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SA teen thwarts battling Bairstow in The Amateur

Sam Bairstow's attempt to add The Amateur Championship to last year's Brabazon Trophy was thwarted at the final hurdle, at Royal Lytham & St Anne's.

The Hallowes man gave himself a mountain to climb in his 36-hole final against precocious teenage South African Aldrich Potgieter, falling 7-2 down inside the first 12 holes. Bairstow steadied matters, losing no more ground before lunch and began a stellar fight back in the afternoon.

His 17-year-old opponent had to keep a steady nerve as Bairstow birdied the 21st and 23rd, and the pair exchanged holes before Bairstow went on a late charge, winning four holes out of five to leave him 2-down with four to play.

The 33rd hole saw Potgieter take an iron for safety, while Bairstow's utility found one of Lytham's notorious pot bunkers and a double bogey left him 3-down with three to play.

When the same outcome – fairway bunker – struck again and Potgieter cosied his putt up to the hole the pair shook hands, the South African winning 3&2.

Bairstow finished mid-table in the strokeplay qualifying on -2, in which Hallamshire's Barclay Brown was tied at the top on -7 alongside another South African, Jonathan Broomhead.

Brown went out at the first knockout round

however, while Bairstow had a nerve-racking 1-hole win over Norwegian Herman Huus.

He followed that up by despatching of top seed Broomhead 6&4, added the scalp of Irishman Jack Heard 4&3 and Swede Lubvig Aberg 2-up.

Arguably the result of his week however was his semi-final against fellow England player and Lytham Trophy winner John Gough. Bairstow took six holes on the bounce from the 4th and was a comfortable 5&4 winner.

A win would have earned Bairstow a place in the 150th Open Championship and next year's Masters. Gracious in defeat, Bairstow said: "I don't think he dropped a shot this morning.

Around here, in a bit of wind, that's great golf. I didn't have my best stuff this morning. I was probably just a little bit nervy.

"With all the crowds here, there's a lot of people I know, and that spurred me on a bit this afternoon. I just couldn't get it all the way back. I was a bit emotional at the end with everyone cheering but unfortunately I couldn't do it for them. But I suppose growing up, if you had said to me, 'Would you ever reach the final of The Amateur?' I'd say, 'no'. It's quite special."

Defending his Brabazon Trophy at Saunton earlier in the month, Bairstow finished a creditable 4th behind another South African winner (see p4).

Dylan's a Sir Henry knock-out

Huddersfield prodigy Dylan Shaw Radford added yet another prestigious title in winning the Sir Henry Cooper Junior Masters at Nizels GC in Kent.

Having already won the Scottish Boys', Dylan completed the 72-hole tournament in -7, to win by a shot.

Romanby's Ben Brown placed 5th on -1, Doncaster's Josh Berry 7th on +1 and Jack Whaley (Rotherham) in 13th on +4.

In the team format Berry was partnered with girls' winner Lottie Woad and 2nd placed boy Tyler Weaver.

Playing as England 1, they edged out England 2 consisting of Shaw Radford, Jensen Forrester and 3rd placed girl Amelia Wan.

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US OPEN Danny Lockwood watches the pride of Sheffield show nerves of steel to bag his first Major

Cometh the hour, cometh the Matt

In the end it was a fairytale ending that just demanded to be written. After four hours of nerve-shattering golfing drama, Matt Fitzpatrick stood on the 18th tee at Brookline's Country Club course with history awaiting.

A one shot lead over his playing partner Will Zalatoris, and a record of getting it done on this course – reference to him winning the 2013 US Amateur here. Except on that occasion he'd wrapped up the title well before the 18th.

Fitz had been virtually faultless from tee to green all day. Only his usually assured putter had wavered occasionally as the lead kept changing between himself, Zalatoris and world no.1 Scottie Scheffler.

Back on the 18th tee there came that final, flat, fast swing of a 3-wood – and the ball hooked left into a devilish bunker with a grass mound in the middle and 160 yards to go. What followed was the day's defining moment.

Far from baling out, Fitz was going for it. Afterwards he said: "If there was one shot that I've struggled with this year that I just do not want, it's a fairway bunker shot. I guess Billy just took over. It's one of the best shots I've hit of all-time. When I saw it leave the sand and I felt the strike, I couldn't be happier."

It also drew praise from the great man himself. "That shot played out of the fairway bunker on 18 was one of the great iron shots under pressure I've ever seen," wrote Jack Nicklaus on Twitter.

There were other highlights earlier, including being the only player on the day to drive the par-4 13th for birdie, which



Legendary caddy Billy Foster kissed the flag on the Brookline 18th – and promised all his pals back at Bingley St lives a party to remember when he's back!

is testament to the new length he has found in his driving. On the 15th he rolled in a stunning 50-foot birdie to take control once and for all.

Having got to 18ft from that final bunker, he closed out his par and stood watching as Zalatoris tried to force a play-off from 14ft. As his putt slipped agonisingly by, it seemed to take a few moments for the significance to dawn.

For his caddy Billy Foster, winning his first Major in 40 years on the bag for some of the greats, it was all too much.

He pulled his cap over his eyes, before kissing the flag on Brookline's 18th.

In his victory speech Fitzpatrick referenced Nicklaus teasing him over not winning in the US. In winning both the US Amateur and Open at the same club he joined the only other man to have achieved the feat – Nicklaus himself, at Pebble Beach.

"I am confident many more victories will follow," added Jack Nicklaus. He's not alone in thinking that.

Having been at Brookline all week, younger brother Alex flew home on Saturday to Charlotte, North Carolina, as he prepared for his professional debut at the Irish Open.

He drove the 90 minutes to his apartment just to find Matt had shot to the top of the leaderboard, tied with Zalatoris. He was up at 5am to fly back to Boston.

Speaking to the press after the win, Alex said: "At the start of the week people were expecting him to go out and win because of

what happened in 2013. You could take it as pressure, who knows how it's going to go, but he stayed calm and had a good game plan. I didn't think I would cry, but I ended up crying. That's going to look bad on TV.

"I've said for a long time he deserves one more than anyone I can think of. If I showed you how hard he works and the things he does to get better, it would blow your mind, honestly.

"I guess there is such thing as golf gods, but for it to happen here is extra special."

Home from home for both families

It wasn't just the memories of how he won as an 18-year-old that the Fitzpatricks channeled on their return to Brookline.

They stayed with the same host family, Will and Jennifer Fulton, and their three children Sam, Annabelle and George. Mum and dad Susan and Russell Fitzpatrick and brother Alex stayed there, too, just like nine years ago.

"We each took the same bedrooms," mum Susan said, adding that she, too, is a big believer in fate. Then again, there were some new additions. "Matt had a chef from Sheffield who's been with us for a couple of tournaments," Susan said.



"There's so much work that goes into golf; I don't think anybody quite realizes. I'm not a numbers person at all. It amazes me how he does it."

Out on the course, nerve-

shredded viewers could be forgiven for seeing Matt and Billy Foster sharing a laugh on the 17th green!

If that's a coping mechanism it certainly works. As Matt said afterwards: "It's a long week. I said to Billy going up 14, I said, 'Billy, I hate this. This is horrible,'" he said laughing.

"And up to that point really, I'd really not missed any shots. I can't tell you how happy I am it's over," he added, "but at the same time, I can't tell you how happy I am, how well I've grinded out there and how well I played. It means so much," said Matt.

It meant so much to a great many people.

Heggie playing 493 holes in 7-days!

Moortown professional Martin Heggie is playing an unbelievable 493 holes in just seven days.

Heggie is raising money for the Motor Neurone Disease charity in support of Leeds Rhinos legend and MND victim Rob Burrow. Burrow played 493 games for the Rhinos and his shirt number was 7.

Starting at Barnsley on Sunday June 19, he planned to play every course in the Leeds and District Union - 28 clubs, inspired by Kevin Sinfield's incredible effort of running seven marathons in seven days.

Heggie will complete the 27 rounds and

play the last seven holes at his home club.

"The motivation came simply from just how tragic Rob's situation is and how he is with his kids and also by Kevin Sinfield and what lengths a pal will go to for another pal," explained Heggie.

"Moortown will give a fourball to all 28 clubs with a minimum return of £200 so I think every club will do that and that would get us halfway there to my target of £10,000."

One of the current initiatives is to build a state-of-the-art Rob Burrow Centre for MND in Leeds.

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Sam puts up solid defence of Brabazon

Hallowes golfer Sam Bairstow put up a staunch defence of his Brabazon Trophy, but a dominant performance by young South African Christiaan Maas prevailed.

The 18-year-old from Pretoria only had a 1-stroke lead over Chelmsford's Arron Edwards-Hill going into the final round at

Staunton with Bairstow a further two back.

But a fourth consecutive under par round of 68 saw Maas home by five strokes against the rest of the field on -14.

Bairstow finished in solo 4th on -6, while Wath's George Mason got inside the top 10 on +1.

Dylan Shaw-Radford's

best round of the week, a 4-under 68, got him into a tie for 17th on +5 and also left him just one shot off the winner of the George Henriques Salver, which goes to the best GB&I finisher aged under 20.

Fulford's Charlie Thornton had lifted the East of England Trophy at Staunton in preparation for

the Brabazon, but he finished down the field in a tie for 31st on +8, with Doncaster's Josh Berry a further two strokes back.

Up against a stellar international field, George Ash (Hallowes) also made the 36-hole cut which saw some of amateur golf's big names left behind in the 84 golfers who didn't make it.

Make Bob's a double!



It was happy days in the clubhouse at Malton & Norton as bottles of traditional 'hole-in-one' booze started lining up on the bar.

At least one of the donors could be forgiven for having a 'double' – because he'd not only just notched his first ever ace, but his second too, in the same round – a 69 million-to-1 probability!

In fact he was the only one not making a song and dance about it. "It was just luck, that's all, it's 99% luck," he said. "I've never had one before. I must have saved them up and had two on the same day."

And speaking of song and dance, long-time member Bob Seager – pronounced Seger, as in the bloke who leads the Silver Bullet Band and wrote hits like Hollywood Nights, Main Street and Night Moves – couldn't even find his usual society mates to buy a drink.

"I didn't know anyone in the clubhouse so I told the staff to put bottles on the bar and tell me what I owed them" (whisky for the chaps, sherry for the ladies). "I got all the lads a drink later. I don't want to make a habit of it!"

Ian Jones's ace was rather put in the shade!

He wasn't the only one celebrating either, with another bottle of whisky on the bar to mark another hole in one from Ian Jones.

Bob, 76, a leftie off a 17.2 index, took an 8-iron at the 2nd and played his tee shot on the banking above left of the green and watched it roll sweetly in.

The ace at the 17th is a much tougher prospect however, 170 yards off yellows and over three treacherous bunkers with just a narrow gap between the first two.

It must really have been Bob's day because you usually can only see the top half of the flag at 17. "I played a 5-iron and it ran off the slope behind the bunker and the flag was in the gap so I saw that go in as well."

His playing partners Vince Connor and Jim Pulleyn watched on in astonishment.

Local man Bob joined Malton & Norton after finishing playing cricket in the mid-80s and he said "I just enjoy a game of golf."

"I just go to spend a bit of time with the lads, they're a really good set."

"I won't get over-excited."



Woodsome head to Div 3 shoot-out



The Woodsome Hall team led the charge into the Division Three Team Championships due to be played at Malton and Norton on June 23.

Their preparations were somewhat disrupted when Rob Scollick was unable to play through injury, but it mattered not. Matthew Broadbent, pictured in the foreground, along with Seb Crabtree and Tom Collings at the rear, took their A games to Cookridge Hall for the Division Four battle.

They delivered a winning score of 465 (+33) over the 36-holes, enough for a 2-stroke margin over Thirk & Northallerton.

Bracken Ghyll were three back, a stroke ahead of The Oaks in 4th. Oakdale and Crosland Heath were the other

two clubs to qualify for Division Three.

Thirk's Jamie Appleton shot two excellent rounds of 72, 73 for a +1 total to come home four strokes clear of Sickleholme's Oliver Smith and Bracken Ghyll's Jack Lampkin in the individual-gross aggregate.

The Oaks and Crosland Heath continue their campaign after qualifying from Division Five at Harrogate, while Heath's journey started in Division Six back at Filey in early May.

The top six clubs from Malton & Norton join the Division Two Championship at Cleveland on July 6, before the Yorkshire Team Championship at Hallamshire on July 20.

Three teams unbeaten as Inter District fires up

Three teams are making the early running in the Yorkshire Inter-District Union League with Halifax-Huddersfield, Leeds and Sheffield all starting with two wins out of two.

Halifax-Huddersfield remained top on match points difference by winning the singles against York 14-10 after the foursomes – in which junior Habib Khan (Willow Valley) made his bow for the home side at Saddleworth with a 6&5 win alongside George Hanson (Crosland Heath) – had ended 7-5 to the hosts.

Injuries and work commitments meant York's team was much changed from the one that lost heavily to Leeds, but improvements showed, particularly in the foursomes in which George Robson and Ciaran Matthews (both Fulford) defeated Yorkshire county players Adam Walker and Dylan Shaw-Radford, of

Huddersfield, at the last.

Leeds sit closest to Halifax-Huddersfield after defeating Bradford at The Manor, also 21-15, where Selby's Martin Simpson made it four wins from as many matches. A 7-5 lunchtime lead laid the platform for the visitors' overall triumph, achieved with four debutants – Sam Claypole (Darrington), Saul Gilford, of Moor Allerton, Waterton Park's Tom Hirst and Tai Naylor (Sand Moor).

Sheffield had to fight hard against champions East Riding at Hornsea to maintain their unblemished record with a 20-16 victory. The title holders' afternoon onslaught was led by Hornsea's Matty Raybould, who was seven under par when closing out a 2&1 win over Ollie Smith, of Sickleholme, himself five under.

It was one of three victories in the

first four singles matches and led to East Riding taking the afternoon honours 13-11, but the damage had been done in the foursomes in which Sheffield held sway, 9-3.

East Riding, who had overturned similar deficits against both Leeds and Harrogate on their way to becoming 2021 champions, came up short this time against a side who had four players with perfect records on the day – Tim Brind (Abbeylea), Neil Stones (Wheatley), Tom Stanley (Wath) and Lewis Harrison (Rotherham).

Harrogate bounced back from their opening day trouncing against Halifax-Huddersfield to beat Teesside 22-14 at Ilkley. Dominic Moon (Bedale), Charles Murray (Pannal) and Oakdale's Chris Henderson and James Wilcox had perfect records as did the visitors' Steve Fox (Teesside).



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Easingwold's heroes raise £12,000 for Macmillan

Two hardy teams from Easingwold took nearly 55,000 steps to walk more than 23 miles over 14.5 hours to raise more than £12,000 between them as they tackled the Macmillan Longest Day Golf Challenge.

Those involved said the money more than compensated for the sore feet and backs suffered over the course of the day. They also thanked support crew Tony Wilford and Paul Robson for providing a supply of food, beer and encouragement throughout a gruelling day.



Boys' county title for Isaac

Moorstown's Isaac Smith took the 2022 Yorkshire Boys Amateur Championship with two solid rounds of 71 and 70 earning a one-shot win over clubmate Josh Stephens.

Consolation for Stephens came in lifting the Neil Hardman Trophy for under 16s, at Woodsome Hall on the last day of May.

A morning downpour almost disrupted things with greens have to be squeegeed, but a half hour break paid off as conditions improved through the day.

Leader after the morning round was Ben Brown with a -1 par 69 which qualified him for entry into the Justin Rose Telegraph Junior Golf Championship. Stephens was second with a par 70 and Smith a shot further back on 71, with 8 players on 75 or better.



Three dropped shots on 8 and 9 cost Brown in the afternoon, but Smith and

YUGC President Terry Collins presents 2022 Yorkshire Boys' Amateur Champion Isaac Smith with his trophy

Stephens stayed resolute.

Alfie Baldwin of Wilton shot an excellent 68 to finish sixth overall, while County Boys skipper Jake Wallis had rounds of 73 and 72 to post third, followed by Brown and George Hanson.

Stephens signed for his 72 and it was left to Smith out on the course. He dropped a shot on 17, to be just one in front, but a sensible 18th played with an iron off the tee earned him a birdie chance. It was to be a par, but it was good enough for the title.

COUNTY TEAMS

All square up north

It took a dramatic comeback for Yorkshire Men to remain undefeated after their Northern Counties match at the City of Newcastle course.

Northumberland were on fire in the morning Foursomes, with no wins and only halved points for Ben Brown/Dylan Shaw Radford, Dan Thomas/Max Berrisford and Adam Walker/Lewis Hollingworth to show for their efforts.

The hosts took a 4.5-1.5 lead into the afternoon singles. That became 6-2 after Brown lost and Steve Uzzell halved, but a run of wins for Cameron Wallace, Shaw Radford, Tom Osborne and Charlie Daughtrey turned it into a nip and tuck contest.

Indeed, it was back and forth all the way in, with wins for Ilkley's Thomas and The Oaks' Jake Sowden, but defeats for Berrisford, Lewis Harrison (Birley Wood) and Walker.

It was left for the last man out, Rotherham's Hollingworth, to edge a 1-up win over Harry Sewell to earn a closing 9-9 scoreline.

Having opened with a win in Cheshire, next up for Yorkshire Men are Durham at Hallowes on Saturday July 2.

Winning start

Yorkshire's Seniors team recorded a convincing 12.5-5.5 win in their Northern Counties opener against Northumberland at Forest Park.

They led 4.5-1.5 after the morning Greensomes thanks to points from Richard Norton/Steve Mason, Andy King/Phil Wardle, David Leaf/Garry Cuthbert, Andy Whitworth/Jim Fairhurst and a half for Steve Brennan/Martin Haddock.

The afternoon Fourballs yield double points, and Norton/Mason, King/Wardle, Brennan/Haddock and Whitworth/Fairhurst all recorded Yorkshire wins for the final scoreline.

Next up for the Seniors were Durham at Blackwell Grange on Monday June 20 before a trip to Lancashire at Hesketh on July 14.

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Thornton takes Scottish title

By Danny Lockwood

Fulford's Charlie Thornton will take up professional status and most likely head for the Clutch Pro Tour after landing the biggest title of his amateur career, the Scottish Men's Open.

The Scots must be sick of seeing Yorkshiremen flying the White Rose flag over their premier amateur championships after Fixby's Dylan Shaw Radford lifted the Scottish Boys' Open.

Thornton returned north as the solo Tyke up against tough international competition contesting the Scottish Men's Open at Cruden Bay, outside Aberdeen.

And it was a lesson in patience for the

Fulford man, who was never far off the pace, but who saved the best for last in shooting a faultless 4-under 66 to pip hot favourite John Gough to the title.

Gough was looking to add another championship to his impressive wins in the English Amateur, Spanish Amateur and Lytham Trophy since last summer – and with a 3-stroke lead teeing it up on the final round he was clearly the man to beat.

Thornton however was coming off the back of winning the West of England Strokeplay Championship at Saunton, which he'd entered in order to prepare for the upcoming Brabazon Trophy. In the event he couldn't fire on all cylinders in the Brabazon, but found his best form to take the Scottish title.

A former winner of the England Golf Boys' Order of Merit and a member of England Men's 'A' squad in 2020 and 2021, it had taken a brilliant closing 65 at Saunton to nose ahead of another England squad man in Jack Brooks.

Ahead of travelling to qualifying at The Amateur Championship at Royal Lytham and St Anne's Old Links, Thornton said that unless he got a win, he would be turning pro.

In the event he finished outside qualifying for the knockout stages of The Amateur.

"I think that's about it for the amateur game this season," he said. "I think I'm going to the Clutch Pro Tour and I'll try to get a few Challenge Tour starts."

From there it's down to Portugal and a resort just south of Lisbon for Q School.

"It's at Montado and I've played the course quite a lot."

Playing alongside Gough, Thornton was bogey-free in his final round 66, bagging four birdies and crucially not a single dropped shot.

"It was like match play really, I was just playing John." Having got in front, Thornton had a scare on 16 when he pulled his second and missed the green, but managed a good up and down. "That was a confidence booster," he said. On the 18th Gough went over the back but almost chipped in. Left with a downhill 30-footer Thornton managed to roll the ball close and seal the win by one stroke.

Q School is at Montado in Portugal – a course Thornton knows well

The English pair were the only players in the starting field of 144 to break par after a week when all contestants had to battle unseasonably wet and windy weather.

Until the storming finish, Thornton had been three behind South Africa's Casey Jarvis and Scottish duo Ben Murray and Oliver Mukherjee after the first round. A second round 69 left him four adrift of solo leader Jarvis, and a third round 72 saw him trailing Gough by three on the last day.

Three birdies on the front nine closed the gap to a single shot after Gough picked up two birdies but bogeyed the 7th. Thornton levelled off the 11th only for Gough to birdie the 12th.

The par-3 15th however was to prove crucial. With the Fulford man making his two and Gough bogeying, the two-shot swing put him in the lead for the first time all week.

Thornton was the third English winner of the Scottish Men's title in succession after Callan Barrow last year and Jake Bolton in 2019, and the 10th Englishman in all. The others were Gordon Clark (1973), Gary Wolstenholme (2003), Robert Dinwiddie (2005), Tommy Fleetwood (2009), Andy Sullivan (2011), Garrick Porteous (2013) and Marco Penge (2015).

Bernard Gallacher, Colin Montgomerie, Philip Walton, Andrew Coltart and Stephen Gallacher also have their names on the trophy.

Getting ready to leg it... all in an excellent cause

As if sleep wasn't already at a premium in the Knowles household, new Harrogate Union Junior Development Officer Julian Knowles will soon be setting off on a marathon fund-raiser.

His wife Nicola recently gave birth to their fifth child, but dad will still be starting a 75-mile trip round the union's clubs to raise money for junior golf.

Julian, pictured, also the Junior Liaison Officer at Thirst & Northallerton, will be playing a hole at every Union member club, starting at Ilkley GC at 4am. He'll walk to Otley, cycle to Rudding Park, walk to Pannal, Oakdale and Harrogate, keep walking to Knaresborough, then cycle to Ripon, walk to Masham and Bedale, and then head onto Romanby and finally his home club.

"After that I think it will be straight to bed!" he said. He hopes that his fund-raising effort will underpin junior development and coaching in the Union for the next year or two.

His fundraising page is at www.gofund.me/de56349a and for further information, people can contact Julian on j.knowles01@btinternet.com.



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COUNTY SENIORS Waterfront man prevails on immaculate Selby track

Sanby new 'kid' on the block

It took a back-9 countback to establish Waterfront Golf's Dave Sanby as the new Yorkshire Seniors Champion.

Over a gripping 36 holes at an immaculate Selby track, the recently retired Army man was matched over the two days by Hallows' Stefan Priest with matching rounds of 72, 71 for +1 totals.

A double bogey on only Sanby's 3rd hole on Monday June 13 was the only real blip over the two days as he bagged three birdies against two bogeys in round one and went even par on the Tuesday with pairs of birdies and bogeys.

For Priest, and eagle at the 18th had jumped him back into contention after a double on 16. And although he played remarkably steady golf in round 2 with two birdies, it was a double bogey on 12 that proved decisive in the count-back.

Meltham's Ian Towers had led the field at the end of the first day with the only under par score of the championship, a -1 70. Day two was a disappointment however with nine bogeys for an 80 and a drop down the leaderboard.

Sand Moor's Ian Backhouse had been just one shot off the lead going into the closing 18 holes, but a +3 round of 74 left him two back of the leaders, with Halifax West End's Chris Ingham on further back.

For the champion, it was a timely victory as he prepared to make his debut for Yorkshire Seniors the following week at Durham. It was



Champion Dave Sanby with Selby Captain Scott Murie and YUGC President Terry Collins

first County Seniors at The Oaks in 2020, and 10th at Doncaster last year.

Explaining that he gave up the game altogether for eight or nine years, he paid tribute to his new employer Frank Houlgate at Waterfront Golf.

"I gave it up completely. I had a sabbatical. I'd just had enough of it. But I started going down the range, Waterfront Golf, and hitting a few balls and then started playing again."

Soon enough Sanby was playing for the Waterfront first team. "Frank has coached me and allowed me to practice daily on the Trackman Golf Range to improve my golf," he added.

Of his win, he said: "I am a lag putter. My ball drops in by gravity only ... I don't think I three-putted throughout the two days. I didn't hole many, but I didn't three-putt."

As to the swing change?

"It was to get more control. I'd noticed that the last couple of weeks the ball striking, it was just going a little bit off, and a friend of mine at the golf club, Kyle Upton, was videoing himself and I thought I'd do the same thing. I took the video on Saturday with him - thanks Kyle - and noticed I was overswinging. So I just tried swinging it shorter and here I am talking to you. I owe Kyle a few beers!"

also proof that change is as good as a rest - as a swing adjustment on the eve of the Selby outing bore fruit.

Sanby explained: "I made a swing change the day before. I'm swinging the club shorter, so that took a lot of extensive practice on the Sunday. I shortened the swing and that really made a difference. Coming into a golf tournament with a swing change is a bit unusual, but it just felt great from the get-go."

"The greens were ... emotional. It wasn't a case of holing out from 18, 20ft it was a case of just trying to lag them up - don't charge them because often, behind the hole, you could run them by six, seven, eight feet without even blinking."

"The greens were exceptionally fast ... probably as fast as I've

played anywhere. But true and consistent for all 18 holes over the two days, which was remarkable because they all suffer from wear and tear, but we teed off second from last and the greens held up."

"It's remarkable how well the Selby ground staff have presented this course. It's a top, top course and I've really enjoyed it. But ... I think it's going to take me two weeks to get over the greens!"

Sanby, a Lincoln native who has lived in Yorkshire for 12 years, retired from the Army in April. He was a PGA qualified pro at 19 but joined the Army at 21, where he spent the next 36 years, representing them and winning their national championship.

Aged 57, he finished 7th in his

STEVE HALL, Philip Naylor, Ian Turner and Stephen Mckalroy won Northcliffe's seniors team am am with 90pts, three ahead of James Hughes, James Elgie, John Laird and Robert Cook. The team with the best combined par-3s score was Alan Hillary, Doug Akroyd, Nicholas Simpson and Michael Griffin with 23pts. Nearest the pin winner, at the 18th hole, was Derek Deakin.

FIRST PRIZE in Sickleholme Lady Vice Captain's Day went to Carley Warrington, Sarah Rathbone and Sarah Mason with a superb 90pt total. Five back in second place were Aylsa Geeson, Jackie Holliday and Wendy Ellicock. The nine-hole competition was won by Robin Hall, Mandy Dench and Shirley Wild while nearest the pin prize winner was Tracey Woodhead.

NEWS ROUND-UP

BEDALE went into Harrogate Union's First Division championship looking to wind the clock back 64 years and become only the second club to win all three divisional championships in the same season.

Only Knaresborough have achieved the treble, back in 1958, but Bedale had the chance to match them after securing the Division Two title on their home track and the Division Three crown at Harrogate last month.

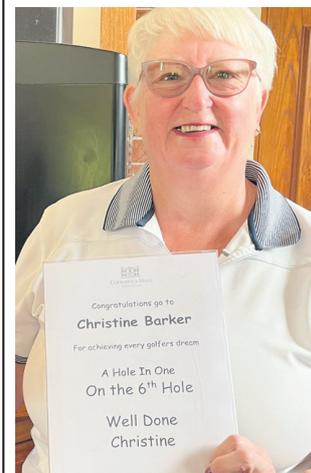
It was their first Division Three title since 2000 and their first Division Two success since 1992.

In the latter championship, involving players with handicap indices between 12.1 to 20.9, Bedale's A team of Rick Noble (84), James Moore (89), Steve Hutchinson (98) and Ian Windrass (89) produced an aggregate of 360 that gave them a six-shot margin over runners-up Romanby.

Hopes of a clean sweep however were thwarted when Thirsk & Northallerton romped to victory on their home course on June 19. Home golfer Andrew Parker's 73 took the singles title on a countback while his teammates Jamie Appleton and Richard Fawcett placed 3rd and 4th with a 73 and 74 as T&N's team total of 302 was 9-shots clear of the rest.

DRAX GC's Darren Neary totalled an excellent 44pts at Sand Moor to head the list of eight players who qualified for the England Golf Captains event final. Neary will be joined by Paul Dimmer, Alan Richardson, Jeffrey Victor Clements, Paul Blackham, Kevin Harrison, Bryan Maddock and Diane Gillen in the final at Woodhall Spa on August 9-10 for one round on the Bracken Course and one on the Hotchkin Course ahead of a gala dinner.

Christine's ace at this game...



Howley Hall's seniors met up with their counterparts from Cookridge Hall in late May for a series of 4BBB match-ups at the north Leeds club.

In the third match out between Christine Barker and Gary Howden of Cookridge and Keith Marsden and Gary Weir of Howley Hall, it was a case of the lady showing the chaps just how it's done. Playing a 6-iron to Cookridge's iconic 6th hole par-3, Christine dropped it for an ace - her third in total!

2020protour



Adam Walker showed the professionals a clean pair of heels with a four stroke victory as the 2020protour stopped off at Wheatley Golf Club.

The Fixby amateur and Yorkshire Strokeplay champion returned a stunning 7-under 64 to leave clubmate Nick Marsh, Headingley's Ben Rhodes, Alex Harm of Otley and his 2020protour comrade Chris Hanson trailing in behind him on -3.

The day before, the tour had visited Doncaster GC where in-form Ben Rhodes had stormed home in style. He holed out from 102-yards on the final hole for an eagle to sign for a -6 round of 63 and leapfrog Howley Hall amateur Tom North and Lincoln pro Rob Harris by a shot.

Marsh was in 4th on -1 ahead of Crosland Heath amateur George Hanson and James Pinkney (Malton and Norton).

Two weeks prior at Rotherham Golf Club, the tour had seen a four-way tie at the top with Marsh, Wath amateur George Mason, David Houlding and James Freeman tied on -2, a shot ahead of Adam Walker.

The next events are June 26 (Crosland Heath) and June 27 (Woodsome Hall).

Abbeydale leading the way



Sheffield's Abbeydale GC is leading the way for junior golf development in South Yorkshire. The club has been chosen as one of just five in the county to be a 'Beginners Young Centre' for junior girls' golf up to the age of 14. Running until August, it will see promising girl golfers assessed, with the prospect of moving on to the next level of

Yorkshire coaching. Seven girls have signed up to the 'Beginner's Skill Level' scheme, five of whom are already Abbeydale members, under Head Teaching Professional Gareth Davies and his assistant pro Tom Perry. The scheme is operating with the help and support of the Yorkshire Ladies County Golf Association. Abbeydale

was a regional centre for the 'Girls Golf Rocks' programme and the club now has 19 junior girl members, the most for many years.

Weekly coaching sessions are on Sundays with playing time on Monday evenings, preceded by a tea and homework club. The club has both a junior girls and boys captain, plus a juniors committee.



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Providing the very best experience at Play2Par

Yorkshire Golfer publisher Danny Lockwood tries out just some of the state-of-the-art golf technology at the county's newest premium indoor facility...

Most golfers, at some time or other, have swung a club under the gaze of a hi-tech camera and IT system which, within seconds will tell them how far (or short) their ball has travelled.

Dig deeper and the full scope of their swing and strike is revealed – club speed, ball speed, launch angle, trajectory ... nothing is hidden, for better or worse.

Moving on, many will have metaphorically progressed to the 1st tee, perhaps at Arnold Palmer's Bay Hill or our own Belfry, and challenged themselves – and the computer – to a round at one of golf's premium courses.

It's both fun and instructive, but as the team at the Play2Par Academy in York will explain, you are probably only scratching the surface of what the latest cutting-edge technology can add to your game.

As Director of Golf Craig Smith explains: "It's one thing to gain information about your golf swing, equipment and game, but beyond that it's important to understand where and how you can change and improve.

"I think that's the key aspect of the sport which everyone who plays

shares – the desire to improve, to keep moving forwards. Here at Play2Par we have a pretty comprehensive package which can help facilitate that.

"Whether you are a complete beginner or an experienced low handicapper, we have something that can add to your understanding of your game and what you could potentially be doing better."

Play2Par, located in the York Business Park in Nether Poppleton, just off the A1237 ring road, has two distinct facilities which allows it to cater for both casual visitors and members seeking something extra.

In the reception area where a lounge overlooks three playing bays, visitors can enjoy a coffee and for those older citizens who might need to 'loosen up' a little there's even a hand-held Theragun massage device!

Play2Par is a registered Golf Pride fitting centre and handles everything from re-gripping clubs to repairs and fitting new shafts, ensuring you are using the correct loft and lie, whether in your driver, irons or putter.

Indeed golfers who sign up to

Play2Par has a range of options for golfers wanting to best utilise its impressive facilities. From a simply fun family hour to an all-inclusive golfing 'home' there is a wide range of subscriptions and memberships, tailored to suit virtually every need. There is also a 20% membership discount for golfers aged over 60. Members don't just get access to their dedicated area, but discounts on everything from clubs and golf equipment to designer golf and leisure clothing from labels such as Hugo Boss and Calvin Klein, through Play2Par's exclusive business relationship with Desirable Golf.



Over 2,000 sq ft golfing facility

Play2Par Director of Golf Craig Smith – ensuring every golfer gets the best possible experience

membership at Play2Par gain access to the adjacent members area which feature Craig Smith's teaching facility, two more members' bays and the ground-breaking Putt View indoor green. Putt View's 360-degree camera and laser technology converts the slopping putting green into an interactive golfing experience.

Whether you are wanting to fine tune your reading and pacing, or take on friends at putting challenges, Putt View will revolutionise how you

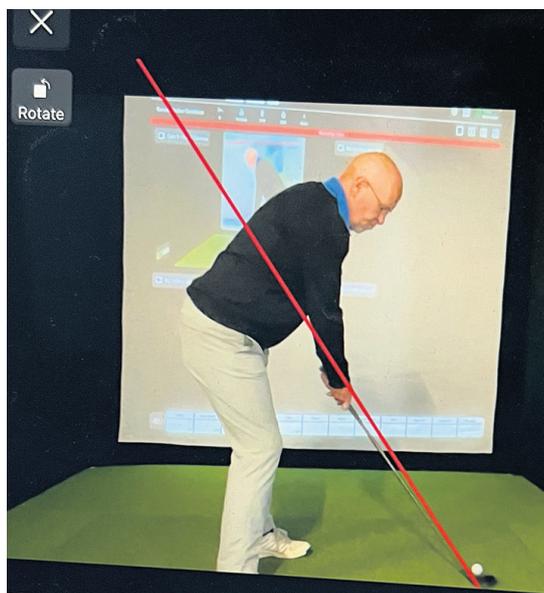
think about your putting.

However, for golfers serious to improve their putting – which accounts for an average of 43% of shots played out on the course – Craig Smith will first want to introduce you to the Sam Putt Lab, rated the world's most accurate and comprehensive putt analysis technology.

Sam – 'Speed And Motion' – involves forensic examination of how you putt. With a camera attached to your putter shaft and placed in front

of another static camera, Sam Putt Lab will aggregate a number of putts and provide detailed analysis of everything from how square your putter is at impact to your through-speed and precise loft on contact.

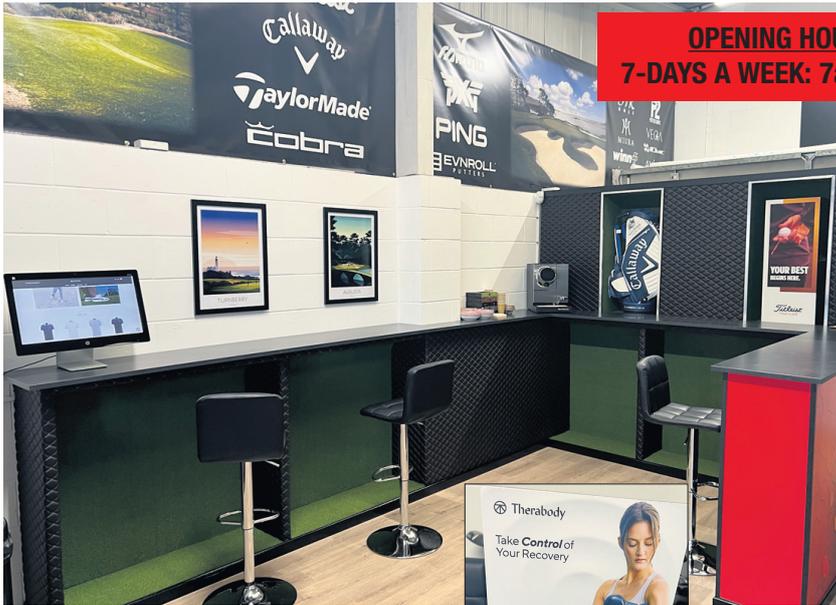
Are you smoothly rolling or almost chipping your putts? It's an invaluable starting point for improving probably the most important club in your bag. If you want to improve, you really need to understand what you're not doing correctly.



Craig Smith watches on as YG publisher Danny Lockwood tries a few shots (far left) then begins to examine the data relating to every single aspect of the shot, from stance and posture through swing, strike and ball performance.

At right, Lockwood is measured up on the SAM Putt Lab technology, which shows everything from how square his putter-head is at address, through contact, and whether he is hitting up or indeed down on his putts – before taking to the amazing Putt View sloping indoor green.

TO SEE MORE ABOUT ALL PLAY2PAR HAS TO OFFER, TO BOOK A SESSION, TAKE A TOUR, OR MORE, VISIT THE WEBSITE: WWW.PLAYTOPAR.COM



OPENING HOURS
7-DAYS A WEEK: 7am-10pm

Relax and have a coffee in the Play2Par reception area, and perhaps even loosen a few tight muscles with the Therabody 'gun' which gives a portable deep massage



At Play2Par absolutely nothing is left to chance in helping visitors bring their actual game into the state-of-the-art facility. Do you play a Taylor-Made, Srixon or Bridgestone ball? A Titleist Pro V1 or AVX?

Whether you're stepping into Director Craig Smith's teaching bay for a lesson, or testing yourself against the world's best courses in one of the visitor or member bays, you'll be provided with your preferred ball.

"Visiting a regular driving range, you are using cheap balls that have been hit hundreds, thousands of times and simply can't replicate your on-course shot. We want to ensure everything is as accurate as possible in relation to your game."

"If you're examining your club and swing performance against the latest Flightscope X3 technology, nothing will be left to chance in replicating your on-course experience. We want you to enjoy the same experience that a professional golfer would enjoy."

Indeed, understanding what their customers are seeking is key to the Play2Par ethos, which is why they encourage enthusiasts to use their 'Take a Tour' option, directly bookable on their website.

Whether you're a golfer looking to work on your game, or a family wanting to enjoy an hour's fun after school or at the weekend, visiting the brand new indoor golf academy is the only real way to understand exactly how much is on offer.

What's more, the 'Take a Tour' taster session is absolutely free, because Play2Par want to spread the message about exactly how much they have to offer, and it is targeted towards what the customer is looking for.

For interested beginners golf clubs are available to borrow, from youngsters to adults, left or right handed.

"In such a case we would show people the basics. Our family-friendly golf games powered by Awesome Golf E6 Connect software, provide hours and hours of fun with a range of challenges and activities."

"And for instance if a dad is playing

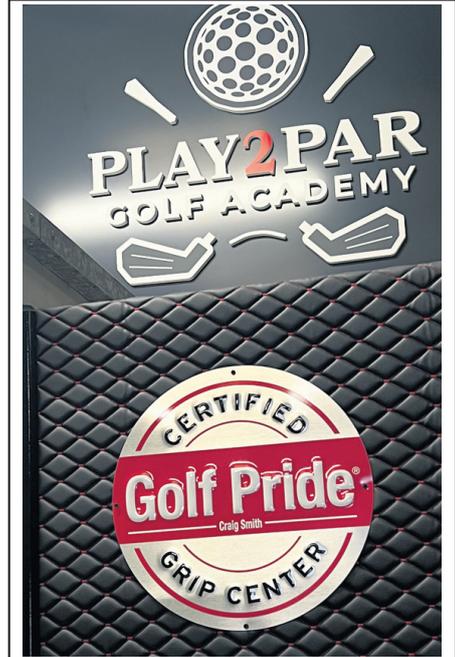
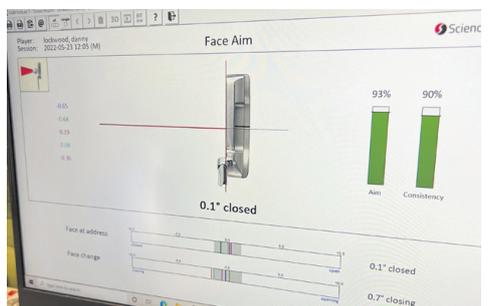
against his son, the challenge can be altered to suit their expectations and skill levels."

Play2Par customers wanting to dive into the Flightscope technology get to set up their own free account using the Flightscope app on their phone. From there they can monitor their performance and progress with every visit or sessions.

And what kind of detail does the system go into exactly? "You can actually set the weather you want to play in," explains Craig. "You might opt for standard sea level on a calm day, or you could choose to test your game against a strong wind off a particular direction."

"We would show golfers how to video themselves playing and get real-time data on their shots and swings. It sounds obvious, but it's hard to improve your game if you can't see and understand what you might be doing wrong."

To assist in that, golfers can utilise as many as four cameras videoing their one shot. They can take on a skills challenge from 20 to 250 yards – and the data goes away with them on their free Flightscope account.



Play2Par customers can challenge themselves or their friends on multiple golfing challenges, or on some of the best golf courses in the world. For more relaxed fun a super series of golfing games are perfect for beginners or groups, with prices from just £15 an hour for two people. For more info or to book, visit WWW.PLAYTOPAR.COM



CENTENARY YEAR HANGING HEATON GOLF CLUB

Family feel at a club with much to celebrate...

There will be a decidedly family-feel to Hanging Heaton Golf Club's big Centenary bash on Saturday July 16th. And that's not just because plenty of members of the club perched on a plateau above the Calder valley are father and son or husband and wife – it's much more than that.

By either accident or design, but probably a bit of both, there's a distinctly club-wide sense of camaraderie at Hanging Heaton.

As Centenary Captain and local man David Whittington explained: "I'd been playing different clubs in a society but coming into the clubhouse here I just thought, 'this is the club for me'."

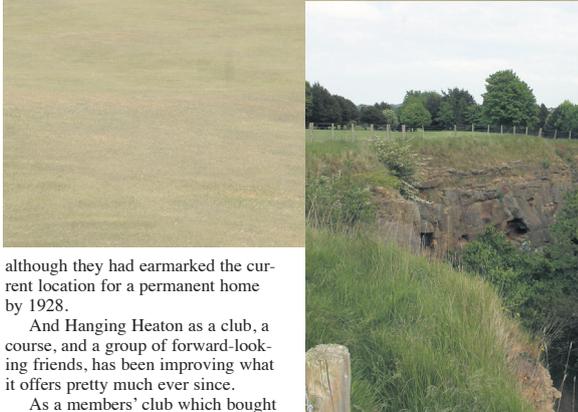
"It's because there is a real warmth and friendliness about the place. It really is like one big family."

But it is a family that very much prides itself on the warm welcome offered to guests, whether coming to play the challenging 9-hole layout, to enjoy one of the many social events that are a big part of the club's fabric, or simply popping in to enjoy a summer evening's drink on the patio.

It is also a family that has come together in a big way to ensure their major anniversary is special indeed.

Hanging Heaton is a thriving residential neighbourhood distinct in that it falls partly in Dewsbury, partly in Batley – towns always with a keen sporting rivalry – and sits on the hill-top overlooking both.

Indeed it was down below the current location on land in Commonside that the original holes were laid out by seven golfing enthusiasts in 1922,



although they had earmarked the current location for a permanent home by 1928.

And Hanging Heaton as a club, a course, and a group of forward-looking friends, has been improving what it offers pretty much ever since.

As a members' club which bought its freehold in 1958, everything that comes into the coffers is dedicated to

investing in the club and course.

When a major financial commitment to what is now the very successful Yorkshire Golf Simulator was required in 2019, members joined together in an investment scheme.

The popular facility links directly to the bar and pro shop and was opened by tour pro Graeme Storm. It is fully open to the public, whether for practice or competitive fun with friends playing such as Wentworth, Pebble Beach or Carnoustie.

Lessons are also available from long-serving club professional Gareth Moore, whose longevity itself is testimony to how at home he feels.

Gareth, who grew up playing at South Bradford and joined Northcliffe to do his PGA training, joined Hanging Heaton in October 1999 – and never left!

"I was initially assistant," he explained, "but by February I was the professional and 22 years later still am!" So why the longevity?



The Yorkshire Simulator, which was funded by entrepreneurial members, has been a huge success



Above – Centenary Captain David Whittington
Left – the 4th is a par-3 nearly 250 yards long, over the quarry

"I think that socially, we have something very special here. It's a really busy, well-supported club, definitely a part of the local community and I think it's fair to say we have our share of 'characters'!"

One part of the Hanging Heaton fabric that has certainly helped that familiarity

between members is that weekend competitions are always drawn out. Golfers pick a 30-minute slot, but then the draw ensures they are often getting to mix with others amongst the 250 or so full members.

"I think at some bigger 18-hole clubs quite often people will play in the same group of friends week in, week out. We get visitors here from other clubs and often they're quite jealous of the camaraderie we have," Gareth added.

The sporting ethic runs strong and not just in regard to golf with a lot of retired local football and rugby players taking their competitive instincts from the field to the course.

The popular, long-serving pro

has no intentions of moving on, although recently he has been helping manage affairs at his boyhood club, South Bradford – the best of both worlds.

It's something the happy members will undoubtedly agree with as they celebrate their club's centenary.



Monday July 11: LADIES CENTENARY OPEN

Texas Scramble, 11am Shotgun, Max h'cap 40, £40 per team

Tuesday July 12: CENTENARY VETS-SENIORS

Texas Scramble, 11am Shotgun, Max h'cap 40, £40 per team

Thursday July 14: HHGC CENTENARY OPEN

Four man team event with no handicap limit. £30 per team

Friday August 5: YORKSHIRE BEERS OPEN

4 ball betterball, £25 per pair

Sunday Sept 4: MIXED OPEN INVITATION

Pairs greensome medal, 1pm shotgun, £20 pair, max h'caps 30/40

Friday Sept 23: HB CLARK'S BEERS OPEN

Pairs greensome medal, 1pm shotgun, £20 pair, max h'caps 30/40

Thursday Oct 13: LADIES FESTIVE FAYRE

Pairs greensome stb, 11am shotgun, £18 pair, max h'cap 40

All events except the Mixed Open include a bacon sandwich. The Yorkshire/HB Clark's Beers include a pint of standard beer

TO BOOK VISIT WWW.HHGC.CO.UK OR CALL THE CLUB ON 01924 430100

Centenary group raised £50,000 ... and counting!

Preparations for the centenary started three years ago when members were invited to 'help get the party started' with an outdoor brainstorming event that attracted some 30 enthusiasts.

Ideas were shared and categorised under golf, social, fundraising, plus course and club development, with a Centenary group being created and co-ordinated by long-time member Gary Sifleet.

They met every four to six weeks from then, with key roles for the 2021 and 2022 captains Steve Farrar and David Whittington, John Newsome and Alan Colquhoun, lady captain Judi Brooke on social events, plus president Jonny Allott and Andrew Snare. And what a success they made of it.

Gary Sifleet explained: "We wanted this to be a stand-alone effort and not impose on the day-to-day running of the club. Our intention was to ensure everything we planned, we found a way to pay for."

It turned out quite a bit better than that, with over £50,000 raised to fund the different events and projects.

"That gave us enough to fund all of the course development projects we'd identified, but that would not have been possible without the army of volunteers who made them happen."

"From sweeping the car park to refurbishing the area all around the professional's shop and entrance to the course, to removing trees ... there were 30 or 40 members giving anything from a few hours to 240 hours.



Centenary Lady Captain, Judi Brooke

It was a terrific effort."

One major project is a brand new halfway house sitting by the 1st and 10th tee, which will include new toilets, while perhaps on a smaller scale, some of the cosmetic work around the clubhouse and putting green done by club stalwarts Stuart and Jennifer Wailes, has made a visible difference.

A new driving net has also been installed.

Captain David Whittington name-checked Phil Blackburn and Steve Halloran for their willing help, but praised the entire membership for their support, especially in backing the Centenary Bonus Ball Draw. That's a major fundraiser run by



Fun is always on the agenda at HHGC and 'backwards golf' is played from greenside to a hole cut on the tee ... in fancy dress, as (from left) President Jonny Allott, past-Captain Steve Farrar and Paul Main and David Whittington can enthusiastically attest!

long-serving club member Paul Titman which has raised £30,000 – and counting. Indeed, the Centenary group continues to raise funds for the club.

Fun events like playing the course backwards – in fancy dress – is part and parcel of the Hanging Heaton calendar, as is night golf. This year will see an outdoor cinema event too, but most eyes are on the club's

Centenary Golf Week from July 9th to the 16th. There's a mixture of both club and Open competitions culminating in the big night on Saturday July 16th, the Centenary Ball. Indeed a marquee bought by the Centenary group's funds will be raised for the occasion, with a hog roast and entertainment from a 12-piece big band.

The occasion will also be marked by a celebratory firework display –

but one without the customary big bangs!

"We don't need to be disturbing local residents or terrifying their pets," said Whittington. With a lot of chimney pots surrounding the club, that will certainly be appreciated.

In addition, contact has been made with fellow Centenarians at Woodsome Hall who will be visiting for a competition in September.

ON THE COURSE



Hanging Heaton is a 9-hole, par 69 course that occupies an elevated position overlooking the neighbouring towns of Dewsbury and Bailey. From the top of the course there are panoramic views to the Pennines and Peak District beyond Huddersfield, while the views to the north stretch towards the foothills of the Dales.

It's some vantage point – but then the 2nd green itself was an anti-aircraft artillery emplacement in the Second World War, countering

German bombers targeting industrial sites. It perhaps wasn't the district's most glorious military moment when over-zealous defenders of the realm shot down a Spitfire.

Still, the members carefully harvested the turf and dutifully relaid it with the help of a £2,000 government grant for the club's wartime service.

Because of its enclosed hilltop footprint, the course has out of bounds on the five external holes, including the signature 4th, which is a blind par-3 of nearly 250 yards,

over the plummeting Caulms Wood quarry. Playing tip – just hit safely down the left and everything runs downhill into the green!

In general 9-hole tracks have great utility for time-pressed golfers these days, but any traditional 18-hole club members with the old-fashioned idea they can take apart a course under 5,900 yards off the white tees, will rapidly reconsider once out on the fairways.

Although the 1st is a short, straight on par-4, the second is index

From behind the sweeping dogleg 9th, which is almost 600-yards played as the 18th



1 and always a tough proposition. At 421 yards, with a bunkered dogleg right and OB tight to the right, a par is very hard-earned. And while the 3rd is a 'gettable' par-5 the first time, when played as the 12th it is a 439-yard par 4, to a green with the narrowest of entrances.

The course employs 13 different tees, but holes 6, 7 and 8 are the same both times round, the 6th close to 400 yards uphill with an internal OB. The back-to-back par-3s that follow demand accuracy off the tee.

And while the sweeping downhill 9th is challenging enough as a 533-yard par-5, wait until you come round again for the 18th when the back tee stretches to 598-yards.

At one time it was reputedly the longest hole in Yorkshire. And if that wasn't enough, when it's played as 18 the 2nd/11th fairway is out of bounds left.

Make no mistake, Hanging Heaton provides a stern enough challenge for the most accomplished of golfers.

CLUB FEATURE YG publisher Danny Lockwood takes on a classic coastal challenge

Bright future in prospect at Whitby

Life is certainly on the up for everyone at Whitby, the long-established but much changed golf club on the North Yorkshire coast.

Nestled along the cliff-top that links Whitby with neighbouring Sandsend, it is now all systems go, after a period when there was much uncertainty about the club's future.

At the time members were celebrating their 125th anniversary in 2017 – something they did in true Victorian style – clouds of doubt hung like a sea fret over the loyal and dedicated membership.

Their clubhouse and course is mostly on land leased from Scarborough Borough Council and it seemed certain that the owners of nearby Raithwaite Hall were destined to purchase the lease from the local authority.

As Whitby members dedicated themselves to discovering and indeed bringing back to life several of the ancient original holes up in the hills at Goathland, on which to celebrate their 125th, what the future held was far from certain.

But the Raithwaite bid never came to fruition and ever since it has been onwards and upwards for a club that has certainly rediscovered its mojo. With new life breathed into the board, alterations out on the course itself and positive recognition from the golf industry at large, life is good.

Director of Golf Karen Fellows has been just one of the re-energised board members who has been pushing progress. The retired PE teacher is also the Yorkshire County Ladies Golf Association's Junior Organiser. As such it is no surprise that Whitby attracted some 170 local primary school youngsters to come along for a 'Trigolf' session, which will be followed up shortly by a return and a competition, aided and abetted by Whitby's willing members.

A similar scheme for older high school students is in the pipeline.

And energy for progress is much in evidence, with England Golf intrigued enough to come look at a club where last year women were in the majority on the board of directors.

"They came and did a case study on the club and are using it as a 'best practice' example," said Karen. Whatever the gender mix, the leadership team has knocked a lot of business off the course into shape.

Club Manager Sam Foster had only been in the job for a year when he was nominated and came runner-up in the Golf Club Managers Association awards as Newcomer of the Year. Meanwhile PGA professional Johnny Norton has taken Whitby under his wing alongside his duties up the coast at Hunley Hall.

A new catering team has come in and business is thriving in the impressive upstairs Links Lounge, with plans to expand its opening hours as a stand-alone restaurant.

The club gets a lot of passing traffic being right off the main coast road, and with caravan and holiday parks in abundance it is no wonder Whitby includes holiday membership amongst its wide range of offerings.

A measure of how competitive Whitby Golf Club is comes in being named one of the country's Top 100 Courses in terms of value for money for 2022.

The Today's Golfer rankings placed Whitby at 84th – a real recognition of the destination and a welcome boost for the whole team.

Out on the course itself, there has been a remodelling following Scarborough Council selling off part of the land the club leased. It has meant the 18-hole track has seen its slope rating reduced from 120 to 117, but be in no doubt, there is a real test of anyone's golf game out on the

cliff-top course. The new layout has been re-mapped, although the club is frustrated that some apps haven't updated yet.

Although Whitby has very much a links-like feel to its fairways and greens, it is still strictly-speaking a 'cliff-top' layout. Visitors are routinely apprised of local rules regarding trying to retrieve lost balls, because the dense foliage between course and cliff-top has to be strictly respected. After eight holes golfers cross the Whitby-Sandsend road for a loop of six undulating holes before rejoining at 15 on the run for home.

Karen Fellows called on the help and advice of her YCLGA colleagues Ruth Goodwin and Joy Hunter regarding the necessary course changes, before the club decided on the layout. That coincided with a lot of time and investment being put into the tees and greens this year, with the bunkers scheduled to get some Whitby 'tlc' next year. Like many clubs, membership boomed through the national lockdowns and of the 115 new

golfers about 60 have renewed and committed to the club, while Karen says memberships across all categories continue to build.

Whitby's roots go back a full 130 years to a meeting of prominent local gentlemen in December 1891 to create its charter, before a meeting at the town's Crown Hotel in January 1892. Amongst the founders were Major A Simpson, Lieutenant Colonel TN Marwood, Captain JC Simpson, Mr A Marwood,

The challenging MacKenzie-style 6th green

Mr H Weighill, Mr J Moore and Mr L Greenwell, names still adorning the club honours boards.

Six holes were formed on the village common and moorland around the village of Goathland. And although golf continued to be played there for many years, in 1895 Whitby GC relocated to its current footprint. The original clubhouse was the White House hotel, which still overlooks the iconic 7th green. Today the clubhouse is in what was Lower Straggleton farm.

For the 125th anniversary, members dressed in Victorian attire and played for the 1892 Goathland Ball – the centrepiece of which was an original gutta percha ball, discovered in a hedgerow in 2014. Winners were honorary club member and local man, tour professional Ian Pyman, plus past lady captain Doreen Richardson.

But while it is always fitting – and enjoyable – to commemorate your club's history, for Whitby Golf Club right now, it's all eyes on the future.



Last year's board at Whitby – missing President Geoff Cooling – back, Dean Dale, Alison Leslie, Richard Appleton, Kaen Fellows; front, Alison Higgins, Amanda Ing and Jane Hale



The Links Lounge, run by Natalie Williamson and Paul Hurworth



Left – the signature 7th hole at Whitby, over the ravine, and below, the view from behind the 7th green, up the coast towards Sandsend.

Bottom – the 12th and 9th greens, on the ‘inland’ loop of six holes

Whitby Golf Club – Yellow Tees

1 – 283yds, par 4

The first of many short but challenging par 4s. Slightly downhill from the side of the clubhouse. A ditch separates the 1st and 18th fairways, plus there’s a lateral ditch in front of the green. There are mid left and front right bunkers on a subtly undulating green.

2 – 446yds, par 5

Back up the incline with the Sandsend Road to your left, but plenty of room out right. Your second will have to consider a winding ditch about 70 yards short of a mounded, kidney-shaped, back-to-front sloping green, with front left and centre-right traps.

3 – 335yds, par 4

A slight dogleg still parallel to the road, with a fairway bunker on the elbow. After a gentle rise the approach runs away from you with a mounded green also sloping from front to back.

4 – 145yds, par 3

Classic views of the Sandsend cliffs from the 4th tee. It would need a pull

hook to bring the left side OB into play, but overshooting could also find trouble. The green slopes back right to front left with pin position crucial.

5 – 337yds, par 4

Real character to this hole. An intimidating looking drive, carrying the scrub which descends to the beach, but there’s plenty of room right. The fairway dips slightly into a back-to-front sloping green with sand back left and front right.

6 – 385yds, par 4

A longer par 4 where again you need to stay right. The tiered MacKenzie-style green features a front left trap set below the green, but a devilish mid right bunker which will challenge your skills if you’re in there.

7 – 423yds, par 4

The signature hole, index 1 and once played, not forgotten. The carry across the ravine is about 120 yards, which you then cross by a narrow footbridge. Across on the fairway it’s a sweeping, uphill left to righter, into a back-right to front-left sloping green with the White House beer garden dwellers for an audience. I won’t forget my par in a hurry.



8 – 310yds, par 4

A tight-looking drive, but the fairway opens up wide to the right and a steep bank will throw wide balls back to the short grass. A lateral fairway bunker deters from trying to drive the green, which slopes away from your approach.

9 – 316yds, par 4

Across the road and this is a tough hole when first encountered. A short, sharp dogleg right to an elevated green, but you must stay left of the marker post because anything right falls away into deep trouble. It’s a pretty approach into a green complex with sand catching anything short left.

10 – 153yds, par 3

A medium par 3 with two big bunkers protecting the front of a green with some pronounced undulations providing food for thought.

11 – 391yds, par 4

Stroke index 2 and an excellent challenge. Your drive is up and over a ridge at 190 yards, at which point the fairway is just 12 yards wide.

Your approach to an elevated green is across a gully with a ditch in the bottom. There are bunkers to avoid, but mounding for help at

right and rear of a slightly crowned green.

12 – 312yds, par 4

A downhill, sweeping left-to-righter, but stay left. A downhill approach over a big front left trap to a mounded green with three distinct levels, dropping from back left to a false front on the right.

13 – 272yds, par 4

Again, downhill and driveable in theory, but there’s out of bounds left and a lateral ditch awaiting anyone going straight for the green.

14 – 162yds, par 3

Last of the holes on the inland side of the road. It’s one of the new holes and a ‘fair’ par 3, but everything drops away left if you don’t get your tee shot up sufficiently.

15 – 240yds, par 4

Short downhill but there’s a reason it’s stroke 12. Another ditch at the front for protection, but the real danger is a green that slopes front right to back left. If you find the

front bunker above the green, good luck holding the putting surface.

16 – 365yds, par 4

Back up to the top of the course from an elevated tee, a winding right to left hole which plays long. Once more, a sloping right-to-left green will provide a good test.

17 – 322yds, par 4

Heading for home, down the 17th where you need to stay right side. A pond sits 50 yards short of a sunken green where the smartest play is to run your ball in short from the left.

18 – 469yds, par 5

Back over the ravine up the closing par 5. Stay right side of the marker post because trouble awaits if you try to cut too much off. Your approach is into a long, narrow green – just 5 yards at the entrance – with bunkers front left and the entire length of the right side. The ditch separating the 1st/18th could be a problem for shots pulled left.



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	Yds	Par	SI	Yds	Par	SI	Yds	Par	SI
1	300	4	17	283	4	17	270	4	15
2	450	5	11	446	5	11	429	5	3
3	339	4	5	335	4	5	324	4	7
4	156	3	15	145	3	15	126	3	17
5	341	4	9	337	4	9	306	4	9
6	398	4	3	385	4	3	382	4	1
7	437	4	1	432	4	1	312	4	5
8	331	4	13	310	4	13	297	4	13
9	332	4	7	316	4	7	274	4	11
OUT	3084	36		2989	36		2720	36	
10	163	3	14	153	3	14	119	3	18
11	391	4	2	391	4	2	382	5	4
12	334	4	6	312	4	6	297	4	8
13	276	4	8	272	4	8	261	4	6
14	171	3	18	162	3	18	152	3	16
15	243	4	12	240	4	12	236	4	12
16	371	4	4	365	4	4	355	4	2
17	334	4	16	322	4	16	305	4	14
18	492	5	10	469	5	10	370	5	10
IN	2775	35		2686	35		2477	36	

COURSE RECORD Forest Park 'newbie' matches members' low score

Stancliffe gets his appetite back

By Chris Stratford

When Forest Park's Paul Stancliffe was the head club professional at a course in Northumberland he gained a thirst for fitness and shed six stone in 17 months – but around the same time he completely lost his appetite for golf.

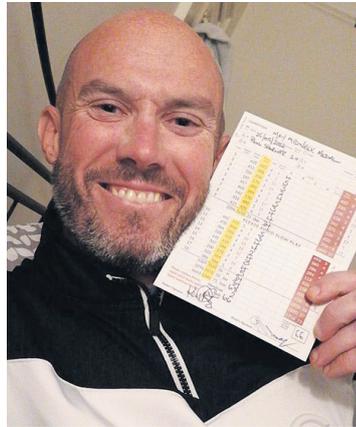
It was only when a friend enticed him onto a course after the first Covid lockdown ended that he finally got his clubs back out and now he admits he is "absolutely golf mad. Every opportunity I get to get up to the golf club, I just go and play."

One of those opportunities saw Stancliffe, once again an amateur, compete in the Midweek Medal at Forest Park in which he shot five birdies on his way to a three-under-par 68 that equalled the members' course record.

"It had been coming for a while and was much-needed," said the 41-year-old. "My putting's been off all season, so it was nice. I didn't putt particularly well in the round, though, but I hit it close on 10 or 11 holes and made five of them."

"There were a few shots left out there, but fingers crossed for the future."

A former Leeds Union junior player and captain – his formative years were spent at Garforth and Sand Moor – Stancliffe turned professional aged 22 after finishing university and gained his PGA qualifications at Cookridge Hall.



He later worked at Waterfront Golf in Rotherham, West Bradford and Rothbury in Northumberland.

In the latter post he was playing only a handful of times a year and when he decided to switch to a new career path, as a personal trainer, his desire to get out onto the course had shrunk completely.

"Working in the industry, day in, day out, I didn't particularly want to play after being at the golf club all day," he explained.

"I got into fitness because I lost six stone in weight in about 17 months. On the back of that I wanted to help other people, so I started a new career. Since then I've managed gyms and been a personal trainer."

He was initially reluctant when his friend asked if he fancied a round at Sandburn Hall when Covid restrictions were lifted in 2020, but said: "I told him,

'okay, I'll give it a go'. I went with him, shot one under and thought, 'why am I not playing golf?'"

"I joined Forest Park last April, the first opportunity I could, and since then I've joined in with the medals, I've played for the scratch team, and I've got myself back into it again."

"I'm probably enjoying playing more than I ever did before. The members are great, I love it."

"No one cares about my past, I'm just one of the lads. I just pitch up, play, I've got my handicap and it's given me a new lease."

"If it hadn't been for Covid, I probably wouldn't have played. It was literally a reason to get out of the house when you could again."

Stancliffe's record-equaling total gave him a nett 66 and he won both the gross and nett prizes as well as staking a claim for two shares in the 2s club with birdies at the 181-yard fourth and 145-yard 14th.

"I kind of cleaned up really and it put a few quid in my account," he said ... with a smile.

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Around the clubs...

PHIL KITCHING made the most of home advantage at Rudding Park to shoot 73, 71 for a 144 aggregate on his way to winning Harrogate Union's Ogden Trophy. The Harrogate Union senior team veteran edged Oakdale's Christopher Henderson (70, 75) by one and third-placed Ben Davies, of Harrogate, by four.

Harrogate's Jacques Clarkson was the nett champion with scores of 70, 72 to best another Rudding Park player, Dave Lockett (72, 71) by one. Thirsk & Northallerton's Oscar Knowles (71, 72) was third on countback.

EASINGWOLD GC'S O'Gorman Claret Jug was hoisted aloft for 2022 by James Power, his impressive 42-point accumulation two better than that of Eric Boyd.

In the Wednesday 18-hole stableford, Andy Pepper produced one birdie and 10 pars to beat Ian Wrathall in a card play-off, both amassing 39 points. Tom Pepper won the 9-hole stableford, half a dozen pars helping him see off Ian Tooms by two points.

Martyn Oliver won Division 1 of the Wombell Cup, going out and coming back in 38, two birdies and 11 pars leaving Dave Tompkins frustrated by a card play-off. Paul Dack won Division 2, beating Gordon Dryden by a shot, and James Lawton took the honours in Division 3.

Division 1 of the Ben Rider Cup was won by Thomas Hilling with the assistance of two birdies and nine pars, David Conkleton beaten by just a point. John Pirrie won Division 2 and David Sargeant Division 3.

Caroline Steel enjoyed a three-shot win in the ladies' medal, Susan Pittham placing runner-up three shots adrift. Jane James won Division 2 from Linda Frances by the same margin.

Division 1 of Easingwold's Seniors' & Veterans' competition required a card play-off before Tony Wilford emerged as the winner, his birdie and 13 pars beating Simon Edwards. Division 2 winner was Peter Simpson while Ian Scadding was triumphant in Division 3.

HALIFAX GC'S Anniversary am am was won by a team from the host club for a third year in succession, Mick Dennis, Nigel Viney, Paul Firth and Tommy Reidy totalling 98 points but only winning by one. James Smith produced the longest drive on the 13th hole while Woodhall Spa's Simon Crossman finished nearest the pin at the 17th.

North Cliff roll back the years

Scarborough North Cliff have ended a 40-year wait to regain the East Riding Union team championship, but the last few minutes of those four decades proved agonising before they were declared the victors on countback at Filey.

Their first team of Jack Northgraves, Simon Boddy and Tom Benson had trailed Ganton by seven shots after the opening round, 229 to the 222 of Tommy Risker, Jamie Gregory and Steve Pybus.

But their second-round aggregate of 218, the lowest of the day, turned things around and gave them the title.

Organisers were a little disappointed that the entry was down to 18 compared to the 24 clubs who teed it up last year, but Cottingham Parks provided an encouraging sign for the future as they fielded a team of Cooper Beck, George Coope and Ewan McKenzie, all members of East Riding's junior Yorkshire Inter-District Union League team.

While they found it tough going, the experience will no doubt prove of great benefit to the trio whose combined age would not get them into the seniors championship, where 50 is the lower age threshold.

A recent dry spell and firm ground made scoring difficult at Filey as the morning low of 72 from East Riding team veteran Mark Lamb (Ganstead Park) showed. His total was one better than those of Paul Lockwood (Drifffield), George Davies (Filey) and Risker, the latter's score pointing Ganton to the top of



the team leaderboard alongside Gregory (75) and Pybus (74).

Four back in second place were Driffield on 226, Lockwood's 73 backed up by 76 from Sam Dillon and 77 from Ryan Gray. Also in touch were Ganstead Park 1 on 227 plus Filey 1 and Scarborough NC 1 (Northgraves 75, Boddy 74, Benson 80) on 229.

As the afternoon scores started to come in it was clear from the early starters' performances that it was going to be close between Scarborough NC 1 and Ganton. Boddy (72), playing with Pybus (80), overturned the morning lead. In the second group, Northgraves (73), playing with Risker (76), extended the advantage to four.

Tensions in the clubhouse were heightened as a great comeback win loomed although Benson, who was nine over in the morning, was playing alongside

Yorkshire county team member Gregory.

Benson's arrival at the competition desk was greeted with a chorus of "How did you do?" and the slightly bemused Benson, feeling his side were out of contention, responded: "73, is it important?"

It was, for despite Gregory having shot an outstanding two-under-par 69, Benson's six-shot reduction on his morning round meant the team scores were tied at 447. The crown was ultimately in Scarborough North Cliff's on countback when morning contenders Filey, Drifffield and Ganstead Park all came in adrift, the latter taking third on 452.

The lowest 36-hole gross score prize went to Gregory on 144 (75, 69) while East Riding junior Luke Thornton had a very commendable 70 to tie with Lockwood on 146.

The winners are pictured with Union President John Illingworth.

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CHARITY EFFORT Henry's lads land a knockout blow



Former boxing great Henry Wharton (at left) was amongst the winning Dunnington team at an annual Inter-Village charity day organised by Malton & Norton member Jason Butler. In a tight-fought battle at KP Club, Dunnington A beat Newton on Derwent on countback, both sides scoring 242pts in a best-8-from-12 format. Elvington A were just one point further back, ahead of Sutton on Derwent, Elvington B and Dunnington B. The day raised £2010 for the British Heart Foundation.

First time's a treat for Wetherby's Chris

By Chris Stratford

Wetherby's assistant general manager Chris Lander overcame wet and windy conditions at Sand Moor to win a Leeds & District Union of Golf Clubs major title at his first attempt, claiming the stroke play championship with a one-under par 70.

The plus-one handicapper carded two birdies and dropped only one shot, the latter occurring with just four holes to play and ending his chance of the third bogey-free round of his golfing career.

"I birdied the par-4 seventh and I birdied the par-3 10th, but then I bogeyed the par-3 15th," said Lander, who has just celebrated his first year at Wetherby.

"I got plugged under the lip of the bunker and just had to hack it out and two-putt, otherwise it would have been a lovely bogey-free round.

"A bogey-free round is something that I've only done twice, so when you start quite well and you've not had a dropped shot you start concentrating on that. When I got up and saw the ball plugged at 15 I thought, 'oh no'."

As well as winning the John Keightley Trophy in his first Leeds Union event, by one stroke from Nathan Ali and Harry Hunter-Mapp, both Cookridge Hall, and Ben Stephens (Howley Hall), Lander lifted the John Robshaw Trophy for the best nett score of 71.

His background of learning to play golf on the coast at Southport helped prepare him

for the weather at Sand Moor and he said: "It was rough, but it wasn't unplayable.

"I was in the third or fourth group out and it rained for the first six or seven holes. There was a fresh breeze to start with, and as the day went on the wind got steadier and steadier, but the rain stopped. First it was fighting the rain and then it was battling the wind as well, so it was a good test.

"There were some quite severe gusts and, the way the back nine is at Sand Moor, it was crosswinds as well. I think that's the toughest, trying to hold the ball against the wind and shaping your shots into it."

Lander is in the privileged position of straddling two of Yorkshire's eight unions for he also has membership at Halifax Bradley Hall and is a former captain of the Halifax-Huddersfield Union's senior side, helping them lift the Yorkshire Inter-District Union League title in 2019.

Leeds Union secretary John Grimbleby sounded him out as to his possible availability for Nigel McKee's team, but Lander still feels a strong affinity with Halifax-Huddersfield. He told their manager Frank Greaves prior to last month's opening matches of the season that he would try to make himself available to play if Greaves was struggling to raise a side. Playing for both unions is not an option.

"It gets a little bit difficult through the summer [being available for matches] when I need to work certain weekends



Wetherby's Chris Lander receives the John Keightley Trophy from Horsforth's Simon Lax, Leeds Union's President Elect (Picture: Leeds Union)

at Wetherby," commented Lander.

"Frank and I had a chat at the start of the season and I told him not to keep me in his top 12, but if he was ever short to give me a call and, if I'm available, then I'll play."

Lander won the Halifax-Huddersfield Union match play title in successive years, 2015 and 2016, and hopes to complement it with victory in Leeds's equivalent competition. Victory in Halifax-Huddersfield's stroke play championship is also a goal to go alongside his Sand Moor success.

He has become a member

of Wetherby's scratch team, notching up wins in his first two matches, and was part of the club's line-up that gained promotion from the Seventh to the Sixth Division of the Yorkshire Union of Golf Club's team championships.

He says he is loving his job at Wetherby, his first foray into the club management side of golf after working in retail with Direct Golf at Huddersfield Stadium.

"It's a good membership and a fantastic area. I hadn't played the course before, but it is very good, so I've fallen quite lucky really," said the new champ.

Nathan wins York title after play-off

Sandburn Hall's Nathan Wilkinson required a play-off to become York Union's new amateur champion after Harry Lee (The Oaks) had forced the need for three extra holes with the aid of a hole-in-one.

Wilkinson led the way at the halfway stage at Forest Park where the 40 competitors discovered Bank Holiday sunshine had given way to cool temperatures and drizzly rain.

He carded a one-under-par 70 for a one-shot advantage at lunch ahead of the host club's Iain Angus while three players were tied on 73 – Matty Roberts (Fulford), Alistair Smith (Pike Hills) and Paul Winterburn (Heworth).

Two rounds stood out from the rest in the afternoon, one of them coming from Heworth's Callum Robertson whose level-par 71 was remarkable given it showed an improvement of 20 shots on his morning score.

Lee, meanwhile, shot a two-under-par 69, coming home in 33 with the assistance



of his ace at the 145-yard 14th hole.

He had carded 74 in round one and his 143 aggregate matched that of Wilkinson, already in the clubhouse after adding a 73 to his opening 70.

The play-off held over the first, second and 18th holes was won by Wilkinson by one shot, two over to Lee's three over, and the union's President, Peter Smith, handed him the trophy.

Hessle are East Riding Junior champions



Luke Thornton produced a 78, the best round of the day, as he and Grace Lambert helped Hessle lay claim to the East Riding junior club team championship at Cave Castle.

Lambert carded an 83 and, following a change to the rules this year to mirror Yorkshire Union of Golf Club's practices, two scores from three counted giving Hessle a winning 161 aggregate.

Cottingham's Callum Burns's 79 was the only other gross score under 80, giving him an excellent nett 69, which earned him the best individual nett prize.

Cottingham 3 won the nett team prize with Burns and George Coope (78) the best duo of the three for a 147 total.

Grace and Luke are pictured with East Riding Union President, John Illingworth.

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Khan red hot for Willow Valley juniors

Habib Khan propelled Willow Valley towards an emphatic victory in Halifax-Huddersfield Union's junior team championship at Huddersfield where he eagled the last for a level-par 71. It laid firm foundations for an eight-shot triumph, ahead of Crosland Heath, alongside team-mates Harry Micklethwaite and Callum Spencer.

With the best two scores counting, Micklethwaite's 80 gave Willow Valley an aggregate of 151 with Crosland Heath totalling 159 through George Hanson (79), Jack Hampshaw (80) and Sam Macdonald (90).

Khan – who claimed the best individual gross score prize – dropped two shots on his way out and, after driving the 310-yard uphill 10th to set up birdie, shed two more with a double bogey at the par-3 next. But he grabbed a birdie at the par-4 14th and then an eagle at the par-5 last where he

put his six-iron approach to just a few feet.

Archie Barraclough produced the best nett score of the day, 70 off nine handicap, to help Woodsome Hall get their hands on the DA Gordon Trophy for the best nett team score of 143. He was backed up by Harry Nixon (73) and Declan Leslie (79).

Barraclough navigated the back nine in just two-over 37 with the help of birdies at the 10th and 18th.

The trio of Khan, Micklethwaite and Spencer were runners-up in the nett category, by seven shots, on 150.

Khan is in a rich vein of form. He recently made his debut for Halifax-Huddersfield's senior side after winning all eight of his matches in the junior team's first four Yorkshire Inter-District Union League matches.

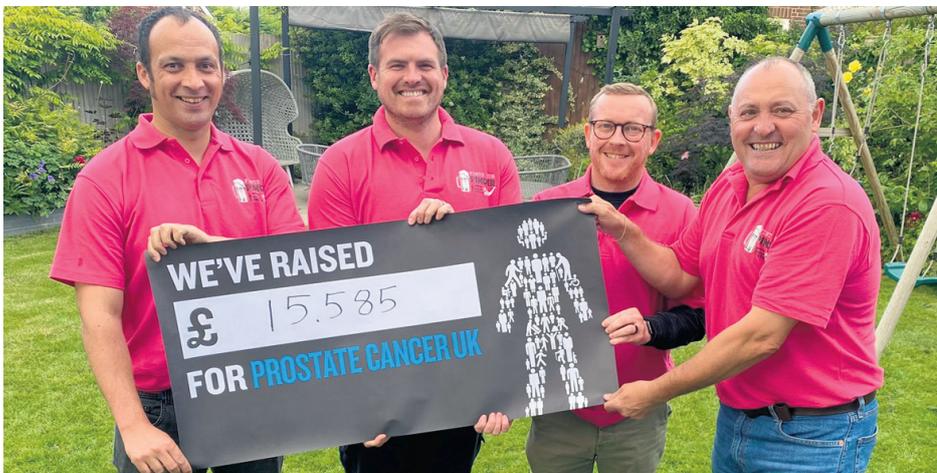


Pictured above are Elland's Glynn Mellor, Halifax-Huddersfield Union's President, and Willow Valley's Habib Khan, Harry Micklethwaite and Callum Spencer.

Below – Glynn Mellor with Woodsome Hall duo Archie Barraclough, centre, and Harry Nixon, winners of the D A Gordon Trophy for the best nett team score.



PROSTATE CANCER UK Pints for Pinder raises over £15,000



A charity golf day at Darrington GC raised a fantastic £15,585 for the Prostate Cancer UK charity.

'Pints 4 Pinder' is named after popular member of the Thacker's Hackers golf society, Lloyd Pinder, who died of the condition aged just 49, leaving a wife and two young daughters. Before he died, Lloyd did lots of charity efforts alongside his friend and Prostate Cancer survivor,

Sky Sports' Jeff Stelling.

The Stoneacres, owners of Darrington, put up a car as a hole-in-one prize, but it went unclaimed on the day. The Pints for Pinder group consist of Jimmy and Callum Morrow, Wayne Liburd, Richard Southcott, Tony Doidge, Andy Hutchinson and Matthew Roe. Pictured with the cheque are Wayne, Jimmy, Matt and Tony.

Matt Roe said: "We would love to thank all our sponsors but particularly Club Insure (www.club-insure.co.uk) who were our main sponsors, plus Darrington GC who let us take over for 24 hours and were amazing in all they did for us. For anyone wanting to support us by playing or sponsorship for May 12 2023, details are on our website www.pintsforpinder.com

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Mary Everard – a true great of ladies’ amateur golf

Hallamshire honorary life member Mary Everard, one of Britain’s most successful amateur lady golfers, has died after a long illness, aged 79.

A former England amateur stroke play champion, Everard was Yorkshire Ladies County Golfers’ Association captain in 1971 and five times the county champion.

She was an England international and made four Curtis Cup appearances, as



well as playing for Great Britain & Ireland against Europe in the Vagliano Trophy.

Everard, who was also an honorary member of YLCGA, had played at Hallamshire for many years, where she was President in 2015.

There were many other other successes and victories over her career. She said last year in an interview with the Baslow Women’s Institute, Derbyshire, where she ran a bed and breakfast: “My proudest moment was to represent Great Britain & Ireland in the amateur ladies’ golf team, playing against the United States in four different years.

“Standing by our flag pole in our blazers and skirts uniform, with the National Anthem playing as the Union Jack was hoisted – very proud moments.”

Photo courtesy of Seaman
Photographer LTD

Northcliffe pair in stunning fightback



Northcliffe’s Rob Malloy and Zac Gartland overcame a stumbling start to cover the last 12 holes at Cleckheaton in seven under on their way to the gross title in Bradford Union’s inter club fourball championship.

The pairing, who shed three shots in the first five holes, eventually carded a four-under-par 66 to win by one from Dale Brook and Cole Chang, of West Bradford, who took second place on countback from Bradford Moor’s Iain Walker and Adam Charles.

The host club’s Adrian Jowett and John Wickens also had the countback on their side, enabling them to lift the nett title with a 60 to heap more disappointment on Brook and Chang.

Malloy and Gartland are the lead pair for Bradford Union’s team in the Yorkshire Inter-District Union League, but failed to dovetail on holes two, three and five where they could do no better between them than a bogey.

Malloy admitted they felt their chance of glory was gone. “At three over it was almost like the writing was on the wall already,” he said.

“We weren’t too happy strolling down the sixth fairway, that was for sure. It was strange to be able to come back from that position and win in the end.”

Malloy has been a Bradford regular for around 10 years while Gartland is a relative newcomer to scratch team golf.

“I’ve taken him under my wing a little bit and I

think I tried to lead by example,” says the former, “but we both had birdie putts on the seventh and he made his and then I birdied the eighth.”

An out-of-bounds drive at the ninth by Gartland proved, paradoxically, to be a pivotal moment as Malloy explained. “The ninth’s a short par-4 at Cleckheaton, it’s a risk-and-reward hole,” he said. “After Zac had hit it out of bounds I said, ‘well, we’re already one over par, let’s roll the dice’ and I knocked it on the front of the green.

“I made another birdie and all of a sudden you’ve had three birdies in a row and it’s completely changed from walking off the fifth green and thinking ‘game over’, and now ‘it’s, game on again’, can we do a bit of damage on the back nine?”

Gartland birdied 10 and when Malloy made a long putt for birdie at the 245-yard par-3 15th they received news that three under was leading.

“That birdie at 15 was a bonus because it got us to two under and we suddenly thought, ‘we’ve got a chance here’ he added.”

Zac birdied 16, parred 17, and then the big man nailed another birdie at the last.

“I’ve been close a couple of times to other union titles, and I won the captain’s player of the year trophy one year for the league. Winning was a nice start to the season.”

They are pictured with Union President Simon Tabel, of Keighley GC.

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No plane no gain!

In my opinion, the swing plane is one of the most important concepts in golf as it relates to how straight, high and far a golfer can hit the ball.

It is often one of the most intimidating terms for beginners and high-handicappers alike as it can sound complicated, but this article will explain the principles and concept of the swing plane so it's no longer a term to be feared.

To put it simply, the swing plane is the angle of your swing arc in relation to the ground. If you could stand directly above the ball and make a perfectly upright swing, the club would travel on an arc like a pirate ship at a fun fair. If your swing plane was perfectly flat, the club would swing around your body parallel to the ground.

Your individual swing plane is influenced by your height, build, posture and how you swing your arms and turn your body. The swing plane also differs from club to club, because of the lie angle of the club. This means that the shorter the club, the more upright your swing plane will be. Also, if the ball is on a side-hill lie where the ball is above your feet, your swing plane will naturally be flatter.

Common Swing Plane Errors

Many golfers begin their swings by using their hands incorrectly which produces a rolling motion of the club-head on the takeaway. This immediately puts the club under the player's swing plane.

Very often from this position, the player will then lift the club to the top of the backswing and then loop the club over the top.

This then brings the club above the swing plane on the downswing, causing the player to hit the ball from an outside path, a major cause of slices and pull shots.



TONY HOWARTH
Academy Director,
Scarthingwell
Golf Academy

Swing Plane Drill That Works

This simple drill will help you feel the stretching action that will enable you to maintain your plane more easily and is a great way to loosen up before your round!

Begin by taking up your regular set-up (image 1).

From this position drop your club to the ground, maintaining your posture (image 2).

Extend your right arm directly away from the body, keeping the palm of your hand facing away from you at the top. Hold this position for 3 seconds, ensuring your left arm remains pointing down in its original position (image 3).

Bring the right arm directly back down to bring the palms together at your impact position (image 4).

Extend your left arm directly away from the body, keeping the palms of the hands facing the target. Hold this position for 3 seconds, ensuring your right arm remains pointing down in its original position (image 5).

Return the left arm to your starting position and repeat!

To see a video of this exercise, visit this page on my website: <https://tonyhowarthgolf.com/home/tips-and-hints/>



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TONY HOWARTH, 2004 Sinclair Award Winner, Academy Director and Golf and Marketing Manager at Scarthingwell Golf Course, has over 25 years PGA experience and has taught all levels of golfers. This experience ranges from European Tour, Ladies European Tour and County players through to club golfers and complete beginners.

Tony has appeared as guest speaker at many events including the Junior Golf Partnership seminar held at the Belfry, as Key Note Speaker at the inaugural Golf Careers Convention at the University of Northumbria, guest speaker at the UK Golf Show, the Turkish Golf

Federation 1st Annual Coaching Conference and most recently at the GolfEurope Show in Augsburg, Germany. In his role as SNAG Master Trainer, Tony works with International Golf Development implementing first touch coaching and development programmes across the world including Europe, Africa and Asia. Tony's simplistic style of coaching has been his road to success and he has become known as an expert not just on the golf swing but especially on the short game and putting.



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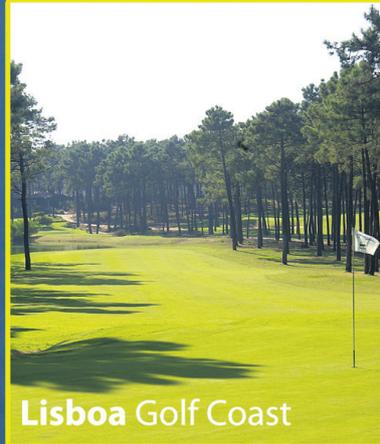
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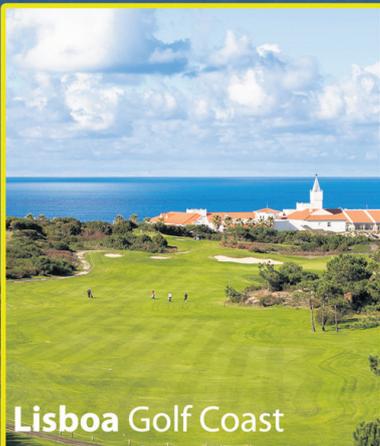
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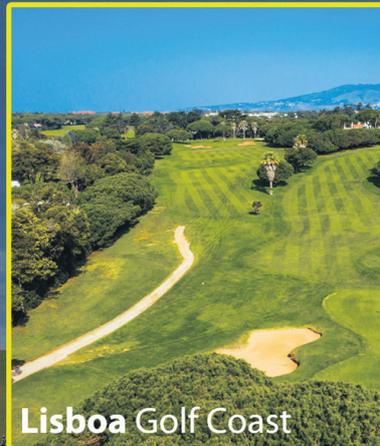


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