, the match saw Davyhulme Park win by 9 points to 3. Who knows, we might have to embrace this format again in future? It certainly beats having no matches at all.

Nevertheless, planning is steaming ahead for the 2021 season and, as can be seen from the 2021 Fixture List below, several dates and venues have already been secured:

2021 LANCASHIRE SUPER SENIORS MATCHES & EVENTS:

Match No	Date	Match	Venue	Mgr	Availability: YES/NO
1	15 th April	Pre-season get-together	Stand GC	JVC	_____
2	TBC (April)	Formby Hall Captain's team	Formby Hall G&CC	KCH	_____
3	11 th May	Heysham Seniors	Heysham GC	JVC	_____
4	17 th May	Southport & DGA Seniors*	Southport Old Links GC	KCH	_____
5	TBC (May)	NWMGA*	Worsley GC	JH	_____
6	17 th June	Davyhulme Park Seniors	Davyhulme Park GC	KCH	_____
7	6 th July	Bentham GC Seniors	Bentham GC	KCH	_____
8	22 nd July	Isle of Man Super Seniors*	Heysham GC	JH/PH	_____
		(Irish Sea Golf Challenge Match)			
9	26 th July	South Lancs GASeniors*	Ashton-in-Makerfield GC	JVC	_____TBC
		/Ashton-in-Makerfield Seniors)			
10	3rd August	Formby GC Seniors	Formby GC	KCH	_____
11	9 th August	Morecambe GC Seniors	Morecambe GC	JVC	_____
12	TBC (August)	Cumbria Super Seniors*	TBC	JH	_____
13	24 th August	Denton GC Seniors	Denton GC	JVC	_____
14	6 th September	Bolton GA Seniors*	Bolton GC	JH	_____TBC
15	9 th Sept	LSS Palatine Trophy	Davyhulme Park	KCH	_____
16	14 th Sept	Silverdale GC Seniors	Silverdale GC	JVC	_____TBC
17	TBC (Sept)	Clitheroe GC Seniors	Clitheroe GC	JVC	_____
18	TBC (October)	End of season competition	Ashton-in-Makerfield GC	KCH	_____

* Scratch match

NB: Matches shown in bold type have dates and venues secured; Remaining dates shown in regular type are 2020 dates/venues and included for reference only

Team Manager code:

JVC: Jeff Clements

KCH: Keith Hick

JH: John Howard

PH: Peter Hampsey

Qualifying criteria & playing format:

- Age 55 and over on 1st January 2021
- Handicap: Notional handicaps 5 – 10 (However, this does not preclude any Category 1 rated players wishing to play in the Lancashire Super Seniors matches)
- 18 holes scratch or handicap match play; 12-a-side

SENIORS' CHAMPIONSHIPS 2021:

ENGLISH SENIORS' CHAMPIONSHIP:
 LANCASHIRE COUNTY SENIORS CHAMPIONSHIP:
 EGU NORTHERN COUNTIES SENIORS' CH'SHIP:
 BRITISH SENIORS CHAMPIONSHIP
 NORTHERN COUNTIES SENIORS QUALIFIER

SENIORS OPENS 2021 :

Frank Stableford Seniors' Open
 John Glover Seniors Open
 Sir Michael Bonallack Seniors Open
 Rut Niblick Seniors Open
 Manchester Seniors Open Trophy
 Gordon Edwards Seniors Open
 David Marsh Seniors Open

Date:

TBC
 TBC
 20/21 July
 TBC
 31 Aug

Date:

TBC
 7th July
 TBC
 TBC
 TBC
 TBC
 TBC

Venue:

TBC
 TBC
 TBC
 TBC
 TBC

Venue:

Wallasey GC
 Morecambe GC
 Clitheroe GC
 Pleasington GC
 Manchester GC)
 Bromborough GC
 S&A GC

RAMBLINGS OF A WEST LANCASHIRE GOLF CLUB MEMBER:

Harry Tunnicliffe, 2020 President of the Lancashire Union of Golf Clubs and SDGA Chairman, looks back on a half century of membership at Lancashire's oldest golf club, founded in 1873. Here, we begin serializing Harry's 'ramblings'::



Harry Tunnicliffe alongside the plaque recognizing Arnold Palmer's amazing recovery shot on Royal Birkdale's then 15th hole (today's 16th), en route to winning the 1961 Open Championship

1. The Early Years

I was very excited at the prospect of joining the Club back in 1970 having played the Course several times even playing the original course and visiting the old course Clubhouse. As many of you will know, the First tee was on the Crosby side of the railway and the first couple of holes were played on that side with players crossing over the railway further north. I wanted to make a good impression at the interview so shaved off my half-grown beard (which I had been growing for a bet and which was now forfeited). I parked my Morris 1000 (with the rusting and flapping front wings) around the corner and was interviewed by Bill Watson, a Past Captain.

The interview went OK and I was then introduced to about 10 people standing at the bar. One of them (Keith Ferguson) collared me about 10 minutes later and said 'What's my name! Obviously, I hadn't got a clue, so I said so. 'What kind of member will you be if you can't remember names five minutes after being introduced', he responded. That really put me at my ease.

My proposer was a chap by the name of John O'Connell who I had met at the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company. He was the only person I know who 'hooked his putts' with a kind of spinning motion. Needless to say, he never holed any. I never even met my seconder (which wouldn't happen now), but being a 'good chap', was all that mattered then. John had one set of golfing clothes; a jumper and a pair of old slacks which stayed in his locker between games. The concept of a West Lancashire Crest on clothing didn't exist then. In fact, I well remember playing for several years in a reversible jumper, red on one side and black on another. The idea was to make people believe that I had two jumpers, as this made you stand out from the crowd.

As a Colt Member, my annual subscription was 24 Guineas (yes, guineas that's £26.40) plus the same as amount as the entrance fee. I put in 3 cards (one in torrential rain, one in fog and one in the normal howling gale) and received a handicap of 13. The following Sunday, I played with Ted Semper, the Handicap Chairman, and he reduced me to 9 after 9 holes and to 7 after 18. Incidentally, in those days you always said good morning to the locker-room steward, 'old Harry Roberts', a retired greenkeeper, who would then deliver your clubs from the locker room to the first tee. We didn't have lockers, the Clubs were just hung up, and he somehow knew which clubs were yours. He would clean them and put them away after use. This was all part of the service, but a healthy Christmas tip was required to ensure that it continued the following year. He also looked after his 'favourites' by putting a towel in your locker so that you never had a problem with showering. The Club eventually became short of towels, and over 60 were recovered unused from lockers.

In 1971, the Club produced an official handbook and the list of local advertisers (very few of whom still exist) included Jeeves the Jewellers, Ryders Auto service, H H and J Robinson, Hepburns, (advertising Rover and Triumph cars) and of course The Blundellsands Hotel, all familiar names to people of my age. I remember being asked to advertise in it myself, but decided against it at the time, probably a good decision based on what has happened to all the others.

There were some interesting facts and figures in the handbook. The cost of full membership was £44 a year with an entrance fee of £34. Junior Associates fees were £3 per year and the visitors fee for the day was £1 (half if playing with a member). Dress rules for ladies were quite interesting, and I quote "Lady members and visitors are not permitted to wear trousers, slacks or shoes with unprotected stiletto heels in any of the Club rooms available to them" (technically the rules wouldn't have been broken if they simply wore only wearing a bra and pants!)

I made my mark in various competitions, eventually getting down to a handicap of 3, but I have one particular memory of the Timber Trades in around 1972. I was leading after the first 18 and stood on the 1st tee for Round 2. I had already been put off by Wilson Henry who said he had 'bought' me that morning (yes, a sweepstake used to operate on all major competitions in those days.) The same Keith Ferguson (from my first day at the Club) walked up to the tee and said he had come to watch me because he had heard that I had a 'lovely' follow through. Needless to say, I started 11, 7 and that was the end of that competition for me. Guess who won. Yes – Keith Ferguson.

2. Committee and Team involvement

I joined the Handicap Committee in 1972, eventually becoming Chairman. No computer system then, cards were scrutinised and manually entered into ledgers with the competition results being issued on Monday. We changed it's name to the Golf Committee in around 1986 to encompass responsibility for Handicaps, and management of all Club and Open competitions. One of the past-captains, Ernie Jardine was a member of the Committee and wanted anyone who won a competition to be severely treated (regardless of their actual score). 'It's no right' was seemingly his only contribution to every meeting and although, as Chairman, I tried to keep Ernie in check, I was talked into a 5 shot, Clause 19 reduction (12 to 7) for Peter Conway after two wins in a row. He never won anything again, and his golf never really recovered.

I started to play for the scratch team in 1973 (the Captain of the team at the time was Peter Papworth (ex-Mayor of Sefton), who refused to pick me because I 'didn't hit the ball like a 5 handicapper' (I was off 5 at the time) but after much lobbying from Peter Moss and Stewart King I was finally selected. In my first game I was tactically 'thrown away' at number 1, as I was certain to lose, and it gave the others a better chance. I lost to David Marsh (who was an England International, Captain of the Walker Cup team, Captain of the R&A etc etc) and have played with him many times since and know him well as a good friend. I took over the Captaincy of the team in around 1983 and with an excellent squad, including Stewart King, Peter Moss, Dave Jardine, Dave Nolan, Andy Skelton and myself, we won the Beacon Championship twice, The Selwyn Lloyd Rose Bowl (Royal Liverpool Foursomes) for the first time and then again three years later.

The day of my first Beacon, one member came up to me and said 'who on earth picked this team' (as I had dropped Dave Jardine (very much at his own request) and replaced him with Dave Nolan). Dave N had an 8 or 9 at the second (the ball having hit him whilst in the bunker) and I well remember catching the accusing eye of the said member at that point. However, Dave went on to score a 73 which was the best amateur round of the day. (Yes, the person involved did apologise).

We won the Selwyn Lloyd Rose Bowl at Southport & Ainsdale GC, (our first win in 20 years of trying) (the Team picture is on the wall in the locker room). My playing partner was Mike Jarvis (unfortunately no longer a member) but an excellent player who had been a Lancashire County Junior. His claim to fame was playing and beating Paul Way (later a tour pro) in one of his matches. The competition involves 16 Clubs playing a knockout over the weekend with the final on Sunday afternoon. The West Lancashire Captain (Rodney Havard) failed to appear at all during the weekend and it was the S&A Captain Roger Backhouse who bought us our Champagne. I was expecting plaudits from the Club, but all I got was a 'rollicking'

because all of the team weren't wearing Club ties at the prize-giving (apparently a long standing WLGC member (John Almond) was a visitor there that day).

That year, the team also won the Southport and District League Summer Foursomes Trophy. The match ended on the 17th and it was reported in the local papers (by one of my old friend's, Keith Hick of Hesketh GC) that I had hit a towering 6-iron to within 18 inches of the hole and Peter Moss had holed the putt to win the match. Peter immediately refuted the report as being untrue. Firstly, I had played a 3 wood. Secondly, I had never hit a 'towering shot' in my life and thirdly it was 20ft from the pin. Always good to have friends like that! Incidentally Keith, reporting on this fixture, wrote the completely unbiased headline 'Hesketh lose narrowly in Final'. West Lancashire wasn't mentioned until halfway through the report.

Although the local clubs had many fine golfers playing in the Scratch League, handicaps were much higher (even England internationals weren't off 'plus' handicaps in the 70's) and only the biggest hitters at West Lancashire (Stewart King, Peter Moss, Dave Jardine, Andy Skelton etc). could hit a 250 yard drive In those days. At 3 handicap, I was delighted to hit it over 200 yards (I still am!). This was because equipment wasn't as good, there was a choice of about 4 golf balls, Dunlop 65, Slazenger+ and Penfold, but at least they were individually wrapped. For years I swore by the Slazenger rather than the Dunlop until I visited the factory in Speke to see exactly the same ball being stamped either way depending on whether it went left or right down the machinery. Clubs were made of wood, and there was then (or still is now) nothing to compare with the 'rewarding thwack' from a well hit persimmon driver. There was also a different handicapping system then which made it more difficult, if not impossible to reach today's levels.

Around this time, John Muir arrived as greenkeeper. This was closely followed by an intentional drought to kill the 'wrong' grasses and not long later by the 'dreaded' verti-draining. The greens became 'rock hard' during that summer and many of the existing members developed the famous West Lancashire 'duff and run' shot. This involved hitting a shot which travelled exactly the same distance in the air as it did on the ground. (I perfected it, but unfortunately have never been able to get rid of it.) That year West Lancashire won the Beacon Championship and as Team Captain, I had to say a few words. So, with my mouth acting slightly unattached to my brain (as usual), I mentioned that "it was simply our tactics that had won us the event. I had in fact taken the team out onto the M57 to practice". At that point, the Greens Chairman walked out. I was later asked to attend Council to apologise. (Can't anyone take a joke?)

KEITH HICK RECALLS A GAME AT *TOUR 18* ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF HOUSTON, USA:

An invitation arrived a few years ago to play this amazing course, located just outside Houston, the 'oil capital' of America. With our daughter and family living between Houston and Galveston, Sandie and I visit each year which allows me to play some superb courses in Texas. November and December are our favoured time to visit to enjoy Thanksgiving and Christmas, but also to avoid the heat and humidity. When we were there three years ago, I played in temperatures of 91F two days before Christmas; Christmas Day it was 85F – and that's their winter!

Tour 18 replicates the best 18 holes throughout the USA on a site ideally suited to golf where no expense has been spared to recreate 18 iconic holes, now world famous thanks to the three 'majors' played annually in the USA.



Keith plays the recreation of Augusta's par 3 12th hole at Tour 18, complete with Hogan's Bridge

Augusta's 'Amen Corner' is fully replicated, the 11th, 12th and 13th, including the large score boards, complete with the names of that year's contenders. Scoring a respectable six-over par, the experience was almost surreal, but highly enjoyable.

Each teeing area has a large granite headstone inscribed with the anecdotal exploits of a famous golfer. The second, a copy of Bay Hill's 5th hole, demands the golfer to circumnavigate a huge lake to reach the

green which beckons across the stretch of water. "This is where John Daly scored an eighteen" reads the inscription, describing how Daly attempted to reach the green via route one, directly over the lake, not once, but several times before staying on dry land to complete the hole!

Take a look on Google, all the famous holes are there from: Doral, Pinehurst, Pebble Beach, Mrion, Oak Tree etc. It was fun hitting the green to Sawgrass's par 3 seventeenth island green without getting my feet wet!

PAST COUNTY SENIORS SECRETARY, IAN WOOLLEY, CONTINUES TO LOOK BACK AT HIS '12 LUCKY BREAKS AS A SENIOR'...

4th Lucky Break – Joining CUPAL Pharmaceuticals Jan 1955 where I worked till I retired

I came back home to the UK just before Christmas 1954. And in Jan 1955, when I was 22. I joined CUPAL Pharmaceuticals – a family business founded in 1901 by my Grandfather. I worked there for 38 years until I retired in June 1993 when I was just 61.

My grandfather was born in 1864 but had died from Pernicious Anaemia in 1923 when he was only 59 years old. That was long before I was born in 1932. In 1926 a possible treatment became available eating raw liver. But of course that was too late to save my Grandfather's life. In fact it was only many years later in 1972 that Vitamin B12 – a most complex chemical – was synthesised. That was thanks to the work of over 100 Research Chemists in 19 countries for about 12 years. Synthetic B12 is a complete cure for the deadly illness of Pernicious Anaemia. When my Grandfather became ill CUPAL was doing well making family medicines. So my Father, born in 1901, stopped studying Medicine in Edinburgh and came home to help his dying Father. My Uncle Ewart also joined the CUPAL business. And with my Father did a great job expanding sales all over UK until the late 1950's. Then I was able to help expand the business considerably along with my two Cousins - Kenneth and Gordon (Ewart's sons). Then Gordon branched off with his father Ewart to run Secto Company – a very successful sister company to CUPAL making a big range of aerosol household insecticides, air fresheners and horticultural preparations.

In about 1963 my Cousin Kenneth and I were made joint Managing Directors of CUPAL. And my Father became Chairman. We made a big range of our own branded - non-prescription family medicines. They were sold exclusively through over 8,000 privately owned Pharmacies all over the UK and then also in many countries overseas. Kenneth dealt with Home sales. I dealt with Export sales.

A major part of my responsibilities involved Product Development, Manufacture and Quality Control.

Then from 1966 for 27 years until I retired in 1993 my business life took on a good deal of overseas travel visiting our export customers and increasing our Export sales. CUPAL had never had anybody who travelled extensively overseas. I made 47 quite lengthy Tours. But I hardly ever had time to play golf as I was too busy meeting customers. In total on those 47 tours I travelled over 600,000 miles visiting over 70 countries and being "On Tour" for 1,124 days. Most of the countries I visited were "Developing" countries in Africa, the Middle East and Far East. The pace at which I travelled was hectic. I normally worked a 7day week and lots of hours every day.

To save a lot of time waiting for baggage at all the Airports I visited and avoiding all the problems of losing luggage which could be catastrophic on my very tight tour plans I worked out a system of carrying only hand baggage. I was usually traveling First Class so I was allowed 2 pieces of Hand Luggage. I had to include everything I needed to be away for several weeks. That was all my clothes and a lot of personal items, PLUS all my Business Baggage which included lots of samples to show our customers and all the paper work for each customer including costings, previous orders, shipping costs; account details, registration information etc. etc. But it saved so much time as compared to waiting at Airports to collect Checked in Baggage. On one Tour in 1972 I visited 33 destinations almost all in Developing Countries and was away for 59 days and travelled nearly 37,000 miles – that was some tour that was. And I had saved possibly at least 20 hours if I had been waiting for my baggage and also the extra time checking in. Travel in some Developing Countries was far from easy. But all the travelling – meeting customers made a huge difference. Our Export Sales expanded dramatically!!! Some countries like Nigeria I could visit up to 3 times a year.

Often my itinerary involved arriving by air one day, spending the next day meeting customers and then off again to another country. Average length of stay was about 2 days! And I could be away for 6 weeks or more. Many of the local airlines were shambolic with badly maintained and unreliable aircraft; hotel accommodation and local food was often basic to say the least; sometimes if hotel accommodation was overbooked I had to share a room with a stranger ; in many places there was no international telephone contact back home – though telex was usually possible; keeping fit taking antimalarials etc was essential to keep to the Tour Plan and avoid getting ill and having to cancel flights . It paid off very well. Our Exports expanded profitably by over 100 times from the start point in 1966. Exports became an important part of our

business. And my Cousin Kenneth Woolley as Joint MD did a great job expanding sales to Pharmacies all over the UK and Ireland.

I was also working hard on several other important tasks – including 19 years from 1984 till 2003 as Chairman of all our NHS Hospitals around Blackburn. Also I was a Magistrate from 1963 till 2002 (39years) when I had to retire being 70. And I was Chairman of Governors for 23 years 1968 until 1991 of a large Independent Westholme Girls Day School expanding from less than 300 pupils to over 1,100 pupils. I was also involved during those years as Chairman of several other local organisations such as AgeUK and the YMCA.

I also had other hobbies such as Photography. And I was a keen gardener – developing our 1 acre garden and growing lots of vegetables, and lots of flowers for Joyce to cut for the house. To my surprise I even won a prize for Sweet Peas at the Blackburn Agricultural Show.

For several years I took up sailing a Tempest yacht on Ullswater. A Tempest is the largest Olympic Class two-man keel boat. I was the Helmsman. And this yacht had a trapeze for the crewman to hangout on for extra thrills when there was a real strong wind blowing down Ullswater - one of the longest lakes in the Lake District.

I also enjoyed quite a lot of fell walking in the Lake District after getting the bug many years ago probably around 1962 on my first camping expedition in Langdale near the Old Dungeon Ghyll Hotel with 5 Round Tablers. Two of us were completely Novice Fell Walkers – in fact we had never climbed the fells before. I must have been mad because as soon as we had set up Camp near the Old Dungeon Ghyll Hotel we all went off climbing Pavey Arch. And I was only wearing army hobnail boots which can be slippery!!! Somehow, scared stiff of falling, I made the summit after climbing up a narrow gully diagonally across the Pavey Arch rock face. I have never done it again. Whenever I go up the Landale Valley and I look up at Pavey Arch I can see that diagonal gully - and I am not surprised it scared me so many years ago.

The next day after breakfast at our campsite in Langdale we were even more adventurous. We set off to climb England's highest Mountain - Scafell Pike 3,210ft - via Rossett Gill at the head of the Langdale Valley – itself a stiff rocky climb - and then onwards and upwards to the main prize of Scafell Pike. It took about 4 hours up and 3 hours down. Back at the Old Dungeon Ghyll we were well and truly ready for a few pints!!! Next time I went Fell Walking I got rid of the Army Hobnail Boots and bought a really good pair of Walking Boots. I dropped my camera on the way up and it stopped working – so I have no proof I made the summit!! BUT I did!!

Apart from these hobbies of sailing and fell walking my Wife and I had 4 children!! They all went to local schools and had lots of interests which kept my wife Joyce and myself busy.

But I must get back to my involvement with Senior Golf – both playing and helping to organise.

(More from Ian next month – Ed)

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.

WORLD HANDICAPPING SYSEM:

Due to be introduced throughout the UK from 2nd November, this new system is aimed at providing a more accurate measurement of players' handicaps from Plus rated golfers to 54.

By now, most golf clubs will have advised their memberships how the system will be implemented.

A handy score card sized booklet has been produced under the auspices of the R&A, USGA and CONGU entitled, 'RULES OF HANDICAPPING – PLAYER REFERENCE GUIDE'. Whilst the mathematical theory of the new system might be lost to many, the new system promises to be simple in use – let's hope so! Ask your club Secretary for a copy, or check your club web site.

EDGA PRESIDENT AND MASTER PROFESSIONAL, TONY BENNETT, DESCRIBES THE RELEASE OF THE NEW EDGA FILM, MULLIGAN' IN A RECENT EMAIL:

Hi Keith

Hope things are good with you and that life is treating you well.

I thought that you would like to know that I can reveal the launch of our film 'MULLIGAN', which is a story of hope and determination. The six players involved are remarkable, Stewart Harris, Monique Kalkman, Adem Wahbi, Juan Postigo Arce, Mike Gays and Marcus Malo, have all found a way to grow, inspire and become fantastic role models, through a shared love of golf.

The 44-minute film will premiere tonight - Monday (28th September) at 21hrs (BST) on Sky Sports Golf and then be repeated throughout the week. Three other showings are scheduled on the same channel:

Tuesday 29th Sept, 19:00hrs

Wednesday 30th Sept, 20:00hrs

Thursday 1st Oct, 09:30hrs

Should you like to share this information across your Digital / Social platforms, then please feel free to use the following text and images.

Hope that you enjoy this little piece of goodness to start the week.

Tony

The EDGA film 'MULLIGAN', is a story of hope and determination. The characters involved are remarkable. Through adversity, they have found a way to grow, inspire and become fantastic role models, through a shared love of golf.

For a sneak preview of a short clip then visit www.edgagolf.com

KEEPING IT IN THE FAMILY...WORLD RENOWNED GOLF COACH HOWARD BENNETT, TONY'S FATHER, CONTINUES HIS SERIES OF THOUGHT-PROVOKING SUGGESTIONS TO HELP YOU IMPROVE YOUR GAME:

My definition of skill:

Some years ago now, I was asked if I could describe skill in three words? My answer was "creating good habits", not long after this conversation I read an article which went as follows:

Who am I?:

"Consider these words carefully. I am your constant companion. I am your greatest helper or your greatest burden. I will push you on, or drag you down to failure. I am completely at your command, half the things you do you may as well turn over to me and I will do them quickly and correctly. I am easily managed but you must be firm with me. Show me exactly how you would like something done and after a few lessons I'll do it automatically. I am the servant of all great men, but of failures also. Those who are great I have made great, and those who are failures I have made failures. I work with the precision of a scientist and the passion of a patriot. You may use me for profit or use me for ruin; it makes no difference to me. Take me, train me, be firm with me and I will put the world at your feet, but be easy with me and I'll destroy you. Who am I? I am habit.

There is an old Irish proverb that says, a habit is like a warm bed, easy to get into, but hard to get out of. What are the habits you need to get out of? If you want to know where you will be in a year from now check your routine. Change does not happen because of what you know, it happens because of what you do on a daily basis.



Howard imparting his gems of coaching wisdom to a members and guests audience at Hesketh GC in early 2020

Old habits:

On arriving at the Open to meet with a player I had been working with for many years I found his ball control was inconsistent, he had referred to his check list to try and work out which area needed attention, but had not found the answer. When I discussed with him and watched him hit some shots, I reminded him about his right hand position on the club, a key point which he had worked on from time to time during the previous eight years. All levels of golfers have times when they slip back into their old habits, it is important to know what they are and know how to correct them. Write them down, call it your 'fault check list'; even top players need reminding and assuring at times. It's not because they don't know; it's because they have forgotten."

Best regards and happy golfing,

Keith Hick
Secretary

30th September 2020

Clive Appleby
Team Captain