



### THE HAGLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB CREST

The Hagley Golf & Country Club crest is steeped in tradition and its symbols are unique to the Hagley region.

The crest has the English Rose representing the country and the Worcestershire Pear that signifies the county. The Rook represents the Garratt family's involvement with the founding of the Club and is a bird common in these parts. The hawthorn berries in the rook's mouth are abundant around the Clent Hills.

Hagley is derived from the old English word 'Hageleia' as recorded in 1086AD. This translates to a woodland clearing where 'haws' or hawthorn bushes grow.



**Clubhouse, looking over the lake and 18<sup>th</sup> green**

## **The HAGLEY COUNTRY CLUB**



**Founder - Mr. Neville Garratt  
1904 - 1996**

Neville and Mary Garratt were married in Kent in 1933. They had two sons, Michael and Christopher and one daughter, Jane. Neville, a well-known Midlands Industrialist, was Chairman of the family Company, Garratt & Co Ltd until 1992. He was the driving force behind the establishment of the Hagley Golf & Country Club and continued to direct affairs at the Company until his late eighties.



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## Introduction

It was with pleasure that I received the request to write a brief forward to this record of the club's history.

It is a huge honour and privilege to be the Captain of Hagley Golf and Country Club 2005 especially as it is our Silver Jubilee Year, and to be in a position to introduce this book and its author, Graham Yardley, is my great good fortune.

Where most historians starting down this road have great difficulty in finding records from early years the author of this publication has little difficulty, as there are many of the original members who are still around. However, that in itself gives the greatest problem. Any slight omission or error will be picked up by the sharp memories of those involved and it is a tribute to the author's dedication and application to his task that this work has been undertaken.

Only a love of the club of which he was Captain in 1986 can explain the many hours of research and much personal expense it has taken to collate the information contained herein. Even so, the contents could have been a factual presentation of the club's history to be looked at as a reference for historic facts and figures. It is that – but so much more.



**Peter J Cooper, Captain – 2005**

I commend this book to you as a most interesting read: the trials and tribulations of the early years are highlighted definitively, the development of the course and the club so well portrayed but the colour and character of members past and present is particularly well described and brings real sentiment to this publication.

On behalf of the committees and, I am sure, all the members of Hagley Golf and Country Club I would like to express our heartfelt thanks and congratulations for this splendid presentation. Our thanks must also go to Graham's lady wife Cynthia, for her forbearance, patience and practical help during the compilation of this record.

## Foreword

I deem it a real privilege to be in a position to compile a record covering the first twenty five years in the history of Hagley Golf & Country Club, where I have spent so many happy hours since its inception.

The task has been a labour of love, and if some of my passion for the game generally, and my affection for Hagley Golf & Country Club in particular, is in some degree communicated to the reader, I am well content.

The inspiration for this book was started whilst reading the many centenary books from other golf clubs, which were predominant around the turn of the century, 2000 that is. Each book started with the wording 'It was extremely difficult to find any records of the first twenty five years'. So here we are.....

Even so, the record is inevitably incomplete, and no doubt omits references not only to important events but also to members past and present who have made significant contributions to the club's development over those twenty-five years, and for such omissions I apologise.

A task such as this could not have been achieved without the encouragement and valued help from countless people, and to these I tender my grateful thanks.

I doubt if my task would have been completed on time, or even started, without the gentle but persistent prodding of Bob Hall who, in addition, has helped enormously on practical matters, not least in scanning and editing the many drawings, photographs and newsprint cuttings throughout the book.

I am also indebted to Peter Ricketts, sports correspondent to the Birmingham Evening Mail, for allowing me to quote him throughout the book and the use of several photographs from his collection; Roy Savin, for his wealth of knowledge and the vast amount of photographic material he sorted out, allaying rumours around the club that there was never a film in his camera; Brian Cozens for crawling about in his loft to find the early records of competition golf; Richard Grocock for Seniors golf, Lesley Hall for the time and effort she devoted into compiling the comprehensive report on Ladies golf; Barbara Lawrence and Dot Hammond for their proof reading; our Professional, Iain Clark, and all of those who have provided information of great value relating to our early history.

And last but by no means least, my wife Cynthia, for her secretarial skills, and who has not only allowed our home to be littered with documents, books and files in order for me to compile this record but has allowed me the time to spend on this work as well as the leisure time to play a little golf in between.

To all the above and especially to the members, I would like to dedicate this book, which I hope will help, in no small way, the person who is given the privilege of writing the next 25 years and hopefully, the full Centenary in 2080.

Graham F Yardley  
May 2005

## Golf – The Beginnings

Much has been written about the origins of the game of golf, with various theories and assumptions, but what is clear is that golf, as we know it was played along the east coast of Scotland as far back as the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

There is no evidence however that golf clubs as we understand them today were formed until the early part of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In the year 1800 only seven Clubs – all in Scotland – were in existence, and by 1850 there were still only seventeen Clubs in Britain. Few, if any, of the Clubs owned their own courses. The members of such Clubs would play over common ground which would also be used by the public for other activities and the Club members would meet after the day's play in a local hostelry to dine together and arrange matches for the next Club Meeting. The normal mode of play was match play, usually foursomes, stroke play competitions being normally regarded as a lower form of golf and only adopted on very rare occasions when Open Competitions were played. Golf was played exclusively by the very wealthy, which was not surprising for not only was the cost of the hand-made wooden club in 1850, 4 shillings (20 pence) but a single golf ball, a “feathery”, would also cost around the same price.

Date	Equipment	
1850	“feathery” ball – 4/-	Wooden Club – 4/-
1880	“gutty” ball – 1/-	Wooden Club – 4/-
1904	“gutty” ball – 1/-	Wooden Club – 5/-

In 1848 the “gutty” ball was developed, which was considerably cheaper than its predecessor and this development alone was largely responsible for the remarkable increase in the popularity of the game in the years that followed.

A further explanation of the golfing explosion in the last twenty years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century was directly related to the growth in railways as most of the “new courses” around that time had easy access to a railway station, which gave town dwellers easy access to the links courses laid out around the coast.

Date	Number of Golf Clubs in Britain
1850	17
1860	25
1870	34
1880	60
1890	387
1900	2230

It must be appreciated that by 1891 relatively few people in this area would have had any experience of the game, which was only just beginning to gain popularity in England. The golf courses that were in existence were situated, in the main, in coastal areas where the sand bunkers, which play a big part in today's course layouts, were natural characteristics of the terrain. Advice on how to lay out a golf course would have had to be gained from the few artisan golfers, who became

professional golfers and green keepers to the new clubs, who had migrated south of the border from Scotland. Similar difficulties would arise in obtaining golfing equipment, which was almost exclusively made in Scotland by the Scottish artisans.

The Rules of Golf could be written on a postcard, and governed match-play conditions (the normal mode of play). In fact each golf club could and did make its own Rules, although these fundamentally followed the basic Rules formulated in 1754 by the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers. It was not until 1892 when it was agreed that the Royal and Ancient should legislate on the Rules of Golf nationally, and a further ten years, after the rubber-cored "Heskell" golf ball replaced the "Gutty", that regulations were introduced governing the size and weight of the golf ball or the shape or size or number of golf clubs to be carried.

It was right at the beginning of this golfing explosion that a few local worthies decided that the time had come to form a golf club in this area, and in 1890 the first steps were taken to find suitable land. It was therefore in 1891 when the first Hagley Golf Club was formed.

The inaugural meeting of the Worcestershire County Ladies Golf Association was held on January 21<sup>st</sup> 1903 where the following clubs were represented: -

- 1 Worcestershire by Mrs Hollins and Miss Spear
- 2 Kings Norton by Mrs Bewlay
- 3 Blackwell by Mrs Holcroft
- 4 Hagley by Mrs Ed.Chance and Mrs Hopkins

Mrs. Hollins was voted into the chair and Mrs Chance from Hagley was nominated Captain.

Mrs Ed Chance was the wife of E F Chance who had planned the original Hagley Golf Club, but strangely enough there is no mention of a Hagley representative when the inaugural meeting for the male equivalent, the Worcestershire Union of Golf Clubs, was held in November 1905 at the Star Hotel, Worcester. The founding clubs being The Worcestershire, the Malvern Working Men's Club, Moseley, Stourbridge, Kings Norton, Worcester City, Dudley, Robin Hood and Evesham. By January 1906 Kidderminster, Blackwell, Droitwich, Bromsgrove, Broadway, Alcester, Tenbury and Ipsley (Redditch) had been added, but Hagley was itself facing closure.

Newspaper articles around this period reported "The Countess of Dudley played with her husband at their private course at Witley Court. Shirley Baldwin was influential in the early days of the men's union, as was Edward Blackwell, who farmed on one of Lord Dudley's farms at Great Witley. He was an international, a member of the R & A and first played for Worcestershire under an assumed name, as the R & A were not interested in supporting other governing bodies. He was also Vice President of the Worcestershire County Ladies Golf Association.

## The Hagley Golf Club (1891 - 1906)

Historians will find reference to an early 'Hagley Golf Club', which opened in 1891. It is interesting to note that Stourbridge Golf Club, which opened around the same time, was on very friendly terms with Hagley Golf Club, so when Stourbridge Golf Club closed down in 1898 after a disagreement with the land owner, its Hagley neighbour invited its members to join without paying an entrance fee. It was reported that some took up this offer but their numbers were never recorded.

It is ironic, to say the least, that Stourbridge re-opened in 1903 after settling their disagreement, but a further three years on, in 1906, Hagley was itself forced to close, but unlike Stourbridge did not reappear until 1980, this time as the Hagley Country Club. Surprisingly few present members of the two clubs are aware of the existence of the earlier Hagley Club. "The Victorian History of The Counties of England – Worcestershire Volume 11" showed that not only did it exist but had "many famous players" including E.F. and A.M. Chance, Hon A. Lyttelton, W.R. Nash and G. Macpherson.

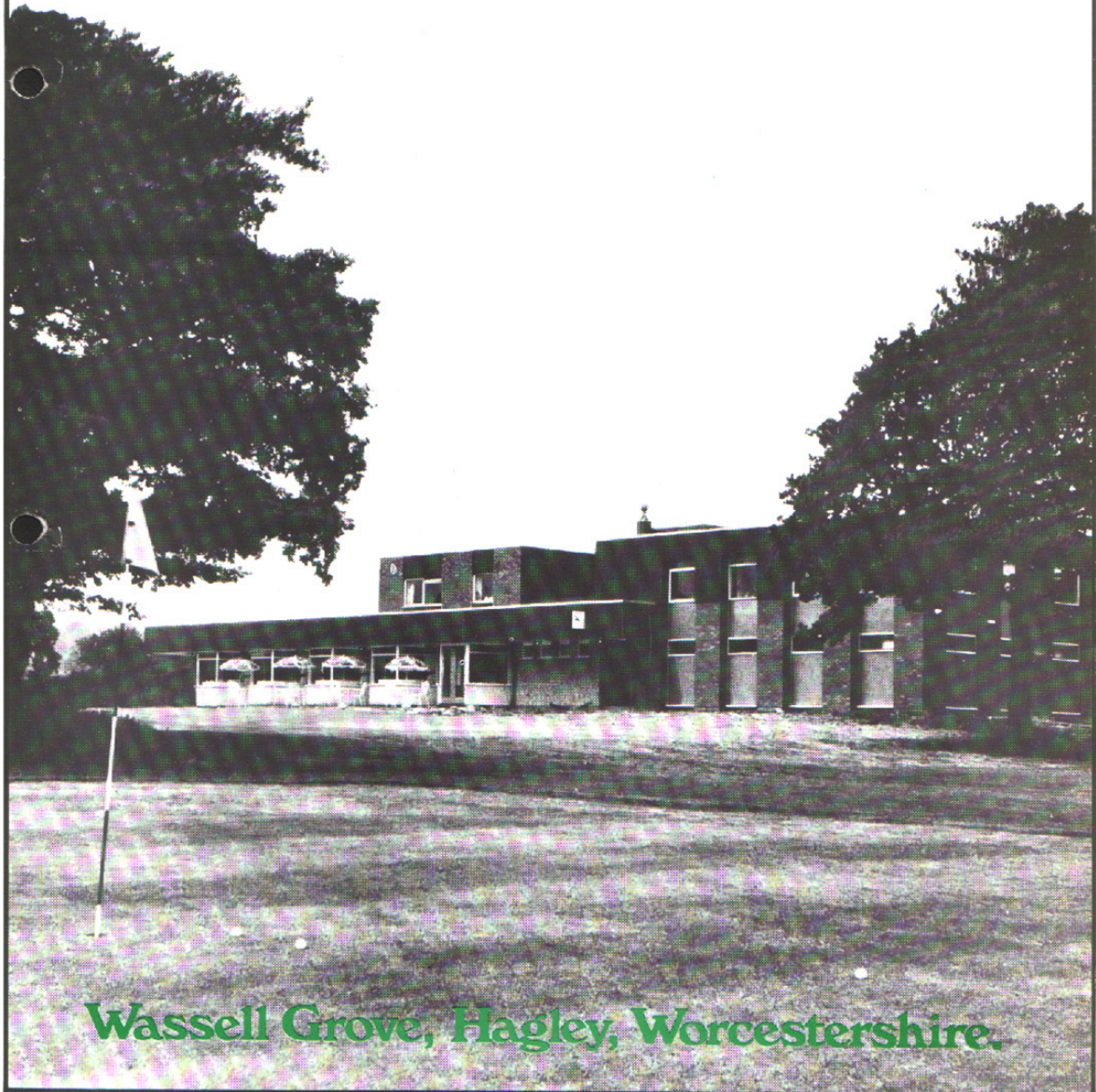
It also records the following: *"The Hagley course is a short but beautifully situated one of nine holes. It was originally planned in 1891 by Mr. E.F. Chance but was subsequently lengthened. Monument Hill, the site of the links, is two miles from Stourbridge. The course is somewhat hilly but the turf gives good lies and excellent greens. The hazards are all natural and although the soil is clay, play is feasible throughout the year"*.

Viscount Cobham, Messrs. H.T. Williams, E.F. Chance and W.H. Grazebrook were chiefly instrumental in founding the club which totalled seventy members. The first professional, 1891 – 1893: Daniel Brown, born Musselburgh in 1869. The second professional, 1893 – 1904: E. Veness, went to West Lancashire Ladies 1904 – 1907 and then to Dudley 1907 – 1914.





# the Hagley Country Club



Wassell Grove, Hagley, Worcestershire.

Original Club Brochure 1980 – Front Cover

# THE HAGLEY COUNTRY CLUB

We have pleasure in giving you information about The Hagley Country Club located in the hamlet of Wassell Grove in the parish of Hagley facing the beautiful Clent Hills.

## GOLF COURSE

The first nine holes of an attractive Golf Course have now been completed. Set in superb undulating countryside with woodland streams and a small lake, the course has been professionally landscaped to give golfers an interesting and challenging game. Planning permission has been granted for the creation of another nine holes and work on them will begin sometime next year. Please refer to the attached plan of our golf course.

## GOLF DRIVING RANGE

A Driving Range, of about twelve acres, has been landscaped and construction of the tees, some covered, will be started in the Spring of 1981. At night it is planned to floodlight the whole range.

## SQUASH COURTS

There are Four Squash Courts with a central viewing gallery, attached to the Clubhouse. The courts, which are ready for play, have been designed and built to meet the specifications recommended by the Squash Rackets Association.



## CLUBHOUSE

This is furnished to a high standard and contains the *Clent Hills Room* which is shown in the photograph. This room, with its attractive bar and small dance floor, has exceptionally fine views of Hagley Wood and the Clent Hills. Adjoining it is the *Hawthorn Restaurant* which will normally seat about thirty but, if desired, this restaurant, providing meals for members and their guests later in the year, can be extended into part of the Clent Hills Room to accommodate approximately one hundred people.

The *Garratt Room* containing a small intimate bar has an impressive brick built fireplace with a dog grate for log fires and inglenook seating.

The *Dingle Room* looks out onto Wassell Grove Dingle and the golf driving range and in it buffet lunches will be offered to members. This room can be used for discos, other social activities and private functions.

In these four rooms hot and cold food will be available together with a good selection of beers, wines and spirits.

In the *Churchill Room*, with its gas log fire, and the *Elizabethan Room*, meetings, lectures, seminars, private lunches, dinners, and social and business functions can be held.

Facilities will be provided for television, film viewing, bridge, card and other table games.

There are separate well appointed Changing Rooms with clothes lockers and showers for golf and squash players.

We plan to build, next to the Clubhouse, a Professional's Shop and a room for the storage of golf bags and trolleys.

The Terrace on three sides of the Clubhouse has tables, chairs and umbrellas where members and their guests can take light refreshments in the Summer.

The grounds surrounding the Club could accommodate a putting green, a croquet lawn, tennis courts, a swimming pool, archery and other sporting activities.

We anticipate that you will wish to apply for membership of The Hagley Country Club which we intend to make into one of the best social and sporting clubs in the West Midlands giving its members first class facilities and amenities with a standard of service to match.

Our resident Manager, Bernard Nicholls and his wife Peggy have had many years experience in the management of and catering for sports clubs; they and other members of our staff will be pleased to show you around the Clubhouse and its grounds, answer your queries and receive your completed Membership Application Forms.

The Club will be opened in September, 1980.

We look forward to hearing from you.

### CLUB MEMBERSHIPS — FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30th SEPTEMBER, 1981

Entrance fees are payable in full at the time of acceptance of the membership.

Where a member of the Golf or Squash Club has elected to pay subscriptions by two equal instalments the first is payable on acceptance of membership and the balance will be due on the 1st of April 1981. To calculate the instalment payment add 10% to the total subscription inclusive of V.A.T. and divide it by two. If annual subscriptions are not paid in full when membership is granted a cheque bearing the date the 1st of April 1981 must be handed over for the appropriate sum due.

The entrance fee and subscription charge for membership of the Golf and Squash Clubs includes in them a payment for social membership of The Hagley Country Club.

Consideration will be given during 1981 to extending the classes of membership, particularly for junior members. Until such times as junior memberships are available children of members who are over fourteen years of age will be allowed to accompany their parents in the Clent Hills Room during the opening hours of the Club but not after 6.00 p.m. in the evening. After 6.00 p.m. children over 14 and under 18 may use the Foyer, which has oriental furnishings, and the Dingle Room if their parents are on the premises.

In September 1981 entrance fees, subscriptions, golf green fees and squash court fees will be fixed for the coming year at the discretion of Garratt & Co. Limited after consultation has taken place with the Club Committees.

#### SOCIAL MEMBERSHIP

	Entrance Fee	V.A.T.	Subscription	V.A.T.
	£	£	£	£
Gentlemen/Ladies Over 18 years of age	30.00	4.50	15.00	2.25
Husband and wife (joining together)	40.00	6.00	20.00	3.00

Social members will have the opportunity of playing on the golf course and squash courts on payment of the fees set out below, and at the times specified.

#### GOLF CLUB MEMBERSHIP

	Entrance Fee	V.A.T.	Subscription	V.A.T.
	£	£	£	£
<b>Full Playing Member</b> Over 18 years of age				
Gentlemen	110.00	16.50	100.00	15.00
Ladies	85.00	12.75	75.00	11.25
Husband and wife (joining together)	170.00	25.50	160.00	24.00
Wife of existing full playing member	70.00	10.50	60.00	9.00
<b>Five Day Member</b> Over 18 years of age Monday to Friday inclusive but excluding all bank holidays.				
Gentlemen	80.00	12.00	70.00	10.50
Ladies	65.00	9.75	55.00	8.25
Husband and wife (joining together)	120.00	18.00	100.00	15.00
Wife of existing full playing member or five day member	50.00	7.50	40.00	6.00

Five day members and then social members will be given first opportunity to become full playing members when a vacancy in that category occurs and social members will be given priority over non members when there is a vacancy to be filled in the five day membership category.

### Junior Memberships

Under 18 years of age.

At the present time no Junior Memberships will be available but this will be reviewed in 1981. Juniors can play golf with a parent who is either a full playing member or a five day member Monday to Friday inclusive but excluding Bank Holidays and times when competitions are taking place, on the payment of a Green Fee of £1.50 inclusive of V.A.T. Juniors can also play with a parent who is a full playing member after 2.30 on Sundays on paying £1.50 inclusive of V.A.T.

### Country Memberships

These are granted to people living and working outside a radius of thirty miles of The Hagley Country Club. Details available on application.

### Green Fees — 18 HOLES

Full playing members and five day members pay no Green Fees.

Hagley Country Club social members can play golf Monday to Friday inclusive but excluding Bank Holidays and times when competitions are taking place on payment of £2.00 including V.A.T.

Five day members, paying £1.50 including V.A.T. Hagley Country Club social members, paying £2.00 including V.A.T., and non members, paying £3.00 including V.A.T. may play golf with a full playing member after 2.30 on Sundays.

Non members may play golf Monday to Friday inclusive but excluding Bank Holidays and times when competitions are taking place subject to obtaining permission from the Club Manager on payment of £5.00 including V.A.T.

Non members can play golf with a full playing member or five day member, Monday to Friday inclusive but excluding Bank Holidays and days when competitions are being held on payment of £3.00 including V.A.T. Non members may not play more than six times per annum with a full playing member or a five day member.

### SQUASH CLUB MEMBERSHIP

	Entrance Fee £	V.A.T. £	Subscription £	V.A.T. £
<b>Category 'A' Member</b>				
Full playing member Over 18 years of age				
Gentlemen	80.00	12.00	80.00	12.00
Ladies	65.00	9.75	65.00	9.75
<b>Category 'B' Member</b>	Monday to Friday inclusive, before 5.00 p.m. Saturdays after 1.00 p.m. All day Sunday.			
Over 18 years of age				
Gentlemen	60.00	8.00	60.00	8.00
Ladies	50.00	7.50	50.00	7.50

Category 'B' members and then social members of The Hagley Country Club will be given first opportunity to become category 'A' members when a vacancy occurs in that category and social members will receive priority over non members in obtaining a category 'B' membership.

### Junior Memberships

Under 18 years of age.

No junior memberships are available at the present time. This will be reviewed during 1981 but juniors are allowed to play with a parent who is either a category 'A' or 'B' member on payment of a court fee of 50p including V.A.T.

### Court Fees

Category 'A' and 'B' members pay no court session fees or light charges. They can book courts seven days ahead but during peak playing times not more than three court bookings can be made by a category 'A' member in each period of seven days.

Hagley Country Club social members cannot book a court in advance and play is restricted to non peak playing times only. Cost is 75p per person, per court session of 40 minutes.

Non members can play with a category 'A' or 'B' member at non peak playing times only for £1.00 including V.A.T. per person, per court session of 40 minutes.

Non members can use the Squash Courts during the times permitted for category 'B' members but they cannot book a court in advance and will be charged £1.50 including V.A.T. per person, per court session of 40 minutes.

THE HAGLEY COUNTRY CLUB, WASSELL GROVE, HAGLEY, WORCESTERSHIRE. Tel: Hagley (0562) 883701

Brochure Back Cover

# the Hagley Country Club

Wassell Grove, Hagley,  
Worcestershire.

Telephone: Hagley (0562) 883701

7th October, 1980

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Yardley,

Hagley Country Club

Your application for membership has been accepted and an invoice for the entrance fee and subscription is enclosed.

Payment can be made by post, in which case your membership card will be forwarded to you. Alternatively, payment can be made at The Club on Thursday 9th October 1980 between the hours of 2.00 p.m. and 9.00 p.m. when your membership card will be handed to you.

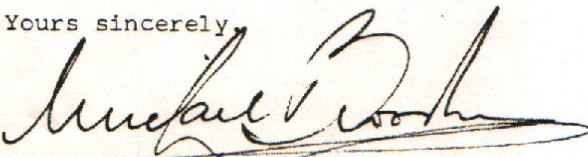
The Club bars will be open as from Friday 10th October from 5.30 p.m. The Club premises are open from 8.00 a.m. to 11.30 p.m. Monday to Saturday inclusive and from 8.00 a.m. to 11.00 p.m. Sundays. The bars will be open Monday to Thursday from 12 noon to 2.30 p.m. and 5.30 p.m. to 10.30 p.m.; Friday and Saturday from 12 noon to 2.30 p.m. and 5.30 p.m. to 11.00 p.m.; and Sunday 12 noon to 2.00 p.m. and 7.00 p.m. to 10.30 p.m.

The squash courts will be available for play as from 9.00 a.m. on Friday 10th October.

The golf course will be available for play from 8.30 a.m. on Saturday 11th October, and to avoid congestion on the first tee a booking sheet (for Saturday 11th October) will be placed on the Notice Board in the golf entrance hall.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to The Club.

Yours sincerely,



Chairman  
Hagley Country Club

PROPRIETORS: GARRATT & CO. LIMITED. REGISTERED IN ENGLAND No. 187648  
REGISTERED OFFICE: CORNGREAVES, CRADLEY HEATH, WARLEY, WEST MIDLANDS  
DIRECTORS: A. N. GARRATT, M. GARRATT, T. C. EDWARDS, M. C. GARRATT, B. SCLETON, J. M. BROOKES, F.R.I.C.S.

**Letter of Acceptance**

## **The Hagley Country Club - Golf Club (1980 – 2000)**

Construction of the present day golf course and clubhouse was started in 1976 on 200 acres of land which consisted of Hagley Wood Farm, Clent Villa Farm, woodlands and a residential caravan site, all owned by Garratt & Co, a local family-run company which had many interests in the Cradley Heath area, notably farming, carpets, property and factory estates. The country club was the dream of Chairman, Neville Garratt, Director, Michael Garratt, and the Managing Director Michael Brookes. It is hard to imagine that when these three gentlemen stood on the windswept and barren farming land in Hagley, they would evolve it into 170 acres of Country Club property and surrounds. To this day the property remains a proprietary owned club and is still run by the Garratt family.

Although the building was completed and furnished in 1979 the clubhouse and accompanying four squash courts and 9-hole golf course did not open until October 1980. The original membership consisted of 100 golf members, 50 squash members and 150 social members.

To administer the golf affairs in the very early days a joint committee of lady and gentlemen members was formed consisting of: -

Bernard Keep – Chairman  
Ken Smith – Captain  
Vernon Lewis – Hon secretary  
Joyce Baker  
Peggy Keen  
Roger Hampson  
Derrick Craddock  
George Thompson

Things did not go smoothly in the early years. This was reflected quite dramatically in the position of Captain. At the end of the subscription year in December 1981, even before the first full committee was formed, the inaugural club Captain, Ken Smith, resigned and left the club.

At the Annual General Meeting in March 1982 the Golf Club Constitution was approved, the lady members formed their own section and the first full Golf Committee was elected: -

George Thompson (Captain) Terry Clark (Vice-Captain) Vernon Lewis (Secretary)  
Bernard Keep (Chairman), John Penn, Brian Cozens, Graham Yardley, Tony Stanley, Wayne Pearsall and Ted Baker.

Exactly one year after Ken Smith resigned his successor to Club Captain, George Thompson, departed under similar circumstances. This left the club without a Captain for the second year running in the final 2 ½ months leading up to the A.G.M. Things got no better the following year when in December 1983, due to the frustration in trying to get the course in better condition and clubhouse run more efficiently, the third Captain in a row, Terry Clark, resigned from membership. He did however continue his duties as Captain (although not a member) up to the A.G.M. in March 1984. Because of the problems caused by having a golfing year starting in March and the annual subscriptions paid January to December it was agreed to change the golfing year to the same as that of the subscription year and a revised constitution was written calling for the AGM before 15<sup>th</sup> December each year. As Brian Cozens was the incoming Captain he was in the predicament of having to hold office for 9 months or 21 months. It was decided that for continuity of the club he would serve in the position for 21 months.



### **The Committee 1983**

Back Row; Tony Stanley, Terry Roberts, Wayne Pearsall, John Penn, Clive Hadley, Ted Baker  
Front Row; Vernon Lewis, Graham Yardley, Terry Clark (Captain), Brian Cozens (Vice Captain)

A milestone was reached on 7<sup>th</sup> July 1984 when on his Captain's Day, Brian Cozens drove off from the first tee to open the second nine holes. Later the same year Bromsgrove District Council gave outline planning permission for a 24-bedroom hotel, an expansion that was not taken up. However, the condition of the golf course in general was deteriorating due to the lack of investment and insufficient greens staff, priorities saw investment being spent elsewhere in the company. In order to sort things out with the owners, an E.G.M was called, to be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1987. This show of strength by the members' reaped rewards, as immediately a professional Head Greenkeeper, Neil Dykes, was employed and a contract placed for course improvements. In his Captain's report at the following A.G.M. in December 1987 Alan Grimshaw reported that the greens, fairways and bunkers were reaping rewards from being tended by professional staff but the course drainage work was behind schedule due to poor workmanship of the contractors who had been dismissed from site.

Things continued to improve and 1988 saw the construction of a lake on the approach to the 18<sup>th</sup> green, replacing a notorious ravine, which was both unsightly and dangerous to navigate. Golf club membership had risen steadily throughout the years and by April 1988 had reached 530.

The most significant event to mark Hagley as a golf club of maturity took place in 1990 with the appointment of our first PGA professional, Iain Clark. (A biography of the Clark family is detailed later in the book). As commented by Peter Rickets in the Sunday Mercury "Iain Clark is a strong minded Scot and will no doubt stamp his own personality on the club and help speed up their already impressive progress". The securing of Iain's services was a real coup for Hagley. When asked to make comments on all of the applicants, local icon and club professional at Kidderminster, Nick Underwood, wrote "A very good player and excellent Club Pro. I can't quite understand why he wants to leave a beautiful course like Sandiway and move to Hagley". But come he did and here he stayed.

In May of 1992 significant improvements were made to the Gentlemen's 'wet area' when all but one of the individual shower units were knocked through to make one large shower area.

1993 saw the second attempt at moving a social event away from Hagley due to the numbers who wished to attend (see competitions 1991). It was proposed to move the Joint Captain's Dinner to Stourbridge Town Hall to satisfy the demand for seats. However the same situation arose as before with far over the capacity wishing to attend a 'Home Venue' but less than 50 people wanted to attend if the event was moved from Hagley, so the whole idea was dropped and has not been attempted since.

At the Annual General Meeting in November 1993 the members voted in their first President, Brian Cozens, to hold office for three years, 1994 – 1996. Brian being a unanimous choice due to his commitment during his term of office as Captain and his sterling work on committee involving competitions, handicaps and also, together with Clive Hadley, laying the foundations for junior golf.



The minutes of February 1994 first mentioned the imposition of VAT on sports clubs, which would dramatically affect the finances of Hagley. None profit-making sports clubs i.e. traditionally run members' clubs, would be exempt from VAT but proprietary owned clubs such as Hagley would not. In net terms this would make proprietary clubs approximately 9% down on membership fees.

In January 1996 The Fairway Credit payment system was introduced so that membership fees could be spread out over the twelve months, and at the same time Liability Insurance was made compulsory to protect the members from the growing trend of court actions.

The membership numbers continued to grow as the condition of the golf course improved. The minutes of 1996 stated for the first time that membership was full to the limits that had been set and that consideration was being given to expand the numbers now that the condition of the course could sustain them.

1996 also saw the formation of the Past Captains' Committee, to try and harness their years of experience, to act as a consultative committee but with special remit to nominate the Vice Captain (Captain Elect) at each AGM.

There was a quiet period in the development of the club during the time leading up to the turn of the century but a sub committee was formed to organise the events to take place during the millennium celebrations. A marquee was ordered, Ox roast and boxing night proposed and the ladies' and gentlemens' 'Open' competitions were arranged to coincide with the erecting of the marquee. However, at the committee meeting in March 1999, due to total apathy from the



**A cold winter scene down the 18<sup>th</sup> fairway**

various golf committees and lack of support from the owners and the catering franchise company the whole project was dropped and the marquee cancelled.

Approaching the winter of 1999 the Golf Committee made a significant move by purchasing a pneumatic shoe cleaner in an effort to keep the locker rooms, the patio area and the car parks tidier and also to provide a much needed facility for the members. However its introduction was not without difficulty, for the directors were concerned about flying debris and the associated health and safety implications. It took 3 months to obtain approval to purchase the equipment, 2 months to agree on a suitable site and a further 4 months to install it, eventually coming into operation in July 2000.

A major investment by the company took place in 2000, which saw the construction of the green keeper's accommodation. Up to that date the greens staff had worked from an old barn without water, mains electricity or washroom facilities. Viewing of the facilities by the members took place on 8<sup>th</sup> March with the greens staff moving in shortly afterwards. Also year 2000 saw the start of work on extending the existing lake on the 18<sup>th</sup> hole and constructing an additional lake on the 10<sup>th</sup> hole.

Whilst work on the golf course was continuing to improve the playing conditions, things were not going well with the administration of the club. The whole building was in need of major repair. Water was pouring in from the many



**Construction of the Greenkeepers Accommodation, 2000**

leaks in the roof despite attempts by a contractor to patch things up, plus window frame painting, the furniture and carpets were all looking very sad and the catering was appalling.

For the second time in the club's short history an E.G.M. was called, on the 17<sup>th</sup> May 2000. Both Michael Garratt and the catering franchise company, Sodexo, were invited to attend and allay the fears of the members about the future of the club. Again the show of strength from the members saw an immediate response from the owners, with refurbishment work contracted out.

In June 2000 Michael Brookes retired as Managing Director, Peter Garratt Johnson, a grandson of Neville Garratt, replaced Michael Garratt, who retired after a long illness, and Peter's father, Gary Johnson, joined the board as a director and a whole new regime was established.

*It is interesting to note that during these first twenty years The Committee approached Garratt & Co. with proposals to rent the course on three separate occasions. The first approach was made prior to the EGM in February 1987, but the most formal offer was made in May 1998 when a special committee was formed under the Chairmanship of the serving Captain, John Darby. A formal business plan was tabled but the proposal was turned down because the Directors wished to retain control.*

The first meeting between the new regime and the officers of the club took place on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2000 where very positive suggestions were made for the future of the club. It was emphasised that there were no plans to sell off the club and certainly no plans to turn it into a 'Pay as you Play' complex. However, it was necessary to turn around the fortunes and to get things buzzing again.

At the following A.G.M. in November 2000 Peter Garratt Johnson addressed the members and put forward a three-year implementation plan of changes and improvements, which would rectify a lot of the problems currently encountered by the club.

True to his word changes were made and these were highlighted by the Captain, Roy Sims, in his address at the A.G.M. in November 2001: The roof was repaired, new PA system, new computer system, No. 4 squash court was converted into a new Pro-shop, new car park lighting, toilets refurbished, the catering franchise was cancelled and brought back in-house, new course machinery purchased and the exterior of the club house painted. But the most significant change was the formation of the Executive Committee consisting of the four officers, the immediate Past Captain and Peter Garratt Johnson. This provided a direct link from the golf members back to the board of Garratt and Co. for all golf related matters. It was through this link that it was decided in May 2001 to change the name of the club to The Hagley Golf and Country Club. This marked the start of a whole new era and paved the way for the future development of the club.

## **The Hagley Golf and Country Club (2001 – 2005)**

The first acquisition made by the golf committee since the changing of the club name was a flagpole. Although the club flag would be displayed the majority of time it was seen as essential that we had the pole to display the county colours or other flags on special occasions. To coincide with its positioning on the main car park the senior's committee paid for the construction of a rockery garden in honour of the millennium celebrations.

The conversion of the number 4 squash court into a Pro-Shop was completed in May 2001 and an 'opening ceremony' was performed the following month which coincided with the completion of the millennium rockery and the erection of the new flagpole. It was also announced at this time that the contract with the outside caterers had finally been terminated and that at last we had 'in-house' control of the club catering.

A constant problem over the years had been the mishandling of golf societies. The directors saw this as an area that had not really been exploited but due to the lack of organisation the few societies that had visited Hagley had caused numerous complaints from the members and committee. In a bid to find a solution to this the newly formed Executive Committee drew up a working document for accepting and handling of society golf, protect the rights of the club members but at the same



**Conversion of No 4 squash court into the Pro Shop.**

time maximise the much-needed revenue that could be made. A club brochure was produced to advertise the club facilities and the golf course, which fitted well into the promotion of society golf.

The dramatic improvements to the facilities both on the golf course and in the clubhouse came at a cost. The company were experiencing difficulty with cash flow to fund everything needed in the short term. It was because of this that The Captain, Roy Sims, at the committee meeting in September 2001 sought approval from the committee to forego the management funding which is provided each year to run the committee, some £925 and also to offer the company a £2,000 interest free loan. As it was, the loan was not needed and the club pulled through this very difficult period. To fund further improvements needed to bring the club house, golf course and associated equipment back up to standard a major membership recruitment campaign was launched in late 2001 and ran through until October 2002. The main theme of the campaign was for members to introduce their friends and neighbours thus keeping control over the standards of membership. The success of this campaign saw 130 members join in this twelve-month period increasing the membership to 750. Where nationally, waiting lists were disappearing and many other local clubs were struggling for members, Hagley finally had sufficient numbers to sustain its growth.



**Peter Garratt Johnson cutting the red tape at the opening ceremony**



**Drinks all round – Cameron Clark**

During October and November 2001 discussions took place with Windsor High School which was trying to procure Sports College status and had nominated golf as one of their five sports subjects. The Committee was unanimous in its support to establish a liaison with Windsor, as junior golf had always been seen as ‘The Future’ of any club. College status was achieved in June 2002 and, hopefully, the beginning of a long-term relationship commenced.

In February 2002, after some considerable delay with processing the planning application, Bromsgrove District Council gave approval to fly the club flag, although we had been doing so unofficially for several months.

2003 saw the club take its first steps into corporate membership. With good liaison through the Executive Committee the guidelines drawn up ensured that this new venture did not infringe the rights of the general membership.

During September 2002 the Gentlemen’s locker rooms were refurbished and the centre islands knocked through to give more space and a much-needed upgrade to the toilet/showers area was undertaken. To complete the project new shoe lockers were installed.

Also during September 2002 final approval was given to club Disciplinary Procedures, which had been written by the Past Captains’ Committee. With the growing trend towards litigation it was essential that the correct procedures be followed in order to be covered with legal protection from the EGU.

In November 2002, after many years of debate, a joint venture by Garratt and Co. and the golf committee saw the purchase of a starter’s hut for the first tee. Members of the Senior’s Committee immediately improved the structure by adding Perspex into the open windows to cut out the wind.

The move from outside catering contractors had not gone quite as well as planned and problems were encountered with only the considerable efforts of Country Club Chairman, Roy Savin, keeping things going until the appointment of a full time Manager and Manageress in Rod and Pat Taylor during January 2003. In the same month the club introduced a Club Loyalty Card system, which proved an immediate success with the members.

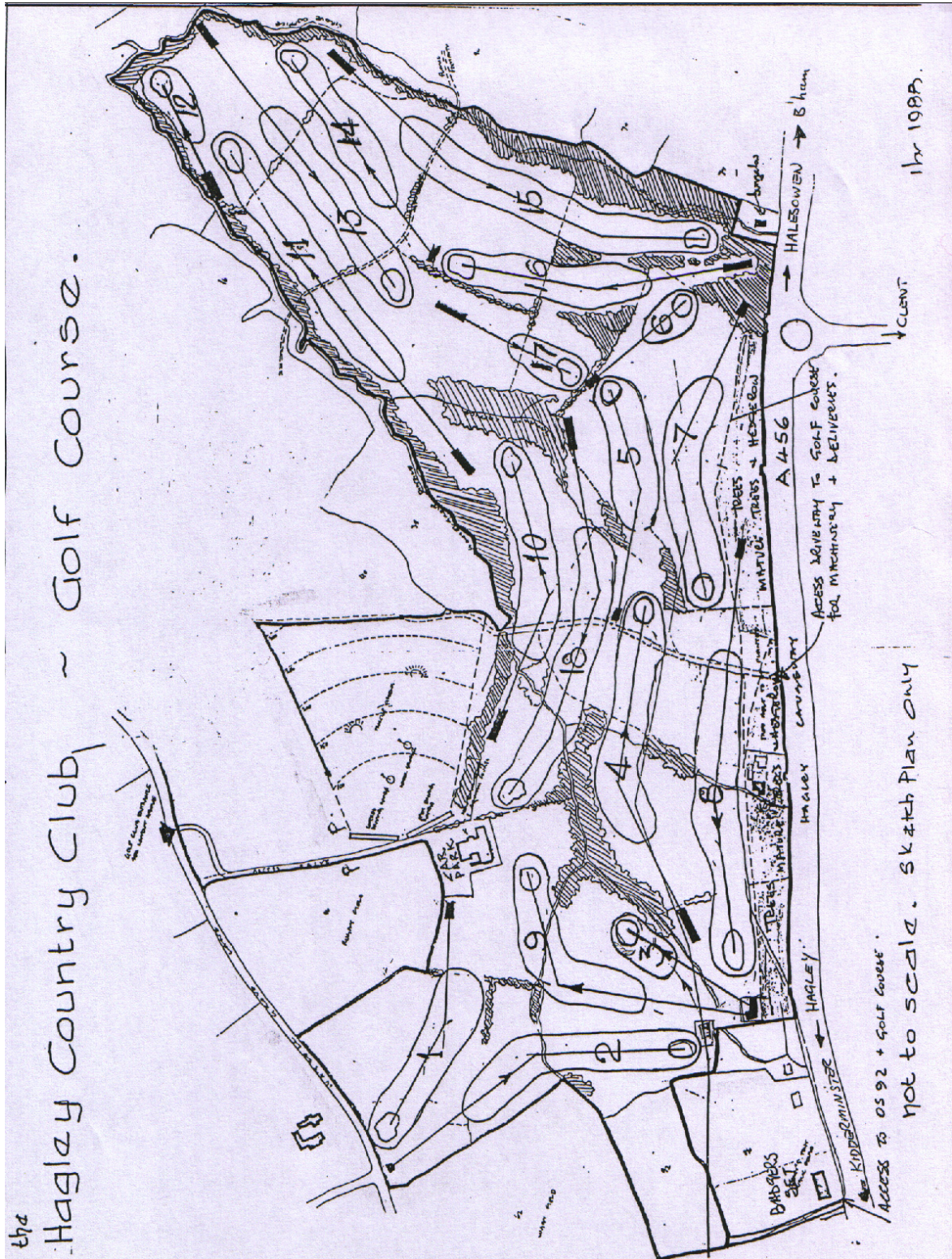
It was noted in the minutes of February 2003 that Hagley members had filled a complete table of 24 seats at the County Dinner with the host club, Kings Norton, the nearest rivals with 20. This achievement could not be repeated in subsequent years, as the maximum number of seats available to any club was limited to 20. (I wonder why). At this function Hagley were listed in the club honours for winning the Rules of Golf Quiz and the winning team members were asked to stand and take the applause. (A separate page is dedicated to this feat elsewhere in this publication).

The relationship with Windsor High School was beginning to bear fruit as 1 girl and 5 boys were accepted into membership in February 2003. The junior academy with group lessons was flourishing under the watchful eyes of Iain and Cameron Clark and junior membership had risen to 66. A teacher training session was held in June 2003 followed by a golf academy for a party of junior girls from the school. A competition for junior girls from the Halesowen area was held in October at which 30 played in bitterly cold conditions but the exercise proved beneficial for the following year in 2004 some 8 girls joined the junior section bringing the girls membership up to 10, the most junior membership at any one time.

Following the change of directors the clubhouse rooms went through major refurbishment. The main lounge was re-decorated, the toilets completely refurbished, the reception and office area re-carpeted and new furniture installed. The Dingle Room (Members lounge) was also re-carpeted and the furniture re-upholstered. To complete the planned programme for 2004, the 'wet area' in the gentlemen's changing rooms was completely re-tiled and decorated to suit. The whole clubhouse was again beginning to 'Look the Part'.

A final word on junior golf; just before this publication went to print, The Committee took their first steps in seeking accreditation for Golf Mark, the Government led initiative for the future development of Junior Golf. At the first interview we were advised that Hagley were far more advanced in their attitude and treatment of Junior Golf than most clubs at this stage in the procedures. Praise indeed for a club so young in years.

As for the future, plans are well advanced to celebrate this Silver Jubilee year, with a fountain planned for the lake on the 18<sup>th</sup>, silver jubilee ball markers, a weekend of golf, a champagne reception at the exact time the clubhouse opened and a formal dinner on the date the golf course opened, and of course – this book.



Course Plan - 1988



## The Course

The golf course opened at 8.30am on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October 1980. Although a very special day for all of the inaugural members, early October was not the ideal time to open a clay based golf course with little or no proper drainage. Original members will recall balls disappearing in the middle of the fairway and can still remember the relief in other players' voices when heard to say "I'm O.K. it's bounced". The course was best avoided in the depths of winter and in those days was not a memorable experience in the best of weather. It needed a major programme of drainage and further development to introduce features and definition, but the basic layout and design was sound, incorporating some excellent feature holes, which added character and a challenge to the course.

Its most renowned feature was the signature hole, the par 5 sixth. (Being a nine-hole course at the time, the hole played as the 6<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. The green was extended forward to a two tier green in 1986 which effectively shortened the hole to its current 559 yards, however the distance from tee to pin is usually the same as it was in those early days). Exactly one year after the club opened, sports correspondent, Peter Ricketts, wrote an article in the Evening Mail "**I battle with the Monster beneath Clent Hills**". Quote: -

*Some call it The Monster. Others The Card Wrecker. But all agree that the 565-yard sixth hole at the new Hagley course is a supreme test of golf. It curves rather viciously always to the left and demands a good tee shot. This must be out to the right or trees block you out. Too much left and you are out of bounds anyway. Your second shot also must be long and again well clear of the treacherous boundary beckoning on the left. Having achieved this, you might feel you are owed a breather, but The Monster does not let up. As the fairway nears the green, trees close in on both sides and courage is called for to bang the ball down the narrow alley to the pin. If you make the green, you should get a par because with a touch of evil or genius – depending on your state of mind - the course architect has chosen to make the putting surface a "postage stamp" size.*

*Mature trees shield off the outside world except where the heights of the Clent Hills form an attractive backdrop. The course itself is dotted with copses and the most significant feature, deep ravines which swallow up miss-hit shots.*

Peter's other comments about the course are best avoided in this book, but 10 years later he revisited the club and was pleasantly surprised by the development of the course. His follow-up article 'New-look Hagley has come of age', published in the Sunday Mercury read: -

*How different the place is now, I discovered this week. The original holes have become the 'back nine'. A new nine was opened four summers ago and is already a joy to play. There is a nice mix of challenge from the good belts that are needed to reach the green at the 448 yard par four fourth to the precision that is called for*

*at the 131 yard par three third where anything other than a shot perfect in length and direction can be severely punished. The original greens are well up to expectations and the new ones surprisingly good*

In between these articles there was a lot of heartbreak and soul searching for the members who stuck by the club, seeing its potential but becoming increasingly frustrated by the somewhat slow development.

Farm Services were engaged in mid 1982 to lay drainage works for the second nine holes and also to rectify errors made in the original drainage works on the first nine holes. Contractors started work on constructing the greens for the second nine holes in September 1982 but inclement weather forced the work to be suspended in October and work did not re-start until the following spring. The golf minutes in November 1982 noted that a member of the greens staff had left, leaving a complement of one. The situation regarding course maintenance and number of green keeping staff reached its lowest ebb in preparations for the Invitation Open in June 1983 when a local farmer and the members of the golf committee had to band together to make the course presentable, but the day went off well. To add definition to many fairways and also in a bid to improve drainage, a major tree-planting programme was undertaken in 1983 and 1984 when over 300 trees were planted. A list of major course improvements was approved in 1985,



**Arial view of the practice area, the clubhouse and the course, 2004**

which included filling in the large ravine half way down the 4<sup>th</sup> fairway; additional drainage work; the construction of a new tee on the 8<sup>th</sup>; grading and re-seeding of fairways; clearing out the many ravines and the installation of three bunkers around the 17<sup>th</sup> green.

Although this work was started, progress was very slow and in June 1986, frustrated once more by the speed of improvement, the committee asked the Head Greenkeeper of Stourbridge Golf Club, Tim McCready, who was also a Hagley member, to prepare a report on the condition of the course. His extremely comprehensive report was used as a benchmark for the future plans for development but it did also emphasise the need for qualified green keeping staff, which Hagley lacked at that time.

The committee finally got their wish when in May 1987 a fully qualified head Greenkeeper, Neil Dykes, was appointed. Things immediately began to improve and in the July 1988 minutes it was reported that The Captain wished the dramatic improvements to the course over the past twelve months to be recorded. During this period it is also noted that £15,000 had been spent on course machinery and additional equipment worth £17,000 had been ordered.

Further improvements were made to the course in 1988/9 when the ravine on the approach to the 18<sup>th</sup> green was filled in and a lake created. Whilst the contractors were on site the practice putting green was reconstructed and increased in size and the banking at the rear of the adjacent ninth green improved, but in June 1990 Neil Dykes departed and the maintenance of the course suffered until the arrival of Brian Stockton in May of the following year.

Brian carried on the work started by Neil and over the next ten years many additional features were added including the construction of numerous pathways around the course to allow play twelve months of the year. The greenside bunker on the 15<sup>th</sup> hole was doubled in size, a new lake on the 16<sup>th</sup> hole, additional bunkers around the course and a new 11<sup>th</sup> green to replace the old green with its notorious slope were all projects undertaken by our own greens staff. By September of 1991 the professionalism and expertise that Brian had brought to the club was beginning to reap rewards. A major programme of slitting, tining, seeding and top dressing was implemented and additional turfing took place in many areas. Additional topsoil was brought into the 18<sup>th</sup> fairway and over seeded, and new gang mowers purchased at a cost of £9,600.

Although various attempts were made at improving the drainage throughout 1992 the course very much retained its reputation as being an eight months of the year course. To play from the beginning of December until the end of March you had to be prepared for boggy conditions and a lot of heartbreak searching for lost balls, which just disappeared below ground. In advance of the AGM in 1992 Garratt & Co. again agreed additional drainage work to try and cure the very wet conditions. At the same time they agreed to the construction of ¼ mile of additional pathways, although these are still to be completed.

By February of 1993, frustrated by the minimal effort being made to improve the situation, The Committee itself engaged the services of drainage consultants to conduct a survey of the whole area. As it happens the survey concluded that the work, which was already being done, mole ploughing, was the correct method of improvement but for it to be successful it needed to be carried out on a regular basis and concentrated in the right areas. A plan was drawn up and a new tractor purchased to enable this work to be carried out. In the years that followed significant improvements were made.

May 1993 saw the installation of a new irrigation system for watering the greens. It had been noted through the years that the greens suffered every summer due to the irrigation system breaking down.

Moving now into 1994 it was significant that, for the first time in the club's short history, congratulations for the efforts of the Greens staff cropped up in the committee minutes throughout the year. Several tees, which had been re-laid, were brought back into play and the course returned to its full distance after being shortened for almost two years during their construction. During the same period there was a dramatic improvement in the condition of the greens following an intense programme of hollow tining, scarifying and over seeding.



**Bunker improvements**

The golf course continued to develop during the mid 1990's with new tees on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> holes. The planned mole ploughing was also continued through 1996 and in 1997. The fruits of this labour became apparent with the course 'Drying Out'. Again through these years the minutes were littered with compliments for the work put in by Brian Stockton and his team. The members

were at last getting a course they were proud to play on, a fact borne out by the sharp increase in 'Guest Fees' taken by the pro-shop.

Now that the majority of the course was in good shape attention was moved to the poor state of the tees. A programme of top dressing was started to level them out and in April of 1997 installation of water irrigation to the tees commenced.

It had been noticed for several years that some of the original greens were suffering from slippage, the worst of these being the 11<sup>th</sup> where it was becoming difficult to position the flagstick. So in September of 1998 the construction of a complete new green was started at the rear of the original green adding 25 yards to the length of the hole. It was a further 12 months before the green was brought into play but whilst construction machinery was on site, the 13<sup>th</sup> tee was raised considerably to give a better view down the fairway. Around this time the EGU issued a directive that all golf courses had to be re-measured to verify that the Competition Scratch Score was correct. With the course being re-measured, The Committee decided that this would be the ideal time to name each hole, erect new tee markers (incorporating the correct measurement) and produce new score cards. A poll was taken amongst the members for the naming of each hole with the most popular names being adopted. Not surprisingly the 15<sup>th</sup> hole had the most overwhelming vote, to be named as 'The Monster' and 'Home' for the 18<sup>th</sup> only just pushing 'Sanctuary' into second place.

The programme of rebuilding tees continued with the 4<sup>th</sup> tee being completely re-laid during June and July 2000 and the 6<sup>th</sup> tee started in September of the same year. However, the largest project undertaken to improve the course since the opening of the second nine holes was started in January 2001, the filling in of a deep ravine and construction of a lake on the 10<sup>th</sup> fairway linking it with the existing lake on the 18<sup>th</sup> hole. Fortunately a contractor had been found who desperately needed tipping rights for rubble and spoil. The majority of the lake construction and landscaping was contracted to be done in exchange for these rights but other additional work was undertaken whilst heavy machinery was on site, mainly bunkers, pathways and ditches. Work progressed well through to Easter time but had to be halted for a number of weeks when a restriction was put on agricultural transportation due to an outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease. To enable the golf course to remain open disinfectant soaked straw beds were put at the entrance to the driveway. Many other clubs who had grazing rights were not as fortunate as they had to close during this period and some could even have faced financial ruin if the restrictions ran on too long. Work on the 10<sup>th</sup> lake was re-started in May but progress was very slow and the whole project took many months longer than first planned. However, in the committee minutes of September 2001 it was noted, "The new lake on the 10<sup>th</sup> hole is shaped up and finally completed." A ditch had been started to run across the 18<sup>th</sup> fairway, joining the two lakes and a feature bridge was planned which could be seen from the clubhouse windows.

However, after only a few months the ditch was seen to be an unfair hazard for the



**Construction of the Lake on 10<sup>th</sup> – 2000**

second shot and was not the feature that had been foreseen. So in March 2002, to complete the project, the lake on the 18<sup>th</sup> was extended half way across the fairway and the remaining land was under-piped to join the two lakes, the ditch was then filled in and over seeded.

Late 2002 and throughout 2003 saw further improvements to the course with a new back tee on the 8<sup>th</sup> hole - increasing the length of the course by 16 yards and additional bunkers on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> holes. This was coupled with feature banking to the left of the first fairway and the 6<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> tees being completely re-built. A new ladies/juniors tee was added to the 7<sup>th</sup> hole moving it away from the danger area of a misplaced tee shot into the 6<sup>th</sup> green and late 2003 saw new tees constructed on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> holes.

Through the winter months of 2003/2004 fairway mats were used for the first time and it was noted that the fairways were in considerably better condition than previous years at the start of the playing season. However the prolonged use of the mats had not gone without comment from many members and so conditions for future use of the mats were approved by The Committee.

2004 was considered to be a year of consolidation whilst trying to complete the many projects already started and bringing the golf course into a more presentable shape. At the same time however a major programme of planting some 400 trees was undertaken, mainly along the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> holes, to try and give more definition to the front nine holes. Also a programme of refurbishing all of the bunkers was started with re-shaping and additional drainage installed on most of them.

Two major projects which were undertaken towards the end of 2004 saw the construction of winter tees on six holes, more are planned for 2005, and the lake to the right of the second fairway was increased in size and brought into play. March 2005 also saw the purchase of a much-needed mower for cutting the rough, at a cost of almost £29,000.

As for the future; the fairway bunkers on the 14<sup>th</sup> hole are being refurbished and discussions are already well advanced for improvements to the 18<sup>th</sup> green and surrounding bunkers. Thought is being given to the major projects of relaying the 13<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> greens, which are also suffering from slippage, but this is somewhat off at the time of this book. Work will continue, to realise the dream of Neville Garratt in making Hagley one of the premier clubs in the Midlands.



**Clubhouse over the 18<sup>th</sup> green**

## Competition Golf

Ironically, the first revered prize at the club was not for winning a competition; it was for achieving a par. The chef at the time, Mark Payton, had promised a bottle of champagne to the first player to par the notorious 6<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> hole (It being a 9-hole course at the time). The champagne stood for four months before being won by the Captain at the time, Ken Smith. Amazingly, the feat was equalled the following day by John Haywood and then one week later future captain Alan Grimshaw went one better and birdied the hole.

Competitions were played on an ad hoc basis throughout 1981 whilst the administration side of the club was still being developed. A full competitions calendar being introduced in April 1982 based on the fixture lists from Brandhall, a local municipal course. A considerable number of the original Hagley golf members had come from local municipal courses such as Rose Hill, Brandhall and Warley Woods.

The committee meeting minutes of April 1982 stated that, “The first mid-week medal was played in very bad conditions but had a surprising number of 12 entries”. Also that month the monthly medal was played for the first time over two days, Saturday and Sunday, in a bid to increase the number of entrants. This it did by almost doubling the previous best of 28 entries up to 52. “Reports of slow play were received”. What changes?

The handicap rules at that time reduced a player’s handicap each time he beat par but that gave a problem to the early committee. The course was so difficult that competitions were being won with scores well over par. Drastic measures had to be taken and handicaps were adjusted for a period based mainly on playing better than anyone else, or even on hearsay. Even so, this system did not prevent an amazing feat that year when John Ashford won seven consecutive medals. To mark the occasion, instead of giving him individual medals John was presented with one trophy holding all seven shields, the only time this feat has ever been done.

Various trophies were being donated and suitable competition formats arranged, notably The David Bird Cup, donated by a founder member as the first Knock-out Trophy, The Garratt Salver by Garratt & Co. for the Club Championship, The Princess of Wales Trophy by John Penn for the club Net Champion, the Summer Bowl by Tony Stanley and the Three Pears Trophy by Ted Dunn. These were added to in later years by many trophies, including the Roe’s Bowl as the Fourball Knockout and the Captain’s Putter, presented by Don Waugh in his year as Captain, as the major trophy to be played for on Captain’s Day.

With the opening of the second nine holes the Local Rules had to be re-written. Help was obtained from Dennis Hayes, who was a member of Stourbridge Golf Club and was at the time Chairman of the Rules Committee at the R & A. Dennis



also visited the club in March 1984 to give a talk on the rules of golf. It was noted that the evening was very enlightening to those that attended.

The course was opened up to the full 18 holes on Captain's Day 7<sup>th</sup> July 1984 when 72 competitors played in the morning medal competition. A mixed competition was played in the afternoon with 40 competitors.

With an increase in competitive players, 1985 saw the medal competitions changed back to single day events alternating between Saturday and Sunday, thus giving a day free of competitions for the social golfer. Booking of tee times for competitions was also introduced to coincide with this change as pressure on the first tee increased.

The first 'Men's Open' golf competition was held in 1985 but although considered a success it was dropped from the calendar after three years, due to the annual invasion of municipal golfers seeking a cheap game of golf and 'Pot Hunting' and was replaced with an 'Invitation Open Fourball' where a member invited a guest as his partner.

By 1988 the number of golfers entering competitions had increased to over 90 so the existing two divisions were increased to three.

May 1989 saw the first mention of county honours for Hagley members with Chris Roe and Stephen Hull representing Worcestershire in a County Junior match against Hereford and Shropshire. In response to this honour Stephen immediately went out and broke the Hagley Amateur Course Record with a 74 and then proceeded to go one better in the July medal with a 73.

NAME(S)		H'cap	Strokes Received
A	STEPHEN HULL	6	
B			

**MEN'S CARD** s.s.s. 72

COMPETITION ..... MEDAL .....

DATE ..... 1-7-89 .....

If you lose a ball, you must call through the following team.  
Please play without delay. Please observe course etiquette.

Markers Score	Hole No.	Par	Stroke Index	White Medal Tee Yards	Metres	PLAYER A	PLAYER B	Net Score	Won + Lost - H'd. 0	Markers Score	Hole No.	Par	Stroke Index	White Medal Tee Yards	Metres	PLAYER A	PLAYER B	Net Score	Won + Lost - H'd. 0	
	1	4	13	306	280	4					10	4	6	408	373	4				
	2	4	5	393	359	4					11	5	11	491	449	3				
	3	3	15	131	120	3					12	3	10	206	188	4				
	4	4	3	448	410	4					13	4	2	428	391	5				
	5	4	14	301	275	4					14	4	16	309	283	4				
	6	3	17	141	129	4					15	5	1	557	509	5				
	7	4	7	371	339	4					16	4	8	359	328	5				
	8	5	9	495	453	5					17	3	18	155	142	3				
	9	4	12	366	335	3					18	5	4	488	446	5				
	OUT	35		2952	2700	35					IN	37		3401	3109	38				
BOGEY RESULT										OUT	35		2952	2700	35					
HOLES WON .....										TOTAL	72		6353	5809	73					
HOLES LOST .....										HANDICAP										
HOLES HALVED .....										NET SCORE										

Player's Signature ..... *[Signature]* .....

Marker's Signature ..... *R. Ashman* .....

Discussions took place in 1990 to re-introduce the Men's Open. However it was decided against this but instead, to hold an additional Invitation Open. The original competition was left as a better ball medal and the new competition introduced as a better ball stableford. This move proved a success as the minutes of June 1992 showed that a record number of entrants of 196 played in the Spring Invitation Open and the figure was equalled in the summer event of the same year.

To house the growing number of trophies an illuminated cabinet was installed in the Dingle Bar during 1991 (later moved to reception) and accompanying honours boards installed.

Over these opening years the club competitions had become more and more popular and it was becoming increasingly difficult to accommodate everyone who wanted to attend the presentation night, so in February 1991 an attempt was made to move this to the Kingfisher Country Club. However, this move did not prove popular with the members so the venue was cancelled and the event re-arranged back at Hagley where it has remained to this day.

By September of 1991 the average competition entry had reached 130, so an analysis was carried out to get the divisional split more even. i.e.: -

Div 1	0 – 13	(average 37 players)
Div 11	14 – 18	(average 43 players)
Div 111	19 – 28	(average 51 players)

The September minutes also noted that 40 entrants had played in the Junior Open and Mark Butler from Dudley Golf Club broke the course record with a gross 71 (Yes, a junior).

Hagley Golf Club embraced modern technology when in January 1992 a computer system was installed to handle membership, handicaps and competition play. Previous to this, everything had been done manually.

The junior golf section was becoming more prominent and 1992 saw the first junior girl member. It is interesting to note that in the June minutes of 1992 Peter Gwilliam was recognized for winning the previous Junior Medal with a net 57. The minutes also stated that, "Action will be taken to review his handicap but it must also be noted that a net 60 was in second place".

Alistair Bradshaw, who had won the monthly medal and Ford Qualifier progressed through the area finals in August 1992 and went on to represent England in the National Finals and in September of the same year the club team played in the Regional Finals of the Vauxhall Team Championships at Bristol and Clifton. The team repeated this feat in 1993 finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> but missing out on the National Finals by two shots.

*Many members have passed away over the years of the clubs history and a few have had trophies named after them, Dick Williams, who had a heart attack whilst playing golf, Kevin Edge with the Greenkeepers Trophy and Philip Elt after whom the club 'Away Day' trophy is named, but arguably the most tragic was the untimely death in December 1992 of Richard Carradine, who had just been confirmed as Junior's Captain.*

COMPETITION		Card No.	Please indicate which tee used.	
DATE	TIME	Strokes Rec'd	PAR	72
Player A	Memb. No.	Handicaps	SSS	70
Player B	Score	Nett Score	SSS	72
Hole	Marker's Score	White Yards	Par	SSS
1	45	306	4	68
2	33	393	4	68
3	36	131	3	68
4	43	448	4	68
5	43	301	4	68
6	35	141	3	68
7	56	371	4	68
8	4	495	5	68
9	4	366	4	68
10	40	2952	35	68
11	6	408	4	68
12	3	491	5	68
13	5	206	3	68
14	4	428	4	68
15	5	309	4	68
16	4	557	5	68
17	4	359	4	68
18	5	155	3	68
19	4	488	5	68
20	4	3401	37	68
21	6	2952	35	68
22	3	6353	72	68
23	80	6353	72	68
24	63	6353	72	68
TOTAL		6021	70	69
HANDICAP		NETT	63	
STABLEFORD POINTS OR PAR RESULT		NETT	63	
Holes won				
Holes lost				
Result				
Markers Signature		A. S. Smith		
Player's Signature		J. Donoghue		

### Amateur Course Record

COMPETITION		Card No.	Please indicate which tee used.	
DATE	TIME	Strokes Rec'd	PAR	72
Player A	Memb. No.	Handicap	SSS	71
Player B	Score	Nett Score	SSS	71
Hole	Marker's Score	White Yards	Par	SSS
1	12	301	4	71
2	4	356	4	71
3	18	126	3	71
4	2	435	4	71
5	14	296	4	71
6	3	136	3	71
7	8	371	4	71
8	6	495	5	71
9	10	366	4	71
10	40	2969	35	71
11	9	408	4	71
12	13	504	5	71
13	5	206	3	71
14	3	428	4	71
15	17	311	4	71
16	5	557	5	71
17	3	359	4	71
18	15	155	3	71
19	11	488	5	71
20	35	3416	37	71
21	30	2969	35	71
22	65	6385	71	71
23	65	6385	71	71
24	65	6385	71	71
TOTAL		6069	71	69
HANDICAP		NETT	65	
STABLEFORD POINTS OR PAR RESULT		NETT	65	
Holes won				
Holes lost				
Result				
Markers Signature		Peter P.S.A.		
Player's Signature		Andrew Clark		

### Professional Course Record

In September of 1993 Stephen Carpenter equalled the course record of 71 whilst playing in the Club Championships. This feat could not prevent Stephen Hull winning the Championship that year but ‘Carpo’ did get his revenge the following year in 1994 by winning it himself.

The Mary Stevens Hospice Inter Club Competition involving six local clubs was held for the first time in 1994. The representative team consisted of six lady and six gentlemen golfers. Hagley achieved great success in this competition over the years, especially the ladies team, who won their trophy in 1995, 1996 and 2004. The men having only slightly less success, winning in 1995 and 2000.

The minutes also state that in 1994 John Evans and Vic Webber reached the National Finals of the Famous Grouse Competition played at St. Andrews and played very well, but not good enough for further honours.

The junior’s section was going from strength to strength and 1995 saw both Peter Gwilliam and Justin Donoghue picked for the County Boys team to play in the match against Gwent.

1995 saw the second visit of Denis Hayes, now ‘former’ chairman of the Rules of Golf Committee at the R & A, to give a further talk on the rules of golf. His wife, who was herself a member of the LGU council, accompanied him on these visits. Noted in the October minutes of 1995; The Captain was very pleased to report that Alan Jones had represented Hagley at the Belfry in the finals of the Unysis Trophy, and had won.



**The 1<sup>st</sup> Pro-Am Tournament – 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1996**

Graham Yardley (Secretary), Colin Barnett (Captain), Iain Clark (Professional), Brian Cozens (President)

The clubs first Pro-Am was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1996 under the leadership of Club Pro Iain Clark and also, in support of a national initiative, junior group lessons were started.

Hagley Golf Club made significant moves in 1996 when they entered a team in the West Midlands League, our first venture into county league competition,

Starved of successes away from Hagley it was pleasing to see noted in the May minutes of 1996 that Ken Crisp and Ted Baker had won the Worcestershire Union Spring meeting, 'by a considerable margin'. A feat repeated the following year by Ray Powell and John Withers. A further tribute was paid to the improving golf at Hagley, and the success of its junior coaching, when Lee Nash was awarded county honours in the under 21's team helping them win the match against Warwickshire. At the same time, Stephen Hull became our first scratch golfer when reduced to this status by the County secretary.

In 1998, in recognition of their professional services to the club, three divisional trophies were introduced; Iain Clark, Div 1 – Wychbury Cup, Finlay Clark, Div 2 – Wychbury Shield and Cameron Clark, Div 3 – Wychbury Plate.

In the minutes of Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 1999 Andrew Lowe was pleased to report, "We have a new course record. Justin Donoghue shot a score of 65 in the mid-week medal on 24/06/1999". The committee ratified the record, which was framed and posted in the clubhouse.

It is of particular interest to note that in September 1999 the committee voted to accept the youngest member to join the club, 6 year-old Robert Aldred who had been mentioned a number of times in the local press for his exceptional ability.

Further 'away' success was achieved when in October 1999 Rob Pawlowski and Richard Bolton made the final of the Millennium Pairs National Competition, eventually finishing 15<sup>th</sup> out of 45,000 who started in the club rounds.

The minutes of February 2000 noted an interesting discussion regarding the course record. The course length had been altered due to the opening of the new 'back tee' on the 11<sup>th</sup> hole, effectively making the course 13 yards longer. As the par for the course and the standard scratch score remained the same, and there were no specific guidelines set down by the EGU or CONGU, it was agreed that the existing course record of 65 achieved by Justin Donoghue should remain valid but if in the future it is equalled the new score, over the longer course, would take priority. If it is beaten there is no problem. Almost by coincidence in June of that year Finlay Clark set a new Professional Course Record whilst playing in the Midlands Region PGA Captain's Day with a score of 65. The minutes stated that, "The greens staff were to be complimented on the excellent condition of the course".

An application to enter a team into the County Scratch League was accepted in late 2000 and with Paul Smith acting as organizer we started in the 'B' division and won promotion into the 'A' division the following year.

In a bid to cling onto modern technology The Committee invested in a new computer system during the back end of 2000, incorporating touch screen technology for player score entry and scorecard printing in the pro-shop. The

system finally being installed and brought into use for the first time in a competition on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2001.

Late September 2000 saw the formation of Golf England in a bid to get a national handicapping database set up. Hagley were one of the first names to go forward for the project and offered Hagley as a pilot site. Unfortunately things did not go well and the scheme trundled on until mid 2004 when it was abandoned as a lost cause.

The juniors again showed their elder statesmen the way forward for in 2000 Hagley finished top in their zone of the West Midlands Junior League. The regional finals were held at Kings Norton on 24<sup>th</sup> September but circumstances conspired against us. The event was played in very bad weather. One of the Hagley juniors on hearing a siren, walked off thinking play had been suspended. In fact it was a fire alarm and we missed third place by one point, still a notable achievement for the Hagley lads.

Competition golf at Hagley had maintained its popularity throughout the years and the average entry was around 140 players. On several occasions at the Annual General Meetings proposals were made to reduce the number of competitions, especially through the winter months, but it was inevitable that if a competition was not scheduled, the various member groups would organize one between themselves. This is seen quite clearly by the popularity of the winter alliance, still going strong after many years and at that time, an unofficial competition.

The divisional split in competitions was continually assessed to get an even spread. It was at such an assessment in February 2002 that it was decided to alter the divisions to: -

Div 1	0 – 12	(average 43 players)
Div 11	13 – 16	(average 44 players)
Div 111	17 – 28	(average 53 players)

An interesting note was made in the minutes of September 2002 by the Chairman of Handicaps, Mark Lowe, when he reported that “On posting the handicap adjustments made from the Junior Championships, I was overrun by junior members wanting to see their new handicaps and was bombarded with questions on handicaps, C.S.S., S.P.A., away cards and general play adjustments. Their enthusiasm, politeness and the way they grasped the answers was to their credit and I can assure The Committee that the future is very bright indeed”.

Competition golf during the winter period was again a major discussion point during the committee meetings in late 2002. The conclusion of these discussions saw the number of mid-week medals reduced and the merit shield played over the 8 monthly medals, March to October.

Many stories can be written about The Captain’s Drive-in usually held on a freezing cold January 1<sup>st</sup> morning, including the one where David Roe had a streaker run across the first fairway just as he was about to drive off, rumour has it that it was David Perks. A competition to guess the length of the captain’s drive always raises large amounts of money for the Captain’s Charity but poses a problem for The Captain who must ‘hit the fairway’. Yours truly managed to



### Don Waugh's Drive-in Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 1991

each player restricted to one club, plus a team putter. The 'Cross Country' bit is exactly as it sounds. Teeing off from one tee and holing out at a distant green, with the team deciding which route to take. These affairs were always followed with refreshments provided most generously by the Captain, usually bangers and mash or some other notable cuisine. However 1991 saw a most memorable occasion when Don Waugh had Neeps and Tatties with the haggis 'addressed' by a Scottish Piper in full dress uniform.

Winter golf was proving ever popular as can be seen in the figures for competitions played during February 2003: -

End of Year Competition	113 entrants
Winter 4-ball Competition	117 entrants
Qualifying round for the Roe's Bowl	160 entrants
Mid-week medal	26 entrants
Help the Aged Qualifier	128 entrants

Plus of course the monthly round of the Winter Alliance with its full complement of 88 players.

scuttle one to safety in 1986 but following captains were not quite so lucky with Alan Grimshaw – 1<sup>st</sup> ball hooked way left, Clive Hadley – 2 balls out of bounds, John Weston – 3 balls out of bounds and Robert Roe – 3 balls lost into the fog, but the record for the number of drives off the first tee before one actually hit the fairway must be held by the Captain for 2003, Ernie Smith. The minutes state, "After the Captain's 6<sup>th</sup> attempt, including two exploding balls, the drive finally hit the fairway and was measured at 178.21 meters. The sum of £338 was raised for the Captain's charity, County Air Ambulance". The Cross Country Competition which followed was all that one could manage after the New Years Eve festivities of the night before with teams of four and



**Piping in the Haggis**

One of the most notable of the winter competitions is the 'Christmas Comp.' Its popularity probably stemming from the free miniature bottle of scotch, brandy or rum given when signing in, or the punch ladled out when entering the clubhouse afterwards. Once again, you elder statesmen will remember that over many years the author's 'better half', Cynthia, dressed as Mrs. Santa Clause in fishnets and an unbelievably short skirt dished out this lethal brew to the freezing golfers streaming in through the back door.

Due to the increasing popularity of competition golf and a steady increase in membership, pressure was being put on the booking system for tee times. Although Hagley had a system which was the envy of most other local clubs the committee meetings of March and April 2003 had much debate on the subject until a revised system was approved.

The commitment to junior golf was beginning to pay off highlighted by Mike Thorneycroft in his report to The Committee in October 2003 stating, "The junior's team of Chad Williams, Matt Weston and Chris Townsend won the John Reay Trophy at Kidderminster, winning by a clear 11 shots. The best gross was also won by Chad with a level par 72".

Further success was recorded when the junior's team won their grouping of the West Midlands Junior League and then went through the Regional Finals together with Fulford Heath to play in the Southern Area finals at South Hinksley. Unfortunately the team of Mike Waugh, Simon Boyle, Glen Rushton, Josh Bolton, Chris Townsend and James Townsend played very well but did not make it through to the National Finals. To encourage the further development of junior golf





**New captain Neil Gray, walking onto the 1<sup>st</sup> tee 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2002**

Hagley have applied and are currently being accredited for ‘Golf Mark’, a status that would gain government funding for junior coaching and development. By the time this publication goes to print, this accreditation should be well underway.

Not being blessed with many low handicap players it was pleasing to note in the minutes of April 2005 that “Paul Smith had been reduced to Category One by the County Secretary and Michael Homes had automatically been reduced to Category One by virtue of scores returned. This brings the number of Category One players at Hagley to ten”.

## **Vimto/Winter Alliance**

Club secretary, Vernon Lewis, obtained permission from VIMTO to name the impromptu ‘Sunday morning fiddle’ after their brand, when all other breweries that were approached refused. Those who wished to take part would throw a pound coin into the ashtray and went out to play an unofficial stableford competition. Usually the balls were thrown in the air on the first tee and the players went out in the groups that the balls formed on the floor. This format came in and out of popularity during the first ten years or so of the clubs history until one Sunday lunchtime in 1991, when six regulars were putting the world to rights. One of the six said that it was a pity that more members did not support the club. The talk

eventually got round to the VIMTO and it was suggested that, if the VIMTO was made more competitive, it would encourage more people to take part and hopefully frequent the clubhouse. So with this in mind Bryan Pearson and Alan Griffiths offered not only to organise but also to sponsor a trophy, which would be played for over the winter period on a league basis. Hence the Winter Alliance was born.

The first year a maximum of twenty members took part in this league playing as Fourball better ball off yellow tees and  $\frac{3}{4}$  handicap allowance. The matches started in November and were played monthly, finishing in March. The winners being the pairing who had the lowest net score over the five competitions. This proved so successful with everyone enjoying the competitive play and also the camaraderie in the clubhouse that the following year 40 members took part. Its popularity continued to grow and well before it was adopted as an official club competition in 2003 a ceiling of 88 competitors had to be set because there were not enough daylight hours to accommodate any more at that time of year. Albeit that even when it was adopted into the competitions calendar the original organisers were allowed to run it, because it was so successful.

Prizes are now awarded for the top six league positions as well as 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in each of the monthly rounds plus an overall 2's sweep, hole-in-one prizes and a prize also for anyone who breaks the record of 60 net.

Over the years some members have suggested that it was a fun competition, but anyone who has been good enough to win the trophy or even finish in the top three would argue that it is probably one of the hardest trophies to win at the club.

One of the hardest tasks is to collate the scores, work out the league tables and ensure that all the prizes are awarded properly. A 'mention in despatches' at this time must be made of Tony Griffiths, Senior's Captain 2005, who has done this job since the competitions inception, and also of his brother, Alan Griffiths who, acting as treasurer, collected all the monies due and ensured that all the prizes and sweeps were distributed accordingly as well as helping to arrange and organise the presentation dinner.

Knowing us hardened golfers however, this Winter Alliance did not replace Vernon Lewis's VIMTO, it merely enhanced it for one Sunday per month, the remaining weeks, guess what – yes, the VIMTO still lives on.

## Major Competitions and Winners

### **Garratt Salver** (Club Champion – Gross)

1982	T.A. Mannix
1983	T.C. Hayes
1984	G.F. Yardley
1985	D. Craddock
1986	A. Salter
1987	A.C.S. Griffiths
1988	A. Hemmings
1989	S. Carpenter
1990	C. Clark
1991	C. Roe
1992	G. Kilmister
1993	S. Hull
1994	S. Carpenter
1995	P. Gwilliam
1996	C.T. Stretton
1997	S. Hull
1998	S. Hull
1999	J Donoghue
2000	S. Hull
2001	M.J. Willetts
2002	J. Donoghue
2003	J. Donoghue
2004	M. Weston

### **Princess of Wales Cup** (Club Championships - Net)

1982	T.R. Hackett
1983	C.V. Hadley
1984	M.G. Hill
1985	R. Powell
1986	G. Pope
1987	P. Kearsley
1988	V.C. Lewis
1989	R.H. Hunt
1990	I. Cox
1991	R. Grocock
1992	B. Pearson
1993	B. Bowdler
1994	W.P. Bate
1995	A. Blackwell
1996	R.D. Sims
1997	B.J. Horton
1998	R.H. Hopkins
1999	D. Woodall
2000	A.F. Bradshaw
2001	G.F. Yardley
2002	M. Thorneycroft
2003	A. Gibbons
2004	R. Tromans

**Garratt Plate**  
(Lady Champion)

1982 Mrs M. Cross  
1983 Miss C. Fletcher  
1984 Mrs. M. Cross  
1985 Miss C. Fletcher  
1986 Miss. L. Dunn  
1987 Miss L. Dunn  
1988 Miss C. Fletcher  
1989 Miss L. Dunn  
1990 Miss L. Dunn  
1991 Miss L. Dunn  
1992 Miss L. Dunn  
1993 Mrs. C. Thompson  
1994 Miss L. Dunn  
1995 Mrs. C. Thompson  
1996 Miss L. Dunn  
1997 Mrs. C. Thompson  
1998 Mrs. C. Thompson  
1999 Ms. C. Fletcher  
2000 Mrs. J. Evitts  
2001 Mrs. G. Round  
2002 Mrs. B. Wilson  
2003 Mrs. S. Hart  
2004 Mrs. B. Wilson

**Seniors Cup**  
(Senior Champion)

1991 J.M. Penn  
1992 J. Ashford  
1993 R. Foxall  
1994 E.W. Baker  
1995 B. Cozens  
1996 C. Barnett  
1997 T.R. Hackett  
1998 A. Totney  
1999 P. Saville  
2000 V.A. Webber  
2001 C. Barnett  
2002 J. Ashford  
2003 T. Daly  
2004 T. Daly

**Hagley Cup**  
(Junior Champion)

1991 G. Kilmister  
1992 G. Kilmister  
1993 J. Donoghue  
1994 J. Donoghue  
1995 J. Donoghue  
1996 P. Gwilliam  
1997 J. Donoghue  
1998 P.J. Powell  
1999 M. Rock  
2000 B. Withers  
2001 R. Price  
2002 R. Price  
2003 C. Williams  
2004 S. Boyle

**Wychbury Cup**  
(Scratch Knockout Div 1)

1985	C.V. Hadley
1986	J. Haywood
1987	A. Hemmings
1988	J. Haywood
1989	D. Green
1990	C.V. Hadley
1991	C. Clark
1992	C. Clark
1993	A. Cutler
1994	S. Hull
1995	S. Hull
1996	S. Hull
1997	S. Hull
1998	S. Hull
1999	M.J. Willetts
2000	M.J. Willetts
2001	M.J. Willetts
2002	J. Donoghue
2003	M. Holmes
2004	R. Price

**The Captain's Putter**  
(Winner – Captain's Day)

1985	Not held
1986	Not held
1987	Not held
1988	Not held
1989	Not held
1990	Not held
1991	G. Haines
1992	S. Donoghue
1993	S. Hancock
1994	M. Fisher
1995	M.E. Willetts
1996	K. Crisp
1997	W.N. Gray
1998	R.T. Hill
1999	A.J. Blunt
2000	A. Bridge
2001	S.R. Growcott
2002	C. Dunn
2003	G.J. Smith
2004	A.M. Lowe

**The David Bird Cup**  
(Summer Knockout Handicap)

1981	R. Clarke
1982	J. Ashford
1983	B.L. Cozens
1984	G. Barnett
1985	C.V. Hadley
1986	G. Pope
1987	S. Jordan
1988	M. Payton
1989	C. Day
1990	R. Harper
1991	A.C.S Griffiths
1992	C. Clark
1993	J. Darby
1994	M. Woodhouse
1995	J. Hadley
1996	S.C. Hancock
1997	K.P. Crisp
1998	R.J. Pawlowski
1999	P. Coyle
2000	D.W. Round
2001	R. Powell
2002	J. Donoghue
2003	J. Withers
2004	G. Hill

**The Merit Shield**  
(Monthly Medal Points)

1981	Not held
1982	Not held
1983	Not held
1984	J. Westwood
1985	D. Craddock
1986	D. Green
1987	M. Adams
1988	S. Hull
1989	S. Hull
1990	A. Bird
1991	C. Clark
1992	R. Hibbs
1993	R.H. Hunt
1994	A. Jones
1995	N. Gray
1996	J. Donoghue
1997	P.S. Robinson
1998	M. Kinally
1999	N. Griffiths
2000	J. Withers
2001	A.T. Cutler
2002	J. Withers
2003	L. Egerton
2004	J. Watt

**The Roe's Bowl**  
(Fourball Knockout)

1987	D. Roe	R. Roe
1988	A.C.S. Griffiths	A.G. Griffiths
1989	A.C.S. Griffiths	A.G. Griffiths
1990	M. Payton	W. Pearsall
1991	B. Pearson	L. Tyler
1992	R. Leader	P. Smith
1993	M. Makin	R. Westwood
1994	T.R. Hackett	J. Haywood
1995	M.J. Hall	D. Blackwell
1996	M.J. Hall	D. Blackwell
1997	R.H. Powell	J. Withers
1998	J. Donoghue	M.J. Salter
1999	M. Abbiss	C. Richardson
2000	P.A. Bastable	G.A. Bastable
2001	P.A. Bastable	G.A. Bastable
2002	C.R. Day	M. Hall
2003	R. Cook	B. Pearson
2004	P. Smith	J. Donovan

**Clent Hills Shield**  
(Foursomes Knockout)

1982	B.L. Cozens	C.V. Hadley
1983	B.L. Cozens	C.V. Hadley
1984	J. Penn	A. Grimshaw
1985	B. Yardley	D. Roe
1986	V. Lewis	A. Barr
1987	C. Hill	A. Salter
1988	M. Attwood	C. Gore
1989	I. Remstedt	I. Wilson
1990	B.L. Cozens	C.V. Hadley
1991	J. Ashford	G. Pope
1992	A.C.S. Griffiths	A.G. Griffiths
1993	J. Hill	R. Kilmister
1994	C. Day	M.J. Hall
1995	G. Rozga	M. Hill
1996	L.P. Nash	P. Gwilliam
1997	J.N. Wailes	M.D. Swan
1998	S. Hull	W.T. Jones
1999	B. Green	D.W. Round
2000	A.J. Davies	N. Griffiths
2001	P. Hackett	P. Coyle
2002	M. Wilde	M. Davies
2003	G.G. Hill	G.R. Hill
2004	P. Smith	J. Donovan



## Club Major Trophies



**Back row; Seniors Cup, Wychbury Cup, David Bird Cup. Centre row; Garratt Plate, Roe's Bowl, Merit Shield, Princess of Wales Cup, Garratt Salver. Front centre; Clent Hills Trophy.**



**Captain's Putter**

## The Social Scene

The Social Scene at Hagley Golf Club has always been very good, and at many times brilliant. Right from the very beginning with chef Mark Payton and his flamboyant cooking, the members all joined in and enjoyed themselves. Friday and Saturday nights were well supported every week, you had to book a table to get in, and when a golf function was scheduled the tickets were like gold dust to obtain. The first event one can remember was an Easter Bonnet Parade in 1981 followed by a 'Yard of Ale' drinking competition in the Hawthorn Restaurant, with the contestants standing in a blow-up paddling pool to catch the overspill.

We elder statesmen will still remember the aching muscles the morning after Oompah Nights (Bavarian Nights to the un-educated) with the – lean forwards lean backwards, to the left and the right, stand up, sit down, to the left and the right. Lean forwards lean backwards ..... Believe me, this did not bode well with Bavarian food and a few steins of lager, but what an atmosphere. The many Race Nights with the imaginative trainer's names like Hoof Hearted etc. Skittles Nights and Do- it -Yourself bonfire nights, with wood collected from around the



**Carvery under way in the Hawthorn Restaurant**

golf course. The Quiz Nights, originally hosted by yours truly, with the impossible questions (well they're easy when you know the answers). The Summer Barbecue, when we had The Stourbridge Youth Swing Band playing on the grassed area outside of the Hawthorn Restaurant and we were visited every Christmas Eve by the Pedmore Church Choir, where the night was rounded off with 'complimentary' mince pies and sausage rolls.

The list goes on and on.

Who can still remember the Gentlemen's Dinner when Trevor Jones, after coming to the club straight from the Beaujolais' Run, slid gracefully from his chair to sleep peacefully under the table, only to apologise to the Captain the next night for failing to turn up.

The Hagley members have always been very supportive of charity events. The early events were run in conjunction with the Three Pears Golf Competition and raised funds for 'Guide Dogs for the Blind'. Hagley Golf Club was also the first club to hold the Action Heart Golf Day and play regularly in the Mary Stevens Hospice Club Team challenge, holding the competition at Hagley on many occasions.



**A social drink at Hawkstone Park  
David Munro, Don Carradine, Alan Grimshaw, (two mystery guests), Vince Wicks**

Then there were the Big Events, not trying to belittle Captain's Day and Lady Captain's Day, but every golf club has those, these events were very special to Hagley Golf Club and its members: -

## **Bill Evitts Charity Days**

It all started at the back end of 1984 when Bill Evitts came to the conclusion that the ad hoc efforts we had made over the first four years at the club in raising money for charity needed some better organisation and more of an effort. Bill asked Tony Stanley, the competition secretary at the time, to make room in the golfing calendar for a charity competition. He then roped in the help of Alan Grimshaw and a few other loyal supporters and started plans for the Bill Evitts Charity Day to be held the following spring. The first event was a very casual affair, so casual that we did not have a cup to play for until the night before the competition. Finally the cup arrived along with many other prizes, all donated by the members. The event was a great success and was reported in the press in May that "Hagley golfers chipped in for a record total of £352 – and now patients at Heath Lane Hospital in West Bromwich are to benefit from their efforts".



**Bill and Alan counting the cash - £352**

Flushed with this success it was decided to make this an annual event but to put more of an effort into raising funds. Through the spring of 1986 a lot of work was put into selling advertising plaques for each of the 18 tees at £50 per sign or £10 for a part share. Members were almost terrified to come into the bar if ‘Grimshaw’ was sat at the first table, as it always cost money to enter. It was Alan himself who made all of the metal holders for the signs on the tees, free of charge of course, and talented member, Dave Perks did all the sign writing. A team of ladies headed by Sheila Evans ran an ‘all day’ tombola stall and an evening raffle with all of the prizes again donated by the members and future captain, John Weston, printed all the tickets for the night’s dinner dance, ensuring that all of the money raised would go to charity. The efforts paid off, for in May 1986 £2,500 was donated to the Heart Scanner Appeal at the Birmingham Children’s Hospital and the Bill Evitts Charity Day was established.

The ball had now started rolling and was gaining momentum. The following year in May 1987 the Stourbridge news reported “Hagley Golf Club raised over £3,000 for Birmingham Maternity Hospital’s Premature Baby Unit thanks to their Charity Golf Day”. But Bill, Alan and the crew still had ambitions to make the day even more rewarding so for 1988 the price of tee sponsorship was left open to ‘Donations’ so was the entry fee into the competition, with a bucket in the Pro Shop and a dinner dance was planned for the nights entertainment. Once again the



**Bill Evitts (right) presenting the cheque to Mr. Mike Lambert from the Birmingham Institute of Corrective Education (1988).**

efforts paid off for in May of that year a cheque for £5,172 was presented to the Birmingham Institute for Conductive Education to help children suffering from cerebral palsy. Members who attended that presentation will well remember, with tears in their eyes, the efforts of Ester Baston who had spent three months in Hungary undergoing treatment at the only centre available in Europe. The donation would help to make the same treatment available in the U.K.

£5,000 seemed the 'Bench Mark' figure for what was possible to raise in one day of golf. The following years saw similar donations made to Guide Dogs for the Blind (1989), Smethwick Neurosurgery Centre (1990), Malcolm Sergeant Cancer Fund for Children (1991) and S.E.N.S.E. (1992). These wonderful days came to and end in 1992 when Bill 'retired' from the fundraising, having squeezed as much money as possible out of the membership. Over the 8 years the charity days ran, the club raised in the region of £30,000 for local charities. From 1993 to the present day the fund raising has been spread over the whole year and classified as the Captain's Charity to run parallel to the fundraising already being done by the Lady Captain and Senior's Captains. Hagley members have always been very supportive for any event raising money for charity, as are most sporting clubs, and this can be seen from the following example shown in the committee minutes 1998.

#### Monies raised for Captains Charity to date - 31/7/98

- Captains Drive-in	£	170.00
- Raffle - Skittles Night 30.1.98	£	102.00
- Raffle - Supper Dance 21.2.98	£	68.00
- Raffle - Swing Dinner Dance 14.3.98	£	81.00
- Raffle - Rock 'n' Roll Dance 8.5.98	£	150.00
- Watercolour Auction/Raffle	£	580.00
		<hr/>
		£ 1,151.00
<u>'Captains Day'</u>		
- Competition Entry/Donations	£	664.00
- Ladies Section	£	25.00
- Tombola	£	610.00
- Chipping/Putting Competition	£	136.40
- M Ward	£	20.00
- B Hall	£	5.00
- J White	£	20.00
- Band	£	110.00
- Painting/Prints Commissions	£	100.00
- Eclipse Combustion Inc.	£	1,000.00
- Sid Harris Taxi Driver	£	40.00
		<hr/>
		£ 2,730.00
- <u>Currently held in club funds</u>		£ 3,881.40
<u>'Direct' Donations</u>		
- Barclays Bank - Watercolour	£	580.00
- Barclays Bank - Captains Day	£	1,000.00
- Dr. J T Mucklow	£	50.00
		<hr/>
		£ 1,630.00
		<hr/>
		£ 5,471.40

Consequently, over the 25 years of the club's history well over £200,000 has been raised for charity, which included many 'One Off' events, such as March 1991 when £1,500 was raised in one day to buy a specially adapted wheelchair for Richard Davies, a local boy who had been seriously injured in a diving accident at the local Forest Glades swimming pool. Numerous people have worked tirelessly over this period in organising and running these events, and are still doing so, but it must be mentioned in these notes the tremendous generosity of Barclays Bank who through applications made by past Lady Captain Lesley Hall, have matched 'Pound-for-Pound' the money raised for charity on numerous occasions over the years, and are still doing so.

## **Fun Night**

Fun Night, or more commonly known as the night when the members entertained the members.

It all started one summer's day when a few of us members had soaked in a bit too much sun, and a fair amount of alcohol. A few jokes started flying round and a challenge went up for songs to be sung. It was quite amazing how much talent was present amongst the members, or what talent they thought they had with a drink inside them. Anyway, plans were made for the first Fun Night, and what a night it turned out to be – who can ever forget the dulcet tones of Laurie Mannix as Master of Ceremonies, the rendering of 'If I were a Rich Man' by John Penn, Bert Yardley doing his Frank Sinatra impersonation, Captain - Terry Clark with 'Big John' and the joke telling of Bill Evitts, when your ribs ached afterwards from laughing so much. Even yours truly stepped in with Stanley Holloway's ditty 'Our Albert'.

The Fun Night ran for many years and many more members chipped in with amazing talent, Dave Perks' wife Joan and her friend Dot doing 'A Couple of Swells', Ken McCready with 'I Just Called to Say I Love You' and 'Don't Laugh at me Cause I'm a Fool', Bob and Lesley Cutler with Sony and Cher, Bob Cooksey's impersonation of Dion with 'Run Around Sue' and 'The Wanderer', Alan Griffiths with his rendering of Rod Stewart, which was just a bit too sexually explicit, and a fantastic rendering of Belinda Carlisle's 'Show Me Heaven' by Trevor Jones's daughter, and of course always John Penn with 'If I Were a Rich Man'. But THE most memorable of all - Bob Foxall.

What can be said of Bob Foxall? Well the committee minutes over a decade in the 1980's and early 1990's were littered with comments of, the Fun Night was sold out due to the tremendous efforts of Bob Foxall, many thanks to Bob Foxall for organising this event, The Captain wished that his personal thanks to Bob Foxall for organising such a wonderful day etc. etc. etc. to be entered in the club minutes. But the organisation and selling of tickets was only a sideline for our star entertainer. For Bob and his crew brought the house down on many occasions with their dress-up sketches: -

The night they came into the club in nappies with a tin bath, singing ‘Splish Splash I’m having a bath’.

Climbing a pair of stepladders in a skirt miming Julie Andrews singing ‘The Hills are Alive with the Sound of Music’.

The impersonation of Hitler, complete with helmet, trench coat and Storm Trooper Boots.

The rendering of ‘Sisters’ and many more - what fantastic nights they were!

Did I mention John Penn with ‘If I were a Rich Man’?

Wonderful memories

It was not all sunshine and roses however, for like most golf clubs, Hagley struggled from time to time to get the numbers through the door. Who can say it was the right or wrong decision to book wedding receptions, now a life-blood to the club, but at the time the destroyer of Saturday night entertainment for members.

Weddings were first mentioned in the golf minutes in October 1990 when several Saturday Night functions had been overbooked by a wedding. Maybe because of this, who can tell, but the social scene went into a bit of a lull in the mid 1990’s with the Country Club itself having no real direction.



**Marquee on the Lawn**





**Typical Tombola stall**

The function nights run by the golf committee were still very well supported but during the cold winter nights, excepting Christmas week and New Year, the club was almost deserted. To try and help matters, the golf committee ran more and more functions until things started to pick up again brought on by the Millennium celebrations in 2000. During this period, the club owes much to the services of Roy Savin, Chairman of the Country Club since April 1984, who almost single handed kept the club running for long periods when the catering contract was cancelled and no steward and stewardess were in place. Roy even had to train and pass licensing exams so the club could retain its drinks license. However, the minutes of May 2002 stated “The club is at last getting its act together and it was agreed that the golf committee should only run social events directly related to golf”. This was approved with the exception that some of the old favourites such as the quiz night, skittles night and the Sportsman’s Dinner would still be retained. This move coupled with the change of Directors, the bringing ‘In-House’ of the catering arrangements and the employment of management team, Rod and Pat Taylor, really brought the club back to life. Pat is the boss and the organiser but Rod is the entrepreneur who has the flair to book the right artist for the right occasion. Sunday lunches are now ‘Sold Out’ weeks in advance and so are the many varied functions held throughout the year i.e. Black Country Night, Irish Night and Valentines Dinner Dance etc

One further significant thing happened during 2003 when Linda Walker, Lady Captain, would not accept the 'Long Table' way of laying out the dining room for Lady Captain's Day and insisted the club purchased 'Round Tables', even though she was told they would not fit in. Not only did they fit in but they were an immediate success and have been a regular feature ever since.

One cannot bring this chapter to an end without reference to the Summer Ball. Although run by the Country Club and not the Golf Club, it is well worth a mention in this publication. Held on the 'Back Lawn' in a marquee holding 300+ guests thrashing about to the throbbing music of.... Who else but - Soul Survivors. Great nights, long may they continue.



**Round Tables in full use – Ernie Smith's Captain's Day 2003**

## **Club 'Away Day'**

I suppose one could actually write a whole book about the annual outing affectionately called the Club Away Day. Organised in the early years by Hon. Sec. Vernon Lewis they were always, and still are, well supported and brilliant occasions. For many years in the mid to late eighties we returned time and time again to Hawkstone Park where we were looked after so very well until the year

that Rob Roe caught the fluorescent tube over the snooker table with his cue and a million shards of glass showered down onto the revered green baize. Or was it the year that their security guard prevented the coach from leaving until David Roe returned the reception bell, which had only been borrowed for sound effects on the return journey? Did I say sound effects on the return journey? Not to delve into the songs and choruses too much but one must mention the official ‘songist’, Rob Roe, who had the knack of singing the wrong words, totally out of tune but at the same time somewhat amusing. Boy, did we laugh? That was of course when we finally managed to get everyone onto the coach. We always seemed to get embroiled with someone’s wedding reception which usually turned out to have a late bar. The boarding time deadline of 10.00pm passed, then 11.00pm passed and sometimes even 12.00 midnight passed before the last hangers on were finally shovelled into the coach.

Talking of coaches, we did seem to have our fair share of troubles, which may have been as a result of the exceptional low prices that Vernon used to negotiate. Certainly the one year we did not get our money’s worth, the coach never turned up, so everyone jumped into a cavalcade of cars to make the journey to Hawkstone Park. Then of course there was the year when all on board had to get off and push the coach the final ½ mile to the Rolls of Monmouth due to engine failure. A replacement coach was sent for the return journey. Another year saw the coach in



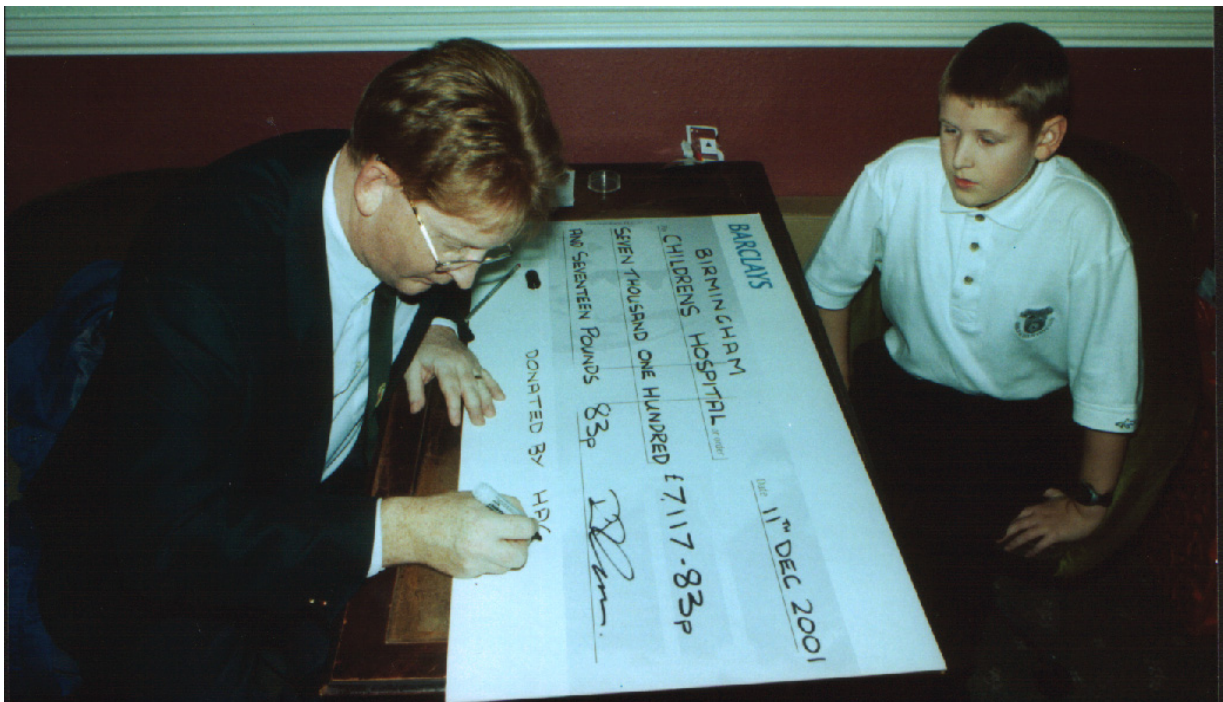
**The first prize giving ceremony at Hawkstone Park – 1982.  
Terry Hackett, Brian Cozens, Bernard Keep, Terry Clark and David Munro  
receive £1 each for the Two’s Sweep.**

such a bad state for the trip to Buxton that we had to push it up the hills and climb back on board for the downward journey. On arrival at Buxton we had a deluge of rain so much so that the course was flooded. We made a miserable return trip only to find everything was fine at Hagley, so we played there instead.

Again – wonderful memories.

PS. Just a note on that trip to the Rolls of Monmouth. How wonderful it was to have dinner in the former garage where the original Rolls Royce was built, fantastic. Talking of Rolls Royce, did I mention the club day out to Moor Hall Golf Club when Mark Lowe, driving the Roe brother's vintage Rolls Royce, lost the way. Yours truly, riding shotgun, suggested stopping to ask an approaching policeman the directions when a cry came from the back "Don't do that the car's not taxed", or on the return journey of the same trip a group of gentlemen, who had 'taken wine' with The Captain, sitting on the bonnet of the said Rolls Royce on someone's drive singing Christmas Carols at 2.00am in the morning. **The End** (or was it just 'the beginning').

**and Finally: -**



**Treasurer Roy Sims (with son David) signing yet another cheque for charity.**

## Club Professionals

1984 – 1990

Barry Wright

1990 – Present

Iain Clark

## The “Professional” Clark Family

“Golfers are born and not made. Perhaps! But if you are born with talent and you practice your fingers to the bone, then you do make a golfer, Perhaps again”. These observations were made by a man called Ernest Butten who once established an academy, the five members of which were put into intensive training and forced towards greatness.

Remember the Butten Boys? They were hand picked youngsters who oozed talent: They were given the finest teachers in the land, the finest facilities with which to prepare for the physical demands of golf and all the opportunities in the world to practice and to play the game.

Butten’s idea was to build a great champion (ideally, five champions); the chosen five were Brian Barnes, Tommy Horton, Mike Ingham, Alan Ibbertson and Iain Clark. These five ‘Chosen Ones’ were fed special foods, did physical exercises every day, had their medical condition constantly monitored and were given golf lessons by Max Faulkner. They were even given elocution lessons in preparation of the winning speeches. They were given identical uniforms and caused quite a stir when arriving at tournaments all dressed alike. But Butten’s dream of building five great champions did not quite come true.

Barnes had a notable professional career, so did Horton. Mike Ingham has been the Pro at Cleckheaton for the past 25 years and Alan Ibbertson was the Pro at Fulford Heath and Walmley, before eventually reverting back to amateur. Unfortunately, he passed away with multiple sclerosis in 1999. Then there is Iain Clark, whose contribution to the game of golf, and in later years Hagley Golf Club in particular, is quite amazing.

Iain became a Butten Boy at the age of 17 and, with three years service, was the longest inmate of Ernest’s factory, and even today is known as an ex-Butten Boy. He was on the tour for four years and his main achievement was in 1967 when qualifying to play in ‘The Open Championship’ and also finishing 29<sup>th</sup> in the Order of Merit. By now he was married and his first son, Finlay, had arrived. Regrettably the money for 29<sup>th</sup> in the order of merit in those days did not feed a family, so Iain became a club pro, first in Lurgan and Ballymena, in Ireland, then at Ponteland, near Newcastle-on Tyne, and then at Sandiway, in Cheshire, finally in 1990 moving to Hagley, where he remains to this day.



**The Classic 'Iain Clark' Swing**

Somewhere amongst all this, Iain and his wife, Heather, had another son, Cameron and the two brothers added credence to the principles set out by Ernest Batten on the making of good professionals. The two junior Clarks, with no massive paternal pressure, proved to be outstanding golfers and progressed into the professional ranks quite naturally. They both became assistants to dad, Iain, at Hagley but before settling down as club professionals they quite literally took the Midlands scene by storm. Finlay, four years the senior, attempted the European Tour school in 1992 and got as far as the final qualifiers but made his biggest impact on the Tartan Tour and on the local circuits, where at one time he held no less than six course records. In the meantime, Cameron, who made a choice early on between golf and pro soccer, won the Midland Matchplay Championships in 1993 at the age of 17 and attended the European Tour School in 1994 in search of his tournament card. Like Finlay, he did not quite make it that year but had a further opportunity in 1997 when a unique situation occurred. Both brothers battled their way through to the finals in San Roque and Sotogrande in Spain. They were among the 47 qualifiers from an original entry of 452. However they represented different countries. Finlay was a registered professional in Scotland whereas Cameron had decided to register as Irish. The qualification was particularly pleasing for Finlay, who had missed practically the whole of 1995 due entirely to



**Iain Clark with sons, Finlay and Cameron**

a bizarre accident leaving him with a crippling injury when the shaft of his club snapped on the downswing and the club head shattered his ankle. As it happened it was the younger brother who fought through the pack and qualified to play on the tour the following year. Cameron's game was on fire in 1997 and brought its just rewards when he qualified for the 126<sup>th</sup> Open Championships at Royal Troon. He did not quite make the cut for the weekend rounds but enjoyed the experience enormously.

1998 started full of promise for Cameron, who was by now sponsored by the Sun newspaper, but as the European Tour began his form deserted him and he only got four starts, until at the French Open he broke his arm larking about in a game of "Head Tennis" with tournament colleagues and did not get another start. He was out of the game for two and a half months and that effectively put paid to his European Tour. In the meantime Finlay had already decided that his dodgy ankle could not sustain the intensity of tournament golf and was delighted to settle for club professional at nearby North Worcestershire Golf Club. Cameron returned to Hagley as assistant pro to his father and as a family they continued to take the Midland scene apart. At one notable Worcestershire Professional Championships held at Kidderminster, they took the first three places with Iain and Cameron beaten into joint second place by Finlay, three shots ahead.

Iain joined the European seniors tour in 1988 and finished 46<sup>th</sup> in the order of merit, even though he only had time for six tournaments. He has been recognized for his services to the profession on two recent occasions. From 1997 to 2000 he was Captain of the Worcestershire PGA and in 2000 was also made Captain of the Midlands PGA. To complete the success story for this golfing family, in 2003 Cameron secured the position of club professional at the nearby prestigious club of Moor Hall. I gather that when Cameron went for his playing interview he demolished the course and they could not but offer him the position.

The Clark's domination of Midlands' golf continues.



“GOLFERS WHO KNOW SUPPORT THEIR PRO”



## Captains and Committees

Much can be written about the Captains and Committees of Hagley Golf & Country Club, in fact enough to fill another book, ----- now there's a thought. But it would be remiss not to mention but a few in this publication. The author apologises to those not mentioned because each and every one, past and present, has contributed to the survival and ultimate success of this venture.

Vernon Lewis, secretary for the first ten years whose administration skills gave the foundation for all that was to follow; Brian Cozens who steadied the ship in times of need. He was the first Captain to survive and also our first President; Wayne Pearsall and Bert Yardley with the thankless task of Chairman of the Green in the early years and latterly Terry Daly in the same role; Rob Roe for his flamboyant nature and the introduction of the Captain's blazer; John Weston, ten years as treasurer with a stint as Captain in the middle, followed by Roy Sims in the years to date; John Penn, Alan Grimshaw and Bob Foxall for their inspiration on the social scene; Tony Griffiths for eleven years service and always being there at 'Open Competitions'; Colin Day who will return as Captain in 2006 to finish jobs interrupted by the change of directors in 2000; Barbara Lawrence for 14 years as ladies secretary; Bill Masters, three times seniors captain and last but by no means least, Mark Lowe (Back 'o' the Net), the backbone of The Committee for 15 years and acting No. 1 for Hon. Sec. in times of need.



**Past Captains and wives at their annual golf weekend, Bournemouth, 2005**

# Captains of Hagley Golf Club



*Brian Cozens*  
1984 & 1985



*Graham Yardley*  
1986



*Alan Grimshaw*  
1987



*Clive Hadley*  
1988



*John Weston*  
1989



*Rob Roe*  
1990



*Don Waugh*  
1991



*David Roe*  
1992



*Colin Dunn*  
1993



*Dave Green*  
1994



*Mark Lowe*  
1995



*Colin Barnett*  
1996

Note; No images were taken of the first three Captains: -  
1981 Ken Smith, 1982 George Thompson & 1983 Terry Clark.



***Martin Richmond***  
1997



***John Darby***  
1998



***Peter Abbiss***  
1999



***Colin Day***  
2000



***Roy Sims***  
2001



***Neil Gray***  
2002



***Ernie Smith***  
2003



***Martin Wilde***  
2004



***Chris Townsend, Bethan Wilson, Peter Cooper & Tony Griffiths***  
*Juniors Captain, Lady Captain, The Captain & Seniors Captain 2005*

Length of Committee Service

Name	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	
Bernard Keep	81	82																								
Joyce Baker	81																									
Peggy Keen	81																									
Ken Smith	Ca																									
Roger Hampson	81																									
Derrick Craddock	81																									
George Thompson	VC	Ca																								
Vernon Lewis	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89																	
Terry Clark	VC	Ca																								
John Penn		82	83	84	85	86	87	88																		
Brian Cozens		82	VC	Ca	Ca	86				90	91			Pr	Pr	Pr										
Graham Yardley		82	83	VC	VC	Ca	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	
Tony Stanley		82	83	84	85	86																				
Wayne Pearsall		82	83	84	85	86																				
Ted Baker		82	83																							
Clive Hadley			83	84			VC	Ca	89					94	95	96										
Terry Roberts			83	84	85	86																				
Alan Grimshaw				84	85	VC	Ca		89	90							Pr	Pr	Pr							
Charles Baker				84	85	86	87																			
Ken Key					85	86																				
Robert Roe						86	87	88	VC	Ca																
Malcolm Lloyd							87	88																		
John Weston							87	VC	Ca	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97									
Bert Yardley							87	88	89																	
Colin Dunn								88	89	90	91	VC	Ca													
Lawson North								88	89																	
Don Waugh									89	VC	Ca	92	93	94	95											
David Roe									89	90	VC	Ca										01				
Peter Abbiss								89	90							96	97	VC	Ca							
David Green										90	91	92	VC	Ca	95	96										
Tony Griffiths										90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00						
Trevor Jones										90	91	92	93						99							
Ken Butlin											91	92	93													
Colin Barnett											91	92	93	94	VC	Ca										
Mark Lowe											91	92	93	VC	Ca	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	
Martin Richmond												92	93	94	95	VC	Ca									
Bill Evitts													93	94	95	96										
Bob Foxall														94												
Jon Walker															94	95										
Brian Townsend																94	95									
John Darby															94	95	96	VC	Ca							
Colin Day																95	96	97	98	VC	Ca				VC	
Andrew Lowe																	96	97	98	99	00					
Paul Nash																	96	97								
Ken McCready																		97	98							
Terry Daly																		97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	
Roy Sims																		97	98	99	VC	Ca	02	03	04	05
Bob Farrell																		97	98							
Ernie Smith																			98	99	00	01	VC	Ca	EO	
Ray Powell																			98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05
Bob Hall																			98	99	00					
Jim Wailes																			99							
Ted Baker																				99	00	01	02	03	04	
Peter Cooper																					00	01	02	03	VC	Ca
Neil Gray																					00	VC	Ca	EO		
Steve Smith																						01				
Martin Wilde																						01	02	VC	Ca	EO
John Evans																							02	03	04	
Richard Grocock																							02	03	04	05
Roy Savin																							02			
Mike Thorneycroft																							02	03	04	05
John Palmer																								03	04	05
David Round																								03	04	05
Tony Hammond																								Pr	Pr	Pr
David Wilkes																									04	05
Michael Hall																										05
Michael Swan																										05
Kim Smith																										05

# The Ladies Section

By Lesley Hall

The first meeting of the Ladies Committee was held on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March 1981. Michael Brookes had agreed to officially measure the ladies course for the E.L.G.U. for the first time, the course being previously marked with temporary tee markers. It was agreed that Wednesday would be Ladies Day, and the competition entrance fee would be 75p.

In May the Ladies were officially confirmed as members of the E.L.G.U.. The committee applied to join the Worcestershire Ladies County Golf Association, which would mean that our ladies would be able to play at other clubs in the county. The course was assessed with a Standard Scratch Score of 72 being awarded and affiliation was granted. By August of that year there were already 21 lady golf members and come October, 10 of them had obtained their handicaps.

The section ran a full competitions calendar in 1982, with Monthly Medals, Club Championships, Eclectic Competitions and knockout competitions etc., and several members had also entered competitions at other clubs. The golf course was still very new and at times water and mud were rather more evident than would have been liked. The ladies' tees had been completed and the work on the second nine (now the front nine) was underway. The first AGM of the Ladies Golf Section was held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 1982, and the meeting was held in the Elizabethan Room. Mr. Garratt presented a "plate" to the section, which would be played for in June of each year as the Ladies Club Championship. We still play for this plate today. It was reported that the section had £87 in the funds, there were 30 members of whom 22 held official handicaps.

The Monthly Medal competition was held in April 1982, and the matter of when ladies could play the course came to a head. The Ladies Golf Section was under the impression that they had unrestricted access at all times, except when there was a competition being played at the weekend. The Golf Committee wanted to restrict the ladies to playing in the afternoon at weekends. Letters went backwards and forwards between the two sections without resolving the situation. A meeting of the two committees was held on 29<sup>th</sup> July. The whole problem hinged on the fact that the Golf Committee felt not enough notice had been given by the Ladies who wished to play their "plate" (Club Championship) competition. It was agreed that fair notice would be given in future, and that the concession for the ladies weekend play, would be governed by the change of clock in spring and autumn. During the summer months, ladies could not play before noon, but in winter months they may play at any time. The exception to this would be for Lady Captains Day and for the Ladies Open (which was played at the weekend at this time), when the ladies could play at any time. It was agreed that the misunderstanding had arisen due to a lack of liaison between the two Committees.

The following year, April 1983, saw two ladies from the Ladies Committee attend their first Management Committee meeting, but they had nothing to report except that £5 had been donated by the Golf Committee towards the cost of engraving the Ladies Section golf trophies. By this time there were 35 lady members, and the Monthly Medal competitions were well supported. It was hoped that the new nine holes would be playable in time for Captain's Day the following year.

In May 1984, Mary Hipkiss won the Bronze Medal at the L.G.U. Worcestershire Amateur Championships which was held at Kidderminster Golf Club, and in July of the same year, Caroline Fletcher was entered in the Under-19 Midlands Girls Championships as well as the Worcestershire girls' Championships. Marjorie Cross qualified to play for England in the Four Nations Ford Amateur Championships being held at Royal Lytham & St. Annes, where she did Hagley proud, with two wins and a "half".

This was also the year that Louise Dunn was awarded her first handicap. It was 19, and the only member below the magic 20. Louise went on to become the most prolific winner of ladies competitions, battling along all the way with Caroline Fletcher.

There were, by this time, 52 lady members, 27 of whom held handicaps.

In 1985, the Ladies Section entered the newly formed Droitwich Inter-Club Ladies League, and won our first match against Little Lakes. We still play in this popular league today. Barry Wright had been appointed as Club Professional, and the section continued to develop, with the standard of play improving, but the weather always seemed to be shocking on Wednesdays and competition days. However, handicaps were falling. Below is an extract from the AGM handicaps report:-

2 members	handicaps below 20
5 members	handicaps 20 - 29
5 members	handicaps 30 – 35
25 members	handicaps of 36
2 members	obtaining handicaps

For the first time, in 1986, the ladies entered a team in the W.L.C.G.A. Team Championships held at Fulford Heath and came second. Membership stood at 68, of whom 50 had handicaps.

The year of 1987 was very successful on the competitions front, with Hagley ladies winning 6 Opens competitions in the county. The Worcestershire Foursomes was won by Joyce Baker and Mary Detheridge, Edna Baker had a hole in one at Little Lakes and Louise Dunn won the Evening Mail Midlands Woman Golfer of the Year at Kings Norton, with the lowest score ever recorded in the 12 years that it had been running. Louise then went on to qualify as a regional finalist at the Belfry for the grand final of the Dunhill Amateur Masters held at Woburn in September, finishing in third place. The DICL team finished top in only the second year of playing in the league.



**Louise Dunn holds her “Evening Mail Midlands Woman Golfer of the Year” trophy**

By 1988 there were 85 Lady members, and following on from the previous year’s success they again won the DICL title. It was announced that Hagley would run the DICL League in 1990 and 1991. During 1988 the Hagley Ladies had many successes away from home, but Louise Dunn was unable to retain her Evening Mail Woman Golfer of the Year title. Although she went on to equal the winning score in the Dunhill Amateur Masters, she lost out with a count-back on the back nine holes.

We were represented in the 1989 Dunhill Amateur Masters, held at Woburn, by Caroline Thompson (nee Fletcher), who finished in 6<sup>th</sup> place. In 1990 the ladies excelled once more when Caroline Thompson won the Evening Mail Midlands Woman Golfer of the Year, playing to a handicap of 7, Louise Dunn again represented us in the Dunhill Amateur Masters, finishing in 7<sup>th</sup> place. Caroline Fletcher, Edna Baker and Barbara Lawrence reached the finals of the Charles Heeley Trophy. Joyce Baker and Mary Detheridge represented the club in the

Daily Mail Foursomes finals and Pauline Everitt and Jackie Evitts came third in the Australian Spoons area finals.

The first ten years had settled the Ladies section into the structure of the Golf Club, and by 1991 the section was full at 90 members, and once again it was an excellent year for competitions. In her report to the AGM, which ran to 5 A4 pages, the Competitions Secretary said that 11 full medals had been played, quite an achievement then, considering how often the course was too wet to play in the winter months.

In 1992 Lady Captain, Dot Hammond, suggested that sweaters would be presented to all past Lady Captains, and from then on each new Lady Captain was presented with a club sweater embroidered with her year of captaincy.

1993 saw the section with 71 live handicaps, including 2 juniors. A full calendar of competitions took place despite only half of the course being open for most of the winter. It was also in 1993 that the Club's dress code was relaxed to allow the ladies to wear rounded necked shirts, instead of shirts with collars. However by 1994 there was a downwards trend in the number of lady members who held live handicaps. The total had fallen to 64.

The first "birdie tree" was placed in the locker room by the Lady Captain, Annette Barnett. We still have a birdie tree, but it is now a more permanent one presented by Lin Walker in 2003, at the end of her two years as Lady Captain.

The summer of 1995 was very hot, and handicaps tumbled throughout the summer. Lady Captain Barbara Lawrence had a very hot day for her Lady Captain's Day at the end of July, and between the courses of dinner that evening, there were more people on the terrace than in the dining room - all trying to cool down.

During 1996 we were informed that a computerized handicap system would be installed so a laptop computer was purchased in anticipation of this event.

By February 1997, the handicapping system was installed and with the help of Bob Hall the new system was running smoothly.

1998 saw the Club raise over £10,000 for charity between the two sections. Judy Roe was elected to be the first Lady President at the Ladies AGM and Caroline Fletcher (formally Thompson) won the Evening Mail "Woman Golfer of the Year" award.

The weather in 1999 was not good, and although we did have the odd bit of decent weather, it came too late for much of the competitions calendar. Caroline Fletcher represented Hagley in the Evening Mail "Woman Golfer of the Year", as she had won the competition the previous year giving her automatic entry. We managed to finish third in our group in the Droitwich Inter-Club League, with Evesham taking the overall winners title.

Competitions were decimated by the weather in Millennium Year, with only 7 out of 14 LGU medal competitions being played. A club EGM was held, which resulted in the appointment of a new Managing Director, Mr. Peter Garratt Johnson





**Caroline Fletcher with her “Evening Mail Midlands Woman Golfer of the Year” trophy**

who promised some much needed investment in the course and clubhouse.

During 2001, the ladies section fully integrated their competitions and handicapping systems in the same way as the men, who had recently acquired a new system. It was a steep learning curve for the Handicap and Competition Secretaries, but they battled on and by the end of the year things were running smoothly.

By November 2002, after a full year’s golf on the computer, the ladies had 67 live handicaps. Each lady was still required to put in 3 cards from qualifying competitions to retain their handicap but we were informed by the LGU that ladies’ handicaps would soon be brought into line with the men’s system, under the CONGU Unified Handicapping System.

The inaugural Past Lady Captains’ Dinner was held in January 2003, at the home of the then Lady Captain, Lin Walker. There were 12 Lady Captains present, and it is now an annual fixture in the club diary. During late 2003, the Lady Captain, Pam Nash, and Handicap Secretary, Lesley Hall, attended a series of meetings organized by the County Union to explain the workings of the new handicapping system, ready for February 2004 when it would “go live”.

On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2003, the Hagley ladies team of Jackie Evitts, Pauline Hackett, Pam Nash and Bethan Wilson won the Worcestershire County Ladies Centenary Team Championships held at Kidderminster Golf Club, a fantastic achievement.

2004 was, once again, a learning year for the Handicap Committee, but eventually everything did settle down, and thanks to Mark Lowe and David Round acting as mentors, a great deal of knowledge was acquired.

For the Silver Jubilee year of 2005, Peter Garratt Johnson, on behalf of the Garratt family, presented the Ladies Section with a new cup, "The Garratt Silver Jubilee Trophy", to be played for each year.



**The Past Lady Captains who attended the inaugural dinner, held at the home of Linda Walker. Back row: Annette Barnett (1994), Lin Walker (2002 & 2003), Lesley Hall (1997 & 1998), Sheila Attwood (1990, Joan Ashmore (1993): Front Row: Judy Row (1988 & 1989), Joan Weston (1991), Val McCready (1996), Barbara Lawrence (1995), Olwen Lewis (1986 & 1987), Eunice Davies (1984) & Jackie Evitts (1999 & 2000).**

Since the early 1990s, prior to which the charity fund raising was a club-wide effort, the Ladies Section has donated in excess of £35,000 to various charities, both local and national.

To date we have a thriving Ladies Section, and the last few years has seen an influx of keen, new members, with a full diary of competitions to play on a wonderful course which is now playable all year round.



**Peggy Kean, Joyce Baker, Louise Dunn, Mary Detheridge, Caroline Fletcher, Pat Fletcher, Marjorie Cross. Front Centre Captain Olwen Lewis.**



**Peggy Kean, Pat Fletcher, Louise Dunn, Caroline Fletcher, Mary Detheridge, Joyce Baker, Marjorie Cross, Front Centre Captain Judy Roe**

Length of Committee Service

Name	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	
Joyce Baker	C	C	Ch		85	86																				
Peggy Kean	81																									
Margaret Alford	Ch	Ch																								
Gwen Bird	S	S																								
Mary Hipkiss	81	V	C																							
June Fairman		82	S																							
Paddy Andrews	T	T		84	85																					
Joyce Keep		82																								
Janet Cooke		82	T	T																						
Michele Savin		82			85																					
Pat Fletcher		82																								
Rosemary Elt			83																							
Margaret Welch				Ch	T																					
Mary Russell					85	86																				
Eunice Davies			V	C	Ch																					
Joan Vessey				V	C																					
Olwen Lewis				S	VS	C	C	88																		
Mary Detheridge						T																				
Pat Jones					S	S																				
Judy Roe					86	V	C	C												P	P					
Dot Hammond						87	S			V	C	93											P	P		
Beattie North							T	T	T	T	T															
Joan Ashmore						87	88			91	V	C	94													
Edna Baker						87	88	89	90	91																
Joan Weston							88	89	V	C	92						97					P	P			
Sheila Attwood						87	V	V	C	91																
Val Craddock							T																			
Barbara Lawrence								S	S	S	S	S	VS	C	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
Jackie Evitts								89							95	96		V	C	C	01					
Pauline Wilmott								89																		
Jo Williams									90	91	92	93	94	95												
Pauline Everitt									90									98	99	00						
Dot Hewitt									90	91	92	93	94	95												
Ann Langford											92	93							99							
Annette Barnett											92	V	C				97								05	
Val McCready												T	T	VT	C	T										
Jill Yates												93														
Sheila Northam													94	95	96											
Lesley Hall													94	S	VT	C	C	99			01	02	03	T	T	
Rita Sidaway													94					97								
Berit Remstedt															95	96	97									
Bethan Wilson															95						00	01	02	03	V	C
Vicky Wailes																96	97	98	V	V	C					
Rita Shakespeare																96										
Glenda Round																		T	T	T	T					
Sheila Evans																		98	99	00						
Una Thornton																		98	99	00	01	02				
Pat McGuinness																		98	99							
Linda Walker																		98	99	00	V	C	C	04		
Pam Nash																				00	01	V	V	C	05	
Pauline Hackett																					01	T	T	T	05	
Undine Yates																						01	02	03	S	S
Maureen Watkins																						01	02	03	04	
Debbie Thorneycroft																							02	03	04	
Celia Shakespeare																							02	03	04	
Debbie LeQuesne																								03	04	05
Ele Rea																								04	V	
Lesley Lambert																								04	05	
C - Lady Captain																										
V - Vice Captain																										
P - Ladies President																										
Ch - Chairman																										
S - Secretary																										
T - Treasurer																										

### PRESIDENTS

1994 – 1996	-	B. L. COZENS
1997 – 1999	-	A. GRIMSHAW
2000 – 2002	-	G. F. YARDLEY
2003 – 2005	-	R. HAMMOND

### CAPTAINS

1981	K. SMITH	1994	D. GREEN
1982	G. THOMPSON	1995	M. S. LOWE
1983	T. A. CLARK	1996	C. BARNETT
1994/5	B. L. COZENS	1997	M. RICHMOND
1986	G. F. YARDLEY	1998	J. DARBY
1987	A. GRIMSHAW	1999	P. A. ABBISS
1988	C. V. HADLEY	2000	C. R. DAY
1989	J. B. WESTON	2001	R. D. SIMS
1990	R. J. ROE	2002	W. N. GRAY
1991	D. J. WAUGH	2003	E. SMITH
1992	J. D. ROE	2004	M. J. WILDE
1993	C. DUNN	2005	P. J. COOPER

### HON SECRETARY

1980 – 1989	-	V. C. LEWIS
1990 – Present	-	G. F. YARDLEY

### TREASURER

1981 - 1982	-	D. CRADDOCK
1983	-	A. STANLEY
1984	-	C. V. HADLEY
1985 – 1987	-	C. BAKER
1988	-	J. B. WESTON
1989	-	R. D. SIMS
1990 – 1997	-	J. B. WESTON
1998 – Present	-	R. D. SIMS

In the early days, The Committee had a separate Chairman who chaired committee meetings rather than the Captain.

B. Keep	1980 – 1982
G. F. Yardley	1983 - 1986

## LADIES SECTION

### LADY PRESIDENT

1999 – 2001	-	Judy ROE
2002 – 2003	-	Joan WESTON
2004 – 2005	-	Dot HAMMOND

### LADY CAPTAIN

1981	Joyce BAKER	1994	Annette BARNETT
1982	Joyce BAKER	1995	Barbara LAWRENCE
1983	Mary HIPKISS	1996	Val McCREADY
1984/5	Eunice DAVIES	1997	Lesley HALL
1986	Olwen LEWIS	1998	Lesley HALL
1987	Olwen LEWIS	1999	Jackie EVITTS
1988	Judy ROE	2000	Jackie EVITTS
1989	Judy ROE	2001	Vicky MOORE
1990	Sheila ATTWOOD	2002	Linda WALKER
1991	Joan WESTON	2003	Linda WALKER
1992	Dot HAMMOND	2004	Pam NASH
1993	Joan ASHMORE	2005	Bethan WILSON

### LADY SECRETARY

1981	-	Gwen BIRD
1982	-	Michèle SAVIN
1983	-	June FAIRMAN
1984	-	Olwen LEWIS
1985 – 1986	-	Pat JONES
1987	-	Dot HAMMOND
1988 – 1994	-	Barbara LAWRENCE
1995	-	Lesley HALL
1996 – 2002	-	Barbara LAWRENCE
2003 – 2005	-	Undine YATES

In the early days, the Ladies Section had a separate Chairman who chaired committee meetings rather than the Lady Captain.

1981-1982	Margaret Alford
1983	Joyce Baker
1984	Margaret Welch
1985	Eunice Davies

### SENIOR'S CAPTAIN

1987/8	J. WILLETTS	1997	R. COOMBE
1988/9	C. BAKER	1998	R. E. BARWICK
1989/90	C. BAKER	1999	R. E. BARWICK
1990	C. R. KENDRICK	2000	W. J. MASTERS
1991	B. G. TOWNSEND	2001	R. GROCOCK
1992	B. G. TOWNSEND	2002	D. WAUGH
1993	G. A. ADAMS	2003	J MOORE
1994	W. J. MASTERS	2004	R MORLEY
1995	W. J. MASTERS	2005	A. C. S. GRIFFITHS
1996	C. R. KENDRICK		

### JUNIOR'S CAPTAIN

1991	-	Gary KILMISTER
1992	-	Andrew WOODUS
1993	-	Richard CARRADINE*
		Nigel COOPER
1994	-	Nigel COOPER
1995	-	Peter GWILLIAM
1996	-	Lee NASH
1997	-	Justin DONOGHUE
1998	-	James FISHER
1999	-	Peter POWELL
2000	-	Peter POWELL
2001	-	Ben WITHERS
2002	-	Graham HILL ) Joint Gary HILL ) Joint
2003	-	Chad WILLIAMS
2004	-	Michael WAUGH
2005	-	Chris TOWNSEND

\* Following the tragic death of Richard Carradine, Nigel Cooper took over as Junior's Captain for the remainder of 1993 and followed on through 1994.

# Head Green Keeper

1980 – 1987	Ray Edwards
1987 – 1990	Neil Dykes
1991 – Present	Brian Stockton

## Plant List - April 2005

Purchase Date	Item	Notes
Left Over from Clent Villa Farm	1 David Brown Tractor 1 International Tractor  1 Massey Furguson Tractor 1 Votex Rotary Mower 1 Three tonne trailer 1 Weekes two tonne trailer	Sold 1990 Sold to Snitterton Airfield 1995 To drag launch winch for gliders Sold 1998 for £2,000 Sold 1994 for £250 Home made – still in use Still in use
1980 – 1991	1 Toro GM3 c/w Greens & tee units 1 Toro 70 Banks Mower 1 Toro Sparton 5 gang mower 1 Ransome Sportcutter 5 gang mower	Used for semi -rough Used for fairways
4.10.1988	1 Toro Reelmaster 216 (Petrol) 1 John Deere 755 Compact Tractor 1 Modus-T Slitter 1 Modus-T Spreader 1 Modus Brush 1 Sisis Tractor Mounted Slitter 1 Kemp Wood Chipper 1 Brouwer Turf Cutter	Scrapped 1997, beyond repair Sold part ex 17.06.1996 Still in use Sold part ex 1998 Still in use  Sold part ex 1998 Still in use
27.06.1991	Allman Farmer Sprayer	Bought for £750. Still in use
15.07.1991	Jacobson Ranger Hydraulic Gangs	Bought for £9,600 for fairways Still in use, occasionally
11.05.1992	Ford 2120 Tractor Unit	Bought for £10,500. Still in use
26.05.1992	S/H Series III Land Rover 4 X 4	Bought for £2,600
12.06.1992	John Deere 60” Rotary Deck	Bought for £1,600. Still in use
12.05.1994	Toro GM 3000 D without cutters	Bought for £10,566. Still in use
14.04.1994	S/H Ransome Auto Certes Pedestrian Mower	Bought for £500. Still in use



12.08.1994	S/H Ford 1910 Tractor c/w F/Loader	Bought for £6,600. Sold part ex 23.03.2000
01.06.1995	Toro Reelmaster 216D	Bought for £10,805. Still in use
11.04.1995	S/H Rousseau Flail Mower. Tractor Mounted, Long Arm	Bought for £2,700. For cutting ditches
25.07.1995	3 Toro Green Cutting Units	Bought for £2,200. Still in use
28.11.1995	Robin Dagger Decompactor	Bought for £2,300. Still in use
17.06.1996	John Deere 855 Compact Tractor	Bought for £7,747. Still in use
31.10.1996	S/H Richard Long Flail Mower	Bought for £4,100. Still in use
18.12.1996	S/H Toro 3000D to replace Toro GM3	Bought for £6,500. Still in use
19.12.1996	S/H Ransome Auto Certes Pedestrian Mower for Greens.	Bought for £500. Still in use
15.06.1998	S/H Sabo Roberine 1900D with new Cutting Heads, for Fairways	Bought for £23,500 Part Ex Still in use
03.09.1999	S/H Land Rover 110 V8 4 x 4 LPG	Bought for £3,500. Still in use
25.01.2000	Ex Demo, 3 Thatch Away Verti-Cutter	Bought for £2,500
23.03.2000	S/H Iseki 537 c/w Lewis Front Loader and Back Hoe	Bought for £10,200. Still in use
29.01.2001	Ex Demo Toro Reelmaster 3100 Side Winder. Part Ex	Bought for £12,400. Still in use
28.07.2001	S/H Ransome 5 Gang Magna Mower To replace Ransome Sport Cutters	Bought for £500
30.10.2003	Toro GM 3250 Greens Mower	Bought for £18,900. Still in use
13.01.2005	Ex Demo Trailer, 3 Tonne High Tip	Bought for £3,500. Still in use
21.03.2005	Ex Demo Toro Ground Master 4500 Rotary Rough Cutter	Bought for £28,900. Still in use

Plus numerous Petrol Powered Hand Tools, Hover Mowers, Leaf Blowers, Strimmers and Rotary Mowers purchased since 1991. Prior to that date there was only one old Flymo and one Mountfield Strimmer.

26.05.1993	Rewire & New Control Panel for the Irrigation System	Cost £7,000
28.04.1997	Extension of the Irrigation System to the Tees	Cost £11,595

## Seniors Section

By Richard Grocock

We are all, hopefully, going to get there eventually, so it would be remiss not to include a chapter in this history on quite arguably the strongest section in the club – the seniors.

In 1987 a group of retired members including Roy Savin, George Hill, Vernon Lewis, Charles Baker, Lawson North, Sid Boulter and Ray Kendrick formed a mid-week section to play social and competitive golf amongst their contemporaries. The section was initially set up for members over 55 years of age and required a subscription of £5 per year. The first committee, which was captained by Mr. J. Willetts and had George Hill as secretary, organised competitions and friendly matches with the Seniors section of other clubs. Amongst the first clubs to reciprocate were Churchhill & Blakedown, Harborne, Little Lakes, Kings Norton, The Vale, Swindon and Gay Hill. In the early days it was often necessary to “borrow” members from Churchill to make up the numbers.

The match versus Harborne is played for the Jack Northam Trophy which was presented by Sheila Northam in memory of Jack who died in tragic circumstances on the way to a golf match; both Jack and Sheila were members at Harborne and Hagley.

Gradually the section gathered strength and the early ‘90’s saw the introduction of prestigious competitions and events – the first Seniors’ Open competitions, the Seniors Captain’s Shield and the President’s Trophy (presented by Club President Mr. Brian Cozens). The less formal but highly competitive Monday and Friday draw saw better ball teams battle for the 50p stake (initially 30p but raised with inflation) – these days did, and still do, provide the glue which holds the section together.

At the same time formal social events such as Senior's Captain’s day and the Senior’s Christmas Party (widely regarded as the best club evening of the year) reflected the growth and confidence of the section.

In late 1993 a trophy for veterans over 70 years of age, perhaps as a response to an increasing number of “young” retirees, was introduced by Sid Boulter and Arthur Tovey.

In 1999 the minimum age was raised to 60 years and the £5 subscription discontinued. The section now included all members over 60 and the highly popular “away days” became more competitive with the introduction of the annual Senior’s Captain v Secretary Trophy for the Gerry Adams Cup and the Tony Griffiths trophy for individuals – these events regularly attracting more than 50 participants including some under 60 “trainee senior” members who come along to enjoy the unique ambience of the senior’s section.

Over the years the section’s status has grown and its involvement in Club administration is considerable – the Senoir’s Captain is afforded a place at Club

Committee meetings and individual seniors are heavily involved in club events fulfilling duties as starters, course marshals etc.

At the end of the first 25 years of the Club the Seniors Section is now over 100 strong – competitions include 10 medals, 2 major knockouts, seven major trophies and a Seniors and Mixed Seniors Open – the section looks forward to the next 25 years with confidence.

**Trophies: -**

Golfer of the Year  
Scratch Championship  
Charles Baker Trophy  
Presidents Trophy  
Captains Shield  
Boulter/Tovey Vets Trophy  
W. J. Masters Trophy (pairs)

**Current Team Matches (2005): -**

Sandwell Park  
Harborne  
Wharton Park  
Churchill & Blakedown  
North Worcestershire  
Worfield  
Cleobury Mortimer  
Handsworth  
Stourbridge  
Penn  
The Vale  
Halesowen  
Bewdley Pines



## **Hagley Golf & Country Club wins prestigious 'Rules of Golf' competition at St Andrews**

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2002 will always be a special day in the history of the Hagley Golf & Country Club when, representing the Midlands Region, they won the *Royal & SunAlliance* 'Rules of Golf Quiz' at the Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews.

The win was outstanding, as the competition was open to all golf clubs in Britain & Ireland. In all over 460 teams of 4 golfers competed to win the prize with the six regional winners travelling to St Andrews for the finals in the revered 'Big Room' at the R & A headquarters:

Hagley beat Tidworth Garrison in a very tense final by 4 points, after beating Flackwell Heath and County Meath in a three-way semi-final.



**The Hagley Team of Ray Powell, Mark Lowe, Colin Day and Graham Yardley. Accompanied by Club Captain Neil Gray (Standing).**

Because of the competition rules, this winning combination had to be split up so 'A' and 'B' teams were formed from 2003. Over the nine years of entering the competition Hagley has the unique record of County/Area Champions 6 times Regional finalists 3 times as well as Regional and National Champions in 2002.

Other members who have represented the club in this unique competition are; Clive Hadley, Steve Smith, Bob Hall, Lesley Hall, John Withers, Keith Gibbons, Neil Gray, Colin Dunn & Andrew Lowe.

## Quiz Team Record Sheet

### 1996

1st Round	Cox Moore Woods
2nd Round	Fulford Heath
3rd Round	Redditch
County Semi-Final	Hatchford Brook
County Final	Broadway
Regional Semi Final	Stone
Regional Final	Frodsham (Lost on tie break)

### 1998

1st Round	Bye
2nd Round	Shirley
3rd Round	Sutton Coldfield
County Semi-Final	Kenilworth
County Final	Cleave Cloud
Regional Semi Final	Redditch
Regional Final	Stone (Lost 28-24)

### 2000

1st Round	Kidderminster (conceded)
2nd Round	Dudley (conceded)
3rd Round	Kenilworth
County Semi-Final	Cold Ashby
County Final	Cotswold Hills
Regional Semi Final	Stoke Rochford (Lost 33 -36)

### 2002

1st Round	Cocks Moors Woods
2nd Round	Hatchford Brook
3rd Round	Kenilworth
County Semi-Final	Sandwell
County Final	Arcscott
Regional Semi Final	Tewksbury Park
Regional Final	Stoke Rochford
National Semi Final	Flackwell Heath *
National Semi Final	County Meath *
National Final	Tidworth Garrison

Note: \* 6 teams reached the National Finals.  
Three played in each semi-final.

### 2003 - Team 'A'

1st Round	Wishaw
2nd Round	Sandwell
3rd Round	Little Aston
County Semi-Final	Hagley 'B'
County Final	Oswestry
Regional Semi Final	Leominster
Regional Final	Gog Magog (lost 40 - 36)

### 2004 - Team 'A'

1st Round	Mosely (Conceded)
2nd Round	Hatchford Brook (Conceded)
3rd Round	Hagley 'B' (lost on 4th tie break)
County Semi-Final	
County Final	
Regional Semi Final	
Regional Final	

### 1997

1st Round	Edgbaston
2nd Round	Walmley
3rd Round	Oakridge
County Semi-Final	Fulford Heath
County Final	Cleave Cloud (Lost on tie-break)
Regional Semi Final	
Regional Final	

### 1999

1st Round	Dudley
2nd Round	Cox Moore Woods
3rd Round	Droitwich
County Semi-Final	Sutton Coldfield
County Final	Broadway (Lost 28-26)
Regional Semi Final	
Regional Final	

### 2001

1st Round	Bridgenorth
2nd Round	Hagley (B)
3rd Round	Moor Hall
County Semi-Final	Druids Heath (Lost on tie break)
County Final	
Regional Semi Final	

The Great Britain & Ireland	
<b>Rules of Golf Quiz</b>	
<b>CHAMPIONS 2002</b>	
<b>HAGLEY GOLF &amp; COUNTRY CLUB</b>	
<b>Graham Yardley</b>	
<b>Mark Lowe</b>	
<b>Colin Day</b>	
<b>Ray Powell</b>	

### 2003 - Team 'B'

1st Round	Bye
2nd Round	Moor Hall (Conceded)
3rd Round	Bramcote
County Semi-Final	Hagley 'A' (lost 35 - 34)
County Final	
Regional Semi Final	
Regional Final	

### 2004 - Team 'B'

1st Round	Sandwell Ladies
2nd Round	Wishaw
3rd Round	Hagley 'A'
County Semi-Final	Little Aston
County Final	Oswestry
Regional Semi Final	Broadway
Regional Final	Gog Magog (Lost 35 - 36)

Note: At the time of going to press the two teams, represented by: -  
Team 'A'; Graham Yardley, Mark Lowe, Bob Hall and Lesley Hall.  
Team 'B'; Ray Powell, Colin Day, John Withers and Colin Dunn.  
have started down the trail of the 2005 Championships - Watch this space.

## Conor Hill



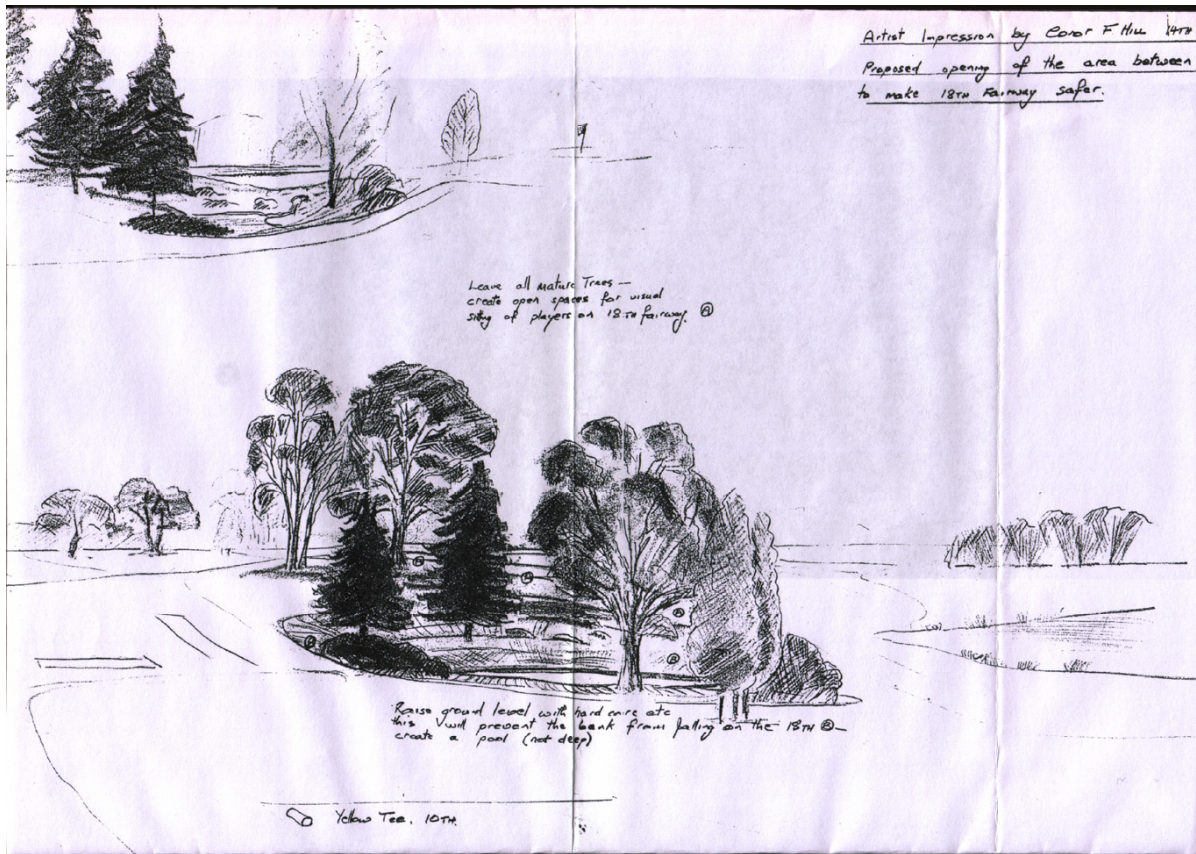
**Conor holding one of his most famous paintings, of the 16<sup>th</sup> tee, 1998**

Annual General Meetings at the Club have not been the same since Conor Hill passed away with cancer in 2002. Conor was one of those special persons who had vision, and was not afraid to come forward with his ideas.

A local man with his own optical business, Conor was also a very good amateur painter, mostly landscapes, and mostly of Hagley Golf Club. It was the author's privilege to have been in the clubhouse reception at exactly the same time as Conor to hand in our application forms for membership, some 12 months before the club actually opened in 1980.

Every year, as regular as clockwork, Conor's letter with accompanying sketch would appear on the Secretary's desk two weeks prior to the AGM. Sketches such as tree planting, bunker layouts, green constructions, clubhouse etc. It was his proposal and sketch put forward at the 1999 AGM that was used for the construction of the pools on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> fairways. His final sketch, for the Clent Hills Room/Hawthorn Restaurant to be 'squared off' by knocking out the bay windows and constructing a conservatory, may well yet come to fruition. Watch this space.

Yes, Conor Hill is sadly missed.



**Vision of the 10<sup>th</sup> Lake, 1999**

Conor's final letter to the AGM, dated 17<sup>th</sup> November 2001.

*Dear Mr. Secretary*

*Sorry to disappoint you but I expect you thought you were not going to receive my annual contribution due to the fact of my illness, and sadly not able to play golf again as it has spread to my spine but my faith is strong.*

*It gives me great joy to know since last years AGM so much has been implemented and I congratulate all committee members and management in achieving their goals.*

*Sadly the 10<sup>th</sup> lake has taken a mammoth time to construct but I am sure this will be a feature of the course and trust that the members' patience will appreciate its value, together with the new pro-shop, millennium flag, improved facilities both in the clubhouse and around the course.*

*It is this 'Fellowship' and understanding that has given me hope, even though I have been unable to attend many functions. I would thank everyone for their support for without this fellowship it would have been extremely difficult to have come this far.*

*May the Fellowship of golf at Hagley long continue?*

*Conor Hill*

# Golf Club Website

By Bob Hall

The website idea was first discussed around the middle of 2000 and was taken up by an enthusiastic Peter Garratt Johnson shortly after his arrival. At the same time the W.U.G.C. circulated a letter to club secretaries, suggesting a likely format for websites. Hon. Sec Graham Yardley asked if we could produce a site along these lines.

Peter registered the domain names with the Internet Golf Club at the Golf Show being held at the N.E.C., confirming his willingness to fund the site.

Although ALL sections of the Club were asked to supply any information that they wanted to see on the site, very little was actually volunteered. “Pulling teeth” is the phrase which comes to mind, and until the arrival of Rod and Pat Taylor, it has remained the job of the webmaster, in the main, to wring content out of the members, with the usual exceptions found in all clubs, to this day.

However the website was ready to go online in March 2001, and, having changed hosts, following a “falling out” is now going from strength to strength with more and more members visiting it. It is also proving a useful tool for advertising with many visitors to the club for wedding receptions and golf societies finding us through the website.

It has been an interesting and pleasurable task to keep the website as topical and readable as possible, and also a useful tool to poke gentle fun at some of our more prominent members. We have expanded the scope of the site well beyond the original requirements of the County Golf Union.

Probably the most useful feature is that from anywhere in the world the members handicap figures are available by logging onto our website.

No apologies are made for the fact that [www.hagleygolfandcountryclub.co.uk](http://www.hagleygolfandcountryclub.co.uk) is a lot of typing – put it in your “favourites”, then you can just click on it.



Webmaster “Mr. Grumpy”



## **The Country Club**

Although this brief history is fundamentally about the beginnings and development of the Hagley Golf Club, its success is totally dependent upon the success and stability of the Country Club facilities, including its function and meeting rooms for corporate days, the restaurant and dining facilities and the squash membership.

The initial success, sudden decline and re-emergence of the social functions has been well documented throughout the book, as has the continued success and popularity of social functions and Sunday lunches. The popularity of squash nationwide has been in decline for many years, and Hagley is no exception. But there is a loyal band of squash players still maintaining their membership at Hagley who continue to be a thorn in the sides of many teams in the local leagues, achieving successes year after year.

This book would be incomplete if it did not mention the sterling work of Roy Savin, Chairman of the Country Club for the past 22 years. Through good times and through bad, Roy was always there to lend a helping hand, even to taking a course on licensing, hence his name is currently over the entrance door. Roy was a tremendous help to the Garratt family through this period and he looks to the future of the club with great optimism.



**Roy Savin – Chairman of the Country Club**

## To The Future

What does the future hold for the Hagley Golf & Country Club? Will the pace and change in the next 25 years be even more traumatic and hectic than the past 25 years? Quite often the secret of looking forward accurately is to look back, but maybe not in this case. Perhaps the improvement in the last five years should be taken as a benchmark.

What we have seen in golf generally is the continual improvement in equipment: golf clubs, hickory to titanium; golf balls 1.62 inches to 1.68 inches diameter; gutta percha to wound balata. We have also seen the continual improvement in the player – bigger, stronger and living longer. Add to this global warming and climate shift, and take into account Euro legislation and what have we got to look forward to? Well, first of all look at America, for what happens there more often than not transfers to these shores a few years later. Country Clubs, well we are half way there aren't we? All we need to do is add a few more facilities – gymnasium, beauty parlour etc., etc., with the golf course having extensive water features and, of course, buggies for all. What about that, Car park to Zimmer Park to Buggy Park?

The demand will be there, particularly as the average age of members continues to rise and the will to play at a greater and greater age continues. I have pushed for a buggy track around the entire course for some years, as the desire for 12 months golf continues to grow alongside the age of the members and the increase in the use of powered trolleys and buggies. It will come, it just takes time, and of course money. A gymnasium, well the younger ladies may push for this as the 'keep fit' age is upon us, but it does seem a bit bizarre having a quick workout then taking a buggy onto the course, as does a quick shampoo before going onto the first tee in a force eight gale. With an ageing membership, a bowling green may seem more appropriate, or with the increase in lakes, angling, if you can find a way for the participants to dodge the wayward golf shot. Then we could have a new honours board in the clubhouse "largest trout"?

As for the golf course, I can see the increase in lakes to continue both in number and size, and the tree-planting programme to progress until the course will echo to the sound of ball striking wood even more than on the local cricket grounds. Some greens will have to be re-laid to cure the settlement over these early years and the grass will continue to grow, as ever.

Leaving the course we look at the clubhouse. For sure this will change over the coming years, changing facilities will no doubt improve, better use of clubrooms and who knows? Conor Hill's vision of a conservatory off the Clent Hills room may well transpire. What is for sure, we must cater more and more for the growing trend of eating out and social entertaining?

This leaves the membership. Equal subscriptions to match equal voting rights? Looking to the future this seems inevitable with Euro legislation. What is certain is

the emphasis on junior golf in the past few years is the way forward. Undoubtedly it is to the young that Hagley Golf and Country Club must look for its future. With the current junior membership standing at sixty two, ten of which are junior girls, past and present committees can look with pride at what has been achieved and with these youngsters in mind, I can only emphasise what has already been said many times in this publication – **the future at Hagley looks bright, very bright indeed.**



**Author - Graham F Yardley**

**Offices**

Chairman of the Golf Committee	1983 – 1986
Captain	1986
Hon Secretary	1990 – Present
President	2000 – 2002
W.U.G.C. County Executive Council	2005 - Present

**Honours**

Club Champion, Gross, The Garratt Salver	1984
Club Champion, Net, Princess of Wales Trophy	2001
Member of the Rules of Golf Quiz, G.B. & Ireland Team Champions	2002





**Tony Hammond – President 2003 – 2005**

I consider it an honour to be asked to write the last page of this incredible history of the first 25 years of Hagley Golf & Country Club, but I do find it difficult as everything has already been said. I was one of the founder members of the club and after reading this outstanding record many memories have come flooding back, some good and some not so good but I believe that Graham has covered them all adequately.

The foundations have been laid and we all look forward to continuing improvement and success in the years ahead.

Tony Hammond