



LANCASHIRE SUPER SENIORS' GOLF TEAM

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TALKING SUPER SENIORS' GOLF: SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2024

The Newsletter of Lancashire Super Seniors

lssgolf.co.uk

Once again, September was a busy month with three matches to conclude the season against Bolton GA, Silverdale and Clitheroe Seniors. We wrapped up another successful season with the Palatine Trophy End of Season day at Manchester GC. Late October sees our Working Party meeting planned to review progress and, most of all, identify candidates to succeed Clive as LSS Team Captain.

LANCASHIRE SUPER SENIORS: 3

SILVERDALE SENIORS: 9

10th September

Match Captain, Ian Cunningham reports:

Hi All, driving up to Silverdale on Tuesday morning the weather was shocking, pouring down even when we arrived at the golf club it was still raining, but at 11.00am when the first match teed off the rain stopped and the sun came out to make it a very nice day to play golf in all be it a tad windy.

the first match out was Ian Cunningham and Andy Charnock (Cunny and Chinny) who lost two down to the excellent pairing of Clint Jolly and Brian Gibbs the next match out was a win one up for Peter Darlington and Mike Tonge, after a half match for Graeme Slater and Mel Evans the rest of the matches all lost Steve Melbourne and Jeff Clement lost one down, Steve Owen and the ever green Ken Stafford (80 this year) lost two down as did our captain Clive Appleby and his partner Colin Taylor .Every one of the matches went to the 17th despite giving the home team players quite a few shots, the result is not a true reflection on how close the match was



Once again Silverdale proved to be perfect hosts, the course was in excellent condition and the after Match meal of chicken and veg was excellent , the members of Silverdale always go out of there way to make LSS so welcome I think they enjoy the bragging rights, Silverdale has a charm about it and everyone who plays enjoys the day, lets hope next year LSS will come out on top.

Thanks everyone, regards,

Ian Cunningham

Allan Harrison adds:

LANCASHIRE SUPER SENIORS: 3 CLITHEROE SENIORS: 9

24th September:

Match Captain, Paul Thomas reports:

Arriving at Clitheroe wondering if the course was fit to play with all the overnight rain, and if I had managed to get my pairings right. As it happened, I needn't have worried about the weather as it was fine all the time we were playing. The course was excellent and then it rained when we were eating!!!!



David Thornhill, John Vernon, Steve Smalley and Damon Lawrenson poised for action on the first tee

After all results were in I quickly realised after all my deliberations, I hadn't got my pairings correct except for one. Congratulations to Mike Tonge who shot a gross 67, and his caddy, (I mean partner), who were the only winners.

We all enjoyed the company of our opponents and the golf was played in a good competitive spirit. Afterwards, we were treated to a fabulous meal and a few beers and our thanks to the catering staff and greenkeeping staff for making it a very enjoyable day.

Many thanks to Andrew and Clitheroe Golf Club for hosting us.

Paul Thomas

LANCASHIRE SUPER SENIORS: 2 BOLTON GA SENIORS: 10

Bolton Old Links GC; 2nd September

Team Captain Clive and Match Captain Allan Harrison report:

A very wet day greeted us at Bolton Old Links for our annual match against Bolton Golf Association. Everyone donned waterproofs and trudged off through the gloomy drizzle but with a promise of improving weather. After 9 holes and greens starting to flood the first two pairings agreed an honourable half with their opponents and found sanctuary in a warm dry club house. The remaining 4 pairings carried on into the mist and as forecast the weather did improve slightly allowing them to complete 18 holes. Unfortunately the scoring for LSS didn't improve as much as the weather and the final result was BGA 10pts and LSS 2pts. The only points for LSS coming from the two halved matches. We were treated to a fine buffet organised by Clive Hastie with Bolton Old Links. A big thank you to Clive Hastie for making the arrangements and we all wish him well for a continuing recovery.

Regards

Clive

Allan Harrison adds:

The much looked forward to match against Bolton Golf Association was a little like a tale of two nines, front nine and back nine. The two points earned by LSS were matches that concluded on the 9th green, due to the course being barely playable due to persistent heavy rain. The players in each of these matches, accepted that whatever the score was after playing the ninth, would be the match result. Fortunately, for LSS, the two games in question were level after nine and the two points earned.

Although the players in the other four matches showed tremendous endurance skills, sadly it didn't lead to any further points being earned for LSS.

Despite the difficult conditions, the course was in very good condition and as is always the case the camaraderie and hospitality shown by the BGA was second to none. Hopefully next year we will have better weather conditions to enjoy what is one of our premier matches in the LSS calendar. Match result 10-2 in favour of BGA

Allan Harrison

END OF SEASON COMPETITION/PALATINE TROPHY; Manchester GC; 4th October:**Mike Tonge reviews this year's Palatine Trophy/End of Season day:**

A great day was had by all and many thanks to Ken Stafford for facilitating the day and everyone at Manchester GC for the presentation of the course and excellent catering. Hope everyone winters well and look forward to meeting everyone again in the 2025 season

Mike Tonge

RESULTS:

First: Allan Harrison & Colin Jones 45 points

Second: Mike Tonge & Greame Slater 44

Best Visitors: John Conway & Peter Nicholson 43

(Manchester GC)

Best front 9: Chris Millar & Kevan Marden

Best back 9: Mal Morton & Paul Stanley

NTP (4th): Mike Tonge

NTP (13th): Steve Melbourne



Colin Jones and Allan Harrison pictured with the Palatine Trophies

Immediately after the day we received a the following letter from Manchester GC Vice Captain, Howard Sutcliffe:

Gentlemen - Captain and President

I feel it only right and proper in my roll of Vice Captain of The Manchester Golf Club that I need to contact you to congratulate you and all the LSS on a most successful day last Friday.

I stood in for Ken Stafford as a guest together with our Past Captain George Shepherd, and we both had a thoroughly enjoyable day and round with Jim (Old Links) and Peter (S&A). Apologies Surnames escape me. Their golf and ball striking was amazing to watch. Ken organised the day brilliantly including acting as starter before leaving for another function.

Mike stood in admirably for the prize presentation afterwards and congratulations to him and all the prize winners are righty due.

May I say here that all your members are a credit to their clubs and to the LSS in the way they conducted themselves and the respect shown during the day for the course, green staff and bar and catering staff.

I understand from Ken that he has had a tremendous amount of quality feedback from your members about MGC which I would like to share with our teams here at MGC.

May I say that LSS and the members who played on Friday are more than welcome back at MGC to enjoy all that Hopwood has to offer. Many thanks again for the opportunity to host the event.

Kind Regards

Howard Sutcliffe

End of Season day feedback compiled by Paul Stanley:

Points made at the End of Season meeting during the season's review:

- We need to recruit more low handicap golfers (less than 4 h/c) so that we can be more competitive in our scratch matches – please put the word about.
- Regrettably no one has yet put their name forward to take over the Captaincy from Clive – again please put the word about and consider whether you may be able to take on the role. (We have a planned Working Party meeting towards the end of this month, when one of the key issues will be to discuss how we can reduce the Captain's workload to make the role less time consuming and demanding.
- We need more people to come forward and help on the Working Party and hopefully take on some of the administrative work currently undertaken by the Captain. (Graham Slater has indicated he may be able to offer some time)

Thoughts / Ideas from the meeting:

- Match Day Captains to take on more responsibility for the team. After initial team selection they become responsible for team pairings / co-ordinating and if necessary, sourcing any substitutes / running the day / collecting fees and preparing the match report.
- What's App group working well – possibly need to monitor it's use with some unnecessary / excessive postings.
- Ensure that Team sheets and any revisions, when posted on website, are dated so that a view of how current they are can be made (explained that it is a moving target to ensure match sheets are fully up to date and What's App probably a better medium for conveying any last-minute changes.)

Ideas to reduce the Captain's workload / make the role more attractive:

- Reduce the number of events (potentially there would be 20? next season if we play the Cumbria match)
- Recruit a Vice-Captain to share the workload
- Make the position for a defined period (say 2/3 years)
- Split out some of the administrative work for others to do – i.e.

- Maintenance of Current Member's List
- Compilation of Season's Fixture list / Emailing details to members / Receiving notification of availability
- Liase and assign Match Team Captains after return of member's availability
- Compile 1st run of Team Sheets for matches and circulate (Web site and opening match)
- Dealing with orders for team kit (currently dealt with by Paul Stanley)
- Any other?

Paul Stanley

THANK YOU TO CLIVE:

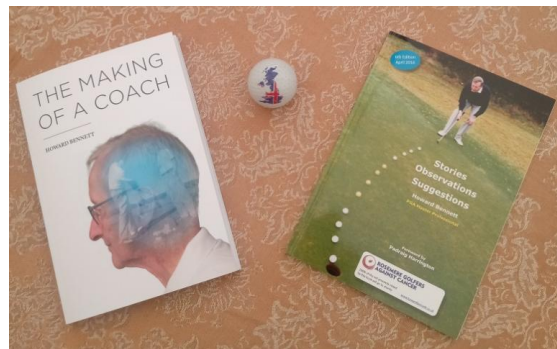
Now Clive has stood down as Team Captain, we can all pay tribute to Clive for his tireless contribution over the past four years. The successor to Keith Gardner required a true golfing enthusiast and Clive fulfilled the role with a blend of dedication and professionalism ideally suited to the continued development of Lancashire Super Seniors.

Clive's stewardship provided a seamless transition from Keith G, ensuring LSS maintained its status as pioneer of Super Seniors golf in Northern England.

A huge "thank you" from us all Clive!

Keith Hick

"The Making of a Coach" by PGA Master Professional, Howard Bennett: (Available on Amazon from November 2024):



Howard and two of his books chronicling his life in golf

Howard's recently published book, published to help raise money for charitable causes and looking back on his career, has 17 chapters, 159 pages covering, "The Universe of Life" and all that that includes, as Howard explains:

- *"Starting from being born in Southport, and the challenges I had as a youngster, with two years in the Merchant Navy, then doing two years National Service with the RAF, then eventually spending 63 years being involved in golf with all its challenges.*
- *I was truly blessed in my life and to have the opportunity of being involved in the game of golf in some way, there has been many challenges, as one would expect.*
- *As you will read in chapters 16/17, a small quote, "my school teachers often quoted that I was determined, perhaps even stubborn at times, so those who doubted me would only have fuelled my ambition to do well, and there is so much more to learn from those two pages. Finishing with another short clip from the book, I'd like to with quotes from pages 147/8/9: "A coach can never know the full extent of their influence".*
- *I have been fortunate to work with some amazing athletes who have become household names.*
- *It gives me great satisfaction to know that I have contributed to their performance and been a small part of a career in golf that in some cases even exceeded their expectations.*

- One player I reached out to when collecting stories for this book wrote to me about the struggles he had faced. This player, who I first taught as a teenager had a scratch handicap and had great potential, but had gone through a rough time etc, etc. The writer of that letter wanted me to share their story, and to respect their wishes.
- I have chosen to anonymise the following text. Here is a story that helps me realize the power of dealing with every person as an individual by concluding on the last few words and sentence of the letter to me: **"I guess I'm trying to tell you that your coaching had more of an effect on me off the course in dealing with my mind and emotions to overcome my difficulties and setbacks. I'm grateful that we met and that I could learn from you. I needed to hear what you had to say about golf, but perhaps more importantly, it's how I used it to survive and possibly even stay alive"**.
- The letter above had a profound effect upon me. I am glad I was able to help him.

Howard Bennett

2024 LANCASHIRE SUPER SENIORS MATCHES & EVENTS:

Match No	Date	Match	Venue	
1	4 th April	Formby Hall Captain's Team*	Formby Hall G&CC	7-5
2	11 th April	Pre-season get-together	Stand GC	See separate report
3	29 th April	SDGA Seniors*	Ashton-in-Makerfield GC	2-8
4	10 th May	Heysham Seniors	Heysham GC	3-7
5	27 th May	Cumbria Super Seniors*	Bentham GC (Postponed; to be re-arranged)	
6	6 th June	NWMGA*	Stand GC	
7	13 th June	Davyhulme Park Seniors	Davyhulme Park GC	4-8
8	18 th June	Cheshire Super Seniors*	Bramhall GC	2-10
(over 65s only)				
9	8 th July	Northumberland Super Seniors*	Northumberland GC	3-9
10	12 th July	Bentham GC Seniors	Bentham GC	3-9
11	22 th July	South Lancs GA seniors*	Ashton in Makerfield GC	6-6
12	25 th July	Isle of Man Super Seniors*	Heysham GC	6-6
(Irish Sea Golf Challenge Match)				
13	2 nd August	St Annes' Old Links	St Annes' Old Links GC	4-8
14	6 th August	Formby Seniors	Formby Golf GC	9-3
15	20 th August	Denton GC Seniors	Denton GC	4-8
16	25 th August	Fairhaven seniors *	Fairhaven GC	4-8
17	2 nd Sept	Bolton DGA Seniors*	Bolton Old Links	2-10
18	10 th Sept	Silverdale Seniors	Silverdale GC	3-9
19	16 th Sept	Cumbria Super Seniors	Grange-over-Sands GC	Cancelled
20	24 th Sept	Clitheroe GC Seniors	Clitheroe GC	3-9
21	4 th October	Palatine Trophy/	Manchester GC	End of Season competition

*Scratch match

AND FINALLY...FREE LANCASHIRE FLAG GETS ANOTHER AIRING:

The Museum of Rural Lancashire Life held a charity fund raising day at their Turning Lane, Scarisbrick farm on Saturday 21st September. Live demonstrations, including a Farrier, horseshoeing and a Blacksmith crafting horseshoes on his Anvil kept an audience in thrall. The Free Lancashire flag, as adopted by LSS, was flying on the day.



Blacksmith, John Parkinson and his team hard at work on the Anvil creating new horseshoes

Best regards and happy golfing,

Keith Hick

Clive Appleby

Secretary
16th October 2024

Team Captain