

NEWBIGGIN BY THE SEA GOLF CLUB

ISSUE No. 85
JUNE 2012

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Editorial

“What a year this is turning out to be.” These were the words of John Straker on winning the Northumberland County Championship over his home course, Newbiggin. This was July 1984 – our centenary year.

Alan Hedley’s Evening Chronicle article (copy attached to this issue) tells the story of the final 18 holes.

Move the clock forward 28 yearswhere have they gone! Yes, later this month we stage the County Championship. On 3 June it starts and the final stages are:- last 16 - Wednesday 27th June; last 8 – Thursday 28th June; last 4 – Friday 29th June and 36 hole final on Saturday 30th June.

Make a note of these dates and hopefully one or more home players make good progress.



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Editor



An Interesting Happening at 1965 Open Championship

A few years back the late Peter Dobreiner, with inimitable dry wit reported on the entry of an American, Walter Danecki. In those days the Championship

Committee didn't seek full details from applicants and Danecki went straight into the draw for his qualifying round at Hillside G.C. Dobreiner reported that it was soon obvious this player was little better than a novice. He "breezed around" hillside in 108!!

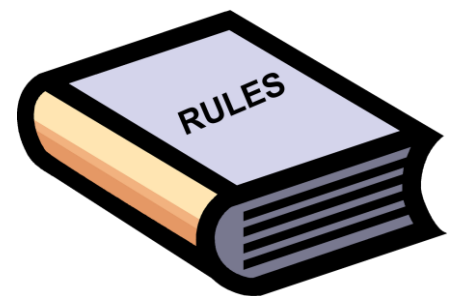
Subsequent investigations revealed his history was "7 years of occasional rounds on his local municipal course." The Competition Committee considered the situation and decided no action be taken; their judgement being he would return to the USA after such a bad score. Not so.... Our man was keen to show he could improve in the 2nd round. He was heard to say "I don't like to quit. I like golf, that's what I came to do".

Anyhow in the next round he started 7,7,8 and then the wheels came off. He returned 113 which over 2 rounds confirmed he was 75 strokes away from qualifying.

Readers will agree that any repeat must be

avoided. History records that 11 years later an Englishman perpetrated a similar humiliating act. This second embarrassment will be unfolded in a future issue.

Editor



Playing by the Rules

Rule 8 – 1 (Advice) states a player will incur a penalty if he:-

- a) Gives advice to anyone in the competition playing on the course other than his partner, or

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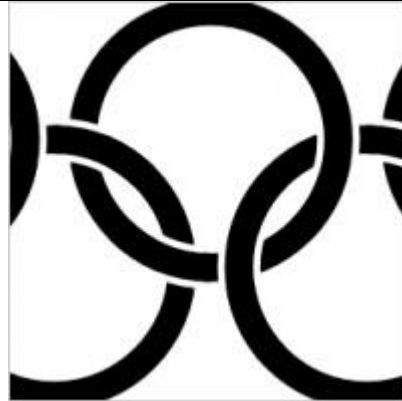
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- b) Asks for advice from anyone other than his partner or either of the caddies.

How many times during a game have you heard a player say – “Great shot, what did you take?” Strictly speaking this is asking for advice in match play the penalty is “Loss of hole”; in stroke play, 2 shots.

I can only remember experiencing this situation in a friendly match. However, it’s important to remember when marking a competition score you are doing so for all playing in the event. I recognise it would be an unenviable task to apply the penalty if this happens in your group during a competition, however, like it or not, this is the rule.

Bill Ogilvie



2016 Olympics

In March 2010 issue I mentioned the decision of the International Olympic Committee (I.O.C.) to grant a place in the Brazil Olympics to “men’s golf”. My view then was (and still is) that it’s unfair to make no provision for ladies golf.

Equally my concern is about the coming number of mage-money games gaining places in the Olympics. Tennis was included a few years ago. Frankly I believe both golf and tennis should have been amateurs only. I wonder if professional boxing will shortly replace amateur boxing as an Olympic event” I doubt it.

Some 3 years ago the

Guardian Newspaper writer, Barney Ronay, said he believed the Olympics should be “a career high” for people who are best doing stuff for precious little reward. Certainly I would have been happier if golf’s inclusion had been restricted to amateurs.

Ronay’s views (plus comments from nearly 100 people) can be seen on the 2016 Olympics website.

Finally, last month Ian Poulter (pro. Golfer) said the intended individual strokeplay shoot out would be as compelling as Olympic tennis. He added, “Who is the current Olympic tennis champion and who cares?” Poulter has a point. The proposed 72 hole strokeplay will be a pale imitation of the (5) majors in golf. Poulter’s choice is matchplay in Paris. This would mean the winning team of 2 would each get a gold medal and 2nd and 3rd places would involve the same number of awards but in silver and bronze. To me this makes good

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sense.....



Captains Corner

Hi to all members.

Already I'm half way through my year as Captain. Time certainly travels fast when enjoying oneself. It seems only yesterday when my duties commenced.

On 3rd March an excellent turnout for "the Fun Day" gave a boost to the Charity Fund raising initiated by Susan (Ladies Captain) and myself.

On Easter Monday, 9th April

a good turnout of officials, members and friends congregated to support the Captain's Drive-in. Many thanks to Ronnie Taylor for organising this event.

An additional event was arranged this season to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee on the 4th of June. Thanks to John O'Bryan for organising the event and to all who came along.

When going to print the club is preparing for the Silver Tankard (Sunday 10th June) and the County Championship (23-30 June). I'm looking forward spectating some high quality golf and I hope many readers will also be keen onlookers.

The course is currently showing it's teeth! Rapid growth is unquestionably due to recent weather conditions. Club captains and visitors assure me our greens are some of the best they have played. In early June I enjoyed a golf trip in Yorkshire but I don't hesitate to report it's good to be back to my home course and give praise to our greens staff for the high standards

achieved.

Thanks to all employees and committee members for all they do to help members enjoy their sport and companionship.

Ernie Ball
Club Captain
04.06.12



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Personalia



Shortly after publication of the last newsletter members were saddened to learn that **Bob McCormack** who had been poorly for a few months, had passed away on 21st February 2012.

Bob was born in Wales in 1947 and grew up with his eight brothers and sisters. They and their parents lived in many parts of the world as a Forces family. Bob and his family settled in Newbiggin when he was a young man. He worked for the National Coal Board for many years but at the time of local colliery closures he set up his own taxi business (Mac's Private Hire). He established a long list of regular customers over the years (the children on the school run, the locals he

took for their shopping or people having a social night out). Many of these became good friends.

In his early days in Newbiggin Bob became a member of the Bank House Social Club. Here he became involved in his love of sports, as a member of their pool and darts teams, and also as a manager of the football team. More recently he would enjoy the Sunday night quiz at the Bank House, being joined by his wife Joan and their friends.

Bob and Joan were married for twenty two years. Bob was a loving stepdad and granddad and some of his happiest times were spent laughing with his family and playing with his grandchildren.

Bob, his stepson Paul Scott and youngest grandson Jai Scott (now aged 11 years) became members of Newbiggin Golf Club a number of years ago. They could be seen enjoying their golf together regularly out on the course and on the putting green or

socialising in the Clubhouse and enjoying a bite to eat, sometimes a quick game of snooker or in the shop discussing their game with Jim the club professional.

Sundays were Bob's main day of recreation, although when possible during the week he would join the morning "sweeps", often accompanied by good friend Peter Crook. He particularly enjoyed Competition golf being partnered by Paul in the doubles competitions. A highlight for Bob was winning the Easter Tankard Competition in 2009. Even family holidays would invariably include a day of golf for Bob, Paul and Jai, be it in Scotland, the Lake District or abroad.

Bob enjoyed his family life, many friendships and his sport. His plans for his retirement included all of these with more time to enjoy holidays and his golf (he had been hoping to join the senior section at Newbiggin). Sadly he passed away a short time before his retirement.

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Bob will be missed by many and our condolences are extended to all his family.

Paul Scott and family members kindly prepared this tribute.



On 13th April a large congregation at St. Bartholemew's Church paid tribute to **Bill (Pop) Brassell**. He had passed away suddenly at his home. Bill was 79 and as many of us know, he was a formidable opponent on the golf course. Friends tell me he joined the club when he was in his high teens.

For many years his regular playing partners were Gerry McGee and Alex (Sandy) Swan. They

and many others will miss him. Speaking recently to Drew Baxter I enquired "Have you any special memories of Pop who you've known most of your life?" Drew replied "Bill was the finest bearded golfer in the club" smiling, he added "These were Pops own words".

During the church service reference was made of Bill's second talent – "brick-laying". His skill in this trade was legend all over the county and Tyneside. His work was always to a high standard and few could match his speed and staying power on a building site. Samples of his work can be seen at the brickwork around the outside of the 1st tee and clubhouse. Also at the 5th tee and "stoned" ditches.

He was a much respected member and is sorely missed. Our condolences go to his daughter Lorraine and son Derek and the rest of the family.

Editor



On the 13th May a much respected member,

Richard Ian

Dixon passed away.

In later times he had been a resident of De Baliol nursing home, Newbiggin. In 2000 Ian, aged 77 years, lost his beloved wife Rose.

This happy well respected Newbiggin family included 4 sons, Richard, Paul,

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John and Stewart. Ian was one of our longest serving members: a keen accomplished player who held a 4 handicap for many years.

His son John played in the England Schoolboys team in 1978 and in 1980 he was the County Junior Matchplay Champion. He represented the County at Senior level and was a regular member of Newbiggin's club side which won the Newcastle & District League three times in the late 1970's. Ian was his number one supporter.

Ian changed his membership to "social" some years back. In the final year or so of playing he enjoyed an occasional few holes with his friend Jack Fogg. Jack like many more members felt it a privilege to count Ian as a good friend.

A much respected gentleman, Ian has left us but we remain grateful for his friendship over many years, our sincere condolences go to all the family members.

Editor



As this issue was going to print, word reached the clubhouse that **George McConnell** had passed away. George was born in Broomhill and attended Alnwick Grammar School. In

WW2 he served in the Royal Marine Commando's. He took part in the invasion of Sicily in 1943 and a year later in the invasion of Southern France.

After demob he worked for Cementation Co. Ltd. and later joined the National Coal Board as Area Boring Engineer, retiring in the early 1980's. His expertise in bore hole drilling resulted in occasional work abroad.

In 1979, along with club members Roy Shute and Roy Tateson he was involved in the transfer of water from Bates (Blyth) pit into Newbiggin Colliery workings. Boreholes were drilled underground between the pits and pumps installed in shafts at Newbiggin to pump water out to sea. The drain/outlet crosses our 18th and 2nd fairways leading to the low water mark. Compensation for the disturbance helped finance some extension work at our clubhouse.

Whilst living in Crook, County Durham, George

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was playing off 8 handicap at the local golf club. In the early 1980's he moved to Ellington and the late Ray Poxton persuaded him to join our club. He usually played about 3 times most weeks and for much of the time his partner was Arthur Barker (retired, living in Ashington).

George loved spending time on the moor and time by time one of his visiting grandsons would join him. In very recent times George had joined Nancy his wife in a local residential rest home.

On behalf of the membership sincere condolences go to Nancy, their daughter Christine, son George and all the younger family members.

(Roy Shute kindly helped with biographical notes)



Editor