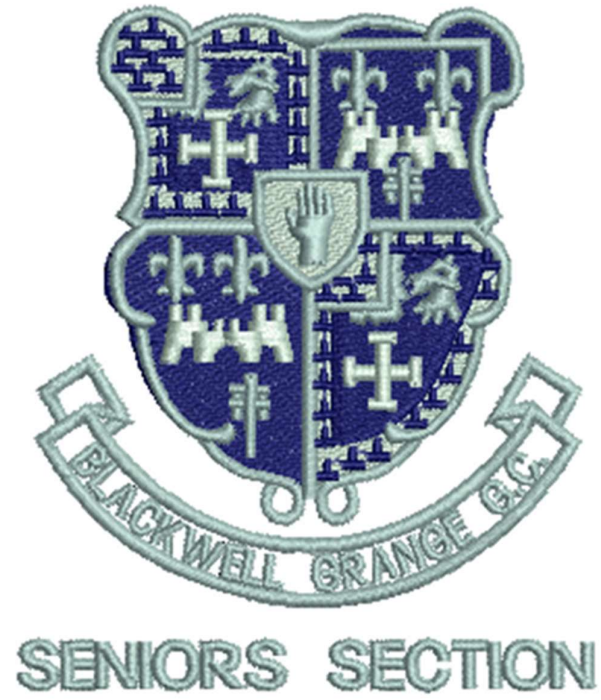


Blackwell Grange Golf Club Seniors' Section

History of the Seniors' Section

1984 to 2021

Stephen Airey
2021



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First edition 2021 (1984 to 2021)

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Past Captains and Honorary Members

Past Captains

1986 L. Young *	2011 D.J. Heaton OBE
1987 T. Dunn *	2012 T.J. Stace *
1988 L. Fielding *	2013 P. Wharton MM
1989 R. Jones * / J.G. Courtney *	2014 R. Western
1990 G. Herbert *	2015 M. Dunstone
1991 S. McGregor *	2016 J. Dobson
1992 J. Coward	2017 H. Pennington
1993 V. Cotton *	2018 R.D. James
1994 J. Cole *	2019 J.M. Zissler
1995 A. Hird *	2020 K. Binns
1996 J. Lee-Warner *	2021 K. Binns
1997 F. Ham	
1998 D. Smith	
1999 J. Kee *	
2000 A. Cooke	
2001 B. Hennessy	
2002 J. Carter *	
2003 J. Clulee *	
2004 G. Harris	
2005 R. Smith	
2006 D. Sayers *	
2007 T. Stansfield	
2008 J. Buchanan	
2009 P. Constable	
2010 J.D. Mawer	* Deceased

Honorary Members

I.W. Barnes, F.A. Cooke, I.G. Davie, L.A. Hankinson, G. Harris, B.J. Hennessy, J.M. Hurworth, D.A. Smith, R. Smith

Dedication

I would like to dedicate this document to the members of Blackwell Grange Golf Club, particularly the members of the Seniors' Section and especially the more long-standing members of the Club.

Also, I would like to thank my wife, Amanda, for her patience and understanding and for her assistance with the presentation of the document.

I hope that what I have documented you find informative and interesting, but perhaps more importantly I hope that it evokes happy memories of your own time at Blackwell and of your own golfing experiences. Anyway, I do hope that you enjoy reading my account of things.

Stephen Airey

Preface

I have been a member of Blackwell Grange Golf Club since 1982 and I joined the Seniors' Section in 2013. Prior to 1982 I was a member of Stressholme Golf Club from when it opened in 1976, so having started playing golf there, it is interesting to be playing the same course again after all these years. I actually won a couple of competitions at Stressholme, which is more than I achieved at Blackwell prior to the merger. Although the Briar Close course was a lot shorter, I never found it particularly easy, in the main because it was very tight in comparison and having seven par 3's was certainly a challenge.

I was invited to join the Seniors' Section Committee in 2016 and at my first meeting I proposed that it would be helpful to have a 'Members' Information' document to provide a guide to the Seniors' Section, which I volunteered to write. The document was first issued in February 2017 and is reissued annually. I enjoyed documenting what I had learnt during the first four years that I had been a member of the Seniors' Section and I hope that this will prove to be a useful reference document. I have also created an 'Introductory Information Sheet' for prospective new members of the Club; effectively a condensed version of the 'Members' Information' document, which I have included on the next page as a reminder of things. Both documents are also included on the Club's website.¹ Information regarding the Seniors' Section has also more recently been included in the Club diary.

In creating the 'Members' Information' document, the last thing that I included was a list of the Seniors' Past Captains and Honorary Members, similar to the list that was included in the Club Fixture Lists, which I always thought was a useful reminder. The list is also included at the beginning of this document.

This sparked an interest to learn more about the Seniors' Section and its members and evoked memories of certain experiences during my membership of Blackwell and of my own golfing achievements, such that they are. It's nice to reminisce from time to time!

Being a hoarder, I have kept all the Annual Reports and Accounts since I joined the Club and after glancing through some of the Seniors' Captains' Reports, I thought that it would be interesting to review these in more detail. I decided that I would like to write a history of the Seniors' Section, as I believed that a lot of senior members, particularly more long-standing members, would find it interesting too, but I thought that that's another story! Anyway, here goes - I hope that something evokes some happy memories for you.

¹ The 'Members' Information' document is included in the 'Members' Area' under 'Senior Members Information' and the 'Introductory Information Sheet' is included under the 'Sections/Seniors' tab.

Introductory Information Sheet

Introduction

This information sheet has been created to provide a brief guide to the Seniors' Section for prospective new members of the Club. The Seniors' Section was formed in 1984 and is a very popular, friendly and extremely well organised section of the Club.

Membership

Gentlemen members aged 55 and over are eligible to join the Seniors' Section.

The total number of members has grown from only 24 in 1984 to over 200 today, the size of the Section being the envy of many other clubs in the area.

Captain's Events

The season starts with the Captain's Challenge in March and other events include the Captain's Scramble and Dinner (Seniors' Captain's Day) in June and the Captain's Away Day in August.

Competitions

There are five Medal and five Stableford Qualifiers during the season, generally on a Thursday morning. The top four players in each of the three handicap sections/divisions (Gold 0 – 14, Silver 15 – 19 and Bronze 20 – 54) qualify to play in the finals in September. There are prizes for the winners, runners-up and third place in the Qualifiers and the Finals and there is also a Nearest the Pin competition and an Eclectic competition which run alongside the Qualifiers.

As well as the Qualifiers, the Seniors' Section organise a variety of other competitions to be played throughout the year.

Friendly Matches

Matches are held between various clubs both home and away, generally on a Tuesday morning and the Captain is responsible for selecting the teams. The clubs involved are Barnard Castle, Bedale, Bishop Auckland, Cleveland, Durham City, Eaglescliffe, Masham, Ramside, Romanby, Teesside, Thirsk & Northallerton and Woodham.

There is also a match with the Ladies' Section in April and a match against the Ladies in October.

Teesside and District Union of Golf Clubs

Blackwell Grange Golf Club play in the 1st Division of the Teesside Union Seniors' League. Further information is included under the 'Teams' section of the Club's website.

Seniors' Opens

Team and Pairs opens are held during the year. See the 'Open Dates' section of the website to book any of these.

Winter League

The winter league is a pairs competition on a league basis with 19 matches of a variety of formats, which are held on a Thursday morning.

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Introduction

The Seniors' Section was actually formed in 1984 by Les Young when he was the Club Captain and Tom Dunn who was the first Secretary. There were only 24 members on the initial list.² However, the Section was officially established in 1986, with Les Young being the first Seniors' Captain. Tom Dunn was the Secretary that year and John Camburn was the only other Committee member. There were 36 members who paid an annual membership fee of £2 and the competition entry fee was 30p.

The competition season and format has not changed a great deal since then. Monthly Medal and Stableford competitions were held between April and September and friendly matches were also held between various clubs both home and away. There were only six clubs involved then, being Bedale, Bishop Auckland, Chester-le-Street, Darlington, Durham City and Eaglescliffe, compared to twelve clubs now.³ Over the years the mix of clubs has obviously changed and Brancepeth Castle, Dinsdale, Hartlepool and Oak Leaf have also been involved previously. Matches were also held between the Club Lady Veterans, Rabbits and Juniors.⁴

The winter league was introduced later, the winter of 1991/1992 being the first time that the **PAIRS WINTER LEAGUE WINNERS** trophy (George Morrison Cup) was played for, with the **THE "SID and JOYCE MCGREGOR" CUP** being a more recent addition in 2007.

The friendship and camaraderie are what makes the Seniors' Section so special and this is a common theme throughout the Seniors' Captains' reports.

So too is reference to the growth of the Seniors' Section. The total number of members has grown from that initial list of 24 to over 200, the size of the Section being the envy of many other clubs in the area. The number of members jumped significantly from 84 in 2012 to 141 in 2013 following the move to Snipe Lane on 1 July. Also, 2014 and 2016 saw quite an increase in numbers to 165 and 189 respectively and numbers have steadily increased since then and surpassed 200 for the first time in December 2019. There were 208 members, including 9 honorary members prior to the Annual General Meeting in 2021.

Eligibility is another thing that has been referred to over the years, but the age limit of 55 is consistent with golf clubs throughout the UK and of course the age limit for the Staysure Tour, formerly known as the European Senior Tour, is only 50.

It was an interesting exercise to review all the Seniors' Captains' reports and the extracts that have been chosen provide an insight into the growth of the Section, as well as highlighting a miscellany of other information.⁵

In an attempt to bring an element of light-heartedness to my account, the extracts are interspersed with my own remarks and some anecdotal references. Writing this account has also evoked a lot of happy memories, some of which I have reflected on.

It is hoped that you find the extracts informative and that they evoke some happy memories for you too.

² See Les Young's Captain's Report, included in the Annual Report and Accounts dated 7 February 1985.

³ The clubs included in the fixture list for 2021 are Barnard Castle, Bedale, Bishop Auckland, Cleveland, Durham City, Eaglescliffe, Masham, Ramside, Romanby, Teesside, Thirsk & Northallerton and Woodham.

⁴ See Fixture List and Handicap Certificate 1986.

⁵ The extracts are set in smaller type and block centred (indented left and right).

Whilst this document concentrates on the Seniors' Captains' reports, certain other historical information is included in the appendices, which are referred to in the following paragraphs.

In joining the Seniors' Section Committee, I was made aware of a book that contains the minutes of the Annual General Meetings (AGMs) from 1986 to 2014, which has been an invaluable reference document and I have included a summary of certain information from this in Appendix A. The summary was first issued with the 'Members' Information' document in 2018.

The minutes are included in a hardcover notebook⁶, signed by the respective Seniors' Captains. From 1986 to 1998 they were hand written and from 1999 to 2014 they were typed and cut and pasted into the notebook. However, from 2015 they have been saved on a memory stick. That's progress for you! The minutes of the first meeting in 1986, written by Tom Dunn and signed by Les Young, have been re-created for reference purposes and are included in Appendix B.

As well as creating a summary of the AGMs, because there are no honours boards for the Seniors' Section competitions, a series of summaries of the trophy winners has been created. All the trophies passed through my hands for the first time in 2018, for trophy engraving purposes, so I took the opportunity to review them all and create the summaries, which will act as a memory jogger for many of you who feature. These were first issued with the 'Members' Information' document in 2019.

The Singles competition winners, apart from the Medal and Stableford Finals, are included in Appendix C, the Medal and Stableford Final winners are included in Appendix D and the Team competition winners are included in Appendix E.

As you will see there are now some 28 trophies that are played for throughout the year, compared to only a handful in the early years. Although certain trophies have been replaced over the years, some are now obviously in a more battered state than others, but it has been interesting to see what they all look like, as until I became responsible for the engraving, I had only managed to get my hands on one of them, albeit jointly!

I keep a record of various competition information for the Seniors' Section Committee and at the Annual General Meeting in 2018 the Captain, Roger James, suggested that I should share some of this information with the members. I have since issued a one-page 'Annual Review of Competitions', which I hope that you find informative. I intend to create a compilation of the various analyses and statistics to include in a future edition of this document.

I hope that you enjoy the read!

⁶ British writing paper size Imperial 7 x 9 in

Chapter 1

The Early Years – 1984 to 1994

1984

This was the year that the Seniors' Section was formed and so is a landmark year in its history.⁷

Les Young, who was the Club Captain in 1984, stated in his Captain's Report that:

One of my keenest ambitions during my year of office was to promote the formation of a Blackwell "Seniors" section, and again thank the Executive for their support in the starting of this new section, with an initial list of 24 members. Many thanks to Tom Dunn for his hard work as their first secretary, and I wish the Seniors every success in the years to come.

John Camburn, the Club Competition Secretary in 1984, reported in his Competitions Report that:

[A] Senior Section was formed in 1984 and this venture proved to be very successful, when both internal and inter-club matches were played. Tom Dunn was appointed secretary of the section and his enthusiasm was instrumental in making the inaugural year of the Senior Section so successful.

Well done to Les and Tom for forming the Seniors' Section!

1985

Another landmark year! This was the year that I got married to Amanda. It was also the year that I won my first trophy at Blackwell for winning a Gents Medal Qualifier with a net 65 (83 – 18). The day was Sunday, 16 June and it was to be some 33 years later that I next won a trophy. As the saying attributed to Michael Caine goes: 'Not many people know that'!⁸ I hope that you understand that it would have been remiss of me not to mention the former event and that, with not being a prolific winner, you can excuse me for referring to the latter. Anyway, back to the story ...

David Youldon, who was the Club Captain in 1985 (and the man who presented me with my trophy) and John Camburn, the Club Competition Secretary again that year, made reference to the Seniors' Section in their respective reports, with Tom Dunn being thanked by them both for his efforts.⁹

David stated that:

The Rabbits' Section and the Seniors' Section have both continued to flourish. They make a marvellous contribution to the 'spirit' of the Club and I thank Ossie Poad and Tom Dunn for their admirable efforts.

Similarly, John stated that:

The Senior and Rabbits Sections continued to progress and both domestic and inter-club matches were played with equal enthusiasm. Tom Dunn and Ossie Poad are to be thanked for their hard work which enabled the two sections to thrive.

Clearly Tom Dunn was instrumental in establishing the Seniors' Section.

⁷ See Annual Report and Accounts dated 7 February 1985.

⁸ I dare say that not many people know this either! It was Peter Sellers who initiated the catchphrase when he appeared on BBC1's Parkinson show on 28 October 1972 (see 'In popular culture' in the following hyperlink: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Caine).

⁹ See Annual Report and Accounts dated 1 February 1986.

1986 – Les Young

This is the year that the Seniors' Section was officially established.

Les was the first Seniors' Captain and was a member of the Seniors' Section Committee for some seven years in total; from 1986 to 1990, before making a comeback from 1991 to 1994. He was made an Honorary Member in 2006.

He was also the Club Captain in 1984 and it is believed that he was a member of the Executive Committee between 1972 and 1979, as well as 1982 to 1988. He was a member of the majority of the Sub-Committees over the years and was Chairman of the House Sub-Committee from 1983 to 1987. He later had the honour of being President in 1992 and 1993.

He also had the honour of being elected a Life Member of the Club at the Club's Annual General Meeting on 3 February 1994.¹⁰

Les' name is associated with two Seniors' Section trophies, as follows:

1. The **'Super Vets Champion'** trophy, also known as the Pat and Les Young Trophy, was presented by Pat and Les in 1993. Les' wife Pat was Ladies' Captain in 1975.
2. The **LES YOUNG MEMORIAL TROPHY**, which was renamed the **LES & DOUG YOUNG MEMORIAL TROPHY** in 2016, is presented to the winners of the Greensomes Stroke Play competition. It was first played for in 2012. Les' son Doug was Club Captain in 1998. There are in fact two trophies, one for each playing partner.

Also, 1986 was the first year that an Annual General Meeting was held, at which 22 of the 36 members were present, including the three Committee members, Les Young, Tom Dunn and John Camburn. Again, well done gentlemen! The minutes of this meeting have been re-created for reference purposes and are included in Appendix B.

Interestingly, the Seniors' Section was established during the same era that a number of senior majors were founded; the U.S. Senior Open in 1980, the Senior Players Championship in 1983, The Senior Open Championship in 1987 and The Tradition in 1989. These tournaments were founded in the era when senior golf became a commercial success. This occurred when the first big golf stars of the television era, men such as Arnold Palmer and Gary Player, began to reach the relevant age.¹¹ The relevant age being 50 and above.

¹⁰ See Annual Report and Accounts dated 17 December 1993.

¹¹ 'Senior major golf championships', Wikipedia,
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Senior_major_golf_championships

1987 – Tom Dunn

The first Seniors' Section report was written by Tom. His full report is reproduced here for posterity.¹²

SENIOR SECTION

During the past season we have had a full programme of section competitions, together with six inter club matches. The results of the latter have not covered us in glory, but the friendships made have more than made up.

Two new events were added to the 1987 programme. Firstly we joined the national competition organised by the Clerical Medical Investment Group. From an entry of over 50,000 one of our members, Les Young, qualified for the last 34 to play at St. [Mellion], Cornwall. Our congratulations are extended to Les. We also arranged an outing to Easingwold G.C. Unfortunately the weather failed to support us with rain all day, but 16 hardy souls survived to enjoy the hospitality of the Clubhouse.

The 1988 programme is now complete. Play is mostly on a Thursday morning, so if you are over 55 years of age, why not come and join us. You will find a warm welcome.

Finally my thanks to all who have helped in any way to make this an enjoyable year. Our thanks also go to the Club Executive Committee for allowing us the courtesy of the course for the inter club matches.

T. C. DUNN
Section Captain

Four of the original six inter-club matches are still included in the current fixture list i.e. Bedale, Bishop Auckland, Durham City and Eaglescliffe, but obviously because of the friendly nature of these matches, they are now affectionately called 'Friendly' matches.

It was quite an achievement for Les Young to qualify to play at St. Mellion. The Kernow Course opened in 1976 to considerable acclaim and within two years had already become a fixture on the European Tour hosting the Benson & Hedges International Open and the Tournament Players' Championship.¹³

Tom's report includes proof that the age limit has always been 55! Having said that, I am reliably informed that the age limit in 1984 and 1985 was actually only 50. My informant remembers the age limit being deemed too low and, as a consequence, it being brought in line with the Club Veteran's Trophy i.e. 55 years of age.¹⁴ The change probably occurred in 1986 with the official establishment of the Section. Unfortunately, he has no documentation to verify this, but if anyone does, I would be pleased to hear from them.

¹² See Annual Report and Accounts dated 20 February 1988.

¹³ <https://st-mellion.co.uk/en/our-heritage.html>

¹⁴ The age limit for the Club Veteran's Trophy was increased from 50 to 55 in 1983.

Tom was one of the founder members in 1984 and he was the first Secretary, a role that he carried out until 1991. He was also Treasurer from 1987 to 1991. So, as well as being Captain in 1987, he was also Secretary and Treasurer, which was quite a commitment to say the least!

The Seniors' Captain in 1989, Jim Courtney, made special mention of Tom in his report:

Tom gives unstintingly of his time to the senior section and apart from arranging all the fixtures and liaising with the various sub-committees he looks after the finances, prizes and so on. I'm sure I speak for all our members when I say how much we appreciate all he does and take this opportunity of thanking him warmly for all his efforts. I should like to thank personally for all his help and guidance with team selection [etcetera]. ...

Similarly, the Seniors' Captain in 1990, Gwynn Herbert, paid tribute to Tom in his report and went on to say that:

... He will I am sure be long remembered by all for the work he has done and contributing to the Senior Section.

So, as well as Tom being instrumental in establishing the Seniors' Section, he was obviously a 'jack of all trades' on the Committee.

He was also co-opted to the Club Handicaps Sub-Committee from 1988 to 1990 and David Youldon paid tribute to Tom in his Chairman's Report for 1990¹⁵ by saying:

Sadly, we all suffered a personal loss with the passing away of Tom Dunn who has made a major contribution to the running of the Handicap Committee and the Seniors' Section.

The **Tom Dunn Memorial Stableford** trophy is presented to the player with the three best Stableford aggregate. It was first presented in 1991.

¹⁵ See Annual Report and Accounts dated 17 December 1990.

1988 – Les Fielding

Les started by reporting that:

We are growing in numbers and have now over fifty members and an average of twenty five players participating in competitions held on a Thursday morning.

A far cry from where we are today!

It would appear that the annual dinner has always been popular, as he went on to say:

Congratulations to the winners of the various trophies, which were presented by the Club Captain at our well attended Annual Dinner ...

His report referred to 'The seven Club matches (home and away)', Barnard Castle, being added to the fixture list.

Les was a member of the Seniors' Section Committee for three years in 1987, 1988 and 1990. He was made an Honorary Member in 2005.

The **Les Fielding Tankard** is presented to the winner of the winter singles knockout. It was first played for in 1988.

The **S P SHEPHERD SALVER** presented by Sid Shepherd was also first played for in 1988. This is for the winner of the summer singles knockout.

To quote the phrase 'and now for something completely different', as strictly speaking this has nothing to do with the history of the Seniors' Section, I thought that you might be interested to see a photograph taken in 1988 of four future Seniors!



Maurice Etherington, Stephen Airey, Steve Wearmouth and Mark McCabe

My brother-in-law, Maurice Etherington and I played with Mark McCabe and Steve Wearmouth in the Club Captain's Day in 1988 and this is the photograph that was taken of the four of us when we stopped after the 11th hole for refreshments in front of the Blackwell Grange Hotel. Spot the white Adidas Cruiser golf shoes which were popular at the time! The Club Captain in 1988 was John Taylor, another future Senior – cheers John!

1989 – Ray Jones / Jim Courtney

The Senior Section Report included in the Annual Report and Accounts for 1990 was written by J G Courtney and the minutes of the Annual General Meeting in 1990 state that:

Ray Jones unfortunately had resigned as Captain due to health reasons and J Courtney Vice-Captain agreed to take over role of Captaincy in the circumstances. J Courtney expressed the thanks of the members to Ray Jones for the trophy he had so generously given to the senior section, which was received with appreciation by all those present.¹⁶

Jim Courtney's name is also included on the Captain's gavel block, however Ray Jones' name is included on the Seniors' Captains Honours Board. In the circumstances, the Honours Board was to have been changed to include both names, but unfortunately this was not viable, as it was not possible to simply replace the plate for 1989.

Jim reported that:

Membership has now topped the 60 mark and enthusiasm is only matched by the high standard of comradeship that is most evident. ...

This was the first year that a Seniors' Captain's Day was held. Jim reported that:

It was agreed at the section's A.G.M. this year that we would hold a senior Captain's day at Blackwell for a change, so on a bright July day we enjoyed a special lunch after playing 18 holes and then we held a friendly 9 hole competition in the afternoon for those still feeling fit enough to participate! ...

The **RAY JONES TROPHY** was the original trophy for Captain's Day and was replaced by the **KEITH HORNSBY TROPHY** in 2006. Unfortunately, the whereabouts of the original trophy is unknown, however with the help of Status Promotions and the Seniors' Section's archives the gap in the records has been narrowed to 1989 to 1995 and 1998. If anyone can fill the remaining gaps, I would be pleased to hear from them.

Ray was a member of the Seniors' Section Committee for the then usual two-year term, albeit his year of captaincy was short-lived.

Jim was also a member of the Seniors' Section Committee for two years and was the first Competition Secretary before taking over as Captain.

¹⁶ See 'Matters Arising' of minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 5 February 1990.

1990 – Gwynn R. Herbert

Gwynn started by saying:

It gives me much pleasure to report that the Senior Section is still increasing in numbers, at present the membership totals 66. I am pleased to report we are in the fortunate situation of having new members frequently joining the Senior Section.

He reported that:

... The Senior Captain's day was again held at Blackwell. The event comprised of playing 18 holes, teeing off at midday followed by a meal and prize giving.

Playing 27 holes the first year was obviously a little too ambitious!

Gwynn was a member of the Seniors' Section Committee for the usual two-year term. He was Competition Secretary before becoming Captain.

The Gwynn Herbert Memorial Medal Trophy is presented to the player with the three best Medal aggregate. It was first presented in 1992.

1991 – Sid McGregor

Sid started by reporting that:

The present membership totals 59, a decline of 7 from last years report, but interest in and enthusiasm for the section is at a premium and several club members have indicated that they intend to join the section in the Spring and of course they will be made very welcome.

He also reported that:

The Section has been pleased to receive the Tom Dunn Memorial Trophy, kindly donated by Mrs. Audrey Dunn and also the Senior Captains' Gavel made and donated by Mr. Ken Myatt.

The engraved plate on the top of the gavel block reads:

CAPTAINS GAVEL
PRESENTED TO THE SENIOR SECTION
OF BLACKWELL GRANGE GOLF CLUB
BY MR J. K. MYATT
JUNE 1991

Mr Myatt also presented the Ladies' Section with a similar gavel. The Ladies' Captain in 1991, Kate Stephenson, reported:

We are most grateful to Ken Myatt again for presenting us with the noise abatement hammer.¹⁷

Ken was obviously a keen craftsman.

The membership fee was increased from £2 to £5. So there has been no increase for 30 years!

Sid was a member of the Seniors' Section Committee for some seven years in total; from 1990 to 1993, before making a comeback from 1994 to 1998 as Secretary. He was made an Honorary Member in 2004.

THE "SID and JOYCE MCGREGOR" CUP is presented to the winners of the winter league. It was first presented in 2007. Sid's wife Joyce was a member of the Ladies' Section until 2020.

¹⁷ See Annual Report and Accounts dated 16 December 1991.

1992 – John W. Coward

John reported that:

Membership has increased to seventy two this year, largely due to the effort of Viv Cotton, Sid McGregor and Frank Grimshaw.

Sid McGregor had reported that membership totalled 59 in 1991, so an increase of 13 or 22% was quite significant at the time.

John also reported that:

Malcolm Metcalfe has made a superb wooden cash box to be used by the Competition Secretary – Thank you Malcolm.

The cash box, which is still used today, has a small engraved brass plaque on the lid and reads:

Made & Presented by

MALCOLM METCALFE

November 1992

Malcolm was obviously a bit of a craftsman, as he also carved a bird on the back of the box, I assume being his trademark, similar to the carved mouse symbol on the Mouseman furniture.

John was a member of the Seniors' Section Committee for five years and was Secretary in 1991 and 1993.

1993 – W. D. V. Cotton

Viv reported that:

The section continues to flourish with over 85 members, 40 of which participated in representative matches. ... The inaugural Captain's Challenge match proved that the quality of the chips was significantly better in the Clubhouse than on the golf course, whilst the Texas Format on Captain's Day really scrambled some of the E.G.G.S. ...

It's nice to see that things were not taken too seriously! Incidentally the Steward and Stewardess responsible for the chips were John and Janet Pickles, who took over from Kevin and Jane Dean in 1991.¹⁸

His report also included:

Congratulations to all those who were successful in competition in particular to the first winner of the Pat-Les Young Trophy – Mr. Les Fielding – our first Super Vet.

The '**Super Vets Champion**' trophy is a special trophy that is presented. Over the years there have been a number of multiple winners, the most prolific being John Camburn and Les Hankinson who have both been presented with the trophy five times; John having won for four consecutive years from 2009 to 2012, but Les Hankinson and George Hawes have monopolised this since 2013.

In 1993 the Secretary, Sid McGregor, reported that 'The innovations had been the "Captains Challenge"' and the match against the Junior Section.¹⁹

Whilst the Captain's Challenge continues and effectively heralds the start of the Captain's year and the summer season, it appears that the match against the Junior Section only became a regular fixture between 2002 and 2006.

Viv was a member of the Seniors' Section Committee for the usual two-year term.

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting in 1997 state that:

It was proposed to hold a 9 hole competition for the 'Over 70's' for the 'VIV COTTON TROPHY'.²⁰

The competition has obviously changed over the years to 13 holes at Briar Close and now 14 holes at Snipe Lane and the trophy itself was replaced by the **OVER 70's TROPHY** in 2015. It is understood that the VIV COTTON TROPHY was in such a bad state of repair, that it was scrapped, but unfortunately a record of past winners was not kept. Although, according to the winners' names provided by Status Promotions²¹ this was actually first played for in 1996.

¹⁸ See Annual Report and Accounts dated 16 December 1991.

¹⁹ See 'Secretary's Report' of minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 31 January 1994.

²⁰ See 'Any Other Business' of minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 10 February 1997.

²¹ Status Promotions (formerly Wilsons Engravers) have engraved the trophies since the first trophies were played for in 1988.

1994 – J. Cole

Jim reported that:

The section has prospered to such an extent, that at our A.G.M., consideration was given to the establishment of a numerical limit to membership and to means by which such a limit might be applied. The ceiling proposed for such action was 90 after which level the age of entry would be raised from the present 55 to 60. Fortunately the membership during the major part of the season has remained below this magic figure (just!) and no restrictions have been needed. This however is unlikely to be the case at the outset of the 1995 season.

At the following AGM, he made a strong argument in favour of retaining the age limit of 55, which was accepted by the majority.²²

He also reported that:

All of our section competitions have been extremely well supported and the numbers participating in the monthly medals and stablefords has exceeded all previous entry levels. Thanks are due to Peter Burkill for the prompt and efficient manner in which he has processed the competition cards, thereby ensuring that the section handicaps remained generally valid, (Well! Almost all of them?).

The number of entries for the Medal and Stableford Qualifiers continues to break previous records. As regards handicaps, there will always be some that are less valid than the majority!

The competition entry fee was increased from 30p to 50p.

Jim was a member of the Seniors' Section Committee for some seven years in total; from 1993 to 1998, before making a comeback in 1999 and 2000 as Competition Secretary.

²² See 'Matters Arising' of minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 6 February 1995.

Chapter 2

Breaking 100 – 1995 to 2012

1995 – Arnold Hird

All golfers have 'milestone' scores that they are looking to conquer, whether it be 100, 90 or 80, or even 70! Well, as regards the number of members of the Seniors' Section, 1995 was the first year that 100 was broken, but in the opposite direction!

Arnold reported that:

The membership of the Golf Club reflects the national trend, in that there is now an increasing number of people in the older age group. This means that we have more than 100 members in the Seniors Section, most of whom are playing a full part in its activities – one of my most difficult tasks has been to select a team of 16 from the many members who have indicated a willingness to play in our matches; which have been most successful – socially! This interest has also been shown by the support for the competitions – an average entry of 37 in the Medal Qualifiers and 45 in the Stablefords. ...

The fact that the number of members has now more than doubled has not made the Captain's task of selecting a team for the friendly matches any easier! Also, in comparison the average entries for the Medal and Stableford Qualifiers have virtually trebled.

Arnold was a member of the Seniors' Section Committee for five years; from 1994 to 1998 and made a comeback in 1999.

He was also the Club Captain in 1972. He had the honour of being President in 1985 and 1986 and continued as a member of the Executive Committee in 1987 and 1988.

He also had the honour of being elected a Life Member of the Club at the Club's Annual General Meeting on 18 March 1988.²³

Incidentally, Arnold and David Youldon are the co-authors of a document entitled 'The Pre-Invitation Years 1693 – 1974'²⁴. The document marks the 25th Anniversary of Gentlemen's Invitation Day and reflects upon the Club's heritage. For anyone that is interested in the Club's heritage, it is certainly very informative and it was interesting to learn that another Life Member of the Club and an Honorary Member of the Seniors' Section, one Ian Davie, was the first winner of the Club Championship (The Flowers Cup) in 1961, with two fine net scores (78 – 16 – 62 and 75 – 16 – 59).

²³ See Annual Report and Accounts dated 20 February 1988.

²⁴ 'The Pre-Invitation Years 1693 -1974' Our Heritage by Arnold Hird & David Youldon is included under the 'History' tab of the Club's website.

1996 – T. J. Lee-Warner

Jack reported that:

... Our matches, as is well-known, are more for the pleasure of entertaining the members of other Clubs and playing their courses, rather than the winning. Nonetheless, of the thirteen matches played, the match against Darlington being rained off, Blackwell won eight and lost five with a point score of 52½ points for us and 44½ against. We managed to beat Dinsdale and Barnard Castle both home and away, but on the debit side, Eaglescliffe overcame us at both venues. ...

Dinsdale replaced Chester-le-Street in 1996, but were replaced by Hartlepool in 1998. I wonder if this had anything to do with the lack of winning!

He conveyed his thanks to everyone in his report, as is usual, and ended by stating:

Finally, my thanks to all the members of our Section for their humorous and friendly comradeship – a word I could not better!

It is fair to say, that on the whole the Section has retained the same values, which is a testament to us all!

Jack was a member of the Seniors' Section Committee for the usual three-year term. With the introduction of an ex officio role for the retiring Captain in 1995 the previous usual two-year term was increased to three.

1997 – Frank C. Ham

Frank started his report as follows:

It is now clear to me that a most efficient way of making a year go more quickly than usual is to be elected to the happy task of Captain of the Seniors' Section. Following three years as Competition Secretary in the section, I thought the Captaincy would be something of a rest year – but not so!

There is always something going on and how pleasant that it is in an atmosphere of good will and bonhomie. Being a member of the Senior Section is as much about being retired as playing golf and, in combining the two, we appreciate what a fortunate group of people we are.

Well said Frank!

Frank was a member of the Seniors' Section Committee for five years from 1994 to 1999. He was Competition Secretary for the first three years, juggling his duties in 1996 when he was Vice Captain.

He was also the Club Captain in 2000 and President for six years between 2004 to 2010.

1998 – Derek Smith

The Seniors' Section has had a strong reputation in the area for many years, which Derek referred to in the opening remarks of his report:

One thing was made obvious to me during my year as Senior Captain and this was the strength of this section, which I believe to be one of the strongest if not the strongest in the region. Our Tuesday and Thursday get togethers within the Club seem to be enjoyed by one and all. There have been many occasions which one could highlight, but I think the friendliness in all competitions and the manner in which they have been approached, reflect everything.

He then reported that:

Our Ladies' matches this year justified a change of format which Pauline²⁵ and myself thought would be a change. Instead of our two head-to-head challenges the first competition was a Mixed Greensome, this was enjoyed by one and all ...

The format of these matches has been the same ever since.

As regards the friendly matches, he reported that:

Our new representatives Hartlepool could only manage the game at Blackwell and could not get a team together to play at home next year, we have agreed to take on Thirsk & Northallerton Golf Club who approached us to play them.

So, Hartlepool, who replaced Dinsdale, were only involved in 1998, whereas Thirsk & Northallerton have now been involved since 1999.

He also reported that:

Our new match during the year was a Texas Scramble between the Junior[s], Ladies and ourselves – this was a new competition and long may it continue.

He subsequently expressed his disappointment that the match did not take place.²⁶ It was only included in the fixture list for 1999, although there was a match in 2005.

Derek was a member of the Seniors' Section Committee for the usual three-year term. He was made an Honorary Member in 2012.

²⁵ The Ladies' Captain in 1998 was Pauline Youldon.

²⁶ See item 4 of minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 7 February 2000.

1999 – J. S. Kee

Jack started his report in a similar vein to other Captains by saying that:

The friendship and [camaraderie] that exists in the Seniors Section makes retirement all the more enjoyable.

He also reported that:

I had a bright start to the season when my team were victorious against the Vice Captain's side, all be it that there was a little jiggery[-pokery] in the draw for the team selection.

I dare say that an element of jiggery-pokery is traditional when selecting the teams for these matches!

The Club alterations are referred to in Jack's report. This reminds me of the time that I hit my tee shot out of bounds on the 18th hole, missing all the cars in the carpark but hitting the roof of Ralph Givens' portacabin, his temporary shop during the alterations. It made quite a clatter and almost frightened Ralph to death, but unfortunately, I do not recall my ball ending up on the green!

Jack was a member of the Seniors' Section Committee for the usual three-year term. He was made an Honorary Member in 2012.

2000 – Tony Cooke

Tony reported that:

... It has been a pleasure and privilege to have been Captain of such a friendly and supportive section.

He had a busy year, being Chairman of the Club Activities Sub-Committee too.

The competition entry fee was increased from 50p to £1.

Tony was a member of the Seniors' Section Committee for five years. He was Competition Secretary in 1997 and 1998 before becoming Vice Captain. He was made an Honorary Member in 2012.

The **SENIORS PAST CAPTAIN'S TROPHY**, also known as the TONY COOKE TROPHY, was presented by Tony in 2000 and he won it in 2001, 2006 and 2011. David Heaton and Brian Hennessy have also won it three times.

Over the years Tony has been heavily involved with the Club. He was Chairman of the Activities Sub-Committee from 2000 to 2006, Chairman of the House Committee in 2008 and 2009 and President from 2010 to 2016.

In recognition of his service, he was elected a Life Member of the Club at the Club's Annual General Meeting on 4 February 2021.²⁷

²⁷ See Annual Report and Accounts dated 22 January 2021.

2001 – Brian Hennessy

Brian started his report:

Looking back over the past year has been quite a nostalgic experience.

It is hoped that you are having a similar experience reading these extracts.

He also reported that:

... This season we introduced two divisions for our competitions and this has created a welcome spread in those who received awards at our annual prize-giving...

The gold and silver sections were created.

He referred to the popularity of the Seniors' Section, saying that:

... With more than 120 members, the section is clearly popular ...

Brian was a member of the Seniors' Section Committee for some seven years and was Treasurer for four years between 2003 and 2007. He was made an Honorary Member in 2012.

He was also the Club Captain in 2008, therefore being a member of the Executive Committee in 2007 and 2008.

2002 – Mike Carter

Here are a number of extracts from Mike's report:

We started in March with the Captain's challenge to his Vice-Captain's team, a lighthearted match, if ever there is such a thing in golf, which my team lost; but it's only a game isn't it? WELL ISN'T IT?

I dare say that we have all uttered these words. It's the good shots that bring us back for more though.

May saw our inaugural Seniors Invitation Day. ...

This was a relatively short-lived event; it was abandoned in 2006 when the Club introduced a Seniors' Open.

Another new event this year was a match against the Junior Section. We played for a magnificent trophy kindly donated by Mrs Mounsey in memory of her late husband Tony who had been a keen member of our section. The match was played in atrocious conditions, but in a great spirit. Perhaps a fitting result on this day, was a halved match. There are some fine players among the youngsters and we look forward to next year's challenge.

The last match against the Juniors was in 2006. If anyone knows the whereabouts of the 'magnificent' trophy²⁸, I would be pleased to hear from them.

The Seniors Section continues to be a thriving, friendly group. We have perhaps levelled out at about 120 members ...

The biggest recent problem was fitting in all who wished to attend the dinner on Presentation Night but that can only be a healthy sign for the Section.

The annual dinner and presentation evening appears to have always been a sell-out!

Mike was a member of the Seniors' Section Committee for the usual three-year term. He was made an Honorary Member in 2018.

²⁸ The trophy in question is the Anthony Mounsey Trophy.

2003 – John Clulee

As many of you will remember John used to work for Cadbury and he would always offer his playing partners a bar of chocolate of some description, but obviously always Cadbury's!

He reported that:

... We played against the Juniors in April and they deservedly won. Well done seniors of 2050!

I wonder who and where those Juniors are now?

Reporting on his Captain's Day, he said:

Senior Captain's Day was another highlight of the year with glorious sunshine, a good turnout and a super spread and warm welcome in the hospitality tent. Many thanks to my wife Kathy and her helpers, Barbara Mawer and Jennifer Thompson, for their hard work there. We are still eating the chicken legs but the beer has long gone! The winning trio was Bryan Harris, David Mawer and Terry Yarrow. Well done!

Something else that is long gone is the trophy with this trio's names on. The **RAY JONES TROPHY**, which had been in existence from 1989, was replaced by the **KEITH HORNSBY TROPHY** in 2006.²⁹

He also made reference to his Vice Captain:

Gordon Harris, having won the Outing in 2002, organised this year's "Awayday" at Romanby in September and duly won again! Gordon is clearly a masochist as he now has to organise the 2004 outing during his Captain's year but then "it's only a game", Gordon

How many times have we heard that saying!

John was a member of the Seniors' Section Committee for the usual three-year term from 2002 to 2005, before returning in 2007 and 2008 as Competition Secretary.

I had the honour of playing with John in the Last Waltz in 2013.³⁰

Thanks for the memories John and the chocolate bars!

²⁹ See **1989 – Ray Jones / Jim Courtney**

³⁰ See **Chapter 3**

2004 – Gordon Harris

Gordon reported that:

It is only since serving as Seniors Captain that I have appreciated the amount of preparation necessary to make things run smoothly and for this, members should be grateful to the committee, many long serving, for their efforts.

A reminder to us all, that things do not just happen!

At the Annual General Meeting:³¹

Les Young said that the Senior Section had been essentially his brainchild and it was formed during his year as Club Captain in 1984. Thus the section is now 20 years old and Les was delighted with the way it has flourished and wished the section all the success in the future.

Long may it continue!

Gordon was a member of the Seniors' Section Committee for the usual three-year term. He was made an Honorary Member in 2019.

³¹ See item 11.2 of minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 16 February 2004.

2005 – Ron Smith

Ron started by reporting that:

The section continues to be well supported with 117 paid up members, plus this year we created 7 honorary memberships for the over 90's and long serving members whom can no longer play on health grounds.

This is a tradition that continues, although the criteria have changed somewhat.

He reported on the friendly matches as follows:

The inter club matches were very well supported with the happy situation of "resting players" because most weeks we were oversubscribed and the rule of ensuring everyone has an equal opportunity to play was invoked. The results were not up to the standard of last year however we managed 5 wins, 9 losses and 2 halves. This year we had an additional club to play, home and away to Romanby, this we hope will be an ongoing fixture.

With the addition of Romanby there were then eight matches and the match against them continues to be an ongoing fixture.

He also reported that:

... This year we had a 3 way Texas Scramble with ladies and juniors and I am pleased to report that the 3 Captains playing together had a very creditable net 56.3 to win the event. I agree with last years Club Captain that these events help to create a better understanding with other sections within the club.

This event was also played in 1999, but after the match in 2005 it appears to have been discontinued again.

Ron was a member of the Seniors' Section Committee for five years. He was made an Honorary Member in 2018.

2006 – Derek Sayers

Derek started by saying that:

The Seniors' Section gives the 'maturing' golfer a fine opportunity to maintain his fitness and agility of mind by enabling him to continue to compete with his peers in competitive and social golf. ...

Well said Derek!

He reported that:

The golfing season got off to a good start with a highly competitive Captain's Challenge. Would you believe yet another 'honourable half'. ...

It sounds like some jiggery-pokery was involved again!³²

Mike Carter, Seniors' Captain for 2002, reported on the inaugural Seniors' Invitation Day and Derek reported that:

It looks as though we will abandon our Senior's Invitation now that the club are organising a Senior's Open. So thanks to Paul Wharton and indeed Peter Fennel for their efforts in the past.

This was obviously quite a short-lived event.

Derek was a member of the Seniors' Section Committee for the usual three-year term. When he was Vice Captain, he also took over the role of Competition Secretary. He was made an Honorary Member in 2012.

He was also the Club Captain in 1995, having been a member of the Executive Committee in 1989 and 1990 and Competition Secretary from 1991 to 1994. After his captaincy, he was Competition Secretary again from 1996 to 2002.

2007 – Terry Stansfield

There was no Seniors' Captain's report included in the Annual Report and Accounts. Terry apologised for this at the Annual General Meeting. 'He indicated that the pressure of work in preparing and moving into a new residence was the main cause.'³³

The number of friendly matches increased to nine with the addition of Oakleaf.

Terry was a member of the Seniors' Section Committee for the usual three-year term.

He was also the Club Captain in 2009.

³² See **1999 – J. S. Kee**

³³ See item 4 of minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 17 March 2008.

2008 – John Buchanan

When reporting on the friendly matches, John said:

But as I keep saying "it's not the winning, it's the taking part that matters."

There are times when we all need to remind ourselves of this, some more often than others!

He reported that:

I would also like to applaud John Clulee and David Mawer for the running of the Seniors open which was a great success and I believe will volunteer to do it next year as well.

The first Seniors' Open was held in 2006.

He also reported that:

We also look forward to playing Masham Golf Club next year as we have dropped Oak Leaf Golf Club from our calendar.

Masham continues to be a regular fixture.

John was a member of the Seniors' Section Committee for four years. He was Competition Secretary in 2006 before becoming Vice Captain.

2009 – Philip J. Constable

Phil started by reporting that:

The seniors' section continues to flourish, numerically at least, with over 100 subscribing members and approximately 70 members taking part in matches, medal and stableford qualifiers and knock-out competitions.

As regards the friendly matches, he reported that:

Last year, to accommodate Masham we had to drop our fixture with Oak Leaf and next year to accommodate Ramside Hall we are dropping the matches with Darlington GC from our fixture list.

Masham and Ramside continue to be regular fixtures.

The **ECLECTIC CUP** was donated by Phil and was first played for in 2011.

Phil was a member of the Seniors' Section Committee for the usual three-year term.

2010 – David Mawer

The 25th Annual General Meeting was held in 2010 and so marked the Seniors' Section's Silver Jubilee.³⁴ The Secretary, Tim Stace, reported as follows:

The Secretary drew attention to the fact that this Meeting was the Seniors' Section's Silver Jubilee: in 1986 the Captain was Les Young, the Vice Captain Tom Dunn and the Committee Member John Camburn; only 14 Members took part in organised Competitions; the Section played matches with 3 other Senior Sections as well as 9 other clubs; subs. Were £2 and Competition fees 30p.; the Meeting lasted 1½hours!

In 1986 there were 36 members and in stark contrast, David reported that:

Membership is down on last year by 11, but we still have 95 paid up Seniors. It is still, I believe, a very popular and important section of the club.

Since 'breaking a hundred' in 1995 the number of members edged below 100. In 2017 the number of members was double what it was in 2010.

Incidentally, in 2010 the membership fee was £5 and the competition entry fee was £1.

He also reported that:

The real highlight was Senior Captain's Day. ...

Congratulations must go to two people on that special day. Firstly to my friend Harvey Pennington who scored a hole in one on the 18th but sadly for him had to provide whisky for all who attended the evening meal. Also to Jack Kee who achieved the unique result of being a member of the winning trio for the third year in succession.

A unique achievement indeed! Mike Cowley has achieved 'the double' and Peter Bowerbank, David Heaton and John Leighton all have their name on the **KEITH HORNSBY TROPHY** twice, but it is unlikely that Jack Kee's achievement will ever be equalled. Jack was presented with a small trophy for his achievement.

David signed off his report by saying:

Sincere thanks to all Seniors who have helped make my year as Captain most memorable and satisfying.

David made a significant contribution to the Seniors' Section. He was involved on the Committee for four years before his captaincy and continued for a further eight years afterwards. Therefore, when he resigned from the Committee in February 2019, he had been involved for some 13 years, which is no mean feat. He is certainly a hard act to follow.

His commitment to the Seniors' Section was exemplary and his involvement on the Committee is unparalleled. Not only was he the longest-standing member of the Seniors' Section Committee, having been involved since 2006, but he was actually the longest-serving Committee member. He was Secretary from 2006 to 2009, Vice Captain in 2009, Captain in 2010 and Retiring Captain in 2011, before becoming Competition Secretary from 2012 to 2018, which is a record in itself.

Well-done David!

³⁴ See item 5 of minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 15 March 2010.

2011 – David Heaton

David reported that:

.. We mirror the club's philosophy of randomly selecting groups who will play together and this is excellent for integrating new members and ensuring a mix of playing partners. ...

On the whole, a good philosophy, although as others will testify, for a multitude of reasons, an element of manual adjustment of the start sheets is often required. Anyway, notwithstanding this, the principle of drawn competitions is a good one and an important feature of our Club.

He went on to report that:

... The introduction of an eclectic competition brought about a great deal of interest and it was fascinating to observe changes in position over the season. ...

The Eclectic competition, which runs alongside the Medal and Stableford Qualifiers, certainly does create an added interest.

David was a member of the Seniors' Section Committee for five years.

He was also the Club Captain in 2012 and Chairman of the Executive Committee between 2014 and 2017.

He helped to raise the profile of the Seniors' Section when he was Chairman. He introduced the Golf Committee, an innovation that he felt proud of for various reasons, a significant one being the involvement of the Seniors' Captain in Club business for the first time. Also, during his tenure, the Executive Committee agreed to an Honours Board for the Seniors' Section Past Captains and to the Seniors' Section joining the Teesside Union Seniors' League. The Seniors' Section therefore have a lot to be grateful to David for.

Interestingly, he went on to successfully manage Blackwell's Teesside Union Seniors' League teams between 2017 and 2020, winning the 2nd division championship in 2018 and being runners-up in the first division in 2019 and 2020.

2012 – Tim Stace

Tim was known for his sense of fun and humour, which is evidenced by the number of times that he used these words in his Seniors' Section Report.

Tim started by reporting:

So – another season gone! “Doesn't time fly when you're having fun?” The old adage must be true, as I've enjoyed my year more than I could ever have imagined. I feel so privileged to have been Seniors' Captain at Blackwell this year.

A privilege indeed, being the last full year at Briar Close.

Also, he reported that:

Our “Bottle Trot” on the morning of our Presentation Evening was rained off as well, but the Dinner was excellently attended and good fun was had by all! ...

In summing up his report, further references to his values are included in the following extracts:

... Paul Wharton, my Vice Captain, has been a first class right hand man, his main requirement being a good sense of humour ...

... Our Committee Meetings have always (eventually) achieved their bi-monthly purpose and have actually been great fun! ...

... I don't believe I have come across another Seniors' Section better than ours and we must ensure that this togetherness, camaraderie and fun transfer across the roundabout, along with – hopefully – the entire membership!

I believe his report typifies the type of man that Tim was. He was certainly very highly thought of within the Seniors' Section and the Club as a whole.

His involvement with Blackwell was quite significant, especially considering that he only joined the Club in 2004.

Tim was the Secretary of the Seniors' Section for some seven years between 2009 and 2015. Such was his commitment, he even carried out the role of Secretary when he was Seniors' Captain! He only stood down in 2015 because he became the Club Vice Captain.

In his Secretary's report at the Annual General Meeting in 2013, he reported that:

“As Secretary, I would like to thank you all for your support, your wit and repartee, your good humour – and if you think that all of that refers to you personally, you're deluding yourself!”

This is another example of Tim's sense of humour.

He was also the Club Captain in 2016 and prior to that he was the Club Competition Secretary from 2014. In fact, he carried out the role when he was Club Vice Captain and during his captaincy!

THE TIM STACE MEMORIAL TROPHY was first played for in 2017 and is presented to the winners of the Pairs 'Medalford' competition. In fact, there are two trophies, one for each playing partner, which I only discovered in 2019 when the engravers queried where the second trophy was! As the phrase goes, 'you learn something new every day', as did Stephen Bethray when I tracked down the missing trophy; he had thought that it was his to keep!

I believe that we can all learn a lot from Tim's approach to golf and perhaps life in general. It is certainly worth remembering that we play golf for enjoyment and that we should therefore think twice before having a whinge.

As well as referring to Tim's Seniors' Captain's report, it is a fitting tribute to refer to the entry included in the Annual Report and Accounts dated 10 January 2017, which has been reproduced in full, as follows:

CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Tim Stace 1945 – 2016

It is usual to include a Captain's Report at this stage within the club's Annual Report to members.

Under the circumstances, it has been decided this year not to attempt to provide a report but instead to provide extracts from David Heaton's eulogy to Tim in the clubhouse following his funeral on Tuesday 12th July:

"I think I can speak on behalf of everyone at this golf club by saying that he was universally popular; he was a much loved man. Whether it was the ladies' section, the seniors, the gents, behind the bar, in the kitchen, the office, the greenkeepers – everyone liked and respected him, and never would you hear a bad word said about him.

There are lots of reasons why he was so well liked, not the least of which was the way he dealt with his illness. Whenever you asked him how he was feeling, he would always find something positive to say. He never complained and always managed to exude an air of optimism, even when he was in pain, not that he would let on about it. He did once tell me that he occasionally popped out to his car for a dose of morphine and he even managed to bring humour into that. What a brave man.

I think we all enjoyed Tim's sense of humour. It was unique, occasionally quirky, and it allowed him to get away with saying and doing things that few of us could risk. If he ever said something vaguely rude or insulting about you, it meant he liked you...and you knew it. He didn't swear a great deal, not even after a bad shot, but I will forever associate two expressions with him. Please forgive me for using such language on an occasion like this, but Tim would love it and would not be best pleased with me if I failed to tell you. If he really liked you, and I'm talking now about his male friends, he would call you a twat. It was, to Tim, a term of endearment. Like he was saying "you're one of us".

I can't imagine there are many golfers in the room who haven't let out an oath or two when the golfing gods have been having a laugh at their expense. As I said, Tim didn't tend to swear, however unlucky he might have been or however cruel the game might have been. Apart from one word, a Tim word, which I now find myself saying. "Borrocks". If you ever hit a bad shot or have some outrageously unlucky bounce, just say "borrocks" and think of dear Tim.

Tim's sense of fun was special. I'm sure everyone will have their own Tim stories but I heard one from David Lamb who said how much he will miss Tim's "V" signs as he passed the kitchen hatch. And that was one of the many wonderful things about the man. He could create warmth and affection in a way that few could match.

CAPTAIN'S REPORT Continued

Tim Stace 1945 – 2016

What Tim has achieved as club captain in less than half a year is remarkable. Until he went into hospital just before he died, he didn't miss a thing. He turned out for Teesside Union matches, sometimes on cold, unpleasant spring evenings and did so with real enthusiasm and commitment to the team and club. And what a fantastic Captain's weekend he delivered. The support from members was more than evident and by the time we got to the prize presentation on the Sunday evening, he was on rampant form, loving every minute of it. And this was less than a month ago. He must have been exhausted. He just wasn't willing to show it. And then the next day, when the 4 Blackwell Babes were doing their 4 rounds in a day in support of MacMillan Nurses, Tim was with them, around for much of the day, walking the last 9 holes and carrying out his captain's responsibilities with style and panache.

On top of all this, he managed to do the job of Competitions Secretary with great effectiveness and efficiency. He put in hours and hours of work – at the club and at home. Everything went like clockwork because of his dedication and he always managed to do it with a smile on his face. At a time when he was very poorly and experiencing significant pain. As I said earlier, what a brave man.

I feel incredibly fortunate to have met Tim, through this golf club, and to have been his friend. And the characteristic that defines Tim and makes him so special, is that he was everyone's friend. We all liked him, loved him and in return we enjoyed his warmth, affection, kindness, humour, sense of fun, vibrancy, enthusiasm, loyalty and commitment to this golf club and its members."

A fitting tribute indeed!

Chapter 3

An Eventful Year – 2013

2013 – Paul Wharton

Paul's year as Senior's Captain was quite an eventful one, as it straddled the move from Briar Close to Snipe Lane. Because of this, his full report is reproduced here for posterity.

SENIORS' SECTION REPORT

Let me first start by saying what a most interesting, exciting and challenging time it has been for the Seniors' Section over the past year. The main topic and event has been the move in July to our new home at the former Stressholme Golf Club. I believe this move has suited all members from both former clubs: certainly it has boosted our numbers considerably and without doubt ensures that the section is in a healthy position and is going from strength to strength. Hopefully, it will give us all the golden opportunity to be part of a new beginning and to look forward to a bright and enjoyable golfing future at this splendid course.

Looking back over the golfing year and due to the excellent summer weather throughout the season, we did manage to fulfil playing all our matches, competitions and fixtures. It started with the Captain's Challenge and allowing for some slight changes to the competition format rules (all done in the best possible taste – slight fix) it resulted in a hard fought honourable draw! A most amusing and entertaining evening followed.

The Friendly Matches came and went with the usual, win some, lose some results. However, our win ratio appeared to be commendable, resulting in; played 18, won 12, halved 2 and lost 4. My thanks to all members who turned out for these enjoyable matches, your support was much appreciated. The Monthly Qualifiers, Finals and Knockout competitions all went off well, so much so, that since the move, the entry numbers for the Qualifiers have doubled, which is an indication of the competitive spirit within the section. My thanks to the Competition Secretary, David Mawer, who has overcome a few challenges, including the move and a new computer programme with a mind of its own. Despite these obstacles he has, with a smile, somehow always managed to keep us all in check and ensured that the competition fixtures ran smoothly.

This year our matches with and against the ladies did go ahead, resulting in some very competitive and enjoyable matches being played in the usual true fun-loving team spirit. Also, due to a club re-arranged calendar, prior to the move, it included an extra combined Early Bird, (Dawn Chorus) fixture. How we all managed to awake at some unearthly hour, God only knows, but we did. Well over 40 members from both the Ladies and Senior Sections, including a few seniors from Stressholme, appeared at the appointed time for the Shot Gun start to play in what turned out to be a most thoroughly enjoyable morning topped with a full English breakfast in the Club House afterwards. What more can one want?

SENIORS' SECTION REPORT Continued

Captain's Day, which adopted a semi-military theme, would be the last to be held at the Briar Close course, and was blessed with continued warm weather. For the 60 plus members who turned out, including the Club and Ladies Captains plus the Club Professional, Peter, playing as a guest team, it was a fine enjoyable occasion. I am glad that no limbs were lost on the strategically placed minefields and that everyone eventually managed to find the camouflaged tent on the 11th to enjoy a well needed refreshment intake! My thanks to Barbara Mawer, Irene Lister and Marjorie Hall for their assistance during the day and to Kathy Clulee and my daughter Kerry for producing some delicious cakes. The evening dinner festivities, being the last in the old club house, had a somewhat hint of sadness attached. Prior to sitting down to dine, all attending members were asked to congregate on the 18th green to propose a toast and receive a short speech from me to reflect upon our many fond memories of the time spent at the course and to pay our respects with a moment of silence to our former deceased members and friends. Let us not forget!

The annual dinner and prize giving night was held for the first time in our new club house and a most enjoyable evening was had by all, great fun! My congratulations to all the members who managed to play well enough to win a trophy and also to everyone who turned out to compete in the many varied competitions, I hope you all had an enjoyable season. Also may I mention those members who did not win but may have been presented with the odd Jankers medal along the way. Senior moments do happen occasionally.

Of course the smooth running of the Section is down to the Committee, so my thanks to all the members for their support, hard work and endeavours along the way. Especially my thanks to Richard Western who, in March, without much prompting and at very short notice, took over as Vice-Captain from Barry Wilson, who unfortunately, due to ill health, had to stand down.....we wish Barry well. Thank you Richard and best wishes for a successful coming year.

Gentlemen, as I said at the beginning of my report, a most interesting year for many reasons. So may I thank all members for their kind support in making my time as Captain a very memorable, enjoyable and rewarding year. I honestly believe that we have a wonderful Seniors' Section of which we can all be proud and I am sure that we can look forward to a bright future. "Aucto Splendore Resurgo" (I rise again with increased splendour.)

PAUL WHARTON
Seniors' Section Captain

I hope that you agree that Paul's report on such an eventful year was worthy of another read.

Incidentally, the number of friendly matches remained at nine, with the addition of Teesside in place of Eaglescliffe.

Paul was a member of the Seniors' Section Committee for the usual three-year term.

Farewell to Blackwell Dinner

Paul's Captain's Day was quite a nostalgic occasion, which unfortunately I was unable to take part in, however for those who did, it is one that is etched in history. At the 'Farewell to Blackwell Dinner' an A5 booklet to commemorate the occasion of the very last Seniors' Captain's Day at Briar Close was issued. As well as the Menu, a list of the Seniors' Committee for 2013 and a list of the Seniors' Past Captains, the following list was included on the double-page centre spread:

[A list of Seniors' Section Members who took part in the Texas Scramble and/or attended the Dinner on Thursday, 20 June 2013](#)

Paul Wharton		
Jai Krishnan	Roy Bowes	Jack Kee
Steve Giles	Terry Yarrow	Gordon Hunter
Bill Bell	Steve Jackson	John Camburn
Les Hopper	John Taylor	Derek Smith
Derek Lister	Barry Wilson	Norman Edwards
Kevin Frame	Tim Stace	Jim Snaith
Roger James	Harvey Pennington	David Mawer
Bernard Marley	Bob Bell	Mike Smethurst
Bob Severs	Ian Davie	George Cornforth
Glen Bowes	Alan Butterfield	Ian Fleming
Alan Vasey	Tony Cooke	Len McCabe
Tommy Kilcran	Les Hankinson	Maurice Ingram
John Zissler	Philip Constable	Arnold Kirkip
David Simmons	John Clulee	John Pagella
Peter Badcock	Sandy Duncan	Bill Hedley
John Campbell	Bill Harris	Ed Smith
Paul Edwards	Dennis Tomlinson	Ron Allinson
Maurice Etherington	Bill Sharp	Chris Robinson
David Heaton	Gordon Harris	Richard Western
Mike Carter	Ron Johnson	Vic Sutcliffe

[Guests](#)

David Theakston – Club Captain
Peter Raine – Club Professional
Ian Coulson – Marstons Brewery

The names were listed as per the order of play for the day, with the three guests being first on the tee. The winners of the **KEITH HORNSBY TROPHY** were Derek Lister, Barry Wilson and Norman Edwards.

Also, on the inside of the front cover was a drawing of the clubhouse by David Heaton's father-in-law, Eddie Pipe. Eddie's original drawing is included on the next page.



Original drawing of the clubhouse at Briar Close by Eddie Pipe (James Edgar Pipe)

Eddie was 83 at the time and he continues to paint and draw – his main hobby. His drawing is an accurate likeness, when compared to the photograph below.



The clubhouse at Briar Close³⁵

The original clubhouse was a wooden building that had been the British Pavilion at the 1930 Antwerp Trade Fair.³⁶ Hence the 18th hole being named 'British Pavilion'.

³⁵ Photograph included in an article from The Northern Echo on 22nd July 2013 entitled 'On a par with the best', <https://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/history/10563874.par-best/>

³⁶ 'Blackwell Grange Golf Club', Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blackwell_Grange_Golf_Club

In 2013 I became eligible to join the Seniors' Section and although my time playing in the Seniors' competitions at Briar Close was short-lived, it was nice to experience some Seniors' golf there and it has been interesting to see the Section develop.

My very first game in the Seniors' Section happened to be Paul's Captain's Challenge, which proved to be quite rewarding. Playing for the Vice Captain's team (Barry Wilson), I partnered Harvey Pennington, against Bill Harris and Bill Sharp. Harvey and I jelled very well to win our game 8 Up and we won a bottle of wine each for the privilege, with the two Bill's being presented with Paul's jankers medals. I also won a bottle for Nearest the Pin on the 5th hole, pipping Bob Severs in the group ahead, who had only just marked his ball. My apologies Bill, Bill and Bob, but it's not very often that I play golf that is worth bragging about!

On 1 July 2013, Blackwell moved to Snipe Lane and to celebrate the move the 'Last Waltz' was played the day before.

The Last Waltz

The day of 'The Last Waltz', as it was so aptly named was Sunday, 30 June 2013. It was to be quite a day!

The day was arranged to mark the end of an era at Briar Close and the beginning of a new era at Snipe Lane, a celebration of the past and of the future rolled into one. It was an historic occasion for the Club, especially so for the many members of the Seniors' Section who took part.

I had the honour of being asked to play on this special day with John Clulee, my brother-in-law, Maurice Etherington and David Mawer. It was a team event, with the best score to be recorded on the first hole, two scores on the second and three on the third, etc. i.e. 1-2-3 as the rhythm of the waltz goes. It was a shotgun start at the civilised time of 9 a.m. and John's wife Kath took this photograph of the four of us on the 13th tee before the start of play. Spot David's finger (naughty!) and my 3 wood – well if it's good enough for Henrik Stenson!



Stephen Airey, Maurice Etherington, David Mawer (Seniors' Captain 2010) and John Clulee (Seniors' Captain 2003)³⁷

This was a particularly nostalgic round of golf, as not only was it the last time that we all played at Briar Close, but sadly it proved to be the last time that John Clulee played a full round of golf. Because of the onset of John's dementia, David had arranged a golf buggy to help them negotiate the course for one last time and Maurice and I did our best to keep up on foot!

³⁷ Photograph taken by Kath Clulee.

Interestingly, I also played with Maurice in the last Sunday Club competition a few weeks before and with David in the last Seniors' Qualifier only a few days before.

Back to 'The Last Waltz'. With our first hole being the 13th, it was not long until we reached Maurice's favourite hole, the 15th, and here is the photograph to prove it. Spot the players searching amongst the trees on the dog-leg of the 13th hole – I dare say that we have all been there!



Maurice driving on the 15th hole, which was named 'Tennis Court'³⁸

As many of you will remember John used to work for Cadbury and he would always offer his playing partners a bar of chocolate of some description, but obviously always Cadbury's and in keeping with this tradition we were not disappointed.

It was obviously a very nostalgic day and one that will continue to be a very memorable one for all those involved. What a day!

³⁸ Photograph taken by Stephen Airey.

Chapter 4

A New Era – 2014 to 2019

2014 – Richard Western

Richard's year as Seniors' Captain, whilst perhaps being not quite so eventful as Paul Wharton's in 2013, nonetheless was an historic one, being the first full year at Snipe Lane. Richard took over from Barry Wilson as Vice Captain in 2013, due to Barry's ill health.

His report included the following extracts:

... In what has been the club's first full captaincy year at our new home in Snipe Lane I feel most privileged to have led such a great team of golfers! And to hear all the visiting parties praising our new course was a wonderful endorsement of the move we made.

The highlight to my year has got to be our first official Seniors' Captain's Away Day. This was played at Brancepeth Castle on September 1st. A team of 36 players took part in the match with a bacon buttie to start everyone off and an excellent meal to finish. My thanks to committee member, John Dobson, for his excellent organisation of the whole event and to Ralph Givens for his generosity in prizes. Well done to Don Robinson who won the day and the Trophy and to Tim Stace who was runner up. This event will now be an annual competition in our Fixtures List Booklet.

So, we have got Richard to thank for this event being included in the fixture list.

As well as wanting an official Seniors' Captain's Away Day, another thing close to Richard's heart was the status of the Seniors' Section, still seen by many as an unofficial section of the Club. He got the then Secretary, Doug Christie, to raise the profile in the fixtures booklet but more importantly, got the Executive Committee to allow the Seniors' Section to have a Past Captain's Board installed, which was first mooted by Paul Wharton during his year as Captain.

Richard campaigned for a photograph of the Seniors' Captain to be displayed in the foyer with the other Captains' photographs and this has happened since 2020.

Amongst the people that he thanked within his report was Malcolm Dunstone who he said:

... has supported me admirably as Vice-Captain.

Although he went on to comment upon Malcolm's 'colourful' dress code:

I'm sure he will be a very effective captain next year, even though he wears the most frightful trousers known to man. But he does make up for it with a good sense of humour. ...

In handing over the captaincy to Malcolm, Richard presented him with a colourful knitted golfer, which was donated to the Seniors' Section by Dave Simmons and now has a history of its own within the Seniors' Section as documented in Chapter 9.

Richard was a member of the Seniors' Section Committee for the usual three-year term.

2015 – Malcolm Dunstone

And so, we come to Malcolm and one of his ambitions that he outlined at the Annual General Meeting in February was:

Hoping a more colourful dress sense would prevail among Seniors

As you we see from the photographs on the following pages, Malcolm certainly achieved this ambition on his Captain's Away Day!

Another of Malcolm's ambitions was:

Reducing litter around the course

The Seniors' Section being a non-profit making body have over the years used surplus funds to purchase many items for the benefit of the Club, including more litter bins around the course. Well-done Malcolm! He reported that:

... The proceeds from Seniors' Opens are recycled into benefits for the Club – including the clock above the pro shop, three sets of printed pin-flags, funding for our Juniors coaching scheme and providing more ball washers and litter bins around the course.

He also reported that:

It was encouraging to have more than 70 Seniors register to play in all ten Medal and Stableford Qualifiers – our Senior section now has 160 members enrolled, a figure many clubs would be jealous of.

The size of the Section is certainly the envy of many other clubs in the area.

Sandy Duncan took this photograph on the evening of Malcolm's Captain's Dinner.



Seniors' Captain's Dinner – Thursday, 18 June 2015

A colourful interlude!

Malcolm reported that:

My personal high point was the Captain's Away Day at Saltburn where almost everyone wore colourful kit, the sun shone and it was a happy day for all participants.

It was definitely a colourful event, evidenced by this photograph that was taken before play, which was annotated by David Mawer for posterity.³⁹



The photograph sums up the occasion very well, but I wonder what the two lads in the background were thinking! The eventual winner was Maurice Etherington who happened to be standing next to Malcolm for the photograph, but I doubt that either of them had a premonition as to how the day would unfold.

Sandy Duncan is included in the group photograph above, however, he was the man behind the camera in the clubhouse afterwards and he has captured some good memories, a selection of which are included on the following pages.

³⁹ Photograph taken by a member of the bar staff.



Enjoying a drink after the game are John Dobson (Seniors' Captain 2016), Malcolm Dunstone (Seniors' Captain 2015), Tim Stace (Seniors' Captain 2012 and Club Captain 2016) and David Heaton (Seniors' Captain 2011 and Club Captain 2012)



Captain's Away Day Winner – Maurice Etherington being congratulated by Malcolm

As regards the competition for the best dressed golfer, Malcolm decided that:

The best dressed golfer was Jai Krishnan. He had four different vivid colours in his garb plus three-coloured socks. (The worst-dressed was Paul Wharton). The dullest dressed was Roger James. But all forty golfers made a good effort.⁴⁰



'The Best Dressed Golfer' - Jai Krishnan with Malcolm



... and the prize for 'The Dullest Dressed Golfer' goes to Roger James (Seniors' Captain 2018 and Club Captain 2004), who decided to share the love!

⁴⁰ Malcom Dunstone's comments.

Another highlight for Malcolm was winning the **BLACK EAGLE PUTTER**; 2015 being the first year that in the friendly matches against Eaglescliffe Golf Club that this trophy was played for. With a lowest pairs score of 41 Stableford points and a team total of 261 points, Blackwell blew away Eaglescliffe to win the trophy.⁴¹

2015 was also the year that the Honours Board for the Seniors' Section Past Captains was installed.

It was also the year that the Club Golf Committee was formed, which the Seniors' Captain attends.

THE MALCOLM DUNSTONE TROPHY was first played for in 2018 and is presented to the winners of the Pairs Stableford competition, an invitation Stableford where one player must be over 70. In 2018 Malcolm requested players to dress in bright and colourful clothing; four golfers made a particular effort, but there was no best dressed overall. The trophy itself is a bronze-coloured statuette of a golfer, however this has been dressed in a colourful shirt and pair of trousers, cleverly tailor-made by Richard Western's wife's sister-in-law, Anne Watts, which I think reflects perfectly Malcolm's penchant for colourful clothing. The runners-up have the dubious honour of being presented with the even more colourful knitted golfer. Here are photographs of the trophy and the knitted golfer.



THE MALCOLM DUNSTONE TROPHY



The Knitted Golfer⁴²

Malcolm is certainly quite a character, which with respect every golf club needs. He has certainly succeeded in introducing colour to the Seniors' Section!

Malcolm was a member of the Seniors' Section Committee for the usual three-year term.

⁴¹ Malcolm Dunstone's comments.

⁴² 'The History of the Knitted Golfer' is documented in Chapter 9.

2016 – John Dobson

John reported that:

The friendly matches this year were all very well supported. I had a lot of volunteers to choose from and it was encouraging to see quite a few new names on the nomination sheets.

I was one of those new names. The number of matches increased to eleven, with the reintroduction of Eaglescliffe and the addition of Woodham.

He also reported that:

The Captain's day scramble and dinner was a resounding success. I would like to thank all of the competitors who made it a memorable day for myself. ...

It was also a memorable day for the winning trio of the **KEITH HORNSBY TROPHY**, David Heaton, Pete Ferns and Stephen Airey. Here is the photograph that was taken on John's Captain's Day on 16 June before continuing our round, after a short break for refreshments, although weirdly the photograph itself is dated 15 June!



David Heaton (Seniors' Captain 2011 and Club Captain 2012), Stephen Airey, John Dobson (Seniors' Captain 2016) and Pete Ferns⁴³

⁴³ Photograph taken by Sheila Davison (Ladies' Captain 2015).

John went on to report that:

My Vice Captain, Harvey Pennington, organised a good trip to Richmond for my away day. This was a little more difficult this year as we were rained off at the first attempt. However, we got there in the end and we all had an enjoyable day thanks to Harvey's perseverance.

Richmond is a course which holds particular memories for me and which I had not played since perhaps having the round of my life on 25 August 1977, when I scored a gross 80 off a 24 handicap! I had been chosen to play with John, Kevin Frame (a member of Richmond too) and Harvey Pennington and was looking forward to my walk down memory lane. Disappointingly, the day had to be abandoned due to torrential rain and unfortunately, I could not make the rearranged date.

In Stableford Qualifier 5, I was the Bronze Section Winner with 44 points, which was my first individual win in the Seniors' Section, so 2016 proved to be a memorable year for me as well as John. I should probably apologise for referring to my own achievements, especially in John's slot, but as the author perhaps I can be excused!

Finally, he reported that:

I expect the membership to continue to grow and know that we make an excellent contribution to the life of this golf club. The members of the seniors committee are committed to providing the best experience we can for the seniors in the section in the years to come and it has been a pleasure to be the Chairman of this group in 2016.

John was a member of the Seniors' Section Committee for four years.

2017 – Harvey Pennington

Harvey reported that:

The summer competitions were well supported by the members and we even had 103 members playing in a medal qualifier. ...

I believe that this was the first time that the number of players in a Qualifier topped 100.

He also reported that:

Our friendly matches were well supported and I was able to choose some excellent partners to carry me round the various courses. We had a record of 14 wins, 2 draws and 7 defeats. We regained the [Black Eagle] Putter from Eaglescliffe, won the inaugural Brancepeth/Blackwell Friendship Trophy and once again had a narrow victory in the Ladies match. ...

A successful year in the friendly matches indeed, in which I was pleased to play my part! Brancepeth Castle took the place of Bishop Auckland.

As regards his Captain's Away Day, he reported that

My Vice Captain, Roger James, organised an excellent away day for me at Teesside. Steve Wearmouth confirmed that by taking not one but two bottles of whisky home with him. Roger assures me it won't happen next year.

Harvey also reported that:

... sadly we lost two members Derek Sayers and Jack Kee plus John Clulee and Arnold Hird past members and Senior Captains who had unfortunately not been able to be a part of the Seniors for some years. Friends all and in Derek's case a helpful hand during the last couple of years. I will certainly miss him.

As Harvey reported, all four were Past Captains of the Seniors' Section: John Clulee (2003), Arnold Hird (1995), Jack Kee (1999) and Derek Sayers (2006); Jack and Derek being Honorary Members.

The 'Members' Information' document was first issued in February 2017.

The competition entry fee was increased from £1 to £2, inclusive of the Nearest the Pin competition.

Harvey was a member of the Seniors' Section Committee for some eight years between 2011 and 2019 and was Treasurer for the first five years. In 2020 he became the Seniors' Section's Auditor.

As Treasurer from 2011 to 2016, Harvey had worked closely with John Hurworth, who had audited the accounts for some 7 years from 2008 to 2015. In recognition of this John was made an Honorary Member of the Seniors' Section from February 2018.

2018 – Roger James

For those of you who know Roger he needs no introduction, however If you have never met him, beware, although once you get to know him you get used to the abuse!

Roger thanked the Seniors' Committee in his opening remarks and as regards the Past Captain and his Vice Captain, he reported that:

Past Captain Harvey and Vice-Captain John both gave me support and occasionally wise counsel which generally I made no effort to follow.

This is typical of Roger's sense of humour!

He reported on the friendly matches, as follows:

... The results do not really matter and I made a point of playing with a different partner every match. I was let down badly by them all!

We have two "serious" matches, Brancepeth and Eaglescliffe which are both for trophies. We won both this year. This was not necessarily a good thing as Brancepeth have now dropped this fixture and we have been left holding the Friendship Cup!

As you will gather, Roger has a habit of blaming his playing partners, which Arthur Morgan captured in his caricature of Roger on the next page. It was another successful year for Blackwell winning both the **Brancepeth Castle & Blackwell Grange Golf Club's Friendship Cup** and the **BLACK EAGLE PUTTER**. The former trophy was only first played for in 2017.

He also reported on the Seniors' Teesside Union matches, as follows:

David Heaton led our Teesside Union Team to a league win and promotion. ... His aim is to win the First Division this coming year. ...

Blackwell Grange added their name to the **Senior League Div 2 Champions** trophy for the first time, joining Ineos 2014, Teesside 2015, Catterick 2016 and Hunley 2017. Blackwell were runners-up in the first division in 2019 and 2020. Roger was the team manager in 2016.

Roger also reported that:

... My Away Day at Cleveland GC was well organised by my Vice Captain John and had a tremendous attendance. ...

Roger issued a 'goody' bag to each player, some of which included 'something for the weekend' and he presented some 'interesting' prizes! Roger bought these items, together with some wine, at the local supermarket and according to him he shocked the check-out girl when he said that he was going to a 'swingers' party. Knowing Roger, you can well believe it!

Roger then reported on presentation night, as follows:

... The Presentation Night was again a full house and we enjoyed a great meal and great camaraderie. Our main guests that night in addition to our Club Captain, Jeff, were Peter, our Pro, Richard, our Head Greenkeeper and as guest of honour, David Lamb who prior to stepping down has catered wonderfully for many of our events.

Hear, hear!

Roger had the dubious honour of featuring in one of Arthur Morgan's cartoons. Arthur became the Seniors' Section's resident cartoonist.



Cartoon of Roger by Arthur Morgan

Arthur actually featured a number of times on presentation night too. His biggest achievement of the year was to win the bronze section in the Medal Final and Roger presented him with the **MEDAL FINAL BRONZE** trophy; his winning score being an incredible nett 59 or 12 under par, which trounced his nearest rival by 7 shots. Arthur lost 4 shots off his handicap for the privilege (27 to 23).

Ironically, it was only a day later that Oliver Fisher wrote his name into golfing history when he became the first player on the European Tour to shoot a round of 59 at the Portugal Masters.

The BBC's article about Oliver's record was obviously used as a template for a notice that was posted on the Seniors' noticeboard about Arthur's score, which read:

ARTHUR MORGAN shoots European Tour record 59 at Blackwell – BBC
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/golf/45599207>

7 hours ago – English **golfer** Arthur Morgan has carded the first round of **59** in European Tour history at Blackwell. ... Eighteen players have carded rounds of 60 on the European Tour, while Jim Furyk hit 58 on the PGA Tour in 2016.

I did ask Arthur if he knew who posted this, but he didn't know. Anyway, I would be interested to find out, as it was a nice gesture!

Sadly, the Seniors' Section lost its longest-standing member John Camburn. John had been a member since the Section was established in 1986. In fact, he was one of the first three Committee members that year and was made an Honorary Member in 2012. He was also the Club Competition Secretary in 1984 and 1985 and a member of the Executive Committee in 1988 and 1989.

THE MALCOLM DUNSTONE TROPHY was first played for in 2018.

An 'Annual Review of Competitions' was first issued in December 2018. My Christmas present to the members! I keep a record of various competition information for the Seniors' Section Committee and at the Annual General Meeting, Roger suggested that I should share some of this information with the members. Roger reported on my obsession for record keeping, as follows:

Steve Airey keeps a record of all we do and I know you all very much enjoy his information. I am mindful when I leave the course for a "comfort break" that Steve is lurking with his clip board!!

I suppose that you could say that this has become an unhealthy obsession and that some may say that I need therapy, but I do find it somewhat therapeutic anyway!

Also, the 'Annual General Meeting Information', which I created as part of my research into the history of the Seniors' Section was first issued in February 2018.

Roger was a member of the Seniors' Section Committee for the usual three-year term.

He was also the Club Captain in 2004, a member of the Activities and Competitions/Handicaps Sub-Committees in 2003, Junior Liaison Officer from 2005 to 2013 and Chairman of House in 2010 and 2011.

2019 – John Zissler

The protocol at the Annual General Meeting is for the retiring Captain to hand over to the incoming Captain to announce the members of the Committee for the forthcoming year and to make his inaugural speech, however John was on holiday. Therefore, in his absence, unaccustomed as he is to public speaking, it fell upon Roger James to change hats (literally) and address the meeting on John's behalf, when amongst other things he thanked himself for his captaincy! For those of you who do not know John, you will probably have guessed from the photograph below that he used to work for the police, hence Roger donning a policeman's helmet.



Roger James (Seniors' Captain 2018 and Club Captain 2004) acting as John Zissler (Seniors' Captain 2019)!⁴⁴

John did however write his own report. He started by reporting that:

Senior Section Golf??.....contrary to what you may hear, it is not all about hip replacements, slow play and complaints!! It is an enjoyable, inclusive Section that offers, not only, many internal competitions, but also, 22 friendly games against local Clubs plus extremely competitive Teesside Union matches on a league basis. ...

The Seniors' Section is certainly a very popular, friendly and extremely well organised section of the Club.

⁴⁴ Photograph taken by David Heaton.

John was keen to champion the cause of volunteering, by taking every opportunity to encourage members to do so. As regards the Senior's Open, he reported as follows:

... Many thanks to the 17 Seniors who volunteered on the day, they certainly helped to lessen the workload. I was particularly pleased that there was no need for Committee Members to organise the event on the day. Hopefully this will be repeated next year with the same, or even more, volunteers?

Disappointingly, this is a cause that is still not very well supported, so it is worth remembering that events like this do not happen without the help of volunteers. Unfortunately, this has always been a problem and David Mawer once adapted the wartime slogan 'Your Country Needs You' to enlist volunteers in 2017.



As regards the friendly matches, John reported that:

This has been an extremely enjoyable season of friendly matches, whereby we played 21, won 8, lost 9 and drew 4. A total of 57 Seniors volunteered and played throughout the season and I feel that I managed to adhere to my 'start of season' statement that the matches would be about enjoyment and inclusivity. Not forgetting the incentives of those golden and brown balls issued after each match to individuals, depending upon results!!

John introduced his own way of rewarding the teams who had the biggest win in each match by presenting them with 'golden' balls. The teams recording the biggest loss being named and shamed and presented with brown coloured 'shit' balls.

Bishop Auckland was included in the fixture list again, taking the place of Brancepeth Castle.

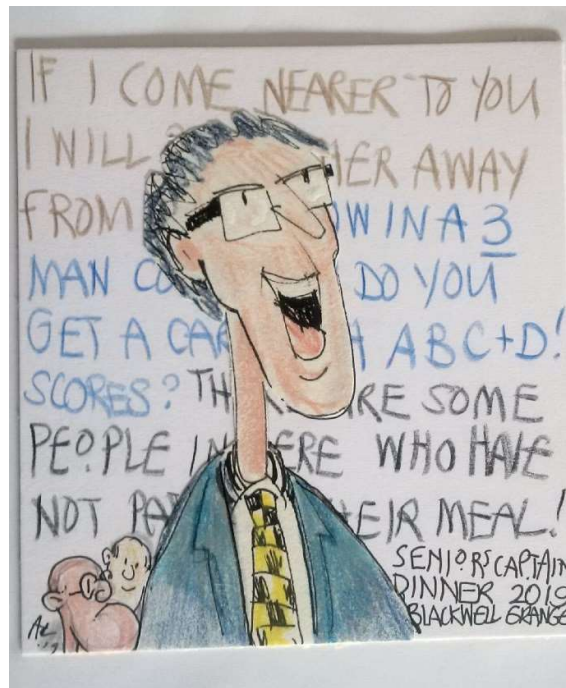
John finished by reporting that:

The Senior Section has now reached 200 members and is a vital part of Blackwell Golf Club, demonstrating welcoming golf of the highest standard both at home and whilst visiting other Clubs in the region.

An enviable milestone! It was in 1995 that the 100 members milestone was reached. The size of the Section is the envy of many other clubs in the area. Despite the large number of members, it is still difficult to find volunteers!

Ian Davie, who has been a member of the Club since 1955, was elected a Life Member at the Club's Annual General Meeting on 7 February 2019⁴⁵ and was made an Honorary Member of the Seniors' Section at the Annual General Meeting on 11 February.

Arthur Morgan included certain extracts of John's after dinner speech on the evening of his Captain's Day in the following caricature of him. Also, spot Gordon Hunter in the background, as well as Arthur himself!



Caricature of John by Arthur Morgan

There were a couple of changes to the competitions for 2019, as follows:

Due to the increased number of players entering the Medal and Stableford Qualifiers, the number of players qualifying for the finals was increased from 45 to 60 i.e. four players per Section from each Qualifier instead of three.

Changes were made to the Nearest the Pin competition to help even up the bottle winners, which has certainly resulted in a fairer share of the spoils.

⁴⁵ See Annual Report and Accounts dated 16 January 2019.

Mike Woodward won the Staysure Qualifier and played alongside Aaron Cox in the Regional Final of the Staysure PGA Trophy at The Manchester Golf Club on 11 July. They finished with a creditable 43 points in joint 13 place. The winning team had 46 points.

Because there are no honours boards for any of the Seniors' Section competitions, I created a series of summaries of the trophy winners, which were first issued in February 2019 (see Appendices C to E).

Richard Western asked John to raise again the issue of having a photograph of the Seniors' Captain in the entrance hall and the Club agreed to purchase a 4 aperture photo frame to accommodate this.

John would have been a member of the Seniors' Section Committee for the usual three-year term, however, like all Committee Members in 2020, his involvement was extended by a year due to the situation caused by coronavirus (COVID-19).

Chapter 5

The Interrupted Years – 2020 and 2021

2020 – Ken Binns ('Take One')

The year 2020 was quite a year, but for all the wrong reasons! It was dominated by extreme/severe weather events and coronavirus (COVID-19), hence Ken's opening remarks in his report:

It was a great pleasure to be chosen as Seniors captain this year ... then covid happened!!!

The season just about to start the lockdown arrived. Testing and worrying times for all.

I'm sure we all wondered if we would ever get to play golf last year?

Consequently, it proved to be the year that never was for Ken and his year as Captain and Peter Bowerbank's year as Vice Captain was effectively postponed until 2021. In fact, the Committee as a whole was to be unchanged for 2021.

Unfortunately for Ken, for the first time ever all but one of the Captain's events were cancelled; the Captain's Challenge in March, the Captain's Scramble and Dinner in June (Seniors' Captain's Day) and the Captain's Away Day in August. As regards the Past Captain's competition and lunch in July, whilst the competition was played, but not until October, the lunch was cancelled.

Ken did have one highlight though; he scored his first ever Hole in One. This was on hole 13 in the also-ran competition on 17 September. Congratulations Ken! Due to his game being not so good at the time (the shanks!), he took his driver. However, he turned to put his club in the bag and missed it going into the hole! His modesty obviously stopped him from mentioning this in his Seniors' Captain's Report!

The Seniors' Annual General Meeting on 10 February when Ken was elected Captain, ironically had the largest attendance since the Section was formed, with 67 members present. Little were we to know about the year that lay ahead!

The wettest February on record for the UK and the 5th wettest winter as well as the 5th mildest⁴⁶ was followed by the COVID-19 pandemic⁴⁷. As regards other weather records, it was the sunniest spring on record for the UK and the driest May on record in England.⁴⁸ Needless to say, coronavirus completely overshadowed the year 2020 and is likely to affect our lives for quite some time; an historic event the like that none of us have experienced in our lifetime.

Another historic event in 2020, was the retirement of David Mawer from the Seniors' Section Committee and from Blackwell Grange Golf Club as a playing member. David was Seniors' Captain in 2010 and a member of the Committee for a record 14 years. At the Annual General Meeting in February, he was presented with a £100 voucher for Darlington Hippodrome, together with a bottle of his favourite tipple.

⁴⁶ <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/about-us/press-office/news/weather-and-climate/2020/2020-winter-february-stats>

⁴⁷ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/COVID-19_pandemic

⁴⁸ <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/about-us/press-office/news/weather-and-climate/2020/2020-spring-and-may-stats>

Last years' competition for **THE LES CHAPMAN AWAYSTERS TROPHY**, which was to have been played at Eaglescliffe, was postponed because of the weather. This was actually played at Hartlepool on 2 March and the winner was John Race. This is the first time that the competition was not played at Appleby.

Unfortunately, the course was closed due to being waterlogged for the first competition of the season on 12 March, the 3 Man Waltz, and following the Prime Minister's⁴⁹ first daily statement on coronavirus on 16 March, a decision was made to cancel the Florida Scramble on 19 March.

The Captain's Challenge on 26 March would have heralded the start of Ken's year, but after the Prime Minister's address to the nation on 23 March, giving us the instruction to stay at home, this was obviously not possible.

Ken reported that:

I was beginning to think that I was cursed and would never be able to enjoy my year as captain.

I was unable to show my prowess as a leader of men in the 'friendly' matches against the local clubs as these were cancelled. These matches are much looked forward to, not only for the golf but to be able to socialise with fellow golfers and old friends we've made over the years.

But then.....following advice from HM Government and the golfing authorities we were able to start playing golf again albeit just socially and in 2-balls from Wednesday 13th May.

The sun was shining the temperature was rising, the golfing gods were once again smiling down on us and we were able to start the Stableford and Medal qualifying competitions.

...

Whilst I still have been unable to lead a team into battle, David Heaton (that great leader of men and golfers) was able to field teams in the Seniors Teesside Union League.

There were less matches played than usual due to covid but David led the team to the runners up position for the second year in a row so well done to all who contributed.

As regards the friendly matches, it was a shame that these could not be played, especially for Ken, as being guaranteed a place on the team for two years was one of his reasons for becoming Captain! Also, the number of matches was to have been twelve, with the addition of Cleveland.

Thankfully, Ken has been able to lead the teams in the friendly matches in 2021, otherwise we would never have heard the last of it!

When competitions recommenced on 25 June, due to the restrictions imposed, as well as the friendly matches, all team competitions were cancelled. The rearranged summer competitions only included the **CHARITY CUP**, eight Qualifiers, the two Finals and the **JACK PARKES CHALLENGE CUP**.

Unfortunately, it was not possible to run the Nearest the Pin competition.

⁴⁹ The Prime Minister was Boris Johnson.

The Cockerton Memorial Stone Fund Raiser, postponed from 16 April was the first competition to be played on 25 June and there were a record number of entries for this charity event, with 108 players competing for a 'new' trophy, the **CHARITY CUP**. Paul Wharton was instrumental in organising the competition and associated raffle and for the impressive display of prizes. His wife, Pat, is responsible for the equally impressive background! A substantial sum of £1,270 was raised for this worthy charity.



Cockerton Memorial Stone Fund Raiser – Table of Prizes⁵⁰

Due to the ongoing restrictions, the competition was played in accordance with the Club's rules for 'Playing Golf under Covid-19 Restrictions', which included for preferred lies in bunkers. Also, as regards Rule 3.3(b) of the Rules of Golf, a local rule was introduced to replace this, covering scorecards, scoring and recording scores, which allowed players to enter their own scores on Master Scoreboard at home. The competition was to have been a fourball Texas Scramble, however the format was changed due to the restrictions, with the **CHARITY CUP** being won by the team formed from the four best Stableford scores by Dean Martin, Mike Walsh, Gary Krumm and John Bradley.

Incidentally, the **CHARITY CUP** was donated to the Seniors' Section by Tom Turner, a trophy that was recycled that he won in 1997 for a U.S. Open Competition, the competition being played on a date close to the date of the U.S. Open that year! The trophy will be played for, for a different charity every year.

⁵⁰ Photograph taken by Paul Wharton.

Ken and Paul presented a cheque to Nigel Alderson of W. Alderson and Son Family Butchers and treasurer of Cockerton Community and Business group and the photograph of the ceremony below was included in an article in The Northern Echo.⁵¹ The lady who took the photograph was called Joyce Milner, one of Nigel's customers, her husband Tom had recently passed away and he was very much part of the initial thought process to get this memorial started. Sadly, he didn't get to see the finished product but he was shown a photograph of the base of it when it was installed.



*"Lest We Forget" – Cockerton Memorial Stone Cheque Presentation
Paul Wharton (Seniors' Captain 2013), Ken Binns (Seniors' Captain 2020/2021) and
Nigel Alderson (W. Alderson & Son Family Butchers, Cockerton and Member of Blackwell)*

⁵¹ Georgia Meadows, 'Community fund new war memorial in Cockerton centre', *The Northern Echo* (21 July 2020), <https://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/news/18597859.community-fund-new-war-memorial-cockerton-centre/>

Because of an influx of new members with lower handicaps, prior to the Qualifiers the handicap sections were changed to Gold 0 - 14, Silver 15 - 19 and Bronze 20 - 54.

As regards the prize winners, apart from the winter competitions, as there were no entry fees there were no prizes, only the trophies themselves. Whilst the trophies were engraved, unfortunately it was not possible to present them; instead, it was arranged for them to be collected from the bar/Club office, but even this was not possible until after 17 May 2021 when the clubhouse reopened. Ironically, one of the reasons for changing the prizes for 2020 was to avoid an unnecessarily lengthy prizegiving!

Following a review of the prizes, it was decided that all prizes will be monetary and credited to either your Pro Shop or Club card account i.e. there will be no small trophies for competitions or mementoes for Qualifiers, but generally the prize money was increased to compensate.⁵² Also, the total number of prizes was increased significantly, so many more members will share the prize fund.

Unfortunately, the winter league for 2020/2021 could not be completed, which I suspect was another one-off situation! As only five matches were played, predominantly because of the two national lockdowns in November and the following January/February due to COVID-19, it was decided that this was not enough to contest for the trophies.

Following the closure of the clubhouse on 24 March, the Seniors' Committee held video meetings on Skype for the rest of the year.

Many other Captain's Reports have included reference to the number of members and Ken reported that:

The Senior Section has now reached 200 members and is a vital part of Blackwell Golf Club, demonstrating welcoming golf of the highest standard both at home and whilst visiting other Clubs in the region.

He can be excused for copying this extract from John Zissler's report, as, to be fair, he didn't have much of a year to report on and, in turn, it is hoped that he can excuse the author for highlighting this!

A significant number of new members joined the Seniors' Section in 2020, but on the other hand there were quite a few departures. At the end of the year the number of members actually reached a record high of 208.⁵³

In summary, 2020 was a remarkable year in more ways than one, not least because of the discovery of the COVID-19 vaccines, but also with regard to the weather.⁵⁴ Disappointingly for Ken though, albeit his year was an unforgettable one, it was obviously somewhat less remarkable!

⁵² See item 7 of 'Members' Information' document.

⁵³ Number of members prior to the Annual General Meeting in 2021.

⁵⁴ <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/about-us/press-office/news/weather-and-climate/2021/2020-statistics-round-up>

2021 – Ken Binns ('Take Two')

Whilst 2020 was obviously a year to forget for everyone, it is hoped that 2021 will be somewhat more memorable, especially for Ken. Due to the fact that he was largely deprived of his Captain's year in 2020, it was decided that he should be allowed to be Captain again in 2021 – another one-off situation! To date he has been a member of the Seniors' Section Committee for two years.

However, unfortunately, coronavirus (COVID-19) continued to affect things. A third national lockdown was announced on 4 January and once again the golf course had to close. Consequently, the winter league was abandoned as only five matches had been played.

The weather also wreaked havoc in January and courtesy of Storm Christoph the River Skerne burst its banks near holes 2, 3 and 4. Some consolation that, irrespective of the lockdown, the course was closed for much of the month anyway.

Due to the fact that the fixture list was so badly affected in 2020 and because of the continued disruption in early 2021; a reduced number of competitions, no friendly matches, no presentation night, abandonment of the winter league, etc., as a gesture of goodwill, the Committee decided to waive the subscription fee for 2021 for all those who were members in 2020.

Sadly, in January, we lost our resident cartoonist, Arthur Morgan. Arthur had been Ken's winter league partner for a number of years. Arthur's cartoons were referred to in his obituary:

... His cartoons will be greatly missed by all who were lucky to receive or feature in one. ...

Thanks for the happy memories Arthur!

The same month, sadly we lost Mike Carter, Seniors' Captain in 2002 and an Honorary Member.

On a positive note, on 22 February the Prime Minister announced the government's roadmap to cautiously ease lockdown restrictions in England and accordingly the golf course reopened on 29 March playing in 4 balls. Consequently, competitions could be played, albeit adhering to England Golf's 'Play Safe, Stay Safe' protocols, similar to the guidelines that were in place in 2020.

Although Ken's year could not start with the Captain's Challenge, it is hoped that this will be contested later in the year.

The first competition after the lockdown was the **JACK PARKES CHALLENGE CUP** on 1 April and when booking opened on 11 March, inevitably this proved to be extremely popular with players booking in faster than ever. Of the 117 places available, the majority were booked well within the first hour; with only 16 places left to be filled and those were booked before the end of the day. Places were in such high demand that a further 12 places were made available the following day and the majority of those too were booked quite quickly. There were only 3 places available when booking closed on 25 March. The number of cards processed was 123, one more than last year's record entry for Stableford Qualifier 2.

Similarly, booking continued at a pace for the first few Qualifiers of the season, with the total number of players set to break all previous records.

Unfortunately, it was not possible to reintroduce the Nearest the Pin competition, although it is hoped that this will be possible after 21 June.

Ken's long-awaited first friendly match as Senior's Captain was played on 6 April against Durham City at home, however obviously it was still not possible to have the traditional meal after the match. Despite a few small hiccups, including one member of the team having to make a swift return from Durham, Ken was pleased to secure his first victory 6½ - 1½ (5 matches won and 3 halved). In thanking the team, he said that 'It's taken over a year to happen but was well worth the wait.'

As regards the Seniors' Teesside Union, David Heaton announced his retirement as team manager and that Mike Woodward was taking over.

The Annual General Meeting, usually held in February, was postponed and was held for the first time using Zoom on 12 April. The Seniors' Committee continued to hold video meetings on Skype/Zoom too.

Also, on 12 April, certain other facilities reopened.

The Competition Secretary's workload had become so onerous that it was split by introducing two roles, a Summer Competition Secretary and a Winter League Secretary.

The **CHARITY CUP** was contested on 15 April by 26 teams (104 players), however there were some withdrawals because of COVID-19 vaccination appointments. Ken's chosen charity was St Teresa's Hospice.

On 17 May the clubhouse reopened and it is hoped that all remaining facilities will reopen from 21 June.⁵⁵ Consequently, meals resumed for the friendly match against Romanby on 18 May and it is hoped that the Captain's Day dinner can be held on 24 June.

Following the reopening of the clubhouse, it was arranged for the trophies to be available for collection from the bar on 20 May or from the Club office thereafter.

As the Seniors' Section was officially established in 1986, 2021 is in fact its 35th anniversary – long may it continue!

Interestingly, in reviewing the Club's history, it will be 45 years since Stressholme Golf Club opened, 50 years since Blackwell became an eighteen-hole course and 90 years since Blackwell opened as a nine-hole pitch and putt course, so in 2031 it will be the Club's centenary.

To be continued ...⁵⁶

⁵⁵ See England Golf's 'Play Safe Timeline – 29 March', <https://www.englandgolf.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Play-Safe-Timeline-Feb21-V6.pdf>

⁵⁶ Further editions of this document will be issued at suitable intervals.

Chapter 6

The Seniors' Section Committee

In previous chapters the focus has been on the Past Captains, however over the years there have been quite a significant number of Committee members who have not been Seniors' Captain and they are all listed in chronological order in the following table.

Name (* Deceased)	Position	Year	Comments
John Camburn *	Committee Member	1986	Was an Honorary Member
John Harper *	Competition Secretary	1990	Was an Honorary Member
Eric Francis *	Treasurer	1991 to 1996 (5 years)	Was an Honorary Member
Frank Grimshaw *	Competition Secretary	1991 to 1994 (3 years)	Death unconfirmed
Bryan Popplewell *	Treasurer	1996 to 2003 (7 years)	
Jeff Burney *	Secretary	1998 to 2006 (8 years)	
Dennis Tomlinson	Committee Member	1998	
Peter Fennell *	Committee Member	2000 to 2005 (5 years)	
Frank Burnside	Competition Secretary	2001 to 2006 (5 years)	
Bernard Marley	Treasurer	2007 to 2011 (4 years)	
Kevin Boddy *	Treasurer	2008	
Ian Fleming	Competition Secretary	2009 to 2012 (3 years)	
Dave Simmons	Committee Member	2010 to 2015 (5 years)	
Peter Badcock	Committee Member Secretary	2014 2015 to present	
Bill Bell	Committee Member	2015 to 2019 (4 years)	
Peter Bowerbank	Committee Member Treasurer	2015 2016 to present	
Pete Ferns	Committee Member Summer Competition Secretary	2016 and 2019 to 2021 2021	
Stephen Airey	Committee Member	2016 to present	
John Savage	Committee Member Competition Secretary Winter League Secretary	2016 and 2017 2018 to 2021 (3 years) 2021	
Keith Cotgrave	Committee Member	2020 to present	
Dave Theakston	Committee Member	2020 to present	

Chapter 7

Honorary Members

Honorary membership of the Seniors' Section was first introduced in 2002. Whilst there have been some changes to the qualification criteria over the years, the honour has been bestowed upon a number of members. As far as I have been able to establish from miscellaneous archived information, etc.⁵⁷, the past and present Honorary Members, in chronological order, are as follows:

2002 Joe Allan *	2018 Mike Carter *
2002 Alen Barmby *	2018 John Hurworth
2002 Eric Francis *	2018 Ron Smith
2003 Harold Coles *	2019 Ian Davie
2003 Colin O'Neill *	2019 Gordon Harris
2004 Sid McGregor *	
2005 Arthur Down *	
2005 Les Fielding *	
2005 Len Howell *	
2006 Les Young *	
2007 Syd Dowthwaite*	
2007 Harry Hughes *	
2008 John Bowman *	
2008 John Harper *	
2013 John Camburn *	
2013 Tony Cooke	
2013 Brian Hennessy	
2013 Jack Kee *	
2013 Derek Sayers *	
2013 Derek Smith	
2016 Ian Barnes	
2016 Les Hankinson	* Deceased

⁵⁷ Including minutes of Annual General Meetings and Committee Meetings, telephone lists, searches, etc.

Chapter 8

The Seniors' Section and the Officers of the Club

As well as the Seniors' Section forming a large part of the Club's membership, a significant number of its members have been an Officer of the Club or a member of the Executive Committee over the years.⁵⁸

In fact, the President, Captain, Vice Captain and four of the members of the Executive Committee are currently members of the Seniors' Section i.e. David Youldon (President), Gary Krumm (Captain), Richard Parker (Vice Captain), Jon Bradley (Chair of Executive Committee), Neil Clarke (Secretary), Phil Rocket (Chair of Greens) and Jeff Banham (Chair of Competitions/Handicaps).

The latest list of members of the Seniors' Section, as well as including the 2021 Captain, also includes some 16 Past Captains of the Club, as follows:

1978 Ian Davie	2015 Neil Clarke
1985 David Youldon	2017 Mike Hall
1988 John Taylor	2018 Jeff Banham
2002 Phil Wraith	2020 Peter Millar
2004 Roger James	2021 Gary Krumm
2006 Doug Christie	
2008 Brian Hennessy	
2010 John Campbell	
2011 Gordon Hunter	
2012 David Heaton	
2013 Dave Theakston	
2014 and 2019 Jon Bradley	

The following past Officers of the Club and members of the Executive Committee, Sub-Committees or Representatives are also currently members of the Seniors' Section:

John Boanson, Tony Cooke, Ian Fleming, Nick Gibson, Peter Hird, Ken Marsh, Richard Matthews, Trevor Newton (Teesside Alliance Representative since 1985 i.e. for some 36 years!), Neil Sayers, Bob Severs, Frank Walsh, Peter Wastnedge, Bob Wilson and Andrew Wright

Over the years, I believe that every official position in the Club has been held by a member of the Seniors' Section, either past or present. Consequently, the Seniors' Section is a very well-respected Section of the Club and long may it continue!

⁵⁸ See Articles 31 and 32 of the Club's Constitution, which can be found in the 'Members' Area' of the Club's website under 'Members Info'; the related download is entitled 'Rules & Bye Laws – February 2018'.

Chapter 9

The History of the Knitted Golfer

The knitted golfer is a relatively new member of the Seniors' Section, having only joined in 2015.

It was donated to the Seniors' Section by Dave Simmons and is the handiwork of a past neighbour of his, Janet Taylor, his partner's sister-in-law. As well as the golfer itself, this exceptional work of knitted art includes a bag, clubs, headcovers, balls and an umbrella, all colourfully knitted, as can be seen from these two photographs.



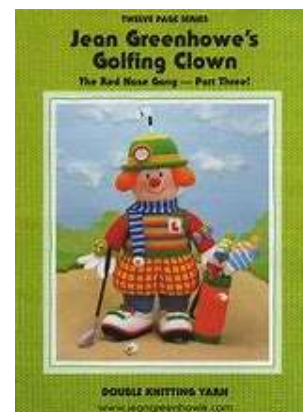
The Knitted Golfer



Complete with golf equipment

The knitted golfer is actually a Golfing Clown called Binky Bunker from a pattern by Jean Greenhowe published in January 1994.⁵⁹ You will see from the pattern cover opposite that the pin flag and 'I LUV GOLF' badge are both missing from his hat!

As the knitted golfer is now presented to the runners-up of the **MALCOLM DUNSTONE TROPHY**, when one of the bar staff asked me if he had a name, I said no, but perhaps we should call him Malcolm. It seemed appropriate with him being so colourful and it is for Malcolm's competition. Anyway, Malcolm being the good sport that he is has not objected to this and so despite being christened 'Binky', he is now affectionately known as 'Malcolm'.



Pattern Cover for Golfing Clown

⁵⁹ See Jean Greenhowe Designs' website for more pictures and information about The Golfing Clown.
<https://www.jeangreenhowe.com/golfing.html>

Malcolm's history to date within the Seniors' Section is as follows:

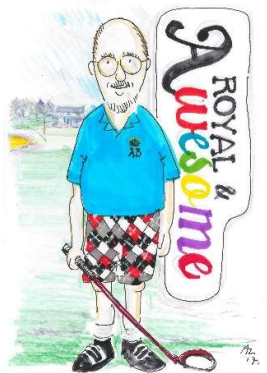
2015 – Donated to the Seniors' Section by Dave Simmons

2015 Annual General Meeting – Presented to Malcolm Dunstone when he was Seniors' Vice Captain by Richard Western when he was Seniors' Captain.

2015 Friendly Matches against Eaglescliffe Golf Club – Presented to Nick Clements, Seniors' Secretary of Eaglescliffe Golf Club, as runners-up for the **BLACK EAGLE PUTTER**, by Malcolm Dunstone when he was Seniors' Captain. Nick's trademark golfing outfit for these matches includes a pair of colourful plus-twos, hence the reason for presenting him with the knitted golfer, albeit 'Malcolm' is wearing plus-fours.

2016 Friendly Matches against Eaglescliffe Golf Club – Nick got his own back in 2016 as Blackwell were the runners-up for the **BLACK EAGLE PUTTER** and he presented 'Malcolm' to Harvey Pennington, Seniors' Captain.

2017 Presentation Night – Presented to Alan Biglin by Harvey when he was Seniors' Captain. David Mawer organised the 'Royal & Awesome' award for Alan because of his brand of sartorial dressing and Arthur Morgan is the artist responsible for the caricature of Alan on the accompanying card, which has been reproduced below.



Caricature of Alan Biglin by Arthur Morgan

Royal & Awesome, whose strapline 'SPECTACULAR TROUSERS FOR THE PARS & THE BARS', is a company that offers a full range of mens bright & funky golf trousers, etc. to brighten up your clothing on the course!⁶⁰

2018 Presentation Night – Presented to the first runners-up of **THE MALCOLM DUNSTONE TROPHY**.

2019 to Present – Continues to be presented to the runners-up of **THE MALCOLM DUNSTONE TROPHY**.

⁶⁰ If you are interested the website address is <https://www.royalandawesome.co.uk/>

Chapter 10

The Seniors' Section and the 'Tuesday Club'

The 'Tuesday Club' is actually called the Tuesday Afternoon Gentlemen's Golfing Society or 'TAGGS' as it is affectionately known.

Why should this be included in a history of the Seniors' Section? Well quite simply because the majority of the people who play in it are Seniors!

However, this was not the case when a group of fish friers first arranged a friendly fourball on a Tuesday afternoon when their shops were closed. Ironically, The Tuesday Club originated at Stressholme Golf Club in 1977 and Fred Battye and Mike Pickup were the founder members. They were closely followed by Tommy Kilcran, David Lord and Ray Hutchinson.

Peter Barkley and Alan Winchester took the reins in circa 2000 for another impressive period of almost 20 years. The baton was passed to Roy Elliott, assisted by Nev Nelson and Selwyn Robertson, in March 2019, with Simon Marks now being Roy's right-hand man.

Well done to all concerned!

Although playing to win is part of playing golf, this is not necessarily on everyone's agenda in the Tuesday Club. Judging by some of the comments when the winning scores are announced in the clubhouse afterwards, I think that it is fair to say that some people take things a bit more seriously than others and there are certain people who just can't accept that there are players with more than an 18 handicap!

On the whole, the Tuesday Club is a friendly, informal game of golf. Depending on the time of year, the tee is now booked from approximately 11 a.m. or 11.30 a.m., traditionally with everyone congregating at the clubhouse before invading the first tee to draw the balls out of the bag. However, since the restrictions imposed by coronavirus (COVID-19), the draw has taken place on a Sunday, with an email being sent to all players, which is how things are continuing.

The format is Singles Stableford and Four-ball (better ball) Match Play rolled into one, but depending upon the number of people playing, there are quite often a number of three-balls and even the odd five-ball! The teams play for £1 a man, with 10p 'bits' on offer on the par 3's and for birdies.

The entry fee is effectively the price of a pint, with this currently being £4 and the winner takes home what is left after buying the drinks, less the organisers' percentage. I have to say that I have no experience of this though!

The first four players each week receive an appropriate percentage handicap reduction, but obviously this is only applicable to the Tuesday Club.

The following trophies are also played for each year:

Bob Rawlinson Champion Golfer – The Tuesday Cup, because of its poor condition, was swapped for a trophy provided by Bob Rawlinson for a competition some years ago, hence it being renamed in 2019. This trophy is presented to the player who has performed the best throughout the year. It was first played for in 1990, with the winner being Reg Dixon. Roy Elliott won the trophy for a record six consecutive years from 2014 to 2019.

The Tommy Kilcran Spring Cup – This is a Stableford competition, which usually takes place in May and is followed by a two-course meal and presentation. It was first played for in 1988, with the winner being non-other than Tommy Kilcran!

Tuesday Club Rose Bowl – This is for the away day which takes place in August. The first away day was held at in 1989, with the winner being Colin Vitty.

Christmas Cup – Again, this is a Stableford competition, which as expected takes place in December and is followed by a meal and presentation. It was first played for in 2005, with the winner being R D Laundon.

Tales of the Riverbank – The 'missing' 8 iron!



The scene of the incident!

The date was 3 January 2017 and it was the first gathering of the Tuesday Club after New Year.

I was playing with Mike Hall, Alan Harris and my brother-in-law, Tom Turner. We were putting on the 3rd green when Jeff Banham from the group ahead of us uttered the fateful words 'someone's clubs have just gone in the river!'. They belonged to yours truly. It was a windy day and the river at the time was high and fast flowing.

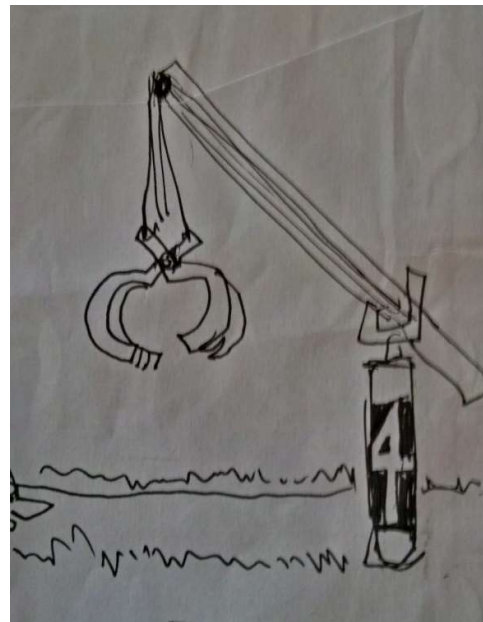
Don Bowen, having previous experience of rescuing clubs from the river was first on the scene. Don had grabbed hold of my golf bag and I in turn grabbed hold of him and because the clubs had already started to float out of the bag, they were passed one by one to dry land. Anyway, thanks to Don all the clubs were safely retrieved apart from my 8 iron.

Despite everything now being soaking wet, my playing partner Mike Hall was wanting me to continue as he said that he needed my shots! Sensibly, I had already decided to walk off, but the status quo was quickly resumed because the following group were a five-ball anyway.

Rather foolishly I decided to borrow some waders from the greenkeepers and went back to try and retrieve my 8 iron, but had to abandon my search as the water was actually quite dangerous. The following week Reece Hindle, one of the greenkeepers, came into the clubhouse with the 'missing' 8 iron, still dripping wet!

I still don't know how my trolley, especially not being motorised, travelled down the embankment and over two paths, etc. without toppling over and I'm not sure that I would be able to reconstruct this if I tried!

Arthur Morgan, a retired art teacher and a past regular of the Tuesday Club, decided to do a couple of sketches as a reminder of the incident. Thanks Arthur!



Arthur's sketches

Coffee/Book Exchange Society

With the course being closed in early 2018 due to the unprecedented wet weather, the following notice was posted on the Seniors' Section notice board.

TUESDAY CLUB NEWS

The Tuesday Club is still in existence.

Not having played golf on Tuesdays since 30 January 2018, it is now running as a coffee/book exchange society.

If you would like to find out what is going on please turn up around 10.15am on future wet Tuesdays to meet up with other depressed ex golfers.

Future events: 2018 SPRING CUP Tuesday 15 May

The Tuesday Club actually resumed playing on 17 April, having not played for ten consecutive weeks!

The course being closed due to weather is one thing, but little were we to know of how coronavirus (COVID-19) would interrupt things during 2020 and 2021!

A Record Win?

On 21 January 2020 Peter Bowerbank played the round of his life to win with an impressive 44 points, some 6 points more than his nearest rival. He also beat his personal best by some 8 shots.

Not only was this a significant win, but the fact that his Tuesday Club handicap of 13 was already 5 shots less than his Playing Handicap, meaning that he played to a 5 handicap, was actually quite incredible! He went out in 2 over par including birdies on 3 and 4, and came back in 3 over par including a 7 on the 14th. He had 7 pars on the back 9 including 15, 16 & 17, making 10 pars in total. Not bad for an 18 handicapper! Peter said that it was 'one of those rare rounds where everything went for me.'

He played with Maurice Etherington, David Heaton and Phil Wraith, with David being his partner. Needless to say, they took the money and 60p in 'bits'! It was obviously quite an impressive scoring fourball, as Phil was runner-up with 38 points and David was third with 37 points. Obviously, Maurice and Phil and the rest of the players for that matter will not have been too impressed, but Peter's Tuesday Club handicap was reduced to 11 for the privilege. Incidentally, the following week he failed to feature on the leaderboard, but overall, he had quite a year to remember.

Does anyone know of a more comprehensive win in the Tuesday Club's history? I suspect not.

Whilst this chapter provides an insight into the Tuesday Club, Roy Elliott has created a separate document covering the history and format, which also includes a 'Hall of Fame'.⁶¹

⁶¹ See Roy's document entitled 'Tuesday Club (TAGGS) est. 1977'.

Chapter 11

Stressholme Golf Club Seniors' Section

Here are some facts about Stressholme Golf Club's Seniors' Section:⁶²

Membership

There were 30 members in 2012. In comparison, Blackwell had 84 members.

The annual membership fee was £10.

Captain's Events

The Seniors' Captain's Day took place in July.

The Captain in 2012 and 2013 was Alan Powley.

Competitions

There was a Medal competition in April.

There were six monthly Stableford competitions, played from May to October.

Friendly Matches

There was a match with the Ladies in November.

Winter League

There was a winter league.

If anyone has any further information, I would be pleased to hear from them.

⁶² Information provided by Malcolm Dunstone.

Acknowledgements

There are a number of people that I would like to thank for their contribution, as follows:

Amanda Airey

Nigel Alderson

Peter Badcock

Neil Clarke

Kath Clulee

Ian Davie

Sheila Davison

Sandy Duncan

Malcolm Dunstone

Roy Elliott

Maurice Etherington

David Heaton

Tommy Kilcran

David and Josie Lord of Status Promotions⁶³

David Mawer

Joyce Milner

Arthur Morgan

Harvey Pennington

Eddie Pipe

Dave Simmons

Tom Turner

Richard Western

Paul Wharton

David Youldon

⁶³ The trophy engraving is carried out by Status Promotions.

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Appendix A
Annual General Meeting Information

No	Date	Time	Closed	Present	Members	+ Honorary	Year	Committee (* Deceased, u unconfirmed)						Membership Fee	Competition Entry Fee	
								Captain	Vice Captain	Secretary	Treasurer	Competition Secretary	Committee Members			Ex Officio Retiring Captain
	1984				24		1984			Tom Dunn *					£2	30p
	1985				37		1985			Tom Dunn *					£2	30p
1	25/02/1986	10.30	12.05	22	36		1986	Les Young *	Tom Dunn *	Tom Dunn *			John Camburn *		£2	30p
2	24/02/1987	10.30		29	43		1987	Tom Dunn *	Les Fielding *	Tom Dunn *			Les Young *		£2	30p
3	11/02/1988	10.00	12.05	24	52		1988	Les Fielding *	Ray Jones *	Tom Dunn *	Jim Courtney *		Les Young *		£2	30p
4	10/02/1989	10.30	11.50	25	61		1989	Ray Jones *	Jim Courtney *	Tom Dunn *	Gwynn Herbert *		Les Young *		£2	30p
								Jim Courtney *								
5	05/02/1990	10.30	11.30	25			1990	Gwynn Herbert *	Sid McGregor *	Tom Dunn *	John Harper *		Les Fielding *		£2	30p
6	07/01/1991	10.30	12.20	24			1991	Sid McGregor *	John Coward	John Coward	Eric Francis *	Frank Grimshaw *u	Les Young *		£5	30p
7	03/02/1992	10.30	11.45	42	72		1992	John Coward	Viv Cotton *	Sid McGregor *	Eric Francis *	Frank Grimshaw *u	Les Young *		£5	30p
8	01/02/1993	10.30	11.30	48	85		1993	Viv Cotton *	Jim Cole *	John Coward	Eric Francis *	Frank Grimshaw *u	Les Young *		£5	30p
9	31/01/1994	10.30	11.30	50			1994	Jim Cole *	Arnold Hird *	Sid McGregor *	Eric Francis *	Frank Ham	John Coward		£5	50p
10	06/02/1995	10.30	11.30	48			1995	Arnold Hird *	Jack Lee-Warner *	Sid McGregor *	Eric Francis *	Frank Ham	John Coward	Jim Cole *	£5	50p
11	05/02/1996	10.30	11.05	41			1996	Jack Lee-Warner *	Frank Ham	Sid McGregor *	Bryan Popplewell *	Frank Ham	Jim Cole *	Arnold Hird *	£5	50p
12	10/02/1997	10.30	11.15	51			1997	Frank Ham	Derek Smith	Sid McGregor *	Bryan Popplewell *	Tony Cooke	Jim Cole *	Jack Lee-Warner *	£5	50p
													Arnold Hird *			
13	09/02/1998	10.30	11.20	40			1998	Derek Smith	Jack Kee *	Jeff Burney *	Bryan Popplewell *	Tony Cooke	Dennis Tomlinson	Frank Ham	£5	50p
14	08/02/1999	10.30	11.43	46			1999	Jack Kee *	Tony Cooke	Jeff Burney *	Bryan Popplewell *	Jim Cole *	Arnold Hird *	Derek Smith	£5	50p
15	07/02/2000	10.30	11.14	59			2000	Tony Cooke	Brian Hennessy	Jeff Burney *	Bryan Popplewell *	Jim Cole *	Peter Fennell *	Jack Kee *	£5	£1
16	05/02/2001	10.30	11.20	61			2001	Brian Hennessy	Mike Carter *	Jeff Burney *	Bryan Popplewell *	Frank Burnside	Peter Fennell *	Tony Cooke	£5	£1
17	11/02/2002	10.30	11.15	55	119	2	2002	Mike Carter *	John Clulee *	Jeff Burney *	Bryan Popplewell *	Frank Burnside	Peter Fennell *	Brian Hennessy	£5	£1
18	10/02/2003	10.30	11.15	48	122	4	2003	John Clulee *	Gordon Harris	Jeff Burney *	Brian Hennessy	Frank Burnside	Peter Fennell *	Mike Carter *	£5	£1
19	16/02/2004	10.30	11.20	63	122	4	2004	Gordon Harris	Ron Smith	Jeff Burney *	Brian Hennessy	Frank Burnside	Peter Fennell *	John Clulee *	£5	£1
20	07/02/2005	10.30	11.20	55	117	7	2005	Ron Smith	Derek Sayers *	Jeff Burney *	Brian Hennessy	Frank Burnside	Paul Wharton	Gordon Harris	£5	£1
												Derek Sayers *				
21	06/02/2006	10.30	11.17	60	121	8	2006	Derek Sayers *	Terry Stansfield	David Mawer	Brian Hennessy	John Buchanan	Paul Wharton	Ron Smith	£5	£1
22	05/02/2007	10.30	11.06	56	120	9	2007	Terry Stansfield	John Buchanan	David Mawer	Bernard Marley	John Clulee *	Ron Smith	Derek Sayers *	£5	£1
23	17/03/2008	10.30	11.05	43	111	7	2008	John Buchanan	Phil Constable	David Mawer	Kevin Boddy *	John Clulee *	Ron Smith	Terry Stansfield	£5	£1
											Bernard Marley					
24	16/03/2009	10.30	11.05	42	106	6	2009	Phil Constable	David Mawer	Tim Stace *	Bernard Marley	Ian Fleming	David Heaton	John Buchanan	£5	£1
25	15/03/2010	10.30	11.34	44	97	6	2010	David Mawer	David Heaton	Tim Stace *	Bernard Marley	Ian Fleming	David Simmons	Phil Constable	£5	£1
26	14/03/2011	10.30	11.10	40	90	5	2011	David Heaton	Tim Stace *	Tim Stace *	Harvey Pennington	Ian Fleming	David Simmons	David Mawer	£5	£1
27	12/03/2012	10.30	11.10	41	84	9	2012	Tim Stace *	Paul Wharton	Tim Stace *	Harvey Pennington	David Mawer	David Simmons	David Heaton	£5	£1

Appendix A
Annual General Meeting Information

No	Date	Time	Closed	Present	Members	Honorary	Year	Committee (* Deceased)								Membership Fee	Competition Entry Fee
								Captain	Vice Captain	Secretary	Treasurer	Competition Secretary		Committee Members	Ex Officio		
28	11/02/2013	10.00	10.40	39	141	+ 9	2013	Paul Wharton	Barry Wilson *	Tim Stace *	Harvey Pennington	David Mawer		David Heaton	Tim Stace *	£5	£1
														David Simmons			
29	10/02/2014	10.00	10.40	59	165	9	2014	Richard Western	Malcolm Dunstone	Tim Stace *	Harvey Pennington	David Mawer		Peter Badcock	Paul Wharton	£5	£1
														John Dobson			
														David Simmons			
30	23/02/2015	10.00	11.05	65	161	9	2015	Malcolm Dunstone	John Dobson	Tim Stace *	Harvey Pennington	David Mawer		Bill Bell	Richard Western	£5	£1
														Peter Bowerbank			
31	15/02/2016	10.00	11.05	56	189	9	2016	John Dobson	Harvey Pennington	Peter Badcock	Peter Bowerbank	David Mawer		Bill Bell	Malcolm Dunstone	£5	£1
														Peter Ferns			
32	06/02/2017	10.00	10.55	58	191	7	2017	Harvey Pennington	Roger James	Peter Badcock	Peter Bowerbank	David Mawer		Stephen Airey	John Dobson	£5	£2
														Bill Bell			
														John Savage			
33	12/02/2018	10.00	10.45	51	191	9	2018	Roger James	John Zissler	Peter Badcock	Peter Bowerbank	John Savage		Stephen Airey	Harvey Pennington	£5	£2
														Bill Bell			
														David Mawer			
34	11/02/2019	10.00	10.35	54	203	11	2019	John Zissler	Ken Binns	Peter Badcock	Peter Bowerbank	John Savage		Stephen Airey	Roger James	£5	£2
														Pete Ferns			
														David Mawer			
35	10/02/2020	10.00	10.50	67	208	11	2020	Ken Binns	Peter Bowerbank	Peter Badcock	Peter Bowerbank	John Savage		Stephen Airey	John Zissler	£5	£2
														Pete Ferns			
														Keith Cotgrave			
														Dave Theakston			
												Summer Competition Secretary	Winter League Secretary				
36	12/04/2021	10.00	10.12	10		9	2021	Ken Binns	Peter Bowerbank	Peter Badcock	Peter Bowerbank	Pete Ferns	John Savage	Stephen Airey	John Zissler	£5	£2
	Zoom Meeting													Keith Cotgrave			
								Committee members as 2020 due to coronavirus (COVID-19)						Dave Theakston			

The number of members at the end of the year i.e. prior to the Annual General Meeting

Appendix B

Minutes of First Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the first Annual General Meeting of the Seniors' Section have been re-created from the hand written minutes.

Minutes of the General Meeting of the Senior Section of Blackwell Grange Golf Club held in the Club House on Tuesday, 25 Feb. 1986 at 10.30am

Members Present

D. Hunter, J Truelock, L.D. Fielding, J.M.D. Solly, G Herbert, J.S. Davies, H. Elders, B. McCormick, R. Jones, F. Lambert, L. Howell, J.M. Camburn, A. Hird, L. Farey, A.E. Down, L.G. Kay, H.C. Butterworth, M. Jaques, R.S. Wells, W. Bainbridge, L. Young in the Chair, T.C. Dunn Secretary (22)

Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from R. Forrest, G.A. Wood, H. Ternent, J. Courtney, J. Scott & J. Biagoni.

Sec's Report

The Secretary reported that although we had managed to win only 4 of our inter club & team matches in 1985 all had been very enjoyable and the fellowships forged promised to be lasting.

He went on to explain how the teams had been chosen from the list of members who had indicated they were available to play. i.e., 2 Groups – Lower Handicap & Higher Handicap one player from each group to play as a pair.

This method seemed to have worked very well, only one complaint having been voiced. He felt however that our opponents expected a good game. Unfortunately for us, other clubs seem to have much lower handicaps than ours.

Financial Report

With 37 paid up members the income was £74. Expenses were £15.85 leaving a balance on the season of £58.15.

The Medal & Stableford competitions brought in the sum of £35.40.

With expenses of £3.40 this left the balance of £32 which had been spent on the Prizes, awarded at the Christmas Dinner.

Appendix B

Minutes of First Annual General Meeting

Arrangements for 1986

The Secretary stated that there would be Monthly Medal & Stableford competitions commencing at 8.30am & it was agreed that the competition fee would be 30p.

Inter Club matches had been arranged with the 6 clubs played the previous year. Tee-off time would be 12 noon except where other club function dictated an alternative time.

This would be posted on the notice board.

The time for away matches would be fixed by our hosts.

It was agreed that in 1986 we would host a match against the Club Juniors and that they would be entertained to lunch after the game. Our members to pay for themselves whilst the cost for the Juniors would be met from our Membership Fees.

For visiting teams, each player would pay for themselves.

Election of Officers

After a short discussion the following Officers were proposed & elected

Captain – L. Young

Secretary – T.C. Dunn

Committee – J.M. Camburn

Membership Fees

It was agreed that a fee of £2 be payable for membership of the section.

A.O.B.

The Secretary stated that he had been invited, & had accepted, to run the caravan for the Men's Open on 5 July 1986 and requested the help of members to man this.

This concluded the meeting and it was closed at 12.05pm with thanks for all for attending.

Signed L. Young 24/2/87

Appendix C

Trophy Winners - Singles Competitions

Year	Les Fielding Tankard Presented By L.D. Fielding (Winter Singles Knockout)	JACK PARKES CHALLENGE CUP	OVER 70's TROPHY VIV COTTON TROPHY prior to 2015 *	SENIORS PAST CAPTAIN'S TROPHY Presented by TONY COOKE	CAPTAIN'S AWAY DAY WINNER	The Gwynn Herbert Memorial Medal Trophy (3 Best Medal Aggregate)	The JIM MANN Memorial Cup (Best Net Medal Score)	Tom Dunn Memorial Stableford (3 Best Stableford Aggregate)	ECLICTIC CUP (Best Net Electric)	'Super Vets Champion' (Pat and Les Young Trophy) (Special Trophy)	FRANK'S TANKARD Presented by Frank Grimshaw for the Autumn Away Day	S P SHEPHERD SALVER Presented by S P Shephard (Summer Singles Knockout)	THE LES CHAPMAN AWAYSTERS TROPHY (Appleby Away Day - until 2019) Presented by Frank Hewitson	Year
1988	W Bainbridge										F Hewitson			1988
1989	W C Hall										J Allan			1989
1990	J Biagioni										J Coward			1990
1991	J W Coward							C P Ruddock			G C Morrison			1991
1992	D Sayers					R Grainger		L Fielding			J Allan			1992
1993	W C Hall					J Courtney		A Hird		L Fielding		D Hughff		1993
1994	C W Smith					F Grimshaw		F Grimshaw		L Fielding		D Hughff		1994
1995	P B Burkill					D Nicholson		J Kee		A Down	K Green Romanby	W Dent		1995
1996	J Camburn		A Down			H Hughes		D Smith		A Down	B Popplewell Romanby	R Bowes		1996
1997	K Green		J Allan			D Hughff		A Pearson		L Young	H T F Harrison Romanby	D Hughff		1997
1998	C Vitty		J H Hughes			G H Merry		J D Clulee		G C Morrison	D Sayers Romanby	J M Camburn		1998
1999	J M Camburn		J W Harper			J D Clulee		D E Abbott		G C Morrison	P Burkill Mount Oswald	J L Pickersgill		1999
2000	F Burnside		J Mann	L D Fielding		B Popplewell		D E Abbott		C W Smith	D A Smith Mount Oswald	J E Carter		2000
2001	F Burnside		N Stafford	F A Cooke		P Fennell		D Holborn		W M Dowall	T Yarrow Ridding Park	J E Carter		2001
2002	G Bowes		F Grimshaw	B J Hennessy		K Frame		T Lowes		H Hughes	G Harris Romanby	J D Clulee		2002
2003	F N Grimshaw		D Nicholson	J E Carter		I T Skyvington		J D Clulee		H Hughes	G Harris Romanby	J D Clulee		2003
2004	T P Kilcran		J Biagioni	B J Hennessy		T Stansfield		M Haythornthwaite		F N Grimshaw	M Carter Romanby	G C Carter		2004
2005	B B J Gent		B Hennessy	G Harris		G Bowes		G Bowes		J Camburn	D Sayers Darlington	J Camburn		2005
2006	A Thompson		N Stafford	F A Cooke		B Marley	B Marley	B Harvey		N Stafford	T Stansfield Barnard Castle	A Thompson		2006
2007	B Hennessy		D Tomlinson	G Harris		B Marley	A Butterfield	M Etherington		I W Barnes	M Etherington Teesside	K Boddy		2007
2008	H Pennington		J Camburn	T Stansfield		P Wharton MM	T Stace	P Wharton MM		F Grimshaw	J Campbell Teesside	T Stansfield		2008
2009	M Etherington		F A Cooke	B Hennessy		H Pennington	J Burn	T Stace		J Camburn		A Kirkip		2009
2010	J Camburn		B Hennessy	R Smith		D Abbott	S Giles	D Dyson		J Camburn		A Duncan	D Simmons	2010
2011	F Walsh		R Allinson	F A Cooke		L Hopper	L Hopper	L Hopper	D Abbott	J Camburn	D Simmons Houghton-le-Spring	T J Stace	P Badcock	2011
2012	D Simmons		T Rotherham	D Heaton		L Hopper	L Hopper	B Wilson	B Wilson	J Camburn	P Badcock Houghton-le-Spring	P Badcock	R James	2012
2013	R Severs		L Hankinson	D Mawer		E Smith	L Hankinson	D Heaton OBE	Not played for due to move mid-season	L Hankinson	R Severs Sharpley	P Wharton MM	P Bowerbank	2013
							T J Stace							
							J Taylor							
2014	A Patterson		R Hoggart	D Heaton	D N Robinson	A Cashmore	K Cotgrave	R James	A Biglin	I Barnes	P Wharton MM Sharpley	B Wilson	R Bell	2014
					Brancepeth Castle					G Hawes				
2015	T P Kilcran	B Dodsworth	G Harris	D Heaton	M Etherington	B Hymers	M Leafe	R Severs	P Ferns	J Snaith	J Campbell Catterick	P Constable	S Robertson	2015
					Saltburn		J Zissler	D Heaton OBE						
								B Noddings						
2016	G Cruickshanks	A E Anderson	J M Taylor	M Dunstone	P W Bowerbank	T P Kilcran	M Dunstone	S M Haymer	S M Haymer	M Dunstone	P W Bowerbank Catterick	N L Sayers	D Christie	2016
					Richmond			D Martin		L A Hankinson				
								M A Woodward						
2017	D J Taylor	B J Tully	R Severs	P Wharton MM	S Wearmouth	S W Raine	J Race	S W Raine	D Bowen	A K Vasey	A Biglin Durham City	F J Walsh	T Lane	2017
					Teesside	M A Woodward								
2018	D C Hatfield	A E Anderson	W M Sharp	J D Mawer	S J Giles	F Tolu	R T Bell	B Hymers	A Biglin	L A Hankinson	E R Smith Durham City	P E llershaw	M A Elwood	2018
					Cleveland		F Tolu			G B Hawes				
2019	P M Millar	W M Thomson	S Robertson	R D James	J G Clarke	M Porter	P Davies	S M Duncan	A Bell	L A Hankinson	P W Bowerbank Chester-le-Street	D S Theakston	J Race	2019
					Bishop Auckland		W S Jackson						Hartlepool	
2020	P Wraith	J W Marchant	Not played for due to COVID-19	P Wharton MM	Not played for due to COVID-19	J Campbell	R J Matthews	P D Gamble	M Davison	L A Hankinson	Not played for due to COVID-19	N L Sayers	G Parsons	2020
										G B Hawes			Durham City	

*
Winners' names provided by Status Promotions
 Winners' names found in archives

Appendix D

Trophy Winners - Medal and Stableford Finals

Year	WHYTE & MACKAY CUP			SCOTTISH & NEWCASTLE BREWERIES TROPHY		
	MEDAL FINAL			STABLEFORD FINAL		
	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
1988	F W Lambert			T C Dunn		
1989	L D Fielding			L Farey		
1990	S F McGregor			S F McGregor		
1991	G Atkinson			J A Burlton		
1992	J Best			R Grainger		
1993	D Sayers			B Popplewell		
1994	T Kilcran			D G Rawlinson		
1995	J Mann			W Bainbridge		
1996	B Harris			J W Coward		
1997	D Tomlinson			B Hennessy		
1998	P Fennell			J D Clulee		
1999	F Burnside			A E Emmett		
2000	J H Hughes			J E Carter		
2001	D Abbott	L Summers		F A Cooke	T Lowes	
2002	L Hankinson	B B J Gent		D Lister	R T Bell	
2003	L Hankinson	J Kee		F N Grimshaw	I T Skyvington	
2004	G Harris	J Leighton		G Bowes	J M G Buchanan	
2005	L Hankinson	B B J Gent		B Hennessy	J M G Buchanan	
2006	B Marley	J M G Buchanan		B Hennessy	B Harvey	
2007	D Heaton	H Pennington		M Etherington	R Laundon	
2008	K Frame	M Powley		K Boddy	J M G Buchanan	
2009	A Butterfield	B Harvey		M Haythornthwaite	J Snaithe	
2010	J E Carter	D Dyson		J Krishnan	H Pennington	
2011	J Dobson	J Camburn		D J Heaton	T J Stace	
2012	J Zissler	S Jackson		S Giles	L Hankinson	
				P Wharton MM		
2013	P Davies	D Jeavons		R Severs	R Bell	
2014	T Kilcran	S Jackson	K B Cotgrave	P Badcock	D Bowen	R Iley
2015	S Haymer	D Bowen	A Walker	A Cashmore	S Bell	B Noddings
2016	T P Kilcran	K B Cotgrave	J McRae	D Martin	M A Woodward	M Powley
2017	K Binns	M Hall	D Dyson	D Martin	P D Gamble	T J Lane
2018	T P Turner	D A Jeavons	A L Morgan	J Campbell	K B Cotgrave	D W Alderson
2019	S Wearmouth	J Hannon	P W Hirst	A Biglin	P Wharton MM	A M Dennett
2020	I Sanderson	S Grimshaw	A P F Foster	J M Dobson	M Stott	D C Hatfield

History of Medal and Stableford Competitions

1988 There was only one section/division for the qualifiers and the finals.

2001 The gold and silver sections were created.

2014 The bronze section was added.

2019 The number of players qualifying for the finals was increased from three to four.

2020 Only eight qualifiers due to COVID-19, but the number of players qualifying was increased from four to five to compensate.

The handicap boundaries for the respective sections are reviewed annually to fairly reflect the number of players in each section.

Appendix E

Trophy Winners - Team Competitions

Year	THE 'SID and JOYCE MCGREGOR' CUP (Winter League)	PAIRS WINTER LEAGUE WINNERS (George Morrison Cup) (Winter League Final)	CHARITY CUP	THE JOHN HEWITT TROPHY (Bowmaker (Three-ball))	KETH HORNSBY TROPHY (Captain's Day)	RAY JONES TROPHY prior to 2006 *	THE TIM STACE MEMORIAL TROPHY	LES & DOUG YOUNG DUNSTONE TROPHY (LES YOUNG MEMORIAL TROPHY Leasing Ltd 2016)	Ray Prest Tankards Competition (Summer Pairs Knockout)	Year
1989										1989
1990										1990
1991										1991
1992	J Courtney J Foggin									1992
1993	V Cotton J Courtney							D Sayers A Pearson		1993
1994	C W Smith W McDowell							A Cooke I Walker		1994
1995	W Bainbridge J Bowden							T P Kilcran J Teasdale		1995
1996	W Bainbridge J Bowden			D Tomlinson B Harris R Grainger				D Hughff C Vitty		1996
1997	B Hennessy D Smith			G Bowes H Harrison K White				G Merry R Bowes		1997
1998	J D Clulee J J Mann							G Merry R Bowes		1998
1999	D A Smith B J Hennessy			W J Cole J E Carter J W Burney				J M Taylor F Burnside		1999
2000	F Burnside J M Taylor			B Popplewell L Summers N A Charles				J H Hughes J W Best		2000
2001	B Popplewell S Douthwaite			J E Carter J W Burney J Bainbridge				D Moses K Frame		2001
2002	J E Carter T Yarrow			F Burnside T Yarrow K Hornsby				C Carter B Kidd		2002
2003	M Etherington W Harris			B Harris T Yarrow J D Mawer				D Lister J D Mawer		2003
2004	T Earl O Smith			P B Burkill D A Smith J Leighton				G Harris J Camburn		2004
2005	G Bowes G C Carter			I G Davie T Lowes M Metcalfe				O W Smith T Earl		2005
2006	K Frame D Moses			J E Carter A Pearson J Leighton				J D Clulee F A Cooke		2006
2007	G Bowes C Carter	T Stansfield J Emerson		T Kilcran J Leighton L Hankinson				T Yarrow J E Carter		2007
2008	B Marley R Smith	J Clulee F A Cooke		G Harris D Sayers J Kee				F A Cooke J D Clulee		2008
2009	T Kilcran T Stansfield	T Kilcran T Stansfield		G Bowes H Pigott J Kee				T Yarrow J E Carter		2009
2010	B Wilson A Vasey	D Heaton H Pennington		S Giles R Bowes J Kee				T Yarrow J E Carter		2010
2011	D Heaton H Pennington	D J Heaton H Pennington		R Bell J Camburn D Heaton				F Walsh B Marley		2011
2012	L Hopper S Jackson	I Barnes J Snaith		P Bowerbank L McCabe R Severs			B Marley R Allinson	P Badcock F Walsh		2012

* Winners' names provided by Status Promotions
 Winners' names found in archives
 Unknown

Appendix E

Trophy Winners - Team Competitions

Year	THE 'SID and JOYCE MCGREGOR' CUP (Winter League)	PAIRS WINTER LEAGUE WINNERS (George Morrison Cup) (Winter League Final)	CHARITY CUP	THE JOHN HEWITT TROPHY (Bowmaker (Three-ball))	KETH HORNSBY TROPHY (Captain's Day)	RAY JONES TROPHY prior to 2006 *	THE TIM STACE MEMORIAL TROPHY	LES & DOUG YOUNG MEMORIAL TROPHY (Les Young Memorial Trophy League in 2016)	Ray Prest Tankards Competition (Summer Pairs Knockout)	Year
	D Heaton OBE	T P Kilcran		N Edwards			L Hopper	R Severs		
2013	H Pennington	R Severs		D Lister			S Bell	T P Kilcran	2013	
				B Wilson						
	G Hawes	G Hawes		P Davies			A Vasey	A Biglin		
2014	A Biglin	A Biglin		S Duncan			D Jeavons	G Hawes	2014	
				M Cowley						
	J Race	J Race		N Clarke			G Cruickshanks	P Wharton MM		
2015	A Anderson	A Anderson		P Bowerbank			J Savage	D Simmons	2015	
				M Cowley						
	J Race	J D Mawer	W Caygill	D Heaton			D Martin	W Caygill		
2016	A E Anderson	P W Bowerbank	M Hall	P J Ferns			F J Walsh	R Holliday	2016	
			J W Savage	S J Airey						
	A Cashmore	J Race	A Cashmore	J Race	D Martin		K Binns	I W Holiday		
2017	D Bowen	A E Anderson	M Denham	R S Hoggart	S Bethray		V E Sutcliffe	P A Edwards	2017	
			T J Lane	G A Hunter						
	K N Blewitt	R T Bell	I Sanderson	K Binns	T P Kilcran	A J Cook	S J Giles	M Hall		
2018	W S Jackson	J M Zissler	F J Walsh	R Elliott	J McRae	R Stokell	R T Bell	S Bell	2018	
			A L Morgan	D W Alderson						
	P Wraith	P Wraith	G Cruickshanks	J Race	L Hopper	G A Hunter	D A Jeavons	T J Lane		
2019	W I Jackson	W I Jackson	K Binns	A Bell	S M Duncan	M J Walsh	S M Duncan	P J Constable	2019	
			H H Sutton	H H Sutton						
	P Wraith	G Cruickshanks	D Martin	Not played for	Not played for	Not played for	Not played for	Not played for	D S Theakston	
2020	W I Jackson	H Finan	M J Walsh	due to COVID-19	due to COVID-19	due to COVID-19	due to COVID-19	due to COVID-19	P M Millar	
			G D Krumm							
			J R Bradley							