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Gents

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Mon 10th July
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Gents (50+)

Thu 20th July
Ladies Scramble
Ladies

Sun 30th July
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visit our website: www.yorkshiregolfer.net

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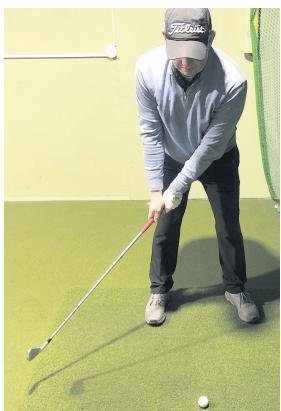


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WAKEY'S WONDER A sponsor's invitation sees 'new boy' Bradbury take the DP Tour by storm

Dan's suddenly a man with a plan

If the secret to sporting success involves seizing those rare golden opportunities when they raise their heads, then Wakefield's Dan Bradbury has catapulted himself from the back of the crowd to golf's top table.

Week one of the DP World Tour 2023 schedule saw twin events with the Australian PGA in Brisbane and the Joburg Open in South Africa.

With a number of big names taking a breather after a gruelling year – the 2022 schedule only finished the previous week – the recent Florida State University Masters student and world no. 1,397 was gifted a surprise sponsor's exemption.

Seize the day? The 23-year-old grabbed his chance by the throat and squeezed the life out of it, delivering a wire-to-wire victory around Houghton Golf Club in Johannesburg, his closing 67 wrapping up a -21 tournament and 3-stroke win over Finn Sami Valimaki.

If the £135,000 first prize was a gift from the Gods, a two-year tour exemption and roll-up at this summer's Open Championship at Hoylake is the nectar to toast his good fortunes.

As the affable Wakefield Golf Club member said afterwards: "I don't know what to say other than this is completely life-changing."

"I got nowhere in Q-school, not even past the first stage, and without this I would have nowhere to play."

"But now, in the space of a week, I have a card on the DP World Tour. Incredible! It's just so much pressure



taken off my back."

Pressure from LIV Golf means DP World Tour players are now also guaranteed £140,000 if they take part in 15 events, so the financial pressure is off for now.

"Hopefully I make the most of it," he added. "I brought my mum [Sandra] because her boss said she could take the week off, but my dad had to stay home to look after my sister's dogs. I thought it would only be a week away, but now I'm in next week [the South African Open] and I haven't any clothes left. These are good problems to have."

The boost to the confidence of a newly crowned tour winner seems clear to see. Bradbury picked up cheques in the South African Open and Alfred Dunhill Championship, making the cut but finishing well down the field.

At the HSBC Championship in Abu Dhabi however, his fortunes were literally up and down – and then simply ace!

An excellent second round of -5 saw him safely through to the weekend, but he gave them all back the next day to sit last of the remaining players.

Out in the first group on Sunday, he ended up -3 to bank a healthy €23,000, but more importantly he holed his tee-shot at the 17th with a six iron from 201 yards at the penultimate hole to secure the keys to a beautiful



HAPPY DAYS – Dan lifts the Joburg Open on a sponsors' invite (left) and above, accepts the keys to his new Genesis car after holing out on the 17th in Abu Dhabi

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

birdies. I saw the pin over there and jokingly said 'I'll go for the car'. I just hit a great shot and don't think I could have hit it any better.

"The car's amazing. The shuttles that we've had this week for the hotel, they've been Genesis and they're superb. They're really, really nice cars. So it's nice to hold the key right here."

From there it was onto the

Hero Dubai Desert Classic, where a second round -9 63 put him out with eventual winner Rory McIlroy for the weekend.

He started the last round in joint second place, but a disappointing +4 left him in the middle of the field alongside fellow Tykes Marcus Armitage and Dan Gavins. And while Gavins won the next week in the UAE, Bradbury again made the cut.

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A season he'll NEVER forget

Huddersfield's Dylan Shaw-Radford won't forget his 2022 campaign for a while. The 17-year-old had already had a stellar season before he flew down to Portugal's Quinta do Lago South Course for the final of the Justin Rose Telegraph Junior Championships in November.

DSR was one of a dozen boys competing for what is widely regarded as the 'unofficial junior major', alongside the girls' finals, the select few having progressed from a starting field of 17,000.

Already under his belt for 2022 were the Scottish Boys Open, the Carris Trophy and the Sir Henry Cooper Trophy, themselves just the latest glories accumulating in the Shaw-Radford home.

As such, it wasn't a surprise that he led by 3-strokes over Kent's Jack Lee going into the final day of the 54-hole tournament, with Garforth's Jake Wallis in pursuit and Cookridge Hall's Habib Khan also faring well.

The title was far from being in the bag however and despite Shaw-Radford cruising four clear after

four, Lee went on a tear, reeling off four birdies in seven holes from the 5th and when the leader three-putted the 16th, there was suddenly only one in it.

Cometh the hour, cometh the young man. A supreme five-iron from 230 yards on the par-five 17th to 12 feet ensured Shaw-Radford matched Lee's birdie to remain one clear and when Lee sliced his tee-shot on the 18th, he was left to close it out. A 70 gave the Fixby lad an eight-under total and a two-shot win, with four further back to Wallis.

Afterwards, Shaw-Radford reflected on his big wins earlier in the year which he said were "in quite similar circumstances".

"So those experiences gave me the confidence I needed, knowing that I'd got it done before. Of course, this means a great deal. Just look down the names who have won it – Justin Rose, himself, Andrew Coltart and a fellow Yorkshireman in Matt Fitzpatrick, 10 years ago. What a way to finish 2022."

Sophie Fullbrook began the day

six clear of Rebekah Gardner, but this pair of plus-five handicappers were acutely aware from what came to pass at the English Girls' Championship in July.

There Fullbrook shot a 62 to over-haul Gardner's 10-shot lead in the final round and there was obviously a sense of revenge in the air. In the event Fullbrook's 74 gave her a two-shot win on two under.

One of Dylan Shaw-Radford's first big events of the coming season won't actually be on a golf course – on Thursday March 2nd he will be at the Manchester Hilton for the annual England Golf Awards ceremony, back in person again after the pandemic.

Hosted by broadcaster, journal-

ist and passionate golfer Clare Balding, DSR is shortlisted for Performance of the Year alongside the England Women's Team, Lottie Woad and John Gough.

In the County of the Year category, Yorkshire Ladies are nominated alongside Bedfordshire and Hampshire Ladies while Ruth Goodwin is shortlisted in the Volunteer of the Year category. Fulford's Alexandra Bonfield is also recognised in the shortlist for Young Volunteer of the Year.

Tyke quartet in England squad

Four Yorkshire golfers are named in the 15-man England squad for the season.

Flying the white rose flag are Dylan Shaw-Radford, Doncaster's Josh Berry, George Ash of Hallowes, plus Hallamshire's Barclay Brown, who is one of the four overseas squad members, being still at college in California.

The squad is a mix of youth and experience with eight of them having played European Championships at either boys or men's level in 2022.

Brown played the 150th Open Championship at St Andrews and was in the victorious GB&I St Andrew's Trophy winning side against Europe in Slovakia.

The emerging talent of Shaw-Radford, Frank Kennedy, Harley Smith, Berry, Josh Hill and Tyler Weaver, all represented GB&I boys in the Jacques Leglise Trophy and took England to a silver medal at the European Championships in 2022.

The squad's new head coach is Rob Watts, although Graham Walker from The Oaks will still lend support.

"It's a privilege to take the men's squad forward into 2023," Watts said: "Building on the foundations Graham Walker has put in place over several years, we have a blend of youth and experience in the squad and we'll be working hard to challenge for the World and European titles next year."

Berry and Shaw-Radford featured in a six-man England team that played the Men's Octagonal at Costa Ballena, Spain, at the end of January. Spain won, while England pipped Ireland 5-4 to take third spot.



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New head pro at Hickleton 'learned from the very best'

By Chris Stratford

When Luke Allen decided to "roll the dice" and leave his job as a coach at the world-renowned Peter Cowen Golf Academy, the number came up for the members of Hickleton as well as him.

The former Lindrick assistant landed his first post as a head professional at the Doncaster club, bringing a wealth of energy and experience to the role that he hopes will help elevate it to a position as one of the county's "premium-end" products.

The 33-year-old, who at 17 was already an assistant at Kilton Forest, stayed for 10 years under the wing of John King at Lindrick before spending four years as one of Pete Cowen's coaches at his academy in Rotherham.

Now he is at the head of the Hickleton helm, enthused by the thought of using knowledge gained under King and Cowen to help the team improve all aspects of life on Lidget Lane.

"I would say John is probably one of the best club pros in the country and you couldn't really work for anyone better -

and at a prestigious golf club like Lindrick too," says Allen.

"In the four years I was with Pete's academy, I was mentored by Nick Huby, who had been working for Pete for 17 years, and I also got mentored by Pete, so – for me – I'd got the best coaches on the planet mentoring me having had one of the best club pros in the country in John mentoring me."

Working at the academy helped satte Allen's appetite for coaching, but he missed immersing himself in the daily management of a golf club. He was also struggling to find the life balance that would enable him to spend more time with his daughter Matilda as she approaches her sixth birthday.

"There was also a part of me that felt I had a skill set that I wasn't using and I felt if I didn't use it I was probably going to lose it," adds Allen, who for years has been one of the pivotal administrators underpinning the hugely successful Yorkshire Challenge and Heathland Classic pairs events.

"I loved the coaching side and being mentored by Pete and Nick and it was a



Looking forward to the challenge – new man at Hickleton GC, Luke Allen

tough decision. 'Do I move or do I stay?' and sometimes you've just got to roll the dice."

He has replaced Ashley Lerigo, now general manager at Rotherham, having been impressed by Hickleton's plans for development.

"I knew some of the members here, I'd coached quite a few in the past, and I'd played here quite a bit. It's an unbelievable summer course, as good as any you'll play.

"We have an outgoing member-

ship, very vibrant, it's good socially, and they all get involved. The competitions are well supported.

"We're getting a separate teaching bay, and have three or four projects going forward that will develop the coaching facilities, the short game area. We're also improving the bar and kitchen."

Allen has also implemented a monthly free teaching clinic for members, with the aid of his assistant Max Whittaker, teaching

pro and short game specialist Jak Lee, and mind factor performance coach Oliver Whittaker.

"My strapline for Hickleton is 'the most inclusive golf club in Yorkshire' because it is. People who come here will feel welcome, they'll not feel out of place. The clubhouse is open to visitors, you can come in and just use the restaurant, you can come in and have just Sunday lunch, you can come in and have a pint. That's the USP for Hickleton."



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LIFE SAVERS Burstwick staff and members on hand to save heart attack victim

Member ‘brought back to life’

Any golfers who remotely question the value of having trained first-aiders at the club, plus the now ubiquitous defibrillator on site, might want to spare a thought for Burstwick Golf member Steve Fletcher.

It was in November when Steve, 68, a well-known member of the Burstwick seniors, suffered a cardiac arrest

on the 6th hole just after 11am. The club's head green-keeper Mark Lamplough - a trained first-aider - was luckily nearby and after running to Steve rang club General Manager Alan Key to bring the defibrillator from the

clubhouse and call 999.

Realising that Steve had no pulse, Mark began CPR while fellow senior and ex-doctor Steve Lees was able to help with the initial CPR, and then Mark Carrick stepped in to give rescue breaths and give Steve a rest, all while greenkeeper Mark continued with chest compressions.

Alan Key arrived with the defibrillator while at the same time using the invaluable

'What Three Words' app on his phone to give the emergency services their exact location. After two shocks Steve's heart restarted and the paramedics arrived to get him into the ambulance.

After the patient was taken to ICU and able to recover at Castle Hill Hospital, then at home, Burstwick GM Key was able to reflect on the incident.

"The team at Burstwick are first aid trained, and by chance this happened just one week after we had our three-year refresher training," he said.

"This was a very stressful and shocking ordeal for all that were involved, and those who witnessed the incident. Steve was receiving CPR for around 30 minutes before paramedics arrived."

Speaking to Yorkshire Golfer in January, he passed on the good news that not only is Steve Fletcher well on the road to a full recovery but is in brilliant spirits.

"We're expecting to see Steve back at the club quite soon," he said. "He says he's



Pictured (inset) are the Burstwick greens staff, members and volunteers who have completed Stage-2 of their 'Lungs of Burstwick' project. It has seen 6,500 new trees introduced to the East Yorkshire course, which was designed by acclaimed architect Jonathan Gaunt. "The trees are about us doing something positive for the environment and improving the course aesthetics with better backdrops," said GM Alan Key. "Golfers really shouldn't be hitting their balls in the places we've located the trees!"

feeling great, much better than before he had the heart attack ”

Indeed it was only when Fletcher was treated in hospital that they discovered he had heart disease.

Key said the club wanted to thank everyone who helped

out at the time and offered support. He also stressed the importance of some key factors involved – the first aid training, swift reaction of everyone involved and of course access to the defibrillator which kick started Steve's heart. "These machines are

worth their weight in gold!" he said.

He also highlighted how valuable the emergency services three-word app was, to pinpoint a person's location. "We urge EVERYONE to download this onto their smart phones," he added.

In addition, the club held a CPR training night in January with the help of their own member Mandy Roberts, who works in primary care. Some 40 lady and senior members were shown how to apply CPR and had a training defibrillator to try out.

The image shows a wide-angle view of a golf course under a clear blue sky. In the upper left corner, there is a large, circular crest for 'WORKSOP GOLF CLUB'. The crest features four animals: a lion at the bottom, an owl on the left, a deer above the owl, and a duck on the right. A golf club and ball are positioned behind the animals. Below the crest, the words 'WORKSOP GOLF CLUB' are written in a stylized font. In the upper right corner, there is a red circular logo for 'ENGLAND GOLF' featuring a white four-petaled flower or rose design. The main title 'Worksop Golf Club' is written in a large, bold, dark green serif font across the top center. At the bottom left, there is a small white rectangular badge with a green border that reads 'HIGHLY RECOMMENDED' and has a golf ball icon. The bottom right contains promotional text: 'HOST OF THE 2022 ENGLISH AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP', 'A TOP 200 ENGLAND GOLF COURSE', 'DISCOUNTS FOR LARGE GROUP BOOKINGS, MEAL DEALS, PLUS STAY & PLAY OFFERS', 'The newly refurbished clubhouse is warm and friendly with everything required for members and visitors to enjoy a golfing break', 'PRICES FROM £35pp', and contact information: 'Please contact us for more details – tel 01909 477 731 or email thepro@worksopgolfclub.com', 'www.worksopgolfclub.com', 'Windmill Lane, Worksop, S80 2SQ'.



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- Thursday 13th July: Over 55s Mixed AmAm – £80 per team**
- Friday 28th July: Men's Pairs – £60 per team**
- Sunday 6th August: Mixed Open AmAm – £80 a team**
- Friday 25th August: Men's Team AmAm – £120 per team**
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NEW BOOK Pro shares wisdom on golf – and life One man's story...

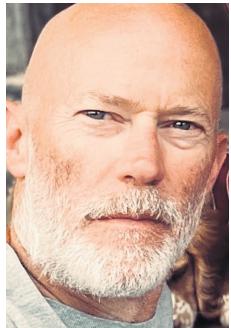
The new PGA professional attached to Whitby Golf Club has rather more than wisdom about the golf swing and ball-striking to offer members.

And it's not just Whitby folk either, because James Ellis-Caird – only recently relocated 'up north' to the Broad Acres – has also gone into the world of publishing.

He's the author of 'The Uncorrected Pleasure of an Old Bladed Putter', a book which went on sale late in 2022.

Ellis-Caird's tome is far less about improving your game than improving your life. It's a whimsical reflection on the many and varied effects and impacts something as simple as swinging a golf club can provide – a personal love letter to the game that captured his heart, illustrated via a variety of anecdotes and insights.

With advice on everything from taking time to smell the roses, and even to abandoning the rules of golf (in certain circumstances!) he shares his personal life journey with

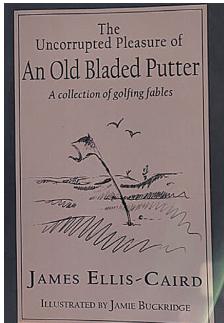


readers through the prism of the game.

James said: "I guess the book is essentially a love letter to golf, revealing something of the beauty, joy and comradeship that I've taken from my golfing life.

"In a quietly revolutionary way the stories depict a vision of golf free from the constraints of convention and expectation while encouraging space for personal expression.

"With an appreciation of nature and the joy of the little things to come to the fore, the



book is a lesson not just for golf, but also perhaps for a quieter, gentler way to live our lives."

So while Whitby's golfers may well find their game improving as they spend time with the new guy in the professional's shop, everyone else can benefit too!

The book can be bought with free Prime next-day delivery at Amazon – just search for James Ellis-Caird. James can also personalise copies if people want to contact him by email at jvecaird@gmail.com.

Pints for Pinder boys need you!



A group of amateur Yorkshire golfers are hoping to raise more than £20,000 for Prostate Cancer UK this summer by holding a special charity golf day in memory of a friend who died from the disease.

Created from a local golf society, the 'Pints for Pinder' group based in South Milford are raising money for the men's charity after one of their founding members Lloyd Pinder was diagnosed with the disease in 2016 and sadly passed away in 2020.

One in eight men are likely to be affected by prostate cancer in the UK during their lifetime but can be cured when it is caught early.

Lloyd's passing drew tributes from many people

including Sky Sports presenter Jeff Stelling who remarked on Lloyd's passion for sport and devotion to his wife and two daughters after meeting him on a March for Men event.

Pints for Pinder is a charity golf day now in its third year and is returning to Darrington Golf Club on Friday May 12. Individuals or companies can sign-up to take part, sponsor a hole or simply buy raffle tickets from £10 for a chance of winning one of the many prizes available.

Raffle prizes include the top prize of a three-night stay at The Duke of Gordon Hotel in the Scottish Highlands, to golf lessons, equipment, LNER train tickets and gift vouchers for a selection of

popular bars and restaurants.

Andy Hutchinson, one of the organisers, said: "Lloyd's tragic death was such a shock to all who knew him and demonstrated the need to do more to support charities like Prostate Cancer UK."

"Our 'Pints for Pinder' events in the last two years have raised more than £24,000 so we're hoping to add to this with this year's event."

All the details on how to take part or help can be found at www.pintsforpinder.com.

Event organisers wish to thank Club Insure, Lloyd's former employer, for once again being the main sponsor and the incredible generosity from the local community in lending their support.



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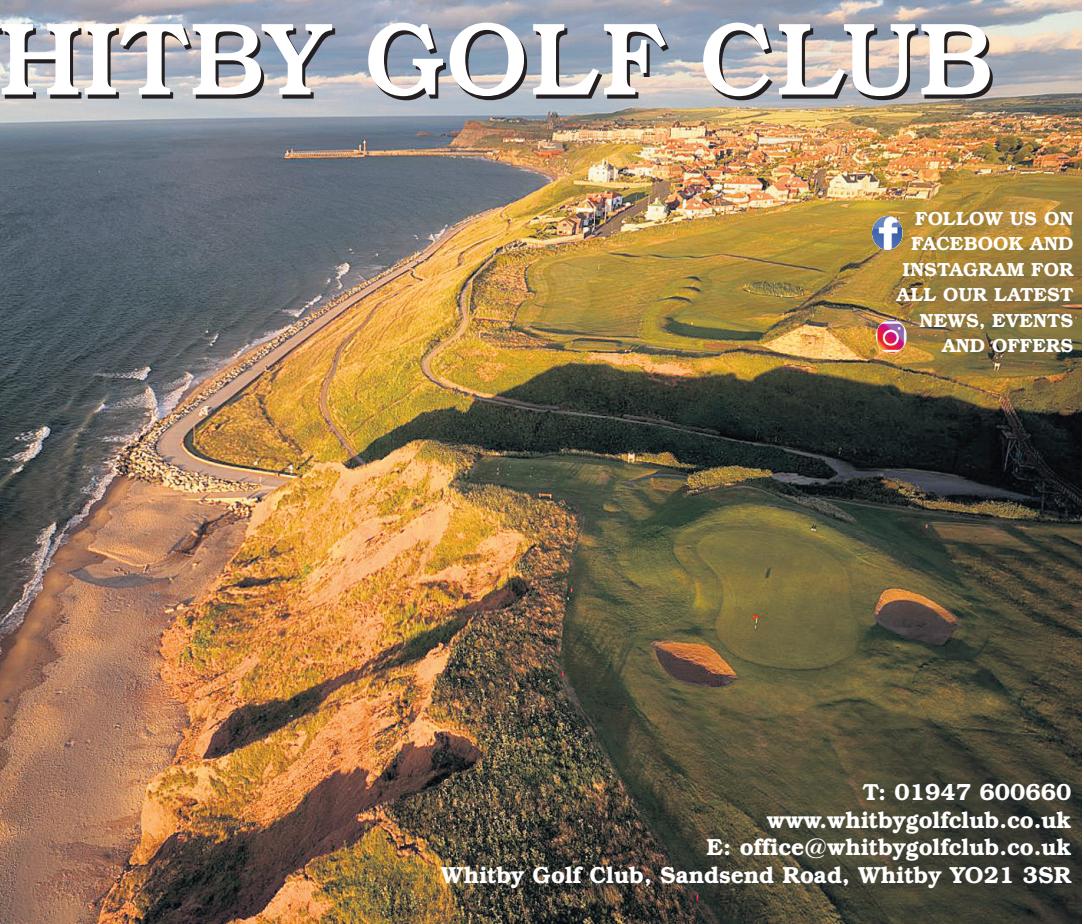
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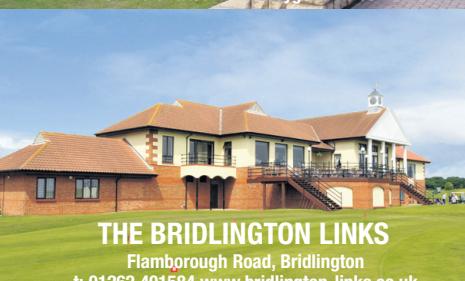
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HAPPY DAYS Golf spans the ages at Queensbury Golf Club

A queen and a princess!

Golf really is a game for all ages and at Queensbury Golf Club there is living proof of that. January saw the club celebrate two of its members' birthdays, with just a 'small' margin of 83 years between them.

While little Charlotte Hird had already been spotted as an emerging talent at county level – she only turned seven on January 10 – the 'queen' of Queensbury, Pat Holcroft, a club member for 71 years, turned 90 on January 6.

Not only is Pat still playing golf, she is still winning. Her latest trophy was this past year in the Dora Ingham Trophy which the club plays for charity and this year was played as a mixed greensome.

The ladies section held a party for Pat at the club and her family organised a surprise party for her on the Sunday. It really was a surprise as Pat was blindfolded on her way to the venue and is still getting over her party weekend.

During her 71 years at the club Pat has seen the whole of the course layout change. She was at the opening of the function room extension in April 1965 and celebrated a few New Year's parties including winning the fancy dress one year as 'Dusty Bin'.

She used to catch the bus in order to play (before she could drive) and her love of the game has seen her reach a very respectable 16-handicap at one stage.

She was Lady Captain twice, in 1971 and 1972 and Lady President in 1989. She has



also been handicap secretary and played in many a team match over the years – most recently winning her team matches at Fixby, Skipton and Keighley just a few years ago.

Pat has had two holes in ones, both at Queensbury on the 3rd and 6th holes.

Lady Captain Linda Marshall said of the pair: "Whilst Pat remains our club's inspiration, little Charlotte Hird is our pride and joy. We see her many days with her dad, Simon, racing up and down the fairways with a swing we all envy."

"The best thing about watching Charlotte play – apart from her demon chipping – is the smile she always has on her face."

Charlotte started golfing at five-years-old



when she joined Queensbury. She then also joined Huddersfield Golf Club where she receives coaching from the professional, Alex Keighley.

Charlotte has been playing in competitions in both the Northern Junior tour and YLCGA – and even got a mention at the YLCGA AGM in November. At the tender age of six she was chosen for Regular Promising Beginner training with YLCGA and has a lot to look forward to in the upcoming season.

Lady Captain Linda added: "All at Queensbury Golf Club wish both Pat and Charlotte a Happy Birthday and a great year's golfing in 2023."

And so say all of us!

Rotherham GC names new GM

Rotherham Golf Club has announced the appointment of Ashley Lerigo as the new General Manager.

Previously General Manager at Hickleton Golf Club, Ashley (pictured) will be responsible for overseeing all aspects of operational functions at the facility, including providing strategic guidance to achieve the club's vision and implementing organisational processes for all divisions.

He joins the management team with a vision and ambition to solidify the club's position as one of the finest golf courses in the north of England and to develop a strategy for the events business which builds on its impressive clubhouse, Thrybergh Hall.

Ash described the appointment as "coming home". As a junior member at Rotherham and Sutcliffe, he was a peer of Danny Willett's. It forged a bond of friendship which endures to this day.

His appointment coincides with the relaunch of the club and the hall's dining program under the management of award-winning head chef, Peter Green.

He said: "I am looking forward to leading a strong team to build on what Rotherham Golf Club has been known for and further enhance the guest experience by creating happy memories for all who visit Thrybergh Hall."





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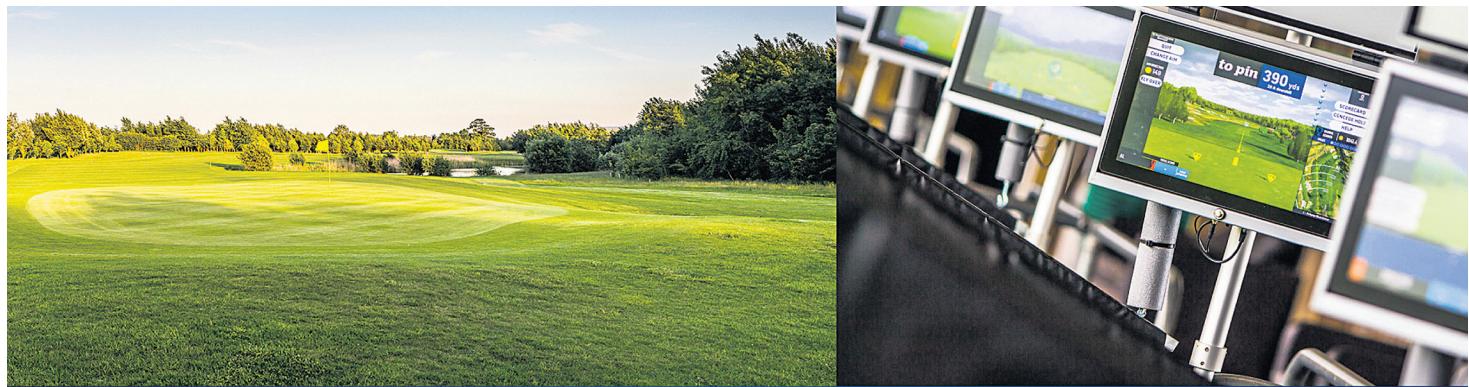
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Belt-tightening economic times or not, English golf tourism is very much still a valued cash-cow, both at home or abroad.

Whether it be Captains' weekends away, casual societies descending on a local club, or heading for the bejewelled coastlines of Europe and beyond, never has the old-fashioned English pound been more welcome. And it's not as though there is any shortage of choice, in any and every direction.

But say 'Spain' and most golfers' minds will turn to the wealth of quality courses dotted along hundreds of miles of Costas, from north of Barcelona to south of Malaga – and no need whatsoever to rub elbows with the thrusting young things infesting such resorts as Benidorm and Lloret de Mar.

Indeed, the Costa del Sol has 70 or so courses, the biggest concentration in Europe, while Murcia, the home to La Manga, boasts of being Spain's warmest region with 300 days of sunshine a year.

Time to pause then and consider what is probably – no definitely – Spain's best-kept golfing secret, and which is somewhat belatedly being promoted to the wider world.

Madrid is one of the world's great cultural cities to visit and sits in the very heart of Spain. If it is somewhat short on sun-loungers, that's because it's not the reason people visit. For the numerous travelling golf tourists heading to Spain however, it wasn't on their radar either.

The Madrid Golf Courses Association comprises 19 courses – and counting – in the greater Madrid area, and the newly-energised group has paired with the city's tourist chiefs to actively promote the region to Europe's golf family.

I'll get to the golf shortly, but once the golf clubs have been safely put away for the day, visitors will find a buzzing, vibrant, family-friendly and very walkable delight. The street tapas bars are home every evening to locals and visitors who converse and drink and eat and watch the world go by.

A must-visit from our trip was the Mercado San Miguel – St Michael's Market – a hubbub of shoulder-to-shoulder stalls displaying every possible local delicacy and variety of drink, with ample seating at bars and by windows. Buy your cerveza or vino at one outlet and wander around, leaving it elsewhere. This community market is an utter delight, adjacent to the buzzing 'Plaza Mayor'.

If the golf clubs are getting a day's rest, then the



Club De La Moraleja –
6,000 members at the stunning Nicklaus-designed 4-course complex

MADRID

Spain's capital steps out of golfing shadows and into European spotlight

city is renowned for its parks and museums, the Prado being one of the world's most famous, while the Royal Palace was built on a scale to rival Versailles in France. And with the world famous Bernabeu stadium being close to the city centre, football fans might even catch a Real Madrid home game.

The city apart, Madrid's renewed focus on its strengths as a golf destination stand alone on their merits. The wide range of clubs and courses, almost all within 30 minutes of the city centre, offer a diverse range of challenges.

Certainly La Moraleja and Santander stand tall alongside any of the other highly rated Spanish courses that trip more readily from golf experts' tongues. While eminently playable for all levels of golfer, they can stretch their legs to provide worthy tests for the very best.

GOLF SANTANDER

It is 1984, you run a large, multi-national bank and you're building a virtual private city for its headquarters, just 10 minutes from the centre of your home country's capital.

The building for thousands of staff done, what do you do next? Well apart from 5-a-side pitches, tennis courts, gyms and swimming pools, you build an 18-hole championship golf course in front of your executive office window, of course!

Designer Rees Jones was assisted by Seve Ballesteros in converting parts of an old rubbish dump into a stunning, American-style stadium

course. It is a traditional 18-hole loop with numerous water hazards to navigate, pristine fairways, clever bunkering and devilish greens.

At 7,500 yards from the back pegs – but with an abundance of tee choices – Santander offers something for literally every class of golfer.

It is a long way from what you will expect of a Spanish golf course, but an absolute top quality delight nonetheless.

Golf Santander was run as a private facility for long enough but has now opened up to fee-paying golfers. Just be sure to bring ID for the armed guards at the security entrance. Well, it is a bank after all!



Golf Santander – a US-style course, overlooked by the boss's office!

GOLF CLUB DE LA MORALEJA

The big names like Valderrama, PGA Catalunya and Finca Cortesín aside, one golf club that really deserves a visit is Madrid's own La Moraleja.

When reading that it has 6,000 members – thousand, not hundred – a potential visitor could be forgiven for imagining the wait for tee times.

But the Jack Nicklaus-designed La Moraleja is a golf club unlike few others.

Since Nicklaus came to deliver his first continental design here in 1975 he has returned three times.

The stunning, huge new luxury clubhouse which is due to be finished and opened in the coming months, will sit overlooking all four



of the outstanding layouts.

We ended up playing course 4, owing to being delayed by an unlikely morning Madrid fog, but a buggy ride around the Nicklaus Signature No.3 revealed an outstanding, tour-quality challenge that would be worth any wait.

La Moraleja really is a golf destination all of its own.



**The links-style
Centro Nacional in the
heart of the city**



GOLF CENTRO NACIONAL

Not many capital cities have a major golf operation located a driver and three-wood from the heart of the buzzing central district.

The Spanish Golf Federation's 'home' club nestles alongside high-rise buildings and is a Dave Thomas design, created to bring a links-like experience to a location about as far from links as is imaginable.

Apart from the challenge out on many of the up-and-back fairways (listen out for shouts of 'fore!') Centro Nacional is quite clearly a family-oriented centre of golfing

excellence for all ages. The huge, horse-shoe, twin-deck driving range sees every bay packed with the latest technology, while on late afternoons and weekends young golfers and their parents are much in abundance, either playing or enjoying the fabulous catering facilities, overlooking a terrific landscape.

Local hero Jon Rahm grew up playing this course and was the worthy winner when it hosted the 2018 Spanish Open. It's not difficult to see why Spain produces so many excellent young talents.

GOLF DE LA HERRERIA

Of all the golf courses in the greater Madrid area that deserve considering for an overnight visit, Real Club de Golf La Herrería would be a top contender.

The club and course was formed in the late 1960s by architect Antonio Gomez.

The first thing to mention however is that the entire rolling, woodland layout, is overlooked by a rather older edifice, the Monastery del Escorial, built in the mid-16th century by King Philip II and a literally stunning Royal site, the largest renaissance building in the world. In addition Escorial is a charming and welcoming

town in its own right, 28 miles from the city centre. The golf course is on the south east side of the Guadarrama Mountain range, at the foot of Monte Abantos, a somewhat hilly but by no means overpowering course with some picturesque elevated tees.

The front-9 is more eye-catching than the back-9, but many golf aficionados consider the 18th, a 381-yard par four, to be one of the best finishing holes in Spain. 'La Parrilla' (The Grill), is a dogleg left where par is challenged by the small, two-tiered green protected by a tree on the left, bunker on the right and out of bounds at the back.



CLUB DE LA DEHESA

A design of long-time Spanish tour pro Manuel Pinero, La Dehesa is a family run sports facility where golf is the main, but not only recreation on offer and it is a high quality facility to the north-west of the city.

The course itself is a good test, running alongside a river and within a nature reserve. Indeed, civilisation feels some way off when winding around the fairways. The front-9 is a very attractive start and if anything the challenge increases as you make your way towards home.

You will encounter a few blind shots while seven of the 18-holes are protected by water hazards. One particular feature is the quality of the large, undulating but perfectly kept greens, with an average size of 600 square metres.



GOLF DE RETAMARES

Retamares is a 1993 creation of Spanish legend Jose Maria Olazabal and lays to the north-east of the city, 15 minutes beyond the airport and perched on the edge of the stunning Sierra de Madrid. Its views are worth the visit alone, quite besides a quirky but fun 18-hole challenge.

Retamares is a sport centre and conference location to complement its top-class golf facilities, both the course and practice area, and it has previously hosted both Ladies European and Challenge Tour events. It also has 28 private accommodation suites for guests wanting to make their visit a special occasion.

Out on the course it makes the very best of eight crystal-clear lakes and some tricky changes in elevation. But however your game goes on the day, don't forget to pause long enough to take in those breathtaking views of the high central Spanish plain.

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CLUB FEATURE A look at MacKenzie gems within easy reach of us all

In the good Doctor's footsteps

During times when golf course design was still in its rudimentary stages, there emerged a group of men who set a generational standard that is being followed to this day.

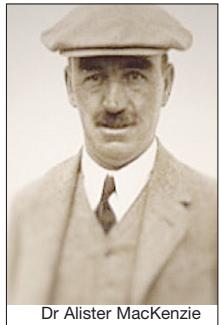
As golf first began to grasp the imagination of – mostly – men who had time for such a luxurious pastime, the idea of a pristine 18-holes of manicured parkland was little more than a pipe dream.

Early British golf courses often had their early roots on barren moorland and neglected acres of linksland.

Today's 18 or 27-hole facilities often began as half a dozen or an expansive 9-hole layout. However modest they were, as the game grabbed the public imagination, golf gradually became less a hobby, more an industry.

Unlike in virtually every other sport, in golf literally no two 'playing fields' are alike. No 22-yard pitch as in cricket, 50-metre pool, no 110-by-70 yard football or rugby pitch (give or take a few yards in length or width).

That 4-and-one-quarter



Dr Alister MacKenzie

1864 were born a generation of men who would set new standards. Willie Park Jr, Donald Ross, Harry S. Colt, Harry Vardon, James Braid, Charles Hugh Allison – and more – all would go on to create templates that endure today.

One name is missing however – Yorkshire's 'good Doctor' himself, the talismanic Alister MacKenzie, born in Normanton in 1870, but whose golfing imagination thrills and charms in equal part today. Here we focus on just a few of the courses where his input was significant.

South Shields GC

It was 1912 and MacKenzie's name was on every ambitious club's lips when the men of South Shields called upon him. Their club had been formed in 1887 with 9-holes laid out on Cleadon Hills, in the shadow of the landmark water tower.

Old Tom Morris, born in 1821, is widely recognised as the original father of golf course design, but during the decade roughly 50 years on, there emerged a golden age of men who would go on to dominate golfing design.

In just 15 or so years from



River views ... the Wharfe is a key feature heading out at Ilkley

being the only big name to have input at South Shields however, as Old Tom Morris and Harry Colt both contributed to the only championship links in Yorkshire.

After MacKenzie came and shared his vision, the course evolved over coming years and by 1928 the long-term layout was finally in place.

As recently as 2000 however, the acclaimed Donald Steel designed three new holes. The course is noted for its fine greens, easy walking and magnificent views all round, particularly over the Tyne estuary, north to the Cheviot hills and south over Wearside to the Cleveland Hills.

Ilkley Golf Club

A course that is roundly acclaimed by every first-time visitor, stunning views of Ilkley Moor accompany the golfer along the banks of the river Wharfe. The first golf course built in the West Riding – and third

Continued over the page



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on the MacKenzie trail...



Old Tom Morris had input at South Shields, before MacKenzie and Harry Colt

From previous page
in Yorkshire – Ilkley's early members had a design genius in their midst, in MacKenzie himself. The original 9-hole layout was atop Ilkley Moor but in little time it was taken down into the valley.

MacKenzie was an Ilkley member in the late 1890s, and a decade later both he and Harry Colt worked on various parts of the course. In 1911 he returned to improve the 15th hole, was back again in 1924 when the club wanted to lengthen the course alongside James Braid and in 1926 – while busy with two of his masterpieces, Royal Melbourne and Cypress Point – he delivered a comprehensive plan for the whole layout.

In 1934 he wrote a magazine article about water holes being there to tempt, not torture – citing St Andrews, Cypress Point and Ilkley.

Today Ilkley continues to impress anyone who treads its turf. In choosing to stage his inaugural Seniors event at the club in 2020, Masters champion Ian Woosnam remarked: "This is the first time I have been to Ilkley and it is truly a great course. Yorkshire is a fantastic place to play golf and I look forward to returning next year."

Shipley Golf Club

The original Shipley and Saltaire Golf Club was formed in 1896 in the hills to the north of its current loca-

tion, where, after much wrangling with local farmers, the club opened its 'links' on 6th March 1897.

By 1919 however, and a still fractious farming relationship, the club took the monumental step of purchasing 124 acres at Beckfoot and MacKenzie was appointed to lay out the new course and supervise the work for a fee of £200 (c. £10,000 in today's money).

Shipley Golf Club officially opened on 20th June 1921 and 14 months later officially opened its "magnificent" new clubhouse. The opening was celebrated with an exhibition match featuring James Braid and Harry Vardon, while the club professional Harry Loveridge also played who



Peace and quiet ... an idyllic late afternoon at Shipley Golf Club

went on to complete 49 years service. His successor Walter Lees 'only' managed 37 years!

Bounded by Harden Beck and dense woodland, and with no urban encroachment, the course remains as remarkably quiet and peaceful as the day MacKenzie finished his work.

The course also remains largely as he intended save some changes around what is now the 11th and to the order of play. His design is evident with subtly sloping, cleverly guarded greens with narrow approaches being a MacKenzie hallmark.

At a little over 6200 yards

it is far from long – but there are six challenging par 3s, the 7th (in an early version of MacKenzie's famed Amen Corner) is the signature hole.

Seven tough par 4s and five 5 par 5s complete the challenge. The current layout has an opening loop of 10 holes bringing play back to the clubhouse.

Sand Moor Golf Club

Sand Moor Golf Club has evolved greatly since its inception in the 1920s when the esteemed Dr Alister MacKenzie was a member of the first Greens Committee and was nominated as a Vice

President from 1926 to 1930.

Today Sand Moor is a beautiful inland course situated next to Eccup reservoir on the north side of Leeds with magnificent views of the surrounding countryside. The course with its sandy soil drains exceptionally well.

Although it officially opened in 1926, it was five years earlier that Henry Barran began to lay out a course, originally of six holes. Initially the course was split by Alwoodley Lane with the clubhouse and the first two and last two holes on one side.

Continued across the page

SGC

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From previous page and the remaining 14 on the other.

At one time the club's greenkeepers and their families lived in Alwoodley Old Hall inside the course itself. The major changes of the 1960s however gradually saw the entire club located north of Alwoodley Lane, MacKenzie's vision always in mind, complete with new clubhouse.

Improvement is a constant factor in Sand Moor's thinking, whether that be its practice facilities or clubhouse renovations. It is no wonder the club has an impressive reputation for the standard of its golfers.

These have included Amateur Champions Alex Kyle (1939) and Iain Pyman (1993), and English Champion Stuart Cage (1992). All represented GB&I in the Walker Cup, and members Simon Dyson and Ben Mason were included in the 1999 squad with Dyson going on to play in the Walker Cup.

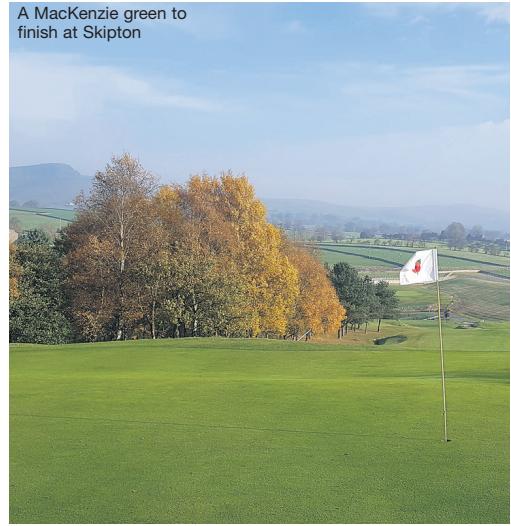
Garforth Golf Club

Dr MacKenzie's renown was well-established in his home county and rapidly being spoken of farther afield, when a group of enthusiasts came together in 1912, to discuss the prospects of creating their own club and course, to the east of Leeds.



Glorious Garforth's parkland setting

A MacKenzie green to finish at Skipton



There really was only one man to approach, and the following year MacKenzie delivered his vision to the members of the new Garforth Golf Club.

No golf course stands still over time as the landscape and habitat changes, but Garforth has held true to the original vision for the gentle, easy-walking parkland setting.

MacKenzie's eye was taken by the two streams that meander through the landscape and provide a natural feature around which to cre-

ate subtle challenges.

Cock Beck no longer runs red with the blood of the thousands of victims of the Battle of Towton on Palm Sunday 1461, when King Edward IV seized the crown from Henry VI. However, along with Carr Beck it still exacts a punishment on golfers not mindful of its dangers!

Garforth's reputation as an excellent all-around golf facility, which is home to all-conquering Yorkshire Seniors captain Andy King and talent like recent Yorkshire Junior

captain Jake Wallis, continues to rise.

Both on and off-course facilities have benefitted from significant investment, with all the bunkers having been redesigned and rebuilt under the guidance of acclaimed architects David and Bruce Weller.

Skipton Golf Club

Few golf clubs can have had as tumultuous a beginning as Skipton, the thriving modern club set in the picturesque foothills of the Yorkshire Dales, just minutes from the

bustling market town.

By the time Alister MacKenzie was employed in 1911 to prepare a complete new layout, what had for many years been known as Craven Golf Club in Gargrave had had its share of dramas.

With golf becoming increasingly popular across the county, the club was founded by prominent local citizens in April 1893, with holes being laid out at Stoney Butts, a site soon found unsuitable, and reportedly unplayable in summer. In 1896 the club moved to an

area by Skipton woods but between 1902-1905 there appears to have been "disharmony" within the club when it seems no golf was played, or perhaps the club was briefly 'private' during that period.

Indeed, club minutes don't even determine when Craven became Skipton Golf Club but the new, revitalised 1906 committee set the firmly on a progressive path it follows to this day. It was in 1911 that MacKenzie came to deliver

Continued over the page

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Team Stableford, 85% allowance

Entry £50 per pair / £100 per team



on the **MacKenzie** **trail...**

From previous page plans and six of his original nine holes still endure to this day, on a course that only stretched to 12-holes in 1960, and 18 in 1980.

Recent changes to the closing holes at Skipton have only added to the challenge and allure of a thriving members club which is always popular with visitors.

Seaton Carew GC

Great things are happening ahead of the club's 150th birthday in 2024, when it will host the English Amateur Championship.

On-course work is focused on reverting aspects of the MacKenzie design to its original state, under the management of Tom Coulson, who joined Seaton Carew from Royal St George's.

Already the links on the North

Sea coast has hugely improved with plaudits including the most improved course in both 2022 National Club Golfer and 2023 Golf World Top 100 ratings in England.

Coulson said: "MacKenzie had a set of rules when he designed courses and one stated 'the features of a course should be so natural so that they are indistinguishable from nature itself'.

"That is the motivation as we try to establish this place as a stern test of golf, a true championship links ... My stance is that the course should be easy to play, but hard to score on."

Large areas of Sea Buckthorn bushes have been removed to open up views of sand dunes and sea. A measure of success has been the highly popular Open

events and there's now a waiting list for membership.

Already one of the oldest golf clubs in existence, the club's 'eureka' moment came when MacKenzie delivered his vision in 1926. He increased it from 14 to 18 holes, but more importantly moved the course eastwards across the links towards the sea.

Now with a variety of options for 18-hole layouts, thanks to new holes having been introduced, the journey towards the landmark year of 2024 promises to be an exciting one for everyone associated with the club on the north side of the Tees estuary.

Golfers can see for themselves why this course is so highly rated and play championship golf at everyday prices with a weekday 4-ball at just £40 per person.

How do you like your par-3 bunkers and run-offs? The spectacular 3rd at Seaton Carew

Sand Moor has established itself as one of the premier courses in the north Leeds 'golf belt'



Sand Moor Golf Club



In the heart of the north Leeds golf belt, this 1926 Alister MacKenzie classic has stunning views over Eccup reservoir, with fast-draining fairways and four of the good Doctor's trademark par-3s

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Harry Colt – one of the true greats

Harry Colt was a golf course designer who bestrode the great eras of British – and world – architecture, that redefined the face of the game as we know it today.

Born in 1869, Colt would make his name as the first significant British course designer not to come from the professional golfing ranks.

His prolific career spanned decades when both original design and renovation work saw some of the biggest names frequently team up together. Indeed, Colt himself worked alongside top names of the day in men such as Charles Alison, John Morrison and Alister MacKenzie to create over 300 golf courses, 115 of which were his own design.

Colt was an accomplished player and captained Cambridge University, making one appearance in The Open Championship in 1891 and reaching the semi-final of the Amateur Championship in 1906. His main golfing drive



The industrial backdrop at Cleveland is slowly disappearing – the course remains superb. Right – Harry S Colt

however was off the course.

A lawyer by profession, his first design was Rye GC in Sussex and after being appointed secretary of Sunningdale Golf Club in 1901, he spent six years fine-tuning the course, building his reputation in the process.

In 1908 he was recruited to layout the new course at Stoke Poges and from there his career was nothing less

than prolific.

In an era when multiple designers contributed to a final design – he had input at Ganton and Alwoodley – Colt's magic reached far and wide. His European work included Belgium's Royal Zoute and France's famed Le Touquet.

Closer to home, Stoke Park, Wentworth, Royal County Down, Formby, Ilkley, Woodhall Spa, Royal



Porthcawl, Royal Liverpool, Muirfield and Royal Portrush all carry the Colt footprint. Colt's USA creation, Pine Valley, is still considered by many to be the best course on the planet.

CLEVELAND GOLF CLUB
Founded in 1887 Cleveland Golf Club holds the distinction of being the only links course in England's largest golfing county and the oldest golf club affiliated to the Yorkshire Union of Golf Clubs.

Old Tom Morris was just one of a host of prominent architects including Harry Colt and latterly Donald Steel, to bring their vision to this piece of golfing terrain. Steel fashioned three new holes – the 14th to the 16th – and the course now measures 6,921 from the back tees playing to a par of 72.

The doyen of golf writers Bernard Darwin wrote: "...the course of the Cleveland Golf Club at Redcar is as fine a piece of natural golfing country as you can imagine...at the end of the course looms a vast steel works its tall chimneys pouring out their smoke." ... "Look away ... the seas and the sandhills and the bents and the ground that undulates so gently and perfectly; you will feel grateful for such a piece of ground and forget about the steel works."

Cleveland has hosted top class professional and amateur events including the 2017 Yorkshire Amateur when Walker Cup player Alex Fitzpatrick set the course record of 62.

RADYR GOLF CLUB
Established in 1902, Radyr Golf Club is regarded as one of the finest golf courses in South Wales and has been described as 'One of Colt's Little Jewels.' Colt was indeed responsible for Radyr's challenging parkland course, one of only four Colt courses in South Wales.

With its magnificent views overlooking the city of Cardiff and the Bristol Channel, Radyr has one of the most idyllic settings of any golf club in South Wales. Nestling in rural parkland, its gentle undulations provide both members and guests with a course that is a delight to the eye, yet offers the sternest of tests to golfers of all standards.

Renowned for its excellent putting surfaces, the course has hosted many national and county events and in 2015 played host to the Welsh National PGA Championship, sponsored by Asbri Golf. Radyr Golf Club are the proud winners of the 59 Club Service Excellence award and Silver Flag award for commitment to our members and outstanding service both on and off the course.



Hague seals Asian tour spot

Excellent back-to-back rounds of 66 and 65 at the Lake View course in Thailand earned Malton & Norton's David Hague his 2023 playing card on the Asian Tour.

Final qualifying for what promises to be the most lucrative season in the tour's history saw 77 golfers playing over five days for the available slots.

Hague opened with a solid -4 round of 67 on day 1, but when he followed that with rounds of +1 and +2, his chances looked slim. But the 26-year-old climbed back into contention with a -5 fourth round and his closing 65 was only one shot off the day's best as he finished on -12 and a solid 13th place in final qualifying.

Aussie Jack Thompson topped final qualifying, while sneaking through on -9, one stroke ahead of the cut, was Davis Love IV, son of the past American Ryder Cup captain.

One other Englishman, Ben Jones, was one of two players who qualified from a 9-man play-off. The tour opened in Saudi Arabia on February 2, followed by stops in Oman and Qatar, then global swings to New Zealand, Thailand and India.

Gavins hangs on

Howley Hall-affiliate Daniel Gavins survived a 72nd-hole double-dogleg seven by sinking a 28ft putt to close out the DP World Tour's Ras al Khaimah Championship in the UAE.

Gavins had a 2-shot lead on the last tee, but after going in the water twice thought he required the nerve-shredding long putt to get into a play-off. In the event it was enough for the win and a 312,000-euro 1st prize and his second title on the DP World Tour.

Yorkshire golfers Dan Brown and Dan Bradbury also made the cut.

Heath gets Augusta invite

Fixby member and Florida State University junior Charlotte Heath has been officially invited to play in the Augusta National Women's Amateur Championship as part of the annual Masters events.

Heath (pictured left with her official invitation), rose to her highest women's amateur world ranking of 22 after winning her first collegiate title in her previous college outing, the Landfall Tradition at the end of October. She has had 12 top-10 finishes including a 2nd place at last year's European Women's Amateur Championship.

The Augusta event consists of a 36-hole qualifier at the Champions Retreat club in Augusta, with those progressing playing a practice round before the final day's event over the Masters layout on Saturday April 2. The Masters itself is played the following week.

Contact us on news@yorkshire-golfer.com



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the Swing Maestro

TONY HOWARTH

Academy Director,
Scarthingwell Golf Academy

Smoothly does it at take-away

The golf swing can be a very complex sequence of movements and positions designed to consistently strike the golf ball.

It starts with your address position and finishes with your follow-through. The take-away is one of the most important elements of the sequence and is vital to getting your swing started in the correct way.

Any errors that occur in those first 12 to 18 inches of your takeaway can create problems throughout the remainder of your swing.

Many times players become too focused on their top of backswing or impact positions and forget that their initial take-away can create all those issues.

In this article, I will explain the movement in those early stages, explain where it can go wrong, and give you some tips on how to make the take-away one of your strong points.

What is the takeaway?

Your take-away is the very first movement that your golf club makes and forms a crucial part of your backswing. I would describe the takeaway as the first 12 to 18 inches that the golf club moves away from the ball.

Compared to the distance the club travels during a swing, this may seem like a small distance, but the outcome of your shot can be decided during this first movement of your swing.

Any mistake here is difficult to rectify and can create bad habits in other parts of your golf swing.

Tips to improve your take-away

These tips or swing thoughts are designed to help you hit the golf ball better.

The next time you visit the driving range to practice, focus on this sequence first and foremost. In my next article we will look at how you continue your takeaway and swing.

The goal is to find a tip that improves your ball striking and consistency, by making your swing easier to repeat.

Yorkshire Golfer Special Reader Offer: Book a 1-hour Flightscope and video analysis session with Tony Howarth for just £30 – to book, contact Tony on 07588 355588 or email tpnyhowarthpg@gmail.com

1: One piece triangle

Notice at address in picture 1, there is a triangle made by the shoulders and hands. As the clubhead starts back, the triangle maintains its shape throughout the takeaway (picture 2).

In order to achieve this, you will need your shoulders, arms, and hands to move away together. This is the one-piece action I have referred to. This one-piece action gives your golf swing a solid start and the chance to build a consistent backswing.

2: Smoothly does it

For most golfers, nerves come into play when standing over many shots. This nervousness can lead to tension in the muscles and this in turn leads to jerky motions.

Any form of quick or jerky motion during your take-away will usually result in a poor shot. It's important on all shots that you should try to stay relaxed and calm, not just those over water or out of bounds left and right!

Starting your swing (picture 2) with a slow/smooth, controlled motion will help produce that confident swing.

3: Slow and smooth

As with any full swing, the tempo of your take-away is so important. There is no need to be in a rush to take the club away from the ball.

A slow, smooth take-away will simplify your golf swing. The slow, smooth tempo makes it easier to 'keep your triangle' and to keep your club on plane.

4: Firm Wrists

We want to avoid breaking or rolling the wrists during the initial take-away. These actions can immediately get your clubhead and clubface into a poor position.

We want to hinge the wrists during your backswing, however, this shouldn't be your first movement.

In summary, start your golf swing with your shoulders (3) not your wrists (4). We want to feel that we use our big muscles to set the club in motion, not our little



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2023 CAMPAIGN Yorkshire enjoying a Seniors renaissance with new championships announced

These boots are made for winning



By Danny Lockwood

Andy King knew he had some big boots to fill when he took over leadership of the county's Seniors team last year from Yorkshire's stalwart servant John Grimbleby.

The prospects for 2023 are no less daunting – even though this time around, they are his own footsteps he's following – after a magnificent clean sweep of major competitions, the Northern Counties League, Regional Qualifying, then the big one, the English Counties title.

Nothing however is being left to chance, as the team's superb campaign appears to have inspired a seniors' renaissance across the White Rose county.

The Yorkshire Union of Golf Clubs has announced two exciting developments aimed at seniors golf (see alongside) while two clubs – Garforth and Hesle – will stage new scratch tournaments aimed at the over 55s.

What with the English Seniors Championship coming to Pannal and Alwoodley this year, it promises to be an action-packed season.

Of the 2022 campaign, Garforth member King said: "We had a fantastic year, so my goal is to at least match that. It would also be nice to have a national Seniors champion coming from Yorkshire, because we haven't had that for some time."

"I had some big shoes to follow in JG obviously, but I had my own little level of expectation. A lot of players had been in the squad for a while, so it was good to be able to add some new players like Steve Cain and new county champion Dave Sanby in particular."

The momentum in the Seniors' year started early, as King explained.

"Little things happened. Ian Clarke



won the Northern Counties and it's good to have players who can win things. That's how I saw it."

It proved to be a wonderful augur of things to come, as the team proved to have both strength in depth and real backbone when situations got tough, especially on the last day of the national championship.

King is also looking forward to more competition for spots in the county team with players like Andy Wiltshire (Pontefract) and Phil Kitching (Rudding Park) joining the senior ranks.

"It's always healthy to have competition," said the skipper.

"I didn't want to make wholesale changes, but if players are playing well you take notice."

In terms of the odd disappointment, losses to Lincolnshire and away at

Lancashire certainly qualified. "I tried to be more cool and collected – but you do want to hit every ball!"

King talked about learning from previous county finals when some players might have been asked to do too much, and stressed the all-round contribution of his eight-man team.

"I was quite confident that they could do it, so it was special winning it, having not done particularly well the previous year."

In terms of looking ahead to 2023, King is excited at the prospect of two new seniors scratch events, for the Nelson Grimshaw Trophy at his own Garforth club, while county player Andy Woodhead's club Hesle – where he is this year's vice captain – will stage another.

Meanwhile his players have been given winter fitness and physio programmes plus short game work with England Golf award-winning coach Steve Robinson.

With the top Yorkshire Seniors Championships performers now qualifying for a matchplay event alongside the Men's, plus the new 3-man divisional scratch team event, Andy King must feel like all his Christmases came at once.

"It's marvellous for me as captain, and I'm delighted that Yorkshire have done this," he added.

His final word however, is reserved for two men who helped him on his new captaincy journey.

"I have to give massive thanks to Seniors Secretary Garry Cuthbert and Chairman of Selectors John Grimbleby," he said. "They have years of experience and it was just wonderful to be able to bounce ideas off them."

The Yorkshire Seniors team – both on and off the course – are clearly up for the coming campaign.

Call for clubs to get onside

On the back of Yorkshire Seniors' all-conquering 2022 campaign, the YUGC has announced two new scratch championships for seniors (55+) for the upcoming season.

Chairman of Championships Alastair Davidson said: "This reflects player feedback and demand for more competitive playing opportunities by senior golfers in Yorkshire – the English Senior County Champions 2022."

On an individual basis, in comes a matchplay format to mirror the Yorkshire Amateur Championship, where the top players in the strokeplay tournament go forward to a knockout weekend.

Now the leading players in the Yorkshire Seniors Championship – to be played at Ilkley GC on July 3/4 – will qualify to play in the new Yorkshire Seniors Championship at Headingley on September 23/24, alongside the Open Amateur qualifiers.

In a further development, Mr Davidson added: "The Union is aware of the relative shortage of scratch events for seniors in the county and will also look to run a series of divisional 3-man club team championships along the lines of the Yorkshire Team Championship which has been in existence for 130 years."

"For 2023, the plan is to hold 18-hole events at the same venues, and on the same dates, as the main Team Championship Divisions. The winning club at each event will qualify to play for the 2023 title at Hornsea on July 26."

For the 2023 qualifying rounds, the clubs which enter a team will compete at the venues closest to them, and in addition to the winners, who will play in the final, every club will be allocated their division for 2024 based on their results at these qualifying rounds.

The number of clubs which enter this new event will determine the number of divisions and the number of clubs in each division.

Entries from clubs, for both the Yorkshire Team Championship and the Yorkshire (Seniors) Team Championship 2023, are now open and need to be registered by March 1, at a cost of £80 per team, one per club.

Teams of three will play from scratch, but their combined handicaps must not exceed 30, will not play on their home course, but will be allocated one as near as possible. Men's and seniors teams will not be scheduled to play on the same day. All winners will play the final at Hornsea, with 2024 divisional allocations being made dependant on 2023 results.

The divisional rounds are as follows:

April 6 – Thirsk & Northallerton
May 10 – Horsforth
May 24 – Hallowes
June 14 – Driffield
June 28 – Renishaw Park
July 12 – Hesle
July 26 – Final, Hornsea GC

Seniors scratch comps announced

Garforth and Hesle Golf Clubs have announced open scratch competitions for senior golfers.

At Garforth, the club has relaunched one of its historic Order of Merit competitions, the Nelson Grimshaw Trophy. Its new inauguration will take place on Tuesday May 23, with an entry fee of £30. It will be an 18-hole individual strokeplay.

Yorkshire captain and Garforth member Andy King said: "On our travels with the seniors team I became aware that other counties had more scratch events aimed at seniors and we in Yorkshire didn't seem to be on the ball."

"I approached our chairman and the board said okay – I'm delighted it's back!"

Hesle Golf Club, the home of County Seniors member Andy Woodhead – this year's club vice-captain – will host an open Seniors Scratch competition on Wednesday April 19, again with an entry fee to members and guests of £30.

To enter, see the club websites.

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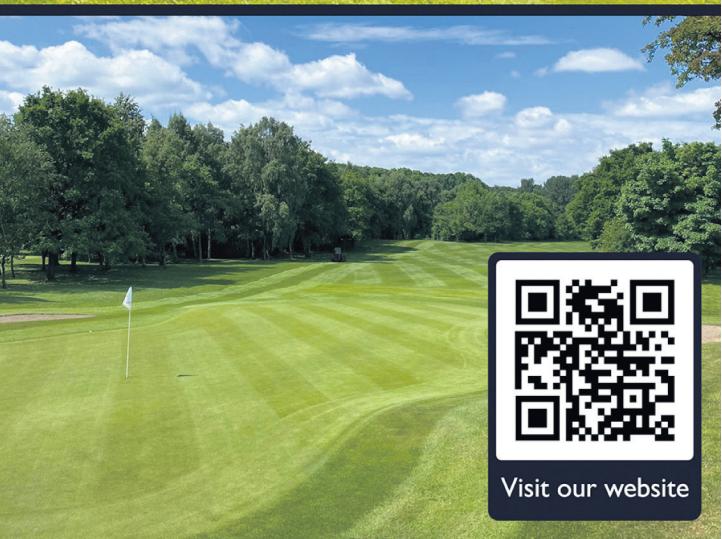
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