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May 2022



Ken and crew dig deep to develop juniors

Success for Thornton and Brown as season kicks into gear

BROWN'S QUEEN OF THE GREENS

Emma bags two county titles



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YORKSHIRE LADIES Chris Stratford reports from the Championship match at Alwoodley

Brown wins the 'generation game'

FORMER Curtis Cup player Emma Brown caught the eye of English senior women's captain Angela Jones merely by turning 50 and gaining eligibility for veterans golf.

In the space of 10 days she metaphorically shouted in Jones's ear too, by winning the Yorkshire veterans' championship at her first attempt (report, p4) before claiming her fourth county ladies championship, at Richmond and Alwoodley respectively.

The former British ladies champion from Malton & Norton defeated Lindrick 19-year-old Mia Eales Smith 4&3 in the final to make it two wins under her maiden name of Duggleby (2000 and 2002) and two in her married name of Brown (2013 and 2022).

She admits she is excited by the thought of being considered for a return to the international arena after Jones contacted her to enquire about her plans.

"She got in touch and then we had a chat on Zoom, and she asked what I was playing in," said Brown, who opted to play in the Yorkshire championship ahead of the following week's English seniors championship in Wiltshire out of a mixture of loyalty and pragmatism, the latter putting a premium on both time and financial expenditure.

"The Yorkshire championship's great," said Brown, who had progressed from the stroke play qualifying to the match play stages for the 29th consecutive county championship.

"Alwoodley's a lovely course and to come here and see friends – three of my older



Yorkshire Union of Golf Clubs President-elect Laurence Wood presented the Championship trophy to Emma Brown (above) and right, the players share congratulations and commiserations on the 15th green



friends who I used to play county golf with have come down to watch – and to see all the officials, it's just wonderful.

"It's nice to still be competing because there will come a time when I can't compete against the youngsters to this level."

Brown struck the first blow in the final by winning the par-5 third with a birdie and she quickly doubled the lead by making another at five where she put her approach to 18 inches.

The advantage looked set to be stretched to three at the next when Eales Smith had to hack sideways out of dense rough, leading to a bogey, but Brown uncharacteristically three putted. Suddenly a

potential three-hole lead became one in reality when the Lindrick player then made birdie from six feet at the 7th.

However, after two shared holes it was Eales Smith's turn to take three putts, at 10, and after a half at the par-3 11th where she almost holed her tee shot on the fly, a poorly played second at 13 led to the loss of another hole by the teenager.

Brown uncharacteristically endured another three-putt green on the 14th hole where Eales Smith's tee shot looked well struck, but drifted into a greenside bunker and she was unable to get up and down in two to punish her opponent's failings.

Despite Eales Smith hitting her drive 25 yards past her

experienced opponent at the next, Brown called on all her match play experience to pile pressure on Eales Smith by canning a 15ft birdie putt and when the 19-year-old missed from 12ft the contest was over.

Stood over what would prove the decisive putt, Brown recalled her morning's effort at the 15th.

"I'd had a very similar putt in the morning and knocked it three and a half feet past, so I knew it was fast coming down there and I thought, 'come on, hole this and you can get it over with'."

Beaten semi-finalists were the host club's Sara Gilmore and Aaliyah Hryniewieka-Irwin.

Three-time former champion Megan Wileman, of Selby,

returning to competitive golf after the birth of her now 11-month-old son, took home the Elliott Trophy for the best 36-hole gross score with rounds of 75 and 68.

Zara Ali (Cookridge Hall) had the best first round gross score of 71 and Amy Staveley (Ganton) the best in round two with a course record 67.

Brown also garnered the Silver Salver for the top aggregate

among the seniors of 147 (74 and 73) with Heather Staniforth (Hallamshire) runner-up (82 and 79).

Winner of the Silver Salver awarded for the last day's 18-hole gross event was Ali, her 71 besting Howley Hall's Becki O'Grady by one.

Hessle's Grace Lambert won the Silver Salver for best 18-hole nett with a 69, one ahead of Ali.

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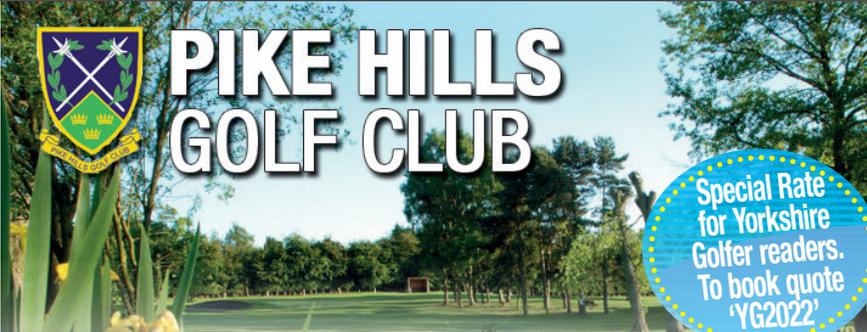
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FAIRHAVEN TROPHY Tykes on top in prestigious pan-European event

Brown leads charge of Yorkshire juniors

Yorkshire golfers dominated an international field of under-18s competing for the acclaimed Fairhaven Trophy, with Romanby's Ben Brown leading the way.

A second round, course record-equalling 66 gave Brown breathing space in the 72-hole strokeplay competition at the Fairhaven Golf Club on Lancashire's 'golf coast'. He ended up on -10, 5-shots clear of fellow Tyke, Dylan Shaw-Radford of Huddersfield GC.

The two teenagers had edged ahead of the pack going into the final day, Brown leading the recent Scottish Boys Open winner Shaw-Radford by three. A closing 74 still kept Shaw-Radford in second,

a shot ahead of Swede Wilmer Edero, plus Doncaster's Josh Berry who stormed home with a new course record 65, to finish in 4th on -3.

Three shots back in 8th place was Garforth's Jake Wallis, who saved his best round of 69 for the last day, and a level par total.

Brown, who like his big brother and tour pro Dan was a product of the Masham club, could put much of his success down to Fairhaven's first hole, a par-5 which he played in 6-under courtesy of a par, birdie, eagle and albatross!

For Shaw-Radford, the result was a continuation of the form which saw him claim the Scottish Boys' Open title at Murcar Links in April.



Fairhaven Trophy victor Ben Brown and runner-up Dylan Shaw-Radford

Bad weather can't put wind up Dylan

CHRIS STRATFORD talks to a young man who 'likes' to get out in tough conditions...

Dylan Shaw-Radford, a key member of Halifax, Huddersfield and District Union of Golf Clubs' senior side, got his season off to a glorious start with victory in the Scottish Boys' Open at Murcar Links, in Aberdeen.

The Huddersfield member shot rounds of 71, 69, 77 for a one-stroke triumph that has earned him a place in next month's Brabazon Trophy, the English stroke play championship, at Saunton, Devon.

The bare statistics mask the fact that the Yorkshire Boys title holder had to defy horrendous conditions of hail showers, rain and high winds, the weather being so bad that the tournament was reduced to three rounds because play was impossible in the afternoon on day one.

Shaw-Radford has been quick to add an international title to the national crown he won last September when he became England Boys' Champion of Champions, and immediately headed to France to play for that country's under-18 laurels, where he made the last 32 and match play stages before bowing out on the last green.

He was happy to discover on arrival in North West France that the weather at Les Aisses Golf Club was much more conducive to low scoring golf, but the 16-year-old practises in all conditions so was not disconcerted by the foul weather encountered in Scotland.

"When it is very windy out, I make an effort to go out on the course at Fixby and practise and hit some different shots into holes and hit different clubs," he said.

"I just try to learn how to play in different conditions, especially being in England because you play a lot of links golf in windy weather, so it can be needed. It would be

nice at times to stay at home when it's cold and windy, but I also want to get better and to get there you've got to do some practice."

As well as being physically prepared, Shaw-Radford steels himself mentally for the type of challenges Murcar Links threw at him.

"I think that was the toughest of my wins," he reflected, "but I think you have to change your expectations in those conditions."

"You can't expect to shoot a really good score in such horrendous weather, you've got to almost expect that you're going to make bogeys."

"Then when you do make bogeys you're not too worried about it because sometimes they're not that bad."

He will return to Scotland in August in the hopes of taking a further step up the ladder by annexing the British Boys' crown at Open Championship venue Carnoustie, an achievement that would no doubt increase his chances of gaining a golfing scholarship at an American university.

Playing collegiate golf is something that he has in mind as he studies for Business and Economics A-levels online, although he has not decided definitively that he will go down that route on the path to what he hopes will be a life as a tour player.

"Studying online gives me more flexibility for playing in tournaments and practising, and also I can use those qualifications to go to an American college if I want," he explained.

"However, I'm still in two minds about whether I want to go to college in America."

"It is not top of my list of priorities, but it is on there somewhere."

"This is my first year of A-levels so I've got about a year and a half to think about college in America."

Calverley's new captains

The 2022 Yorkshire Union of Golf Clubs President Terry Collins was on hand to join the new Captains at his home Calverley Golf Club as they dove in for their year. Pictured with Terry (centre-left) from left are Seniors Captain Fred Holmes, Ladies Captain Louise Ward, club PGA Professional Jeff Whittam, Junior Captain Liam Kilsby and the Club Captain, Richard Lonsdale.



News in brief

COMPETITORS in the Spring Cup at Ridding Park endured chilly and windy conditions, albeit bathed in sunshine, but David Doherty found a hot streak to card three birdies and eight pars to beat Nick Wright in a card play-off in Division 1.

Alan Hood won Division 2 with a similar number of pars plus one birdie, leaving runner-up Keiran Reilly two points adrift. Jake Atkinson came out top in Division 3, also with one birdie, supplemented by four pars, to best Robert Harrison by just a point.

Hood was overall winner of the Spring Cup with his 39pt tally, beating Atkinson on count back.

GARY AND JAKE Mitchell won the Kinnear Family Foursomes at Doncaster GC, beating Mark and Sam Fry by one shot.

GERRY HUYTS enjoyed her first success at Knaresborough GC when she took advantage of a fine day to shoot a nett 69 and claim the Rose Plate.

CAPTAIN Peter Vallance's side defeated vice captain Neil Scanlon's team 10-4 in their challenge match at Wheatley GC.

THE PHILIP HAIGH Tankard, Woodsome Hall's first major competition of the season, was won by Michael Bell with an excellent nett 67 off 19.

Brown back in winners' circle

Malton & Norton's Emma Brown won the Yorkshire Ladies Veterans' Championship, beating home golfer Karen Jobling 5&4 in the final.

It was the ladies' 5th match in three days, with Brown dispensing of Julie Wheeldon in the morning semi-finals, while Jobling beat Heather Butcher.

Brown should prove to be a major addition to the Yorkshire Ladies vets team, having only turned 50 in October. Their first match is also at Richmond on June 10 against Northumberland.

Emma Brown is pictured receiving her silverware from Yorkshire Ladies Vets Captain Penny Holroyd.



Thornton's Brabazon 'prep' is a great call

By Chris Stratford

Fulford's Charlie Thornton decided to play the West of England stroke play championship at Saunton as preparation for the Brabazon Trophy, which will be staged on the North Devon track towards the end of May – and walked away with the title and a £700 cash prize.

The former England Golf Boys' Order of Merit winner had to come from four strokes behind in the final round, cramming seven birdies into a 65 that saw him edge The Mere's Jack Brooks by one.

Yet thoughts of ultimate triumph were far from the 23-year-old's mind when he had to declare a provisional ball on the first tee in round four after an "awful tee shot".

Fortunately the first shot was in play, albeit in a poor lie, but he managed to make a par that he says was crucial to him ultimately winning the championship.

"I made a par out of nowhere," he recalled.

"I hacked the drive back out, knocked it onto the green to about 10ft and holed the putt.

"I made a par where I was thinking that I might have lost the ball and I think that always sets you up for a

good mindset for the round.

"I birdied the next, I holed another decent putt there, and that gave me a huge boost of confidence as well. After that I just kept on going."

Thornton scored progressively lower with each round despite conditions he described as "horrendous, awful" on days one and two, carding 77, 75, 72, 65 for a five-over aggregate.

"I played good golf in the other three rounds, but it didn't really click for the full 18 holes until the last round. The first round I was one under through nine and then finished six over, and the second and third rounds I played okay, but never fully got going.

"In the last round it kind of all came together, the putts started dropping and I was hitting it closer to the pin."

The ex-England men's squad player underlined the extent of the winds encountered.

"You could be hitting a 6-iron 120 yards and a wedge 200 yards, depending upon whether you were into the wind or downwind," he explained.

"However, on the last day [for the final two rounds] it was still windy, but not as bad as it had been."

Trailing by four did not deter Thornton, whose confidence in his game that he can go low was com-

pounded by the knowledge that bogeys would be easy to make, so that any 18-hole score under par in the fourth and final circuit of the course would undoubtedly lead to a rise up the leaderboard.

The Fulford man, who was cheered to victory during the weekend rounds by girlfriend Anna, said: "With the pins where they were in the afternoon it was very easy to shoot a score over par, so I felt if I shot a few under I would be in with a chance."

So it proved with both Thornton and Brooks, who shot a 67 in the last round, overhauling 54-hole leader Daniel Hayes, of Bramhall, who closed with a level par 71.

Thornton will head to Scotland next month to play in the St Andrews Links Trophy and then Royal Lytham from June 13-18 for the Amateur Championship and what will be his last

event before turning pro – unless he wins in Lancashire.

Victory would bring an invite to play the Masters in 2023 and Thornton commented: "I think if you won and didn't wait before turning pro to play Augusta you would be daft."



Winner Charlie with girlfriend Anna

Club news in brief

MELTHAM: Rachel Barnard won Meltham GC's Masters Par-3 competition in a very tight finish, succeeding on countback against Andrew Mcgrath, with both on 21 points.

A great turnout saw more than 160 members donning some bright colours and playing despite some chilly weather and the occasional snow shower.

Neil Paxman won the Noel Gleeson award while honourable mentions go to Richard Sowerby and Stephen Beetlestone in the sartorial stakes.

DRAX: Drax Golf Club's charity competition helped raise £621 for the Riverside School.

The winning team, with 99 points, was Paul Simms, Mark Simms, Colin Taylor and Liam Parry.

In the charity hole competition, club captain, Daz Neary, was the only one to land within the blue zone and took the prize of a 12-year-old bottle of Glenfiddich.

Senior captain, Derek Wilson, was the only one to land in the green zone, claiming a bottle of Grants whiskey.

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The game's ok but WHS still a headache...

I do not doubt that the World Handicap System was introduced with the best of intentions and, in a perfect world, would serve to level the metaphorical golf fairway once and for all.

We're quite a way into the system now and I suspect I'm not the only average golfer – very average – who remains occasionally mystified by at least certain elements of WHS.

The gents in my usual playing group have managed to work out 95% of our handicap when playing in club medals and comps. You actually don't need a calculator per se (well you do, but it's on your mobile phone). Just

check your WHS against the course rating and tee used, then type in your handicap and multiply it by .95. Easy-peasy.

From there however, things get tricky. Playing in a four-ball better-ball, we were instructed to apply 85% of our handicaps.

Just typing those words I can feel something approaching a migraine coming on.

Is that 85% of my solo handicap and 85% of my partner's handicap as if we were playing solo, or do we combine our handicaps and calculate 85% of that?

No it can't be that, that wouldn't work ... I don't think. So it must be the former. Again, I think...

SWINGING WILD...

Danny Lockwood



So, 13.7 equals 16 course handicap, 15 playing handicap, divided by 85%, equals "I'm getting a migraine..."



What's the name of that popular price comparison website, confused.com?

Standing on the putting green prior to approaching the first tee while discussing this

somewhat important matter, on more than one occasion I/we have been told "just put in your gross score, the computer will work it out".

Well slap my thigh and go

to the foot of our stairs, but ee bah gum, it appears to work!

I suppose that in itself is a solution of sorts – leave it to the computer. Somehow that seems to be increasingly a metaphor for modern life.

What I'm less sure of is how effective the WHS has proven at keeping handicaps honest. A golfing acquaintance from another club still gets 24 shots and he was bemoaning elements of the system and how he wasn't 'coming down'.

I know he rarely enters club competitions and I'm not sure if he's aware we can check each other's index records, but it seems he's only put one card in during the past 12 months. How does the 'system' deal with that?

My index has come down in three of my last four rounds, so a little bit of consistency is kicking into the game if not always the scoring.

But if Lockwood Snr is reasonably content with the new system, I'm not sure Lockwood Jr is much enamoured at the moment.

My son was a golf club member at just four-years-old and had some promise before heading out into the wider world of every sport that crossed his path. Now in his mid-twenties and starting play-

ing again, but not settled enough to join a club, he has signed up for England Golf's non-member handicap/index scheme iGolf.

It sounds to me like an excellent piece of innovation, and one habitual winner of our society events (claiming anything between 18 and 24, depending on which side of the bed he got out of that morning) has been shamed into joining it. He now finds himself with a 13.3 index. Result.

Son, however, is somewhat mystified at the initial index he's been given. So far he's only been able to submit a handful of cards on various courses. He's come close but hasn't quite broken 80 just yet.

His index? A somewhat conservative and difficult to explain 4.5. I'm trying to talk him into a cash game, but so far without luck.

Such as I can even attempt to explain it – as his dad – I do wonder if when entering his scores, he got a little bit carried away and recorded what he thought he *would* have got but for that bad bounce, that unseen break, bad bunker lie etc etc.

No? Unfair? Surely I can't be the only parent who has trodden that particular path...

A show that will have you in stitches

I think it was at a golf course in Tunisia, possibly 15 years ago. At my age the memory is rather more fickle than it used to be.

Still, given the circumstances I found myself in, the fact that I can remember anything should probably be considered a bonus – because I was lying on the ground, face up, with a golf tee in my mouth and a nice new Titleist nestling upon it.

Fellow golf journalists and a healthy crowd of spectators were chuckling – just a little nervously. After all, what possibly could go wrong?

If roles had been reversed and I'd been standing with a driver in my hand, over the poor sucker on his back, lots could have gone wrong. I've been known to take divots with the big stick.

Fortunately the bloke with the golf club was none other than David Edwards, the doyen of golf trick show hosts. And although David was chuckling merrily away, getting the most out of my temporary discomfort, it was no surprise to anyone – but a big relief to me – when his driver whistled past my nose and launched said Titleist miles down the fairway.

Thankfully – for my nerves at least – David wasn't using the extra long driver (10ft maybe?) that he occasionally employs during his show.

If you've never seen him, trust me, you literally are missing a trick, because the man will absolutely astound you with some of the gizmos and gimmicks he employs.

But sublime, indeed barely believable ball striking skills apart, David is a natural born comedian. Hilarious.

I haven't seen him in recent years, but I can still picture his impression of Miguel Angel Jimenez which had everyone in stitches. He wears props for the occasion too. Some of his likenesses are uncanny.

As such it's not a surprise that David Edwards is widely regarded as the best trick shot artist in the business.

A former European Tour professional himself, he has performed his amazing show in more than 50 different countries.

The show has been in demand at some of the world's top events including The Ryder Cup, Solheim Cup and numerous times at The DPWTC in Dubai.

But don't just take it from a hack who's also a keen hacker. None other than Pete Cowen remarked: "Having seen many golf shows over the years, in my opinion the David Edwards Golf Show is the finest one around."

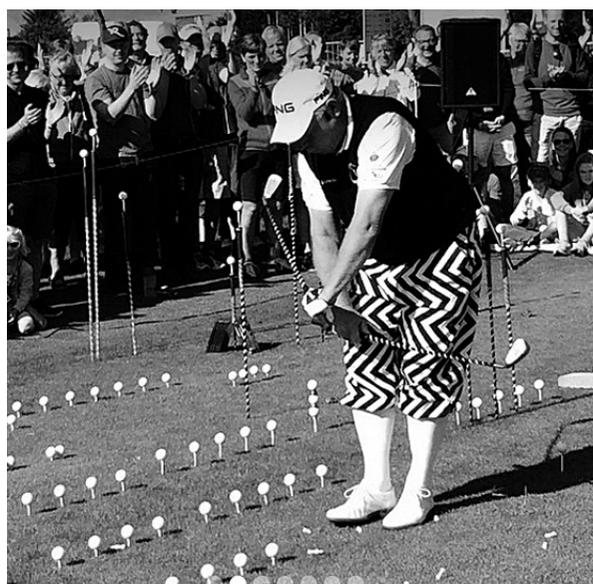
"His quality of shots, professionalism, exceptional talent and skill will provide entertainment at the highest level."

Former World Snooker champion Dennis Taylor adds: "David is a golfing genius, his on course video commentary had me and the guests in stitches. He has a rare talent and his quick witty sense of humour, will enhance any golf day."

For clubs or organisations planning a corporate or charity day, or who have a special event coming up at their club, David has helped raise many thousands of pounds for charity



David with Ant & Dec and (bottom) in action



both at home and abroad.

As well as his trick show and brilliant on-course video commentary package, he is also much in demand as an after dinner speaker, event host and charity auctioneer.

More details can be found at www.david-edwards.co.uk

In trying to play to par I'm going to Play2Par...

In next month's Yorkshire Golfer I'm going to be bringing you a review of the brand new Play2Par indoor golf academy, just on the northern outskirts of York.

It's not the real thing, I accept, but I think it will prove to be for me, going forwards.

As a golf journalist I've been privileged with invitations to play – gratis – some of Europe's very best courses. It's something not to be taken for granted.

My personal favourites? In the UK I loved Scottish links track Kingsbarns, found Notts Golf Club's Hollinwell absolutely delightful, revelled in several absolute delights in French Basque country south of Biarritz, especially the Lacoste family's Chantaco, and Monte Rei in the eastern Algarve was sublime.

Even further afield, while in Barbados I haven't played the Green Monkey course at Sandy Lane, but Royal Westmoreland is stunning and Apes Hill should be better than ever when it reopens.



The 120-odd courses in the Coachella Valley around Palm Springs in Southern California are literally a golfing paradise, although many are beyond most of our means.

In considering that however, I have to reflect on a common denominator – on all of those courses I enjoyed so much, the weather was fabulous.

Is it so strange that I can't think of a single 'favourite' course where the rain was hitting us sideways or our toes were frozen.

Which is why this winter, rather than unplugging mud balls and wearing thermals, I fully intend signing up at Play2Par, where it's always polo shirt weather.

2020Protour Dyson and Brown aim for £10k bonus 'Winner' Hanson has to DQ himself



Moortown
Major
winner
Simon
Dyson

The 2020Protour's second Major of the year provided high drama at Rockcliffe Hall, with tour co-founder Chris Hanson having to disqualify himself after seeming to win a play-off over Dan Brown.

With the action on the 5th sudden death play-off hole being live-streamed around the world, and the players going down the 1st hole for the 3rd time, Hanson pulled his 3-wood into the edge of a copse of trees on the left, circled with a metal fence.

The Woodsome Hall man's ball was just on the 'wrong' side of the fence.

With tour co-founder and Yorkshire Amateur champion Adam Walker on hand commentating for the livestream, Romanby's Brown was called over to help make a ruling.

Rockcliffe Hall officials had earlier explained that free relief could be taken from the fence – the problem being where the 'nearest' point of relief was.

There seemed to be a suggestion that the fence could be deemed an immovable obstruction in the nature of a temporary scoreboard, and with no actual rules official to hand, Hanson eventually dropped his ball on the fairway side of the fence.

Brown had acceded to the ruling, while in real time, the play-off's watching armchair 'experts' were posting their various comments on the livestream.

Hanson, despite an impeded swing, then hit a stunning iron into 20ft while Brown, in perfect position in the fairway, sent his approach

long. When last year's 2020protour Order of Merit winner saw his putt fade just wide, Hanson drained his birdie to claim the £5,000 prize. There was a measure of embarrassment from the 'winner' at the nature of his victory, with a good-humoured Brown bemoaning his 0-3 play-off record. However when the actual rules decision was made clear, Hanson was quick to disqualify himself and hand the victory to Brown.

The pair had finished tied on -4 in a strong field for the Travel People Guide Masters, with Simon Dyson looking to back up his win in the first 2020protour Major at Moortown. There is a £10,000 bonus for a player winning two of this season's three Majors, the final one being at Worksop on September 26.

There were a combined 10 DP World Tour 'wins' in the Rockcliffe Hall field. Lincoln's Rob Harris was a shot behind Brown and Hanson, followed on -2 by Daniel O'Loughlin and Malton & Norton's Marcus Brigham, in his first season as a professional.

Also in the money tied 6th were Jacob Davies, Callum Farr, Joe Heraty, Jack South and Lee Slattery.

Among a group on level par were John Parry, Nick Marsh, Nick Poppleton, Ben Brown and Lewis Hopkinson. Dyson finished on +1.

In the play-off, Brown and Hanson both birdied the first extra hole, then shared scrambled pars down the 9th and halved the 1st and 9th again before the third visit down the first brought a result.

McClarrons Sport announced a big money bonus for the 2020protour with a potential prize of £10,000 to any player to win two of the tour's three majors.

Tom Landale, McClarrons' Associate Director, said: "We are delighted to work with the 2020protour for the third year running.

"This year we have taken a different approach and focussed on the Majors. The first year we created a bonus based on birdies and I think everyone knows what happened there. Last year we focussed on generic wins. This year, Majors. We pride ourselves on working with our clients and partners to create new and exciting bonuses and incentives, this is what separates us from the usual insurance broker".

"We are a specialist sports insurance broker operating across all sports globally, working closely with clients to build creative and robust insurance solutions from our headquarters in Malton, North Yorkshire. Leaning on in-house sports data and analytics specialists, we have a number of clients who recognise that insurance broking is an art and value the creativity and expertise that we can bring."



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Wednesday 18 May, £45.00 team of 3
Handicap Index limit 28

Open Mixed 4BB
Saturday 28 May, £35 per couple
Handicap Index limits Gents:28 Ladies: 36

Seniors Open Day 4BB (Yellow Tees)
Thursday 2 June, £30 per couple
Handicap Index limit 28

Men's Open Am-Am
Saturday 16 July, £80 per team
Handicap Index limit 28

Ladies Open Am-Am
Wednesday 27 July, £60 per team
(inc 2s Club) Handicap Index Limit 38.1

Seniors Open Day 4BB (Yellow Tees)
Thursday 28 July, £30 per couple
Handicap Index limit 28

Open Mixed 4BB
Saturday 27 August, £35 per couple
H'cap Index limits, Gents: 28 Ladies: 36

Ladies Tri-Am Open Day
Wednesday 7 September
£45 per team of 3 (includes 2s club)
Handicap Index limit 38.1

Gents Open Day Am-Am
Wed 14 Sept, £60 Per Team of 4
Handicap Index limit 28

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INTER-DISTRICT East Riding skipper looking to defend hard-won title

Champions face tough start without some key players

By Chris Stratford

East Riding found all the right answers to win the Yorkshire Inter-District Union League title last year – but the start of their championship defence will set captain Andy Lockwood a few difficult selection questions because of A-level examinations.

Several of his successful younger squad members from 2021 will be unavailable as they either prep for or sit exams and Lockwood commented: “That is the difficulty I have got for the first three games, so that is a bit of a headache, but it is just one of those things. I am sure the other unions are going through exactly the same as what I am.”

After ending a 12-year wait for their fourth YIDU senior side league triumph, East Riding begin this season with an away match against Bradford at Skipton, followed by a home game with Sheffield at Hornsea and another trip, to face Leeds at Headingley.

“I think the first three matches we have got is a difficult start,” said Lockwood. “Obviously Bradford away is never easy, then we have Sheffield at home, and then Leeds away, which again won’t be easy. So we have got what are possibly our hardest three games at the start of the season.”

“But you can only play what is in front of you and I’m sure it will be the same for the other teams as well, they are possibly missing players as well, so it will start to kick in more in the summer months when you have got your players available.”

East Riding reigned supreme at the end of 2021 despite showing a tendency to put themselves under pressure with poor foursomes performances. Lockwood intended to address the problem by using two squad gatherings at Ganton to consider alternative pairings.

However, he lamented: “I had planned for maybe one or two of the



The 2021 winners: East Riding secretary John Illingworth, Will Storr, Steve Uzzell, Jamie Gregory, Mark Lamb, East Riding President John Chambers, manager Andy Lockwood, Tommy Risker, Steve Lynch and team support manager Howard Palmer.

senior players to play with some of the younger ones, and obviously some of the younger ones who did well last year to play together again, but obviously with the A-levels it makes it somewhat harder.

“The players have given me their availability for the season, so I am looking between that and then what also helped us last year, was when the lads were playing competitive golf and I picked the team accordingly on form. That is the plan for this year.”

Two of the youngsters will be studying further afield than Yorkshire with Jack Maxey attend-

ing Keiser University, in Florida, and Matty Raybould at Lenoir-Rhyne in North Carolina.

“They are not back for the first game and then in August they go back to America so I’ll lose them then,” said Lockwood. He will, however, boost his squad with the inclusion of both his son Paul plus Steve Dale and Ryan Gray.

Lockwood has played 89 times for the union and also won the YIDU title as a player, so his experience is something that he can draw on when leading his troops into action.

“It is nice at coaching sessions

and so forth when you can see the respect that the young players have for you because they know that I was a decent player in my own right,” he said.

“I have just tried to give them a little bit of insight from my own experience and to see them blossom is great, so we go into the season hoping to do exactly the same as last year.”

While East Riding start at Bradford on May 15, Halifax-Huddersfield – usurped as champions – take on Harrogate, Leeds host York and Teesside welcome Sheffield.

John steps up to ‘top’ job



After two very successful years as President, during which East Riding won the Yorkshire Inter District Union League title for the first time in 12 years, John Chambers gave up the reins at the union’s AGM and passed them over to the 2022 President John Illingworth.

The incoming President, who is very well known in the union having been the secretary since 2016, said: “It is an honour to take over as President of the union for 2022 and I look forward to supporting our teams throughout the season and wish them every success.”

“To the supporters of our Members’ Meetings, I hope to meet as many of you as possible at our six events. To all golfers across the East Riding Union in our 24 member clubs, have a great season wherever your golf takes you, play well but, most importantly, enjoy.”

“Finally, many thanks to all those who commit their time to ensure that all our championships and competitions are a success.”

The union thanked Chambers for his “brilliant efforts” over the last two years facing up to the challenges of the pandemic, and wished Illingworth all the best in his President’s year.

‘It’s about the friendship’ as Halifax-Hudds edge St Annes



Glynn Mellor (right) presents St Annes captain Jan Dulay with a 75th anniversary commemorative plaque

Halifax, Huddersfield and District Union of Golf Clubs applied early gloss to their 75th anniversary celebrations with the return of their traditional match against St Annes Old Links following a two-year hiatus due to Covid.

The visitors edged to a 7-6 victory in Lancashire – a return match will be played at Halifax-Huddersfield president Glynn Mellor’s home club Elland in the autumn – in a contest comprising five morning foursomes, and eight afternoon fourball better ball battles.

But the union’s marketing and communications executive, and team manager, Frank Greaves, stressed the outcome was “immaterial”, adding “friendship, people and places make memories”.

The connection between club and union developed from an initial nexus before World War II between St Annes and a small team of golfers known as Yorkshire Nomads, whose prowess on the links was matched by their craving of fun at the 19th hole.

Each year they played Royal Lytham and on one visit popped in to neighbouring St Annes Old, whose then secretary, Jack Buckley Lowe, fixed up the Nomads to play with some members. So began an annual fixture until its discontinuation with the outbreak of war and the Nomads’ disbandment.

Shortly after the formation of the Halifax-Huddersfield union in 1947, its then President, Tom Day, revived the tradition and it has endured to this day.

St Annes’ captain Jan Dulay said: “We brought the sunshine, but the wind is an honorary member of this club and unfortunately she was here, making it a little bit harder for everyone.”

Mellor told the St Annes team: “What a fantastic day this has been. It has been wonderful for me, the hospitality has been great and the course is absolutely unbelievable, magnificent. When you come back to Elland in October we hope to give you a really good day and we will do our very best to entertain you and have a great

night there.”

Greaves, who arranged the event along with St Annes counterpart Jonny Moss, said: “After seven or eight times playing you think, ‘have I done this enough’, but someone said to me, ‘once you get into this band of people, why would you want to let it go?’ To those people that are new today, I would urge you to think about that because the friendship between the union and the club is immense and we are just passing through and carrying on the tradition.”

Moss commented: “I’d like to thank Halifax and Huddersfield for coming over and giving us a great game, as always, and I can’t wait to go over in October.”

Three union pairings – Andy Whitworth and Jim Fairhurst, Greaves and Mark Birkett, and Paul Taylor and Darren Davison – won both their matches, with Martin Talbot and Steve Horrocks providing the crucial point as St Annes swept the three matches involving executive committee members from each side.

Rob is Oaks' inspiration

Family members of Leeds Rhinos legend Rob Burrow visited The Oaks to support a marathon fund-raising effort by the 2021 captains Michael Clark and Sue Randall.

Inspired by Burrow's fight against Motor Neurone Disease, rugby league fans Clark and Randall raised £5,000 for the MND Association by nominating it as their joint Captain's Charity.

Various fun events were held throughout the year, including playing 36 holes a day for seven days, culminating in the Captain's Finale attended by Rob's mum, sisters and cousin.

Rugby fans and the public alike have watched in virtual disbelief as Rob's former teammate and captain, Kevin Sinfield, has completed some astonishing fund-raising challenges, including a £1million effort by running 101 miles in 24-hours.

Sue Randall commented: "To have raised this amount of money has made us very proud of The Oaks Golf Club members and we can't thank them enough for their generosity.."

"Motor neurone disease is a fatal, rapidly progressing disease that affects the brain and spinal cord, attacking the nerves that control movement so muscles no longer work.

"It kills a third of people



Pictured from the left are Rob Burrow's sisters Claire Burnett and Joanne Hartshorne, Michael Clark, Rob's mum Irene Burrow, Sue Randall and Rob's cousin Donna Bateman

within a year and more than half within two years of diagnosis.

"It's a devastating disease that affects up to 5,000 adults in the UK at any one time and kills six people every day. There is no cure."

The MND Association focuses on improving access to care, research and campaigning for

those people living with or affected by MND in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Denise Davies, Head of Community Fundraising at the MND Association, said: "Without the amazing support of people like Michael and Sue, the MND Association simply would not be able to provide its vital

support services, fund research to find a cure and campaign and raise awareness of MND.

"Together we are making a real difference for people affected by this devastating disease."

For more information about MND and the MND Association's work visit www.mndassociation.org.

Heath lands return to Curtis Cup team



Charlotte Heath will be returning to Curtis Cup action after being named in the Gt Britain & Ireland team to face the USA at Merion next month.

The Florida State student and Huddersfield GC member (pictured) was part of the GB&I team that lost at Conwy, Wales last year, in the covid-delayed match. She is joined in the team by Scottish pair Hannah Darling and Louise Duncan (world ranked 10 and 11), plus Annabell Fuller, Caley McGinty, Emily Price, Lauren Walsh from Ireland and Amelia Williamson.

Walsh and Williamson are the only newcomers to the 2021 team.

The non-travelling reserves are Lottie Woad and Beth Coulter.

The 42nd running will take place at Merion Golf Club in Pennsylvania from June 10-12 with USA looking to notch a third straight win.

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THURSDAY 15 SEPT

Men's Opens

SUNDAY 25 SEPT

Rabbits' Open (H.I. 15.5 - 36.00)

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Ladies Opens

FRIDAY 24 JUNE

FRIDAY 7 OCTOBER

Mixed Opens

SUNDAY 26 JUNE

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Casual tickets are from **£18** per round with discounts for junior and young people.

Special tickets also available for 5-10-20 rounds.

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5.50-

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CLUB STACKED TOASTY- Thick Locally Baked White Bread Filled with Sliced Melted Brie, Streaky Bacon, Sliced Chicken & Sweet Chilli Sauce Served with House Seasoned Fries & Garlic Mayo 9.95-

CLUBHOUSE BURGER- Homemade Beef Pattie Topped with Smoked Cheddar, Served in a Brioche Bun with Sliced Lettuce, Sliced Tomato & Homemade Burger Sauce Accompanied by House Seasoned Fries & Garlic Mayo 12.50-

GAMMON, EGG & FRIES- Grilled Gammon Steak, Topped with a Fried Egg & Served with House Seasoned Fries 12- (GF)

OVEN BAKED MAC & CHEESE- Our Homemade Mac & Cheese Created Using Cream, Smoked Cheddar, Melted Mozzarella & Garlic. Served with Toasted Garlic Bread 10.50- (V)

HOMEMADE CREAM EGG BROWNIE- Our in House Made Brownies, Created Using Cream Eggs & Organic Chocolate Served with Vanilla Ice Cream & Caramel Sauce 6.75- (V)

STICKY TOFFEE PUDDING- Classic Cumbrian Pudding Served with Butterscotch Sauce & Vanilla Ice Cream 6.75- (V)

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Prices less 20% discount



Play2Par - taking indoor golf to the next level

A new and exciting indoor Golfing Academy in York, Play2Par has opened its doors for individuals and families to develop golf from a coaching, playing and entertainment perspective. Play2Par is proud to offer something for everyone of all ages and abilities.

Membership and Development

Director of Golf Craig Smith believes that fitness and personal performance profiling is important to golf improvement.

Members at Play2Par will be encouraged to identify their own technical, physical strengths and areas of development in their approach to golf, setting their own personal targets on how to improve and develop their golfing skills.

Smith says: "We will prepare bespoke coaching to offer guidance for players of all levels to achieve their full potential."

Having played to a high standard himself, Smith also has extensive coaching experience enabling him to provide excellent and effective coaching to all levels from novice to experienced amateurs and professionals.

Beginners and families can try golfing on a pay as you play basis from May 14 with entertaining virtual games for all the family. Prices for pay-and-play can be found on the website at www.playtopar.com

Technology

Play2Par uses Flight Scope technology which is used by professionals worldwide. These technologies are there to support and make your individual golf experience the best it can be, as a beginner or advanced player.

Education Bays

The DEDICATED education bay has FLIGHTSCOPE X3 technology installed. X3 uses tracking radar and image processing. This creates synchronised data and video combined from multiple camera feeds for instant review of relevant data to record player progress/improvements.

Putting Education & Practice Bay

There is a purpose-built putting facility enabling players to practise like a professional. Smith says:



Director of Golf Craig Smith in his teaching bay at Play2Par, located in the York Business Park just off the A1237 ring road

"Using the state of the arts technology we can analyse putting performance from many points to interpret overall putting ability."

Practice and play like a Professional

As with the education bays we have installed FLIGHTSCOPE technology in multiple bays. The MEVO provides more than adequate capability and information to assist and measure an individual practice session for any golfer.

All-round Golf Experience

Play2Par use E6 Connect - "the highest quality, most lifelike and customisable golf simulator software created" offering the chance to play a wide selection of challenging global championship golf courses and virtual games. This adds to the overall golfing experience at Play2Par. The ultimate indoor golf coaching development and entertainment facility!

Join us soon! Visit www.playtopar.com for more details

SO YOU THINK YOU CAN READ A PUTT...?

The state-of-the-art PUTTVIEW putting green in the members' area at Play2Par is certain to show you just how good your putt-reading is. A variety of innovative, hi-tech options will tell you things you never thought of, regarding everything from your putting stroke, read and pace of putt, to getting two balls in the hole at once! See it reviewed in June's edition of Yorkshire Golfer



Discounted rates apply only until May 31 2022

Play2Par – membership offers

Concession rates for over-60s

Although Play2Par Golf is proud to offer 'something for everyone' from a complete novice, a family looking to play some fun games, or a low-handicap golfer wanting to fine tune their game or equipment, its membership scheme is already proving extremely popular with first-time visitors.

Membership Options

There are two membership options Club and Scratch.

Club costs £99 per annum with a concession price of £79 for over sixties. Scratch is £130 per annum with a concession price of £104 for over 60s.

It is not necessary to have a membership to use Play to Par facilities BUT you will not get access to the Members-only private area or PUTTVIEW putting technology and equipment in the members' unit except via a paid one-hour lesson with our Director of Golf.

Club Membership

£99 per annum initial payment which includes:

- One-hour full club assessment with the Director of Golf on the Mevo X3
- Ball fitting – check the right ball for you
- 10% off golf clothing and equipment.

Scratch Membership

£130 per annum initial payment which includes all the benefits of Club Membership plus:

- 1 hour assessment by Excel Sports Clinic to include:
- Assessment by sports physiotherapist
- Limitation of body movements – full screening
- Assess body limitations to swing capabilities

Desirable Golf

Play to Par has partnered with clothing and equipment supplier Desirable Golf. Members at Play to Par receive 10% discount off all equipment and clothing.

Packages

Whether you are signed up as a member or not you can buy subscription packages. There are three packages available:

Education // Bay // Education & Bay – No ball usage charges are made.

The more hours booked the lower the costs. Therefore, if multiple members share a package, this makes it more cost effective for each member. Each of the packages can be shared by up to FOUR MEMBERS.

FOR PACKAGE PRICING & MORE INFO VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.PLAYTOPAR.COM

Shovelling 'sugar' – but

The Cottingham Parks junior programme is a real success story. A member since the course opened in 1994, captain in 2002 and alongside his wife the club's regular quiz-night host, the youngsters' mentor **KEN HILTON** describes their journey...



One big, happy gang ... Cottingham Parks juniors smile for the camera, and below, Ken Hilton

Background

Our organisation at the club is called the JDP which is the Junior Development Programme. I started it in 2010 when my old mate Jim O'Brien retired after many years looking after the juniors here at Cottingham Parks.

Jim had seen many aspiring golfers over his many years in the role but the one thing we lacked was a regular stream of golfers coming through the ranks.

I had a chat with John and Rob Wiles, the owners and we all agreed on a way forward. I took full control and responsibility of the JDP and they oversaw most of the initial start of the programme until they realised we were not going to be a hindrance but a real asset.

In 2011 we identified a key component in our plans and that was a high-class short game area.

John told me if I could raise £15,000 he would then fund the other half and that's how we've worked ever since.

If the juniors want something they know they are not going to get it for

nowt. We pay half, they pay half and it works really well.

Incidentally I hadn't got a clue where to get £15,000 from so John very generously donated 40 tons of prime horse manure to sell which we had to call Horse 'Sugar'.

Over the next three years my grandchildren, son-in-law, volunteers, juniors, mums and dads filled sack after sack of 'sugar' which we sold around the East Riding and even a large order in Lincolnshire.

My estate car was rammed with the stuff week after week until we had raised the £15,000. Then we learned the price of the new area had escalated to £40,000 ... so back on to the 'sugar' mountain (which was not going down very much) for another 18 months.

True to his word John and Rob matched us pound for pound and the new all-weather green opened in 2015.

Our mantra

Luckily we have the same outlook. If it's good for the juniors then it's good for the community overall and John



and Rob have been consistently supportive with whatever we have wished to achieve. They even introduced the incentive that if you pay a full membership your child can play free of charge with all the benefits of full membership.

The juniors start in the Academy (on the range) where they will learn the basics of the game. If they like what they are doing they can progress to junior membership. From that moment onwards we have a proven stepped, incentivised progression through the ranks of the JDP.

Academy, then League One takes them onto the golf course proper playing from 100 yards, then 150 yards, 175 etc until their competence takes them to the start of the fairway and then back to Red Tees

They gain promotion to the Championship when they achieve a 29-45 handicap. The next promotion takes them into the Premiership when they reach 28 handicap and Yellow Tees. Once reaching a playing handicap of 18 they automatically become Premiership+.

Their final goal is to reach Champions League standard which is 0-5 handicap!

Competitions

Along the way the youngsters will enjoy numerous competitions, some of which are quite unique to Cottingham Parks.

From April to November we run a Masters Series of 16 events for which points are awarded in every division. There are four massive trophy games for which they will get double points.

On Junior Captains Day the players will go out in reverse order on the leaderboard and the season's winners will be then known.

The juniors will play at least four matches involving gents and ladies including greensomes, foursomes and Am-Ams, but the highlight is undoubtedly the Annual Ryder Cup played between the juniors taking on my team of gents and ladies. Played over two days in August, the juniors (USA) are desperate to win this one. Alas, the last three years the win has gone to us, the Europeans.

And it doesn't stop in winter either as our head coach Mark has developed a Pro150 series which runs into March.

And by 'eck we are lucky to have Mark Thompson (head coach) and his no.2 Alex Boyton. Not only are they highly skilled coaches but they have real empathy with the children and what they hope to achieve.

Along with our other long term coach Will Webster (ex-JDP) they have turned the coaching on its head with their long-term strategic goals and natural progression. They work in the local schools, do golf specific groups working with girls and ability groups from beginners standard to Yorkshire level.

Organisation

As in any large project, we are all inter-dependent on each other, as in the strongest of chains must not have a weak link. Our mantra has always been children first, adults second! And when I can get away with it, it works really well.

I know it's a nice problem to have but trying to get extra tee times at the expense of full-paying members can be a bit tricky at times.

Our parental support is massive. Mums, dads, grans and grandads are all active members of our JDP. The representative teams are picked on merit and league positions, not favouritism, and I think we can all appreciate just how difficult that can be.

So our inter-dependence is linked to a brilliant management, a wonderful junior organiser (me), the best committee ever, superb coaches, family support and a superb eclectic mix of junior golfers.

In 2018, I was still a one-man operation, doing my best but getting

Continued across the page

TESTIMONIALS

My nine-year old son wanted golf membership after having lessons for a few years beforehand, and I couldn't wish for a better place for him to be. He started his journey with the excellent junior summer golf week, giving him an insight into the members, JDP staff and the facilities.

The JDP has a family friendly feel to it who make you feel welcome every time you step foot into the surroundings of Cottingham Parks. The learning and development my son has shown is staggering over a short period of time we have been here and he loves the organised events every Saturday afternoon with whoever he is paired up with to play. Anyone interested in golf, this is the place to be for all levels.

MARK MEANWELL

Our daughter joined JDP last year and loves attending. She has made new friends and it has definitely helped her develop not only her golf but also in confidence. She thoroughly enjoys herself. All the staff at JDP are very friendly and welcoming. They go to great lengths to make the juniors experience a fantastic one.

Many thanks,
MICHELLE

Our son George joined Cottingham Parks when he was 11 after having been diagnosed with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. This meant he could no longer play physical sports (football and rugby), so golf was the perfect sport for him.

The JDP is run by a committee of parents and the one and only Ken (junior organiser and comedian), who make all the children very welcome. They are encouraged to take part in the various events throughout the year which includes the fabulous Masters series and the biggest event of the year the Ryder Cup.

The coaching they receive from the pros is fantastic. Mark and Alex are always available for tips and advice.

George loves being part of the JDP as he's made lots of smashing friends of different ages from different schools. He has progressed to represent the East Riding Union under 18s, as have several of his pals. It has been a life saver for George as he is a very sporty person and it's allowed his competitive nature to be channelled. Many thanks for all the JDP do.

STEVE COOPER

striking_gold



Where there's muck there's brass shovelling 'sugar' at Cott Parks

swamped with more and more paperwork, organising games, cajoling juniors, dealing with parents, management, coaches etc.

Then we had the biggest breakthrough ever in the JDP. I co-opted three parental mentors onto our committee and what a brilliant move that was. Del can deal with anyone in the club (cos he's massive!) while Rich and Jon have re-organised our schedules and communications using their IT skills. They introduced SPOND to give easy access to results, support, comments and just a marvellous tool for any 21st century sports. I cannot praise these youngsters enough (they're all in their 40s!)

Negativity

If there is one negative in all my experience it is the effect of the promise of help from various organisations within golf.

I have been promised so much and yet as soon as you mention you are a proprietary club, the shutters came down (very politely) and nothing, absolutely nothing, came through to help us when we really needed it.

Who suffered? The children of course. This is an attitude we have to stamp out. There are some wonderful proprietary clubs out there try-

...and a last word from Ollie Spencer aged 15 (nearly)

I started playing golf when I was around nine-years old, my nan had been a member of Cottingham years ago and my step brother had been on junior golf week.

My dad took me to the driving range, then pitch & putt and I soon picked it up, so I signed up to do my first junior golf week when I was 11. After a week's tuition I was hooked. Ken who runs the week with help of the pros and other members, is a great character and made it really fun but at the same time installed a lot of golf etiquette. You would never have your shirt out or wear a cap in the clubhouse if Ken is around.

After the golf week, I started to have weekly group lessons with Mark. Mark makes the lessons really enjoyable and I soon saw my technique improve. Mark's a great coach and works really hard with all the JDP members.

I started playing on a Saturday afternoon three years ago, first 9-holes from the fairway, then 9-holes from the reds, up to 12 holes off the yellows.

After four years of lessons I am playing off 18 and really getting more and more in to my

ing to do their best for the kids and the community so please cast your prejudices to the side and help ALL kids play golf!

After many false dawns we now have a long term committed sponsor who funds our new junior shirts which look brilliant. We have a sponsor who funds our annual two-day Ryder Cup (all clubs should do this) and another supplied Ryder Flags especially for that week.

Another sponsor funds the Masters Series, another the Winter Series. It doesn't have to cost a lot but it is all very much appreciated. And it shows you care.

The future...

In 2010 we had perhaps five lads capable of being in the East Riding junior teams. We now have about 15 who would not let the team down in addition to two of our lads now at Yorkshire level. And yet more are coming through our Academy every season along with their mums, dads, grans etc who are now taking lessons otherwise they will never see their kids!

What do I want from the future? I want them to be happy, confident young people.

That'll do me.

Ken

golf. I hope this year to really kick on, I aim to get down to a single figure handicap by the end of the summer.

My golfing highlights so far are being able to compete in my dad's golf society, as well as play at Cottingham. He's been playing for years and since I've been playing I've helped him get close to breaking 100, so it's great to beat him, even though I give him 10 shots.

My mum has recently taken golf up as well, she's nearly better than my dad already, so it's something we are enjoying doing as a family.

Winning the pairs last year with one of the dads, Rich, was another highlight. But my best experience was hitting a hole in one at the 4th last June.

To be fair I thinned it a little but it was a great feeling knowing that I did something few golfers get to do.

The thing I like most about the JPD is the feeling that all involved really want to help you improve you as a golfer but ensure that it's all about the enjoyment, not just what score you get.

Men hang on in Cheshire

Yorkshire Men got their 2022 Northern Counties campaign off to a winning start away at Cheshire, but not without having to battle for the result.

The White Rose men got their match off to a 3.5-2.5 advantage in the morning four-somes at Wallasey Golf Club on Sunday May 8.

George Mason (Wath) and George Ash (Hallowes) were comfortable 5&4 winners first out, before Doncaster's Josh Berry and Fairhaven Trophy winner Ben Brown (Romanby) prevailed 2&1.

The momentum then swung the other way as Cameron Wallace (Cleveland) and Steve Uzzell (Hornsea) were beaten 1-up.

Dylan Shaw-Radford (Huddersfield) and Max Berrisford (Shipley) then shared a half, before Ilkley's Dan Thomas and Jake Sowden (The Oaks) went down 4&3, leaving the match all square.

Yorkshire took a slender lead into the afternoon when anchor pair Adam Walker (Huddersfield) and Lewis Hollingworth (Rotherham) prevailed 5&3 in their match.

And it was just as tense in the afternoon singles with the match ebbing and swaying.

Mason brought home the first point, but Berry lost, before in turn Ash had a win, Brown a defeat, Wallace a win and Shaw-Radford a loss.

To prolong the tension Sowden halved his match before Uzzell went down.

Nerves were steadied when first Dan Thomas recorded a 4&2 win and was followed home by Walker with another point. Although last man out Hollingworth went down 2-up it left Yorkshire with a 10-8 result.

Next up for the men is another away match, this time against Northumberland at City of Newcastle on Saturday June 11.

Course record, but no joy for Walker

Fixby's Adam Walker had to settle for second best in the York Rose Bowl despite setting a new course record at Strensall.

Walker had gone out in 68 to put himself in the mix, but despite a stunning afternoon round of 63 for -7 - which included a bogey - he found himself tied on 132 with Brancepeth Castle's Richard Aisbitt.

Not only did Walker suffer disappointment in the sudden death play-off, but he also had his course record glory partly stolen because his playing partner Ross Overton (Sherwood Forest) also signed off for a 63, to tie the new record.

The result left Aisbitt atop the OoM standings with 360pts after three rounds, following a runners-up finish in the opening event at Cleveland Golf Club, which was won by another home player in Cameron Wallace.

Wallace had a red-hot putter to thank for his win. The 22-year-old needed just 52 strokes of the short stick across his two rounds to land the Cleveland Salver by one



Cameron Wallace - hot putter

shot over Aisbitt and England's no.1 amateur Sam Bairstow of Hallowes.

A recent dad, Wallace said it was only his second round of the year, but he "hit it alright" and the putter did the rest.

His level par 72 left him a stroke behind Bairstow and Romanby's Ben Brown in the first round, but he kept rolling them in throughout the afternoon action and a solid 70 got him in on -2.

Another home club golfer Aaron Bretell won The Raywell Trophy as the OoM made its second stop at Hessele Golf Club.

Bretell shot the lowest round of the day with a morning 64, his afternoon 76 giving him a 144 total, two shots ahead of Waterfront's Luca Houlgate and Andrew Minnikin from the City of Newcastle club.

After heading to Lindrick on Sunday May 8 to compete for the Danny Willett Salver, the OoM takes a breather until Thursday June 2, when it heads to Bradford GC for the Hawksworth Trophy, and two days later to Seaton Carew for the Seaton Salver.

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York boys win

Freddie Forman, James Haw and Thomas Higgins accumulated 70 pts in the best-two- scores-from-three format to claim the York Union Junior Champion Club Championship for York GC.

Murphy Riddell added gloss to the team triumph by winning the individual title with 39 points. Yorkshire Union's 2022 President, Peter Smith, was on hand to award the trophies to the winners and gave thanks to Malton & Norton GC for their consummate hosting of the event. York will now head to compete in the Yorkshire Inter District Union Junior Club Championship at Keighley GC on July 10.

In Focus: Crow Nest Park Golf Club

Taking the ancient, making the modern

One of the great frustrations of visiting golfers who happen upon a little beauty, is the fact that they would just love to play it again ... but don't know if or when they might.

Sitting on the sun-kissed patio of an elevated clubhouse with sumptuous views, enjoying a cold one, reflecting "if I had that shot again I'd try a ... whatever..."

At Crow Nest Park Golf Club however, perched in the hills above Brighouse, that realisation that you've just played somewhere quite special is accompanied by one of anticipation. Because as a 9-hole course you are about to go round it again.

There is a twist, because every hole on the 'back' 9-holes has a different tee, which in some cases makes a real difference. The gorgeous landscape and undulating fairways may be the same, but the angle of attack somewhat difference.

The ladies also have 18 different

tees to play from.

Crow Nest Park is a surprisingly young club, created only in 1995 by former owner Richard Harrison. He was blessed by having the former 'back garden' of legendary Yorkshire industrialist and philanthropist Sir Titus Salt to play with.

An example is the stunning par 3, 5th hole, over the boating lake the creator of the model village of Saltaire, 10 miles to the north, used to punt across back in his 19th century heyday. The Crow Nest Park estate easily pre-dates even Sir Titus, with records back to 1592 and the first grand house built in 1775, hence the mature parkland landscape.

Back to today however and it only took 14 years for Crow Nest Park to be named as one of Britain's top 10 9-hole courses by National Club Golfer magazine.

Just 12-months later it was lauded as being amongst the best shorter tracks in the world by no less than the august Golf World publications.

Those are huge plaudits and they are well deserved, and the investment in USGA greens mean this is very much a year-round golf course.

But Crow Nest Park is a club very much with its eye on the future and a modern outlook. It's members are a sociable lot.

Director of Golf Shaun Higgins is more than happy with business on the course, but as ever is keen to spread the good news about the complete offer this friendly community-based club has at its disposal.

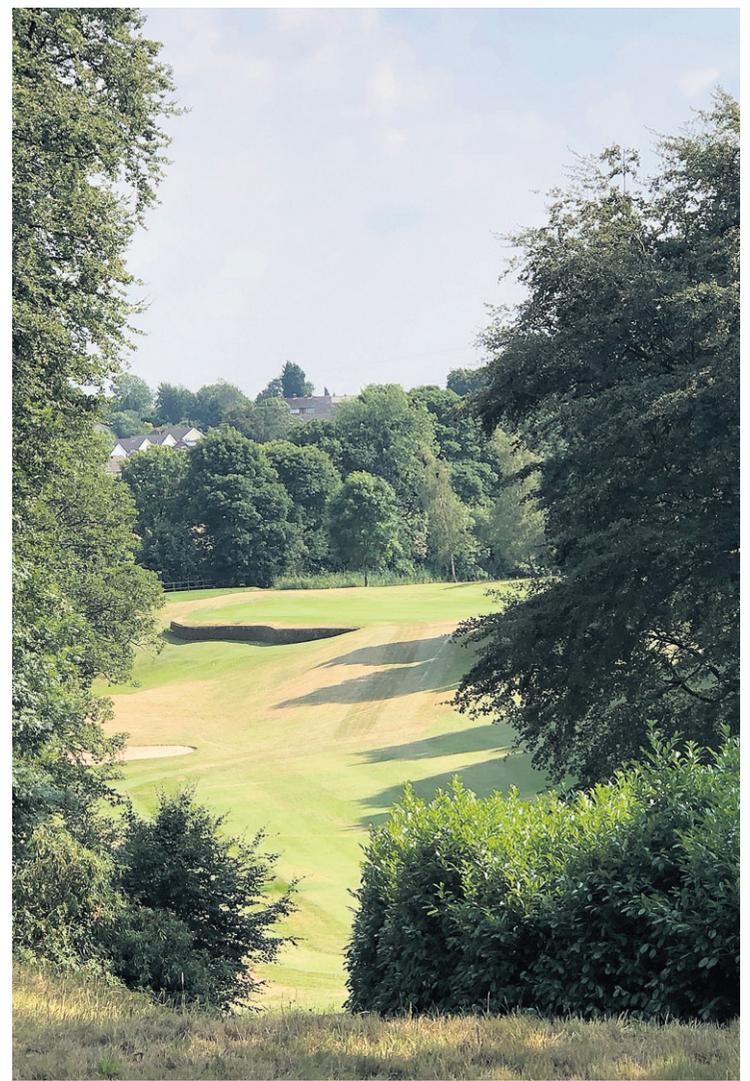
The elevated clubhouse enjoys stunning views and it is sizeable enough to be able to cater for all kinds of hospitality functions, from the ubiquitous Sunday lunches, to regular social events.

"There is still this preconception about golf clubs, that they are 'private' and not for members of the public who might live right on the doorstep.

"Nothing could be further from the truth and the reviews that we do get are testament to that," he said.

As such, a relatively new 'marketing team' is getting to work spreading the good news about Crow Nest Park.

And it isn't just a superb, challenging



Above, thread the needle but mind the steep run-offs to the left...
Left, great views from the clubhouse and the patio



course and excellent clubhouse that Crow Nest has to offer – there's also a covered eight-bay driving range that's open to the public.

It is very much the epitome of a modern golf club, although few will have a more storied history, and not just from the centuries before Sir Titus Salt used to send his alpacas and llamas out to graze today's fairways.

More recently, World War II saw

Italian prisoners of war habituating the neighbourhood. But to learn more, you'll just have to go see for yourself.

Indeed, in an age when time pressures are regularly cited as damaging the take up of golf, never should 9-hole courses be more popular.

And in saving the best for last, that's especially so when you can turn up for a weekend twilight deal and play for just £10. Yes, really.

Around Crown Nest Park...

1st - St Giles, par 4

Uphill par 4, slight dogleg left to right, OB both sides. Two fairway bunkers, which are quite flat, then an undulating, big green with a bunker sitting in its left hand elbow. From the 10th, it's shorter but offering a bigger dogleg.

2nd - The Spire, par 4

Index 1 and very tight up the left – with a dogleg left – but if you go too wide right, there are bunkers – including a new fairway trap – and it's a certain 3-shotter up the hill.

The greenside bunkers have had work recently, but if you hit the steep left hand run off, you could be gone.

Pretty, and pretty tough.

3rd - Coach Road, par 4 (5 for ladies)

A hole that's better for having played it once. A long, sweeping left-to-righter, much more straightforward off the advanced 12th tees. The tiger line is a must if you want to reach in two, but lots of balls will be in the copse in the gully. Down-

hill then to an inviting, flat green.

4th - The Bats Belfry, par 4

A gorgeous short par 4, but don't be tempted to take the driver out. From the tee you're aiming down a rifle barrel almost – it's different again from the 13th – so play for position to a narrow, angled green sitting atop a sizeable wall. Miss left and your lob wedge skills will really be tested.

5th - The Old Boat House, par 3

A lovely short hole over the boating lake, to a big, welcoming round target, but with a devilish horizontal bunker to the back catching anything long, and a steep front run off towards the water.

6th - Mansion House, par 4

Just a slight left to righter, so favour the left side of the fairway to avoid being blocked out, to a green again with a dogleg shape and a bunker nestled in its elbow.

7th - Salts Drive, par 4

A blind tee shot over a brow onto a plateau, and a legitimate dogleg as

well when played from the 16th tee. Favour the left, although there are three of these typically flat fairway traps. Another big, undulating green with two bunkers lying in wait below the putting surface to the right.

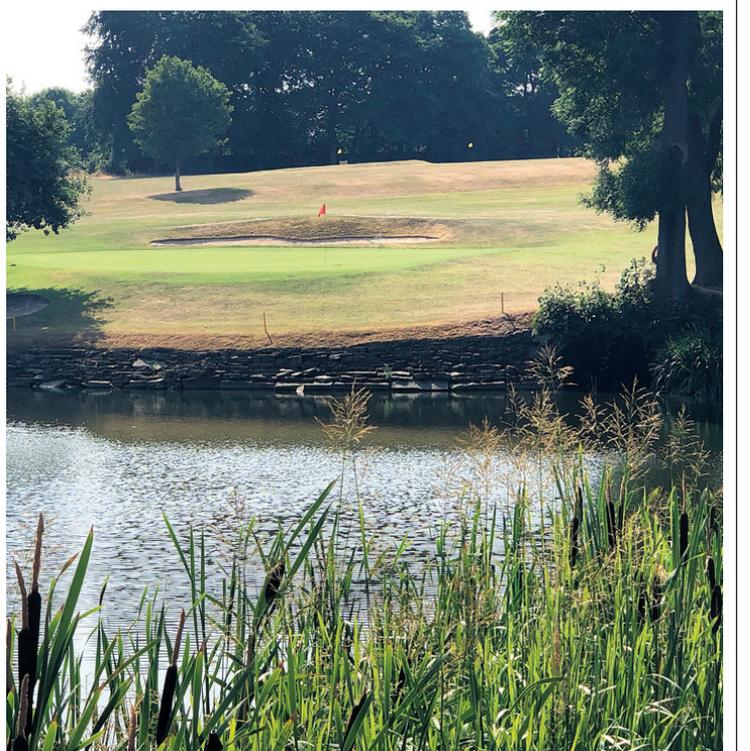
8th - Wills Pearls par 3

A long par 3 but all downhill, so club selection is key. If you take too much and go left, you could run off 50 or 60 yards and face real trouble. It's a narrow, sand-guarded entrance to the green, but opens up and thankfully slopes back to front for those confident enough to go right at it.

9th - Stable Way, par 5

A cracking par 5, albeit daunting from the tee box, because the trees in the distance look like sentinels you have to thread between.

In reality there's more room than first appears, before the fairway drops down and away, a lovely vista towards an elevated green and the clubhouse beyond. The green is MacKenzie like, angled at 45 degrees and two tier. Thankfully the banking at the rear is a friendly backstop.



The gorgeous par-3 5th hole over Sir Titus Salt's old boating lake



Crow Nest Park Golf Club

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DISTRICT FEATURE Looking at some of the finest clubs in West Yorkshire

Nothing wild about golf

Spectacular Otley views

The Otley clubhouse is centrally positioned making it ideal for playing 9, 18 or 27 holes.

Whichever option you take you will enjoy the stunning panoramic vistas of the Wharfe Valley whilst you play or when you are relaxing after your round.

The views from the lounge and dining room are spectacular. Beyond the course is the Wharfe Valley and the Dales. There is a spacious terrace with plentiful seating to be able to enjoy a drink, the views and hopefully some sunshine after golf.

Otley is an easy-walking parkland course in an enviable setting, nestling between the high ground of the Chevin and the River Wharfe which meanders through the nearby town.

The opening five holes represent a stiff test for any golfer and then the landscape changes to reveal two streams that meander across the course. Over many years the club has



All downhill from the 1st tee at Low Laithes

invested heavily in a drainage programme for the course and greens. This has made a considerable improvement in the overall condition of the course especially during the winter.

Otley Golf Club possesses excel-

lent practice facilities with a driving range, a paddock that has a pitching and a chipping area as well as a large practice putting green. All are situated around the car park and clubhouse so access is easy.

An easy-walking parkland course,

Otley has a par of 70 and runs to 6275 and 6000 yards respectively off the white and yellow tees. It has also recently introduced a shorter blue course for new and junior players.

For more information visit www.otleygolfclub.co.uk

Darrington's quality counts

If you are looking for a top quality, picturesque golf course with excellent facilities, but one that's about as geographically accessible as it gets, then Darrington Golf Club probably ticks every box for you.

Located just south of the M62 to the east of Pontefract, and right off the A1, Darrington really is at the heart of Yorkshire's golf scene.

Although it doesn't celebrate its 30th birthday until next year, Darrington gives visitors a real parkland feel thanks to being created amidst mature woodland and the staff pride themselves on keeping everything about their offering at the highest standard.

With gently rolling fairways and lakes that add to the aesthetics while challenging your golf shots, the course comes in at just over 6300 yards for a par of 71.

Continued across the page



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DISTRICT FEATURE Looking at some of the finest clubs in West Yorkshire

in this West



Privately owned by the Stoneacre company, in addition to the championship-standard course there is a 23-bay floodlit and heated driving range, plus a well stocked pro-shop with custom fitting and tuition by PGA qualified staff.

For golfers wanting to enjoy all that Darrington has to offer at their leisure, the golf club has a partnership with the Good Night's Inn for overnight stays, located less than a quarter of a mile away.

Always a popular society location, the club has a variety of offers to appeal to experienced golfers and beginners alike. Details of packages like the 'Family Experience' can be found at darringtongolfclub.com

Garforth – 'home' for generations

Garforth Golf Club has been a 'go to' golfing haven to the east of the city of Leeds for more than 100 years. More than that however, it has been a social retreat for generations of local residents, a place which combines the old and the new to great effect.

The course itself is of the highest pedigree, with a backdrop of picturesque, mature parkland, and designed by the legendary golf course architect Alister MacKenzie.

Local enthusiasts plotted today's Garforth in 1912 and a year later the good Doctor drew up the plans for one of his earlier masterpieces.

The course has been refined over the years so that it can still give the modern golfer everything they expect out of a top quality course.

Having putted out on the 18th in front of the impressive clubhouse and pro shop, Garforth prides itself on as warm and hospitable a welcome as could be found anywhere.

The clubhouse is a family-friendly centre for a wide range of events and activities, while the club's intimate restaurant combines fine dining with stunning views of the course.

Garforth has a comprehensive practice area as well as a state of the art Trackman indoor simulator and swing studio. This year the club is also proud to feature the Yorkshire Seniors' and Boys' team captains in Andy King and Jake Wallis.

The course itself is well crafted and extremely well kept with enduring challenges in the water hazards that are the converging Cock and Carr Becks, which meander across the course and come into play on numerous holes.

The club has invested in significant improvements on and off the course in recent years including having the bunkers redesigned and rebuilt under the guidance of acclaimed modern course architects David and Bruce Weller.

Classic finish at Low Laithes

Founded in 1925, Low Laithes Golf Club is an Alister MacKenzie design with tight fairways and fast greens which provides a great test of golf.

Continued over the page



Converging Carr and Cock Becks at Garforth keep golfers on their toes



West Yorkshire wonders ... watch out for water hazards at Darrington (left), while the Bingley St Ives estate (above) provides a unique set of challenges

One of Yorkshire's finest parkland courses with some of the best views around

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W: www.bingleystivesgc.com

Bingley St. Ives Golf Club, St. Ives Estate, Harden, Bingley, West Yorkshire, BD16 1AT

DISTRICT FEATURE West Yorkshire focus

Great views and courses



Otley's clubhouse sits overlooking its superb fairways and up the Wharfe valley

From previous page

Head greenkeeper Jonathan Brown is restoring some of the original MacKenzie features as part of an ongoing course programme which also includes significant investment in drainage.

After enjoying some of the signature holes your round finishes with two par fives

including the classic rising MacKenzie 18th at 544 yards from the white tees.

As part of its continued drive to welcome new players to golf, the club is embarking on a programme to welcome new ladies to the game in partnership with England Golf.

PGA professional Adrian Ambler is on hand to offer

golfing advice, tuition and equipment. His pro shop is very well regarded in the industry, and the team has recently been strengthened by the addition of newly qualified professional and former Low Laithes junior Richard Law.

Low Laithes Golf Club is ideally located just off junction 40 of the M1 which

makes it ideal for your society day, or for meeting friends from near and far to play this excellent course. Golfers are welcome to visit, or enter one of our popular open days, as the club approaches its much anticipated centenary year.

The 2022 open days for ladies, mixed and seniors are filling up but places are still

available to book through www.lowlaithesgolfclub.co.uk.

A limited number of memberships for 2022, both full and midweek, remain available. Please contact the secretary to register your interest in membership or visitor bookings.

mature woodland and finally moor-cum-heathland, over 6,420 and 6144 yards from the respective white and yellow tees for its par of 71.

During the 1980s Bingley St Ives hosted the European Tour's Lawrence Batley International tournament which saw such legends as Arnold Palmer and Lee Trevino grace the fairways, the event being won twice by Sandy Lyle and once by Sir Nick Faldo.

It's not as though the club is unused to celebrities however, because quite apart from MacKenzie's original input, such names as Faldo, Seve Ballesteros and Jose Maria Canizares have been influential in its development. Indeed the new clubhouse was opened in 1994 by honorary life member Mark James.

Long-time Bingley St Ives member Billy Foster, currently on Matt Fitzpatrick's bag but for many years the caddy for Seve Ballesteros and Lee Westwood, has made the 19th hole – Billy's Bar – a virtual hall of fame museum with golfing artefacts and memorabilia from around the globe.

With a variety of attractively priced packages for both casual visitors and societies, Bingley St Ives is a must-visit for any discerning golfer.

For more, go to the website www.bingleystivesgc.com

In a setting of its own

Bingley St Ives Golf Club stands apart from so many others in its unique golf setting – and perhaps even in being home to one of the most recognisable characters in world golf, tour caddy-par-excellence Billy Foster.

Out on the course, first time visitors will be intrigued and undoubtedly enchanted by the variety of challenges they face on the sprawling St Ives estate.

In one continuous loop of holes stretching from and to the clubhouse, the course still carries the hallmarks of the early work done by Dr Alister MacKenzie, particularly in its tiered greens.

The club opened as a 9-hole layout in 1931 but within three years had expanded to a full 18. But it is the respective journey through parkland,



Park, woodland and heath – Bingley St Ives is a golfing experience apart from most

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For the best part of a century the true view of Seaton Carew's renowned links has been hidden.

Following the removal of three hectares of sea buckthorn, the true nature of this wonderful and historic course has now been revealed.

Come and see for yourself.

Seaton Carew is the tenth oldest golf course in the country and is set to celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2024 by hosting the English Amateur Championship

It was recently included inside the best 50 in National Club Golfer's Top 100 courses in England

SEATON CAREW GOLF CLUB

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WEB: www.seatoncarewgolfclub.co.uk

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CLUB FEATURE Spotlight on four of the north's seaside gems

Coast to coast golfing

SEATON CAREW

Being awarded the 2024 English Amateur Championship is recognition not just of Seaton Carew Golf Club's enduring qualities, but its continued improvement.

Its reputation as a Top-50 English course has only been enhanced by the recent removal of three hectares of Sea Buckthorn, serving to 'open up' the course, along with the introduction of new bunkers.

As the 10th oldest club in the country, the hosting of the Amateur will coincide with Seaton Carew celebrating its 150th anniversary.

Originally a 14-hole layout titled the Durham & Yorkshire Golf Club, the course expanded to 18 holes but has changed greatly over the years, fundamentally when the great Dr Alister MacKenzie re-drew the course, including the signature 17th. In the 1970s the club added four more holes which created 'the Brabazon loop' with the input of architect Frank Pennink.

It means members and visitors can experience five different layouts, although only the Old, Brabazon and Micklem are played regularly. Fittingly, the Brabazon layout has twice hosted the Brabazon Trophy for

the English Open Amateur Strokeplay Championship, in 1985 and 2014.

This year Seaton Carew's always popular Festival Week runs from August 7-12, although some categories are full – as is membership, with a waiting list reinstated at one of the north-east's true gems.

The new professional team is also making improvements off course (see p23).

BAMBURGH CASTLE

Your golf may turn about to be eminently forgettable – that's golf – but the first time you play Bamburgh Castle Golf Club certainly won't be.

A breath-taking score or not, the scenes and views that greet you as you wind around this Northumberland beauty will live long in the memory.

Through summer especially, but at any time of year, this coastline is a magnet for keen walkers and people who just want to soak in the scenery. Despite being a coastal links course, Bamburgh is quite a hilly layout with many changes in elevation which add both interest and an excellent challenge to your golf game.

What it also means is that you



How do you like your greenside bunkers? At Seaton Carew Golf Club they are deep ... and plentiful!

will get stunning outlooks denied the tourists down by the shoreline, from the eponymous castle to the south with its roots as far back as 420AD, to Holy Island and Lindisfarne Castle, jutting out into the sea to the north.

The golf course opens with two tricky par-3s which could require a driver depending on where the wind is coming from. Once on top of the course, a clear day can afford a view of The Cheviot far to the west, with Budle Bay below you.

Bamburgh Castle is far from being a lengthy course, the six par-3s

and two par-5s meaning it's just under 5,300 yards off the yellow tees, however it's the changes in elevation and challenging tee shots that will keep all golfers on their toes. When they're not looking at the stunning views, that is.

The club was founded in 1904 by Lord Armstrong of Bamburgh and Cragside whose vision was to develop the village as a resort location. In the 7th century the place was known then as Bebbanburg, immortalised in Bernard Cornwell's books and tv series The Last Kingdom.

It's easy to see why golfers and

tourists alike come to see for themselves. To discover more go to bamburghcastlegolfclub.co.uk

THE IRVINE

The coastal area to the south-west of Glasgow has long been renowned as a golfers' paradise overlooking as it does the Firth of Clyde and the Isle of Arran and beyond it further still the Isle of Islay.

This stretch of coastline is home to such notables as Royal Troon and **Continued over the page**

Bamburgh Castle Golf Club



Often described as the most picturesque course in England

Visitors welcome weekdays and Sundays

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To book a tee-time
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214738/214321
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website: www.bamburghcastlegolfclub.co.uk

email: sec@bamburghcastlegolfclub.co.uk

CLUB FEATURE Spotlight on four of the north's seaside gems

Coast to coast golf

Continued from over the page

Trump Turnberry, but discerning golfers know there are some cracking courses that are far more affordable and accessible.

One such is The Irvine Golf Club, which is familiar to many trying their hand at Open Qualifying when the R&A is visiting.

Established way back in 1887, The Irvine hosted none other than Old Tom Morris as a guest when staging a professional tournament back in 1904 when a young James Braid was amongst the competitors. Braid would leave a lasting imprint on the club when he returned to re-design the course in 1926.

Today The Irvine – also known locally as Bogside – is a Scottish Championship layout which besides Final Open Qualifying has staged numerous national championships including The Amateur Championship, British Seniors' Open and the Ladies Home Internationals.

A traditional links, it prides itself on the high quality of its greens and it benefits from the 'mild' weather which this area is famous for. On the edge of the sweeping Gulf

Stream, the coast south and west of Glasgow generally affords year-round golf.

The course itself is a par-70 of 6152 yards off yellow tees but can stretch itself to 6415 par-71 off whites and 6600 off the championship blue tees.

There are the usual links challenges of tight fairways, lurking bunkers and those excellent, undulating greens to provide a proper challenge, at a club which prides itself on its warm hospitality to guests and societies. As part of the Association of James Braid Courses, discounted fees are available for members of association clubs.

For more information visit theirvinegolfclub.co.uk

WHITBY

Whitby Golf Club has been on quite a journey since its founding over 130 years ago up in the North York Moors village of Goathland. It's a progress that continues to this day with the opening of two new holes in 2022.

The gentlemen who signed the

club charter at Whitby's Crown Hotel had a simple 6-hole track in those early years, but it wasn't long before they relocated to their current home above the bay between Whitby and Sandsend.

An observation made at the time still holds true today, that "there is a very large ravine to carry as well as several ponds and other obstacles which will make the course one of the most startling in this out of the way district for miles around".

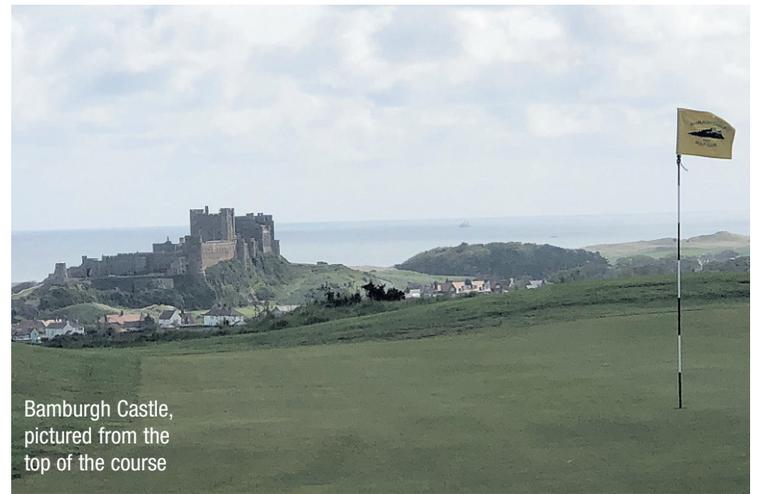
A par-71 from the men's tees, there are sufficient challenges to ensure that not many golfers will overpower a track that is 5859 yards from the white tees and 5675 from yellows.

Whitby native Iain Pyman is an honorary club member and he paired up with past Lady Captain Doreen Richardson to win the 1892 Goathland Ball when members dressed up in Victorian garb and returned to play four of the original holes to celebrate their 125th anniversary.

The 'Goathland Ball' itself was actually a 19th century gutta percha which was found in a Goathland hedgerow by a villager in 2014.

Today Whitby is established as one of the annual Scarborough Golf Week clubs which dates back 101 years and includes partner clubs Filey, plus Scarborough North and South Cliffs. This year the festival runs from September 4-9 and features men's and ladies, singles, pairs and team events across the four clubs.

The course overlooks the sea and traverses the Uppang Beck ravine, with six holes 'inland' on the south side of the Whitby-Sandsend road.



Bamburgh Castle, pictured from the top of the course



Irvine Golf Club

The Irvine Golf Club, Bogside, sports a traditional links course established over 100 years ago owing much of its present day character to the design work of James Braid in 1926. The course provides a challenge to all with its subtle changes in direction and no two holes the same.

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NEW 2022 COURSE LAYOUT, INCLUDING TWO NEW HOLES

ENGLAND GOLF Gerald Micklem Award goes to Yorkshire Ladies stalwart

A golfing life of service – and enjoyment!

Joy Hunter's lifelong dedication to golf as a player, county training officer, office-bearer and course rating official has earned her the Gerald Micklem Award from England Golf.

A proud Yorkshirewoman, Joy was recognised for her outstanding contribution to the game at England Golf's AGM held at the National Golf Centre, Woodhall Spa.

The Gerald Micklem Award – named in honour of the former English Amateur champion and Walker Cup player – was set up in 1990 by England Golf.

On an annual basis, it recognises those unsung individuals who have made a positive difference to the amateur game in England.

Joy began her love affair with the game in 1954 when, aged just 10 and encouraged by her father, she joined Scarborough North Cliff Golf Club before later moving on to Scarborough South Cliff and



Gerald Micklem Award winner Joy Hunter

then Ganton. As a teenager, she played for England girls in 1963 and then enjoyed 27 years in the Yorkshire Ladies' squad.

Later in her golfing life, Joy enjoyed nine years in the Yorkshire Veterans' team where she became Northern County Veterans' champion four times.

Yet Joy's successes were not restricted solely to achievements on the course.

As a qualified PE teacher, Joy was able to use her people skills to good effect and an 11-year spell supporting the Yorkshire Ladies' squad saw the white rose county win no fewer than nine championship titles.

In 1989, Joy took up a role on the ELGA Training Committee for the northern region before becoming chair-

man in 2000.

In 1990, Joy became Yorkshire's LGU Scratch Score Assessor and six years later became England's representative on the LGU Scratch Score Committee.

Given her knowledge in matters relating to course rating, it was no surprise that following the merger of the English Golf Union and English Women's Golf Association in 2012, Joy was appointed as one of England Golf's representatives on CONGU's course rating committee before becoming England's regional and Yorkshire's course rating advisor.

Joy's love of the game and her commitment as a volunteer was further demonstrated when she became the ladies' captain at York Golf Club in 1990 before accepting the honours of Yorkshire county captain in 1996 and then president in 2012 and 2013.

Outgoing England Golf

president Graham Yates presented Joy with her award to warm applause from attendees of the AGM.

"This is a huge honour for me and I'm thrilled to accept the award", said Joy.

"I was very surprised when I was told I was to be this year's recipient.

"I actually knew Gerald Micklem when I was a younger golfer so this award is special for that reason.

"I first played for Yorkshire in 1963 and I've had the support of the Yorkshire Ladies' County Golf Association ever since in all I've done – it's incredible to think it's almost 60 years!

"My county has been superb and so supportive and I owe them a lot.

"I must also thank my family, especially my late husband Brian, for all their support.

"I've enjoyed all my roles in golf and feel so very lucky to have been involved in the game."

Ladies warm up in winning style



Pictured with Alison Tracey (centre) at the Yorkshire vs Vets match are Charlotte Colley, Evie Cooke, Heather Staniforth and Heather Butcher

Yorkshire Ladies County Golf Association's captain ALISON TRACEY reports on her side's two preparation matches ahead of Northern county match week...

YORKSHIRE Ladies' first team squad have been limbering up for Northern county match week, to be played at Heswall GC in June.

They first took on Huddersfield GC's men's scratch team and, despite playing a very strong side including recent winner of the Scottish Boys' championship, Dylan Shaw-Radford, managed to claim an 8-7 victory.

It was a slightly changed team that took on the Yorkshire Veterans' first team at Richmond GC, with the opposition peppered with international experience.

Emma Brown, ex-Curtis Cup player and past Yorkshire Champion playing her first season for the Veterans, Karen Jobling and Julie Wheeldon, both England internationals, ex-professional golfer Pat Smillie and Betty Sworowski, a former Olympian, made for a most competitive day.

The Yorkshire first team was without one or two of the more experienced squad members, one being at university in the USA and one on duty for university in Scotland.

Despite this the younger and more inexperienced squad showed little nerves for the matches, which were played in 4BBB format.

Teenagers Amy Staveley (Ganton) and Cherry Marley (The

Oaks) showed little signs of fatigue from exam pressures and got stuck into the more experienced pairing of Brown and Sworowski from the off. They ran out 5 & 3 winners to get Yorkshire off to a flying start.

Karen Jobling and Pat Smillie took on Hannah Holden and Rachel Taylor, the latter pair both from Huddersfield GC.

Holden is well used to pressure and shows supreme confidence on the course. A close match went all the way to the 18th, but the Huddersfield pair showed their mettle to win the match. Youngsters Abigail Taylor and Katie Stephens also had a tight battle, running out winners on the 18th against Wheeldon and Carol Simpson.

It was good to see Taylor and

Stephens enjoying their pairing after some early season injuries for Taylor caused a few problems.

Evie Cooke (Rudding and Headingley) and Charlotte Colley (Huddersfield) came together as a duo for the first time in this match. The Veterans' pair of the two Heathers, Butcher and Staniforth, won 2&1.

There were debut performances for the final pairing with Alex Bonfield (Fulford) and Zara Ali (Cookridge Hall) playing Huddersfield stalwarts and hugely experienced pairing Pat Wrightson and Sandra Paul.

Again the youngsters showed no nerves and ran out winners by a 3 & 1 margin. So two wins out of two for the Yorkshire first team and great preparation for the battles to come in Heswall!

Exciting times for new Seaton crew

Seaton Carew Golf Club's new PGA professional team has started work at the historic links by giving the pro shop a complete new look.

Head professional Martyn Stubbings (pictured) and teaching professional James Maw are supported by Andy Stubbings, who also offers an electric trolley repair service.

The two professionals worked together at Rockliffe Hall, where Martyn was director of golf until he moved to Barnard Castle 18 months ago as head pro.

Former EuroPro and Challenge Tour player James intends to combine his coaching work with playing the NE/NW PGA circuit.

He said: "I found a real passion for coaching. Seaton Carew is a tough old golf course, with a lot of good players, the team is in the First Division, and I will be doing some coaching with them too."

Given their background, the new team certainly bring plenty of customer service experience to the Alister MacKenzie-designed course and are proud that they will be working at the 2024 venue of the English Amateur Championship, when Seaton Carew celebrates its 150th birthday.

Martyn said of his time at Barnard Castle: "I loved it. Normally you leave a job when you don't like something but that wasn't the case, however, Seaton Carew has always been the best and most historic golf club in the area.

"It aligns with my ambitions and to see the work that has gone into the course under Tom Coulson recently has been outstanding".



the *Swing* Maestro

TONY HOWARTH

Academy Director,
Scarthingwell Golf Academy

Improve your ball strike for better control

Improving your ball striking can make a significant difference to your game. There's no better feeling in golf than the shot where you feel that pure contact between club and ball. A pure golf shot is truly a magical feeling!

When you experience the sensation, you're hooked, and will both enjoy and be frustrated by trying to repeat it over and over again. Achieving a consistent crisp strike tends to be difficult for many golfers; it's what separates the pros from average and higher-handicap golfers. However, if you work on the accompanying tips and drills, you can learn how to hit solid and pure golf shots a little more often.

Hands ahead at impact

As you strike the golf ball, the grip end of the club needs to be leading the hands and club head through the hitting area (an absolute MUST for hitting solid iron shots). This move causes the club head to compress the ball against the clubhead, which helps you take a divot after the ball, not before. Many times you hear golf coaches and commentators say strike the ball first on iron shots - this is impact position they are talking about.

Correct posture

Another main ingredient in achieving solid contact is having the correct posture throughout the swing. This allows you to swing the club on the correct plane. The majority of golfers who struggle with making solid contact lose their posture as the club head connects with the ball.

This leads to many miss-hit shots. These include heavy and thin shots, hooks, slices and hitting behind the ball. It is essential that you keep your posture, just as it is at address, throughout your swing.

Control the clubface

Another vital part of solid ball striking is a square clubface through impact. It is essential that the face of your club is square to your target line when it comes into contact with the ball.

Many golfers have their clubface open at impact and this leads to a loss of power and distance. The clubface should rotate from "toe up" prior to impact, to square at impact, to "toe up" after impact. The timing of this face rotation is what separates great ball strikers from average players.

Practice drills

To help you achieve these pure strike goals, here are a series of practice drills that are as simple as they are effective.

GOLF BALL DRILL: Place an extra golf ball on your target line, 12 to 14 inches behind your ball (*picture 1*). This will help you learn to strike the ball with a descending blow and have your hands leading the club head through the impact area (*picture 2*). If you use a scooping motion and tend to hit the ground before you make contact with your ball, or if your swing plane is too shallow, you will make contact with the first ball as opposed to your target ball.

POSTURE DRILL: Controlling posture throughout the swing is something that all good ball strikers achieve. When your club-



face strikes the ball, you must return to the same posture that you had at address. To work on this position, practise by facing a mirror and taking a half backswing (*picture 3*), then swing the club down to the ball, and stop. You should return to your address height and posture (*picture 4*). Keep repeating this motion until it starts to feel natural. When you head to the range, run through this drill before you hit each practice shot.

RELEASE THE CLUBHEAD DRILL: Put a dot on the back

of your lower hand (*picture 5*). At waist high on your down swing, make sure you can see the dot. Swing the club head through the hitting area, ensuring that at waist high on the follow through you can once again see the dot (*picture 6*).

Throughout your practice swings, do this slowly, so you experience the feel of the club head turning through impact. When hitting balls, try to allow this action to happen naturally and after a little practice it will begin to become an automatic 'release'.

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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PROSTATE CANCER UK Finally, a lady golfer joins the ranks at the Grand Final

Bracken Ghyll's Cath is Trump's 'First Lady'

By Chris Stratford

Everyone has been late on the tee at some stage in their golfing life, but Bracken Ghyll's Cath Archer must have been a bit taken aback to learn that her playing partners at Trump International Golf Links, Aberdeen, had been waiting for her for five years.

Well, it was actually the competition that had noticed her absence, for Archer became the first woman to qualify for the 'How Do We Beat It Grand Final' for Prostate Cancer UK.

The competition has helped raise more than £170,000 for the fight against prostate cancer since its inception in 2017, with £36,095 accumulated last year with the aid of 4,768 entrants.

"I introduced myself to James from HowDidIDo on arrival and asked him if there were any other ladies in the final," said Archer. "He replied, 'You are the only lady – and the first ever to qualify. We've been waiting for you for five years!'"

The finalists are selected on an all-year eclectic aggregate, with all competitions played over the season counting.

The prize included two rounds of golf, including practice day, exclusive use of the 5-star McLeod House and Lodge and all meals plus drinks.

"I signed up on HowDidIDo and paid my £5 roughly this time last year and had forgotten all about it, so



Cath Archer, on the tee at the Trump International

what a surprise I had when I found out that I had received one of 16 places in the final from over 4,000 across the UK who had entered," said Archer.

"Grand Final Day dawned with a very pretty, but rather inconvenient covering of snow.

"There was a glimmer of hope for some good weather to come, however, so we had our breakfast in the clubhouse and awaited a decision on the state of play.

"There was some doubt as to whether we would get any golf due to intermittent hail and snow showers plus some of the greens were sheltered and therefore took time to defrost.

"However, the greens staff pulled out all the stops for us and after a couple of hours the sun came out and we were able to play."

The competition was reduced to nine holes, played on the inward nine, and players teed off in handicap

order, with a number of tee shots disappearing into the gorse and dunes never to be found again.

"Thankfully mine was one of the successful ones," said Archer, who finished in 11th place.

"My practice round was much better than when I had a card in my hand and, having avoided all bunkers the previous day, I found six.

"It's lucky that I had a lesson with [Bracken Ghyll assistant pro] Adam Cattell the week before in anticipa-

tion of this, as I was able to get out of them all successfully as a result.

"I met a great bunch of people who made me feel so at ease and I feel so lucky to have had the opportunity; memories that I will cherish.

"I have signed up for this year already and I would encourage anyone to do the same.

"It's £5 well spent for a cause which affects so many people and, if I can make it to the final, so can anybody."



Harrogate Golf Club 2022 captains Stephen Wildridge and Boo Orman

Samaritans are unanimous choice of Harrogate captains

New Harrogate Golf Club captains Boo Orman and Steve Wildridge 'entertained' an expectant group of members and supporters as they performed the customary drive-in to signal the start of their year.

Boo has been playing golf for just over 10 years and was a member at Forest of Galtres in York before joining Harrogate.

Stephen joined Harrogate after the closure of Flaxby Park and has also been a member at Ripon.

By pure coincidence both Boo and Stephen have chosen to support The Samaritans during their year in office. Boo was a volunteer at York Samaritans for 15 years while the club has held a charity day for the Harrogate branch for the last two years.

Steve said: "I have played and coached sports throughout my adult life and am aware of not only the physical benefits

but the sense of emotional well being and support of being part of a team or club can bring".

The club already has a strong link to the group through the work of member and Samaritans volunteer, Jerome Peel who has been involved in organising the fund-raising days. Sponsorship from Harrogate Access Platforms and TaxAssist Accountants has meant the Harrogate men's team will have the Samaritans logo, phone number 116123 and message 'We Listen' on their shirts for district and county matches.

There will be a series of fund-raising Samaritans 'nearest the pin' competitions at all HGC Opens which attract more than 500 golfers from all over the country. In addition two of the club professionals will take part in a sponsored sky dive later in the summer.

Of her appointment, Boo said: "I am honoured to be invit-

ed to be Ladies Captain at Harrogate Golf Club and to be part of a great team promoting good golfing in a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere, to raise awareness of the wonderful work done by the Samaritans and hopefully to gather some funds along the way".

Stephen said: "It is a true honour to be chosen as Men's Captain of Harrogate Golf Club. It provides me with the opportunity to give a little back to the club not only the golf but the social opportunities it gives year on year.

"I am looking forward to delivering a full and slightly different social programme as well as introducing new members to what I believe is an excellent golf facility and a friendly and welcoming clubhouse. Who knows? With the amount of golf to be played I may even reduce my handicap. We can all dream..."

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