

THE WARRENERS

In 1971 a group of club members who were affected by Minehead's early closing day of Wednesday, decided to dine after playing golf during the winter months from the first Wednesday in October through to the last Wednesday in March. Thus the Warreners were born.

There were 14 founder members: Ken Cocks (who was elected president), Geoff Barrett, Tony Bryant, Ken Jones, Tony Ridler, Gerald Durman, Bert Clatworthy, Len Rodgers, Mervyn Dyer, Ken Ware, Dickie Davis, Bill Bridgwater, Jimmy James and Peter Docker. To retain their membership they were required to play and dine at least six times during the winter season. At the present time (March 2011), which is the Warreners 40th anniversary, there are no founder members left. The longest serving Warreners still playing today are Willie Court and Frank Bohun, both eighty five.

At the AGM on 10th November 1971, it was decided to limit membership of the Warreners to 21. This was due to the fact that the dining room at that time could only seat 42, so that to accommodate guests and opponents numbers could not be more than 21. Now with the present dining room this number has been allowed to lapse.

The Warreners first match was played on 13 June 1973 against HQ South and West Army District at Taunton and Pickeridge, with the return match at Minehead in October. When HQ South and West moved to Bulford, the fixture continued and is now played at Tidworth Garrison on a home and away basis each year. The Warreners now have regular fixtures with several other clubs and service establishments played between March and October. All are characterised by good golf, good food and wine and above all else good fellowship.

In the early days it was the custom to have a coffee and brandy after the game, so when it was decided to introduce a Warreners badge for the tie and sweater, Tony Ridler came up with the motif, three stars signifying brandy together with crossed golf clubs. There is a range of Warreners golf attire including jumpers, sweaters and golf shirts bearing the motif which is worn by members at matches.

All members of the club are welcome to play with the Warreners and may dine if they wish during the winter season. In recent years several members have played and dined and joined the Warreners swelling the current membership to nearly thirty. Every year a Christmas invitation is held when each Warrener invites a guest to play and dine.